

10 YEARS

MINI LINESON

2/ 2014-15 Oct

EDITOR'S LETTER



PAM
Pertubuhan Akitek
Malaysia
Sarawak Chapter

The house

When architects design houses, we have to fulfill more than one brief in order to create a meaningful and functional solution. The first of these is the physical brief which stipulates the mundane but necessary; number of rooms, sizes of these spaces, budget and so forth. And then there are the owner's aspirations for this usually-once-in-a-lifetime project because the house is a projection of his or her self to society. Finally but not always, there is an instance in which the architect marries the two into a design brief that satisfies the practical and the wishful while dealing with larger issues such as environmental response, relationship to the street, local material content and so forth. For the architect, the house is often a test bed for ideas and experiments, and can sometimes be a showpiece for his practice.

In this issue, we feature several houses where the architects have played a great role in satisfying the client's physical and emotional briefs; from a individually designed house to a terrace house to a Habitat for Humanity house built during the recent Blitz Build Borneo. We compare the role of the house as a sanctuary, a home, an office and its most basic function as a shelter from weather.

Since it is October, it must be WAD again - this year the response is even better with 12 shortlisted entries. The design installations are jointly displayed with the Graduates Exhibition at LOV Gallery with the aim of enhancing public awareness on the role of design in our lives. These two events were organized by the IT and Graduates subcommittees; headed by Ar. Chai Si Yong and Ar. Ivy Jong respectively with their 'gang' of cohorts. They have worked hard to be inclusive - making use of the young graduates' energy and the Past Chairmen's' experience in the running and judging of the events.

The other sub-committees have been equally busy; the list of events reads like a fashion model's diary - all neatly and comprehensively documented for your reading pleasure.

Enjoy responsibly,

Min, Ivy and Si Yong.

The Notorious Baldy
min-linesonpaper.blogspot.com



Penang Study Trip

World
Architecture Day

Graduates'
Exhibition

BTS Launching

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

**PAMSC Chairman
Ar. Stephen Liew**



Firstly, I would like to thank the IT and Graduates subcommittee Chairmen; Ar. Chai Si Yong, Ar. Ivy Jong and their team for successfully organizing the PAMSC - World Architecture Day (WAD) Urban Installation Competition and Graduates' Exhibition.

These events were officially launched on the 6th October 2014 with judging and prize presentations at LOV Gallery on Jalan Padungan; a night of merriment and camaraderie.

On a serious note - the economy, trade liberation and Government Service Tax (GST) is on everyone's mind; no exception for those of us in the building industry. How will all these impact our profession? With trade liberation, we may have to open up to foreigners practicing in our midst; are we able to compete on a level playing field? Are we producing enough quality graduates to enter the profession? These and many other complex issues need our careful thinking and consideration.

In this respect, PAM is currently preparing a strategic master plan for the architectural profession in Malaysia. These proposals will then be circulated to all our members for debate and comments. After which, the final master plan shall be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Malaysia to highlight the importance of the Architectural profession in our national economy and the critical role it plays in transforming our economy positively. I appeal to all members to put forward their views to PAM and let us do it as a collective whole.

Lastly, please look out for more events and news on our coming BTS and Design Forum, which will be held at end of March 2015.

Best wishes,

Ar. Stephen Liew

Building homes

by Ar. Wee Hii Min

In September, I joined my colleagues at the Habitat for Humanity Blitz Build Borneo to build House No. 11 for the Donny family. The banner at the site entrance reads "Building homes, Building hope", - this reminded me of something an old architect once told me, '..architects will always have work because people will always need houses.'

This statement is perhaps a reflection of a simpler time, or a simplification of the task at hand. Many local architects do not take house projects nowadays, they tell me that it's too time consuming and the returns are low. Most would take a stab at designing their own houses as this is an important means of self expression, a small number don't even do that; electing to appoint someone else to do the job for them.

Perhaps this is a good thing for the profession; for this most fundamental and yet most complex of typologies requires one to '用心做' or do it with heart. For it requires the resolution of both physical and emotional briefs. So, if you are not inclined, let someone else do it with forethought and planning, with the heart and the mind.

In our featured houses, it is perhaps easiest to see in the Rodway House how the architect has enabled the client to express himself through his house; a certain flamboyance tempered by the wish to keep a low profile, the artwork and large entertainment spaces suggests no shortage of means, and close friends who drop by. But I suspect that dropping by is 'by invitation only'.

Architects often use their own houses to test their theories, as in the case of mmsc's house which has gone full circle from design project, to house and now to office. It will in doubt continue to be a 'design project' as they experiment with materials and explore new details.

But perhaps the important house design is that for the common man, especially for the less privileged - to fulfill the most basic need that a house provides; shelter, security and comfort. Yet these are the ones least likely (and least able) to benefit from the services of an architect, unless the government regulates the quality of the affordable housing product, and not just the quantity. The Habitat for Humanity Blitz Build is a rare example of how affordable housing can be improved when architects are involved. I saw first hand how Ar. Wong Siew Ling led a team of architects in the design of the HfH semi-detached houses as well as the sourcing of materials and skilled labour.

The last collection of houses were designed and built by their owners who sometimes, have the help of volunteers like Jim and Ann Dowman. They led a team of volunteers to Kuching for the Blitz Build and have done so in many countries, often making use of local materials and learning traditional skills to build and repair homes for the under privileged. Jim and Ann gave a talk at PAMSC - '6 Countries, 6 Projects' which showed us how much can be achieved (without architects) when we truly put our hearts into our work.



HfH BBB house plan.



Aerial View of the Habitat Village.



Local papers announced that 14 houses were completed in 6 days. While it makes a good headline, it manages at the same time to downplay the preparatory work done months earlier by volunteers, administrators, builders and architects.

Mr. Paint Man JAPANESE LIBAK Technology

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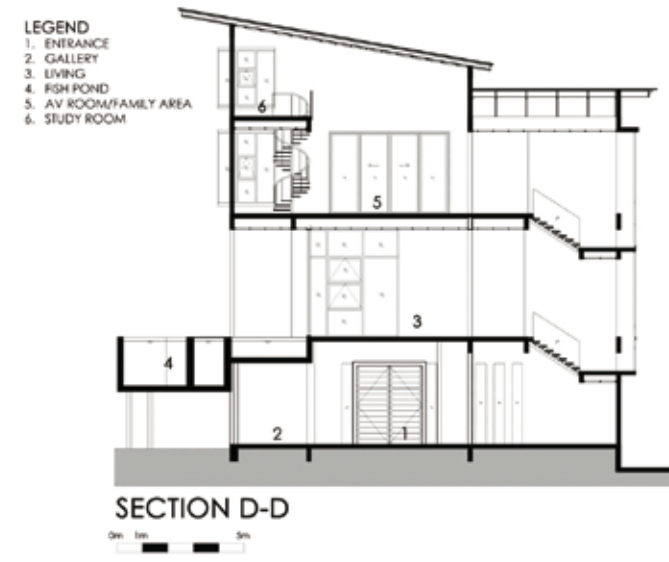
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Lap Pool.



SECTION D-D



The living room can be easily opened up to the courtyard with sliding panels.



The house is also office and playground.

Rodway House

by Ar. Vincent Tan

Architect's statement

The house is designed around the needs of a small family with plenty of artifacts and artwork collection of display.

The form of the home is the reflection of its functions. These is a distinct hierarchy in its spatial arrangement with the ground floor being the gallery entrance, first floor indoor and outdoor living and the top floor private family / AV space, his and her studies and bedrooms, with niches created for more private artifacts collection.

The use of well insulated roofing, double glazed doors and windows and east-west double brick walls give the whole house good climate control with natural light and natural ventilation.

The choice of finishes together with use of void and large circulation staircase with seamless glass railings gives a nice interflow of the different spaces which brings the whole home together.



Outdoor Living.



Living Area.



Exterior of the house.



Kitchen - Dining Area.

Life Cycle

by mnc Architects

Architect's statement

This house is part of the 7th Avenue housing development in Kuching which we helped design 7 years ago. We went on to supervise their construction on site until completion. The design is based primarily on the re-introduction of natural sunlight and ventilation into a typical terrace house; coupled with the usage of the rear garden as a major living space. The design learns from the Chinese shop houses in its use of the air-well in the centre of the house and is influenced by the Malay House with its close association with nature.

We got plenty of satisfaction in getting our design built and seeing the spaces that we imagined come to life. It would have been perfect then if we could afford to buy one of the units that we designed. However, the houses were sold out very quickly at prices beyond our means.

Imagine our delight three years ago when we discovered that one of the terrace units was put up for sale by the bank after the previous owner defaulted on payments. The unit had been gutted by the owner's 'debtors' who went to the house to "collect" - by removing aluminium windows, doors, toilets and electrical wiring. Even the kitchen sink was not spared.



The brick-lace garden wall framing the rear garden and fish pond.



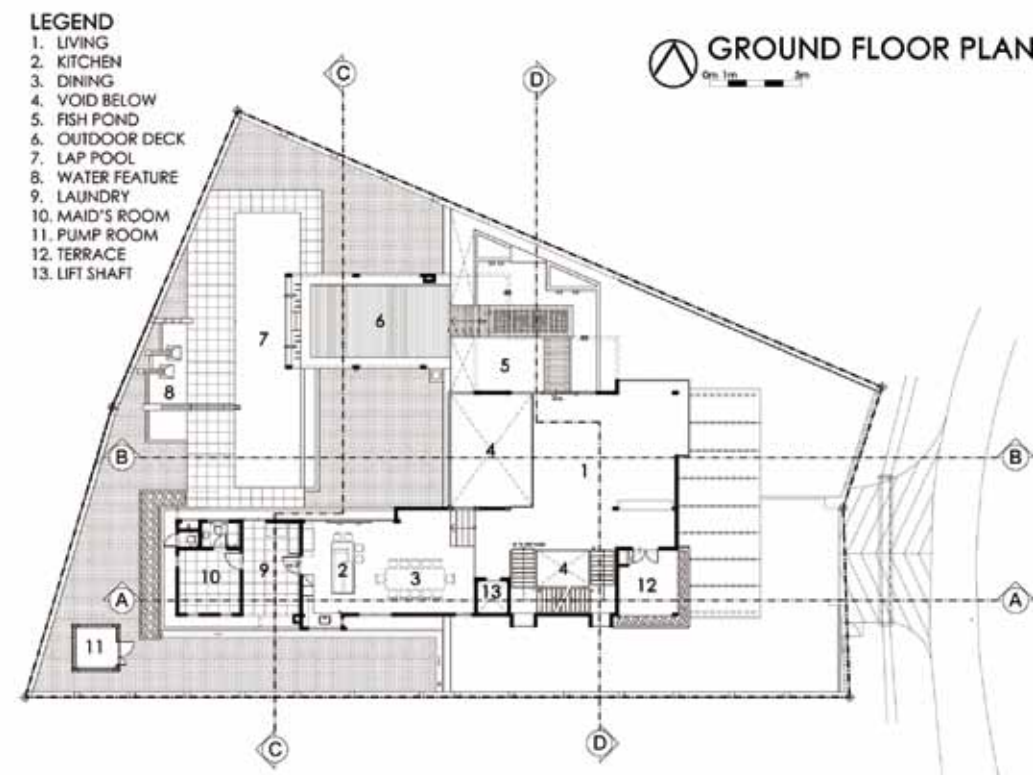
The air-well lets in light, air and views.



Rusted steel plate gate.



Brick-lace garden wall.



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



THERMAL INSULATION



THERMAL CONTROL



CROSS VENTILATION



SECTION A-A

Perhaps this 'gutting' of the unit is a good thing, as it provided us with a clean slate for the design of the renovation with the fundamental design principles intact. In the 5 years after the original design, our design thinking had matured somewhat, we were also new parents and have Eunice's needs to think about; spaces that are able to grow and adapt to our life cycle while staying true to the first principles of providing comfortable modern housing in the tropics.

Recently, the house acquired a new role - as our office and design studio; our life cycle continues to widen. Who knows what the next 3 years would bring to the design table? We imagine that in time, the house would be seen from the street through a veil of trees; cultivating a mystique much like its pre-war ancestors.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

- 11 | carporch
- 12 | entrance lobby
- 13 | tv lounge
- 14 | living & open kitchen
- 15 | dining
- 16 | fish pond
- 17 | utility
- 18 | bedroom
- 19 | w.c.s
- 10 | courtyard
- 11 | balcony

GROUND FLOOR PLAN

BORNEO BLITZ BUILD 2014 – My Experience as a Volunteer

by Jenny Chow

The Borneo Blitz Build (BBB) 2014 was organized by Habitat for Humanity Kuching to build 14 units of single storey semi-detached houses for selected families. Local and international teams, together with the homeowners came together during this week to work on the 14 houses. My work colleagues and I decided to form a team of volunteers and 'adopt' a house to complete, so although the BBB was scheduled for 14th to 19th of September 2014, 'Team DNA' was on site a month earlier to help with the preparation works of all the houses.



House 11 before the Build.



House 11 after the Build.



Breaking down concrete piles.

Our group of 14 volunteers worked on a rota basis for five half-days a week; breaking down concrete piles, tying re-bars, mixing mortar and laying concrete bricks. During this period, we saw how the foundations were built, witnessed some on-site glitches (and saw them corrected) and also got very sunburnt. The most interesting part for me was when they hoisted the pre-fabricated steel roof structure into place with a crane.

The erection of the roofs prior to the BBB was to ensure the comfort of the volunteers during the build. After the roof was up, we "drew" the layout plan using two courses of concrete bricks for many of the houses to mark the position of the walls for ease of construction. The HfH site managers; Encik Jobli, his son Rayner, Mr Voon and 'professional' volunteer; Jim Dowman from New Zealand were very patient with us and taught us how to do this properly.



Building the toilet.



Crane hoisting steel structure.



Drawing plan in 3D.



ATSB volunteers are: Mohd Nazwan, Grace Anak Gerry, Lo Mei Hua and Mattew Anak Ademen John.



All in a day's work...

The home-owners of our adopted house (No. 11) were Donny Anak Tajak and his wife, Magdalina Anak James and their two sons; Terry Henry and Rio Ferdinand who were on-site every day of the BBB with their grandparents because it coincided with their school holidays. Although only 11, Terry is a ball of energy who aspires to be a pilot; he made himself useful mixing mortar, carrying water and bricks when needed. The idea of building his own home excited him, and we are grateful to play a part in making his dream come true.

During the Build, we laid bricks, mixed mortar and plastered the walls. Plastering was an interesting experience because we started as unskilled workers and became quite skilled at the end of the Build because we were taught by the skilled workers on-site.



House 11 and Team DNA (Front from left) Mark, Lance, Byran, Jenny (author) with Terry, Jobli, Magdalina, Yasmin, Hongyi (window), Ileana, Michael, George, Magdalina's parents and younger sister.

This taught me that if we are humble we can learn a lot more and it also helps us appreciate the beauty of each profession.

It is encouraging to see that volunteers from around the world came together to make the BBB a success. However, as a local volunteer, it is quite disheartening to see that more emphasis was placed on the overseas volunteers and corporate bodies. While these volunteers no doubt bring precious funding to the local Habitat Affiliate – it is the local volunteers that can provide the continuity of labour in the future. Local colleges and universities are a valuable source of volunteers – I met very few in my 6 weeks on site. Volunteerism brings out the best in people, so it is important to ensure that everyone feels appreciated so that more builds can be organized to provide decent housing for the less privileged in our community.

6 COUNTRIES, 6 PROJECTS

Jim and Ann Dowman

Jim and Ann were recently in Kuching ahead of the Habitat for Humanity Borneo Blitz Build (BBB) to provide construction advice to the local Habitat affiliate and also in preparation for the New Zealand Global Village team. The Global Village volunteer teams are an HfH vehicle where people form teams to volunteer as labourers to build homes in different parts of the world. Our Kuching Habitat Affiliate have benefitted from these teams who bring in not only labour but financially as well.

PAMSC invited Jim and Ann to give a talk about their experiences as volunteers in the neighbouring countries such as the housing for Women and Children in Photharam, Thailand; a community hall in Sepik, Papua New Guinea and houses in Pokhara, Nepal for the Everest Build 2010. They talked about their work for disaster relief housing in Tamil Nadu, India for the 2006 Tsunami Disaster Relief; Lepa, Samoa after the 2009 Tsunami and 2012 Cyclone Evan; and in their home town of Tauranga, New Zealand.



Lepa, Samoa.

In their 'builds', they often learn from the locals and use traditional materials and vernacular methods of construction – they believe that this is important as it promotes cultural sustainability and it is also easier for the home-owners to maintain and repair. Many from the audience agreed that the talk was eye-opening and showed how decent buildings can be constructed with the right attitude and mind-set.



Ar. Vincent Tan obtained his architectural degrees from the University of New South Wales, and is one of the founding directors of Arkitek Nurcipta S/B, which was formed in 1990.

From this seasoned architect the advice is Nothing is Permanent in life except growing old and finishing each individual's life journeys. Our responsibility and our job is have a enjoyable and happy life's journey, and if it is meant to be, you will leave behind your Architectural legacy.



Photharam, Thailand.



Sepik, Papua New Guinea.



Tamil Nadu, India.



Pokhara, Nepal.



Tauranga, New Zealand.



Jim and Ann Dowman.

Our Contributors

Ming Ngi and Suh Chee formed **mnscc architects** in August 2013; to create the architecture that they are passionate about - efficient, sensible and dynamic yet economical at the same time.

They are both very hands-on in their projects and have been involved in numerous award-winning projects during their time at Design Network Architects (DNA). They intend to keep their practice small at present and work from their home at No. 28 @ 7th Avenue.



Jenny Chow Siew Leng obtained her BA in Architecture from the University of Sheffield. She is from Alor Setar and is currently doing her year out in Kuching, she is interested in the idea that proper housing should be available to everyone, and is particularly keen on finding solution(s) to homelessness. In between work, she enjoys walking, running and the occasional bus rides.

World Architecture Day @ WAD 4.0



It is October again, and once again PAMSC is celebrating World Architecture Day (6 Oct) by having an architectural installation competition and exhibition, making it the 4th installment of the annual event.

This year, the venue is at the LOV Gallery on Jalan Padungan. This event, which is initiated by the International Union of Architects in France, gives out a different theme each year for the competition. This year's theme is "Healthy cities, Happy cities", and the competitors will be required to design the installments around this theme. The judging was in 2 stages; 22 entries were received at stage 1, out of which 12 were shortlisted for actual construction and final judging. The judges this year are:

Ar. Arlene Chew
Ar. Victor Leong
Past Chairman Ar. Phillip Chang
and gallery owner, Patsy Lam.



12 Sept - Stage 1 Judging on shortlisted entries.

Out of 22 entries; 12 were short-listed.



Shortlisted candidates visit the gallery to plan and plot their exhibition space.



Final judging took place on Monday 6th October when the entrants were interviewed and required to talk about the message behind their installations. The objective of this event is to raise public awareness of the important role of design and innovation in our lives, and because of the graphic nature of the installations, it is expected to draw interest from local students and younger members of our society.

The exhibits will be displayed in the gallery for several weeks in October, entry is free and members are invited to visit especially with their children to support the next generation of our designers.



6 Oct - Stage 2 Final Installation in progress.

Participants started assembling their installations at 8 a.m. for the 1 p.m. judging.



6 Oct - Presentation & Stage 2 Judging

Judging begins in earnest at 1 p.m....



Ar. Phillip takes a moment to test out the 'Oxygen Mask'.



Inez explains her scheme.



Sim Ching Cheng talks about his 'Tree of Life'.



Ashraf and his 'Pandora's Box'.



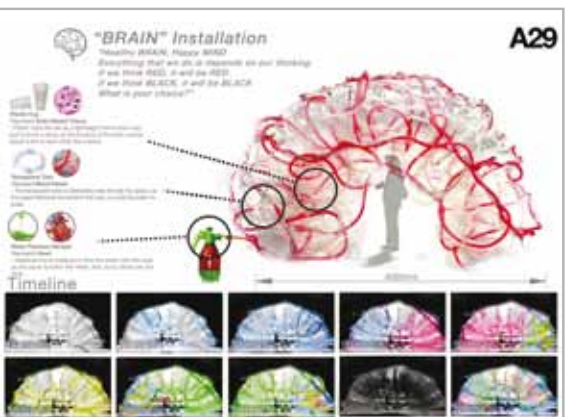
The judges 'Stay-Tuned' to Jocelyn Yap's explanation.



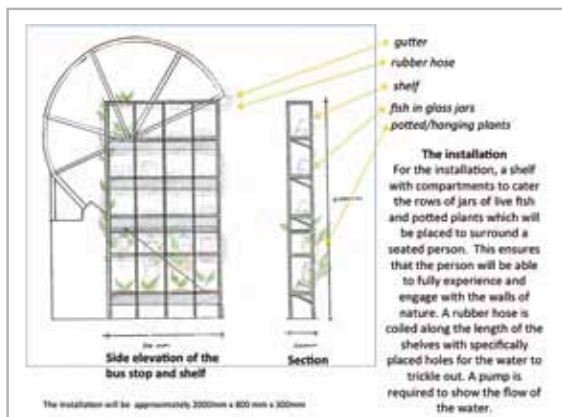
Desmond talks about his 'Infinite Casualty'.



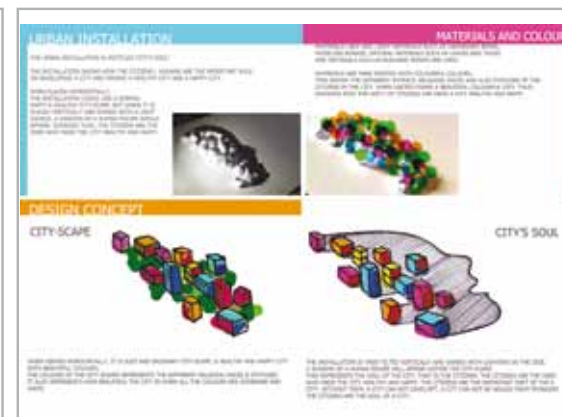
Patsy and Arlene inside the winning scheme 'Healthy Brain, Happy Mind'.



1st Prize - "Healthy Brain . Happy Mind" by Cika Ai, Stephen Cereva & Peng Qian.



2nd Prize - "Reviving a Bus Stop" by Sara Wee.



3rd Prize - "City Soul" by Abdul Rahman bin Hatta.



Peng Qian, Cika and Rahman with Dato' Seri Ar. John Lau.



Sara Wee receiving her prize.

GRADUATES

Sub-committee Chairman
Ar. Ivy Jong

Co-opt members : Noraini Narodden, Peggy Wong B K and Kevin Phua

GRADUATES' EXHIBITION in conjunction with WAD 4.0



In an effort to showcase our young local talent, we revived the PAMSC Graduates Exhibition 2014 and had a competition to coincide with the WAD installation competition. We had 2 categories in recognition of the Parts 1 and 2 degrees as well as diplomas in the current curriculum.

Two winners were selected from each category - this year, the winners were: **Kong Yan Wei from UTM (Part 2), Lau Chun Leong (Part 1)**

While **Yvonne Chong's** Mangrove Visitor Centre was voted Public Favorite's.

The two winners receive an all expenses paid trip to DatumKL in 2015.

PAMSC extend their appreciation to Ar. Nurina Matnor, Ar. Moh Ung Tai and Ar. Gabriel Wong for judging this event.



Installation of work panels by participants for graduates exhibition.



Participants collecting their WAD t-shirts.



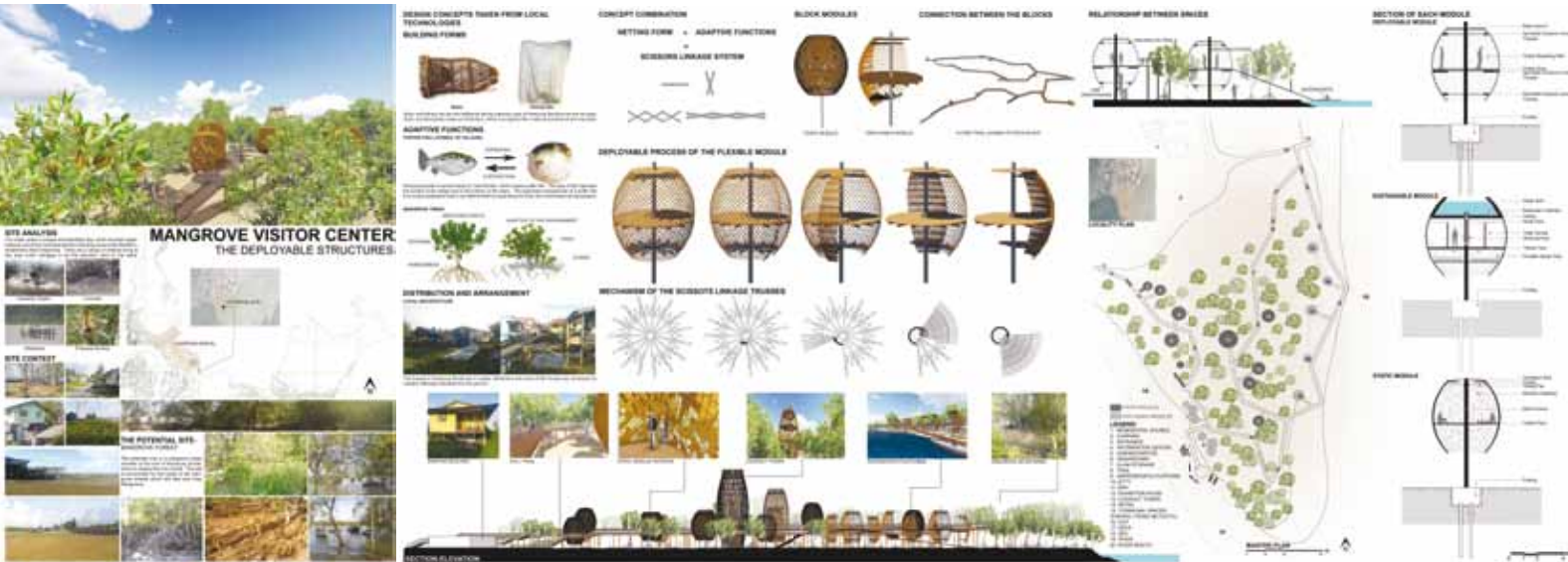
George Lee presenting his scheme to the judges.



Lau presenting to the judges as Kelvin looks on.



The judges are Ar. Gabriel Wong, Ar. Moh Ung Tai and Ar. Nurina Matnor.



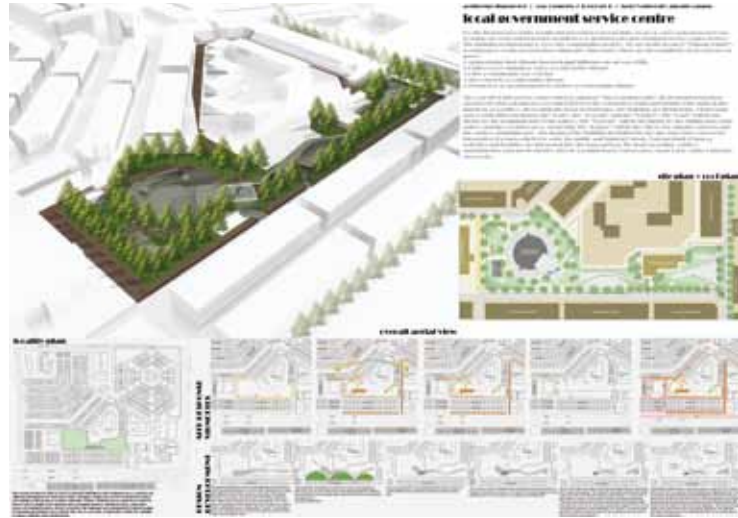
Voted Public Favourite's : "Mangrove Visitor Centre - The Deployable Structures" by Yvonne Chong Hui Joo.



The Public's favourite entry is by Yvonne Chong.



Dato' Seri Ar. John Lau presenting the First Prize to Lau Chun Leong.



KAYAKING EXPEDITION

In September, the Graduates subcommittee organised a kayaking expedition in Semadang, this "youthful" activity was aimed at getting more graduates involved in PAMSC, which we view as an important step in the development and grooming of our next generation of office bearers. Whilst priority is given to graduate affairs such as preparation for the LAM Part 3 exams and so forth, we believe that the graduates should be more involved in a wider variety of PAMSC's duties. For example, getting co-opted into our Practice subcommittee would broaden the graduate's knowledge about the workings of the local authorities while helping the Publication subcommittee may improve his understanding of local practices and projects.



Waterfall stop over.



Limestone out crop along the journey.



Heavy rains the week before ensured white water.



Ivy gives Pik Sia the low-down on body-rafting.

This expedition of 12 people included BC Ang of WHBC Architects who was in town with his wife, Wen Hsia to give a CPD lecture. The trip took 6 leisurely hours to travel 11 km with stops at waterfalls, for a home-cooked lunch and to body-raft at rapids. A better turnout by the graduates would have been good but this is the first of many such events, and we hope to see more of you in future activities.



Part 1 Graduates Winner : "The Learning Path - Local Government Service Centre" by Lau Chun Leong.



Part 2 Graduates Winner : "Reminiscence of Dancing Shadow - Community Public Square" by Kong Yan Wei.

Penang - gua lai liau! (Penang here I come!)

This is a travelogue of the Graduates Subcommittee's first study trip which took place on 13-16 September. The main objectives of this trip were to include more graduates in PAMSC activities such as study trips, and to meet with the PAM Northern Chapter to discuss ways for the two chapters to work together. As we well know, when you put enough like-minded people together (in a van), new agendas are formed, plans put forward and lunch venues debated - this coupled with the excellent planning and warm hospitality from PAMNC makes for an interesting outing.



PAM Dialogue with Northern Chapter

After a welcome lunch for our group, we adjourned to PAMNC office for our dialogue session. The dialogue covered topics such as the passing rate for the LAM Part 3 exams; the two chapters agreed to work together to voice concerns to PAMKL and to request for relevant lectures including videos of lectures that would help those sitting for the exams in Penang and Sarawak. The PAMNC Chairman, Ar. Loh then briefed our group about the historical and cultural background of Penang while other committee members shared views about CPD lectures, chapter events and the building visits planned by local architects for our study trip.

Group photo with one of our host from the Northern Chapter, Ar. Chong Kok Choong (4th left).



Group photo with Ar. Laurence Loh at centre courtyard of Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion to absorb some positive 'chi' before we left.



The Blue Mansion is a mixture of Eastern and Western architectural influences.

La Maison Bleu - Built by Cheong Fatt Tze

"one of China's last Mandarins and first Capitalists" this flamboyant masterpiece of 38 rooms, 5 courtyards and 7 staircases was acquired in 1990 with the aim of restoring it from its dilapidated state into an authentic original form. This UNESCO World Heritage Site has an eclectic style typical of 19th Century Straits Settlement architecture: a Chinese floor plan combines with Gothic louvred windows, Chinese qian-nian porcelain works with Stoke-on-Trent floor tiles, and Scottish cast iron works with Art Nouveau stained glass windows. It is said that the aura and "Chi" of the man pervades the whole building.

For architects and lovers of our building heritage, it is re-assuring to see that the restored building has found a new use and earns its upkeep as a heritage hotel and events venue. It has recently expanded its repertoire to include fine dining in the upstairs front rooms - done thoughtfully and sensitively; this form of adaptive reuse will guarantee the preservation of our heritage buildings for generations to come.

Old man Cheong would have approved of this.



After a moment of silence to upload food photos, all hell broke loose...



Nasi Kandar - nourishing parts of the body that your morning muesli cannot reach.



Architects are an excellent role models for young children.



..that last plate of cha-kueh-tiaw tipped Kieran gently over the edge..



Peggy's sketch at China House.



Ice breakers.



At the ironlace balcony facing the sea, Regina imagines a morning tea from long ago with popia and cucumber sandwiches served by maids dressed in black and white.

Soonstead

News of the possible demolition of this heritage building preceded our Sunday morning's visit, there was even an online petition to save this building, complete with a crude sketch up model. (crude enough to make one doubt the legitimacy of the claim). Our guide, Mr. Lim is from the Boon Siew group of companies who owns the building.

He tells us that news about the demolition is unfounded and questions the logic of spending money to restore it, only to tear it down.

This mansion was built by sugar baron, Heah Swee Lee in 1919 and originally named Northam Lodge -at a time when it was fashionable for Penang's nouveau riche to build ostentatious homes and name them in a European style. It was eventually sold to another rich Penang family, the Soons, who renamed her Soonstead.

In 1973, the late Tan Sri Loh Boon Siew bought the mansion ostensibly because he liked the main gates and used it to store motorcycles! With the passing of Tan Sri Loh, Soonstead fell into disrepair until it was restored by the Bayview Group, a subsidiary of the Boon Siew Group.



The restoration exercise was more successful with the building's exterior, which was overrun with vegetation. Its musculature is once again revealed with touches of finesse in the wooden shuttered windows and the iron lace balcony facing the sea. The interiors could have done with less garnish and gloss, for example the tin ceiling in the long dining hall should not have been painted but left to acquire a patina over time.

Nowadays, Soonstead can be rented as a special events venue and was recently used to stage a play but it would take more to sustain its upkeep, it has survived but has not found its new lease of life.



The Light Penang is the latest waterfront development in the island comprising residential commercial and lifestyle hubs to be built over several phases. The property developer and builder, IJM took time to brief us about the facilities and the reclamation process at their sales gallery before touring some of their residential units. The highlight of which is the saltwater canal that links many of the apartments.

In their website, the developer benchmarks themselves with renowned waterfront developments such as the Canary Wharf in London and the Docklands in Melbourne, which is admirable except these are urban renewal projects and not reclaimed from the sea. Nevertheless this project has won design awards and sales are good.



Mr. Toh from IJM Land briefs the group on the reclamation process and the various phases of The Light Waterfront Development.



Ar. Loh Chiak Eong, Chairman of PAM Northern Chapter arranged for our group to be briefed by the project team from PDC Properties Sdn. Bhd. (Perbadanan Pembangunan Pulau Pinang) on the development at the new satellite township, Bandar Cassia on the mainland at Batu Kawan.

Cheah Kongs

The Cheahs are one of the five major Hokkien clans in Penang, and we were fortunate to be given an in-depth tour of their kongsi which is currently undergoing a major restoration.

Mr Cheah Swee Huat, chairman of Seh Tek Tong Cheah Kongsi briefed our group about the site's history, Tan; the expert craftsman from China taught us about the symbolism behind the cut-and-paste "qian nian" porcelain ornaments, and heritage architects; Mei and Tan explained the layered tiled floor construction* and the meaning behind the chamfered window mullions**.

The clan house was originally cloistered behind shop houses but with the demolition of the front row during WWII; a forecourt is created. There are plans to landscape this space in keeping with the heritage programme.

* floor tiles are laid closely on top of timber joists as a base for the bedding screed to receive terracotta floor tiles.

** on plan, they depict the Chinese character for 8 - a number associated with good fortune



For some of us, the Cheah Kongsi was special because the people restoring her spoke with passion, sincerity and pride. The project is slated to be completed in late 2015.

Acknowledgements

We would like to accord our appreciation for the kind hospitality of the PAM Northern Chapter; in particular, Chairman Ar. Loh Chiak Eong, Datin Ar. Teng Chiu Chew Ying, Ar. Chong Kok Choong and Ar. Ng Bok Kim; Ar. Laurence Loh and the staff of the Blue Mansion; Ar. Mei Chee Seong, Mr. Cheah Swee Huat and the team at Cheah Kongs; Mr. Toh and his team at IJM Land and Mr. Lim Hooi Siang from the BoonSiew Group for showing us the Soonstead premises.

We would also like to thank our local Chapter for their support, and our traveling companions for their photos and 'chendo', for their wit and conversation, and for their patience when things didn't go according to plan.

Thank you.



The courtyard at Cheong Fatt Tze mansion.



The place we stayed for 3 nights, Ke-lan-tan house.

Images of Penang

by Michael Cheu (Graduate Member)

During the recent study trip to Penang, I noticed the increasing number of people roaming the streets of Georgetown looking for Ernest Zacharevic's street murals – the boy on a bicycle, the trishaw-driver and so forth. Thanks to him, we got our own orang utan mural in Kuching. These Penang street art are quite easy to locate, just look for long queues of people waiting to take a photo with the mural. This version of street art has certainly enlivened street life and business in Penang's old quarter; some enterprising folks have taken the opportunity to set up shop near the murals to sell souvenirs and t-shirts.

A note to those who have yet to take their portraits with the Georgetown murals; urgency is needed as most of them are fading.



Regina Lee, Michael Cheu & Kong Yean Wei.



Melinda Leong.



A quick drop by at sekeping Victoria after tea break.



One of the quality space at soonstead.

Over the next few days, we visited several historical buildings such as Soonstead, Cheah Kongs and the Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion, which was one of my favorite buildings of the trip. The Blue Mansion, as it is also known was purchased by a group of local Penang individuals in 1989 in order to save it from encroaching development and possible demolition. During the visit, we were fortunate to be guided by Ar. Laurence Loh, the owner and restoration architect of this building. He enlightened us about the history of the building, its former owner, the positive energy at the centre of the courtyard and explained many of the building details and ornaments.

This trip is not entirely about architecture as we spent quite some time hunting for local delicacies such as the famous Teochew 'chendo' located off Penang road. When we arrived at the stall, I was quite taken aback by the long queue of over a dozen people and even more customers not queuing but crowding the stall for a bowl of this local dessert. I wondered why these people are so willing to wait under the hot sun just for the small bowl of 'chendo'. I understood once I tasted my first mouth-full, it was certainly worth the wait!



Famous 'chendo' at Penang road.

To sum up, it was a wonderful and informative trip; I enjoyed the company of my fellow travellers and learnt a lot about local architecture, history and culture. I would certainly like to participate in similar trips like this in the future.

END

EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS

Sub-committee Chairman

Ar. Kho Meng K'ang

Advisors : Ar. Stephen Liew, Ar. Peter Wong, Ar. Tan Kiat Soon Co-opt member : Mitchell Tony Mos



BUILDING TRADE SHOW (BTS) 2015 LAUNCHING

Launching of BTS 2015 was held on the 1st of August 2014 at Hilton Hotel Kuching, officiated by PAMSC Chairman Ar. Stephen Liew, BTS 2015 Organising Chairman Ar. Kho Meng Kang and Director of CIDB Sarawak Mr. Mohd Merzan bin Hashim; with a theme – 'GO GREEN'. The cocktail event was attended by over one hundred building industry professionals and suppliers.

In conjunction with BTS 2015, the organising committee is publishing a PAMSC-cum-BTS 2015 Directory. The purpose of the directory is to provide a one-stop-reference to all architects, interior designers and other building industry professionals of contact information of all the companies/exhibitors participating in BTS 2015. The directory will also contain contact information of architectural consultancy practices, professional institutions and government departments in Sarawak. Additional to that, the directory will be uploaded to BTS 2015 and PAMSC websites. Companies/exhibitors that have registered to participate in BTS 2015 are given the advantage to include their advertisement in the directory to further highlight their building products and services. Advertisement Booking Form* is available from the organising committee at PAMSC.

The organising committee would like to thank all the guests who have attended the launching event and wish all the participants every good success in the upcoming BTS 2015.

*Only companies/exhibitors participating in BTS 2015 can advertise in PAMSC-CUM-BTS 2015 Directory.



EDUCATION

Sub-committee Chairman

Ar. Felix Wee



Old Josephians' Association Career Talk

On the 6th of August, PAMSC was invited by the Josephian's Alumni to give a career guidance talk at St Joseph's Secondary School. The Malaysian Surveyor's Board and The Advocate's Society were also present to talk to the students about some of the finer points of their profession.

PAMSC was represented by Ar. Wee Hii Min and Ar. Felix Wee. They covered topics such as the attributes required to take on the architecture course and the steps the graduates can expect to take for their profession registration. There were approximately 90 students present from St. Joseph's School, Kuching High School and St.Thomas's School.



The casual atmosphere of the event prompted many questions during Q & A.



Obituary

Ar. David Koh, 56, passed away at his home in Kuching on the 8th October 2014 - he graduated from Oxford Brookes University and was the principal of DK Architect. He leaves behind his wife and two children who are presently residing in Perth, Australia. On behalf of PAMSC, we offer our deepest condolences to his family and friends.





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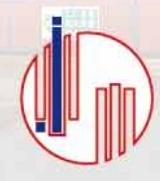


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PRACTICE

Sub-committee Chairman: **Ar. Bong Joon Hin**

Sub-committee Vice Chairman: **Ar. John Lee**



CPD (Continual Professional Development)

Sub-committee Chairman

Ar. Peter Wong

Co-opt member : **Ar. Felix Wee**



PRACTICE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

A. COUNCIL & BUILDING PLAN SUBMISSION

(1) *Certificate of Completion and Compliance by Ministry of Local Government and Community Development;*

- (i) C.C.C. Forum: Held at Imperial Hotel on the 24th of September 2014. The Ministry of Local Government and Community Development (LGCD) is interested in the C.C.C. procedure that is now implemented in Councils in Semenanjung Malaysia, which puts the responsibility of issuance of Occupational Permit on the Submitting Person (S.P.). There are 21 (G) forms that assist the S.P. to ensure that this procedure is done properly. It also minimises the Council's input with the issuance of the O.P. because the Forms are drawn up almost like checklists and this minimises subjective interpretation by Council staff.
- (ii) Ex-PAM President, Ar. Haji Saifuddin Ahmad presented PAM's point of view in the matter. He advises that part of the C.C.C. procedure includes the depositing of one (1) final set of drawings to Lembaga Arkitek Malaysia (LAM) and not PAM, as the custodian for reference in case of authentication of drawings or for other legal referencing. Another interesting point is that contractors, like the S.P. are also responsible for life, whereas for the Councils; their focus on Building Approvals will be mainly on Safety and Health issues.
- (iii) The L.G.C.D. Ministry held this Forum to review on the current Sarawak Building Ordinance, which PAMSC intends to play a part in.

(2) *Courtesy Call to Majlis Perbandaran Padawan (MPP)*

PAMSC is presently compiling list of issues pertaining to Building Plan submission to M.P.P. and plans to make a courtesy visit to table this list and call for a dialogue.

The issues comprises issues such as :

- (i) Adopting of the printing of registration chop on the Ammonia Print for the ease of registration as the State Planning Authority (S.P.A.) has already enforced this practice.
- (ii) To minimise document requirements for the submission of housing and shophouse development with repeated or typical designs.
- (iii) Application for early commencement of work and time frame.

PAMSC members are urged to submit their list of issues or queries for inclusion in this list.

B. HOUSING

Workshop on the Provision of Affordable Housing in Estate Development by Ministry of Housing.

- (1) The Housing Ministry Workshop on Affordable Housing was conducted to obtain input from all industry players as the Ministry is finalising their latest policies on Estate Development. This relates more to the work of Sarawak Housing and Real Estate Development Authority (SHEDA) and their concern on the amount of Low Cost Housing they are required to "contribute" to the Ministry for the lower income groups. PAMSC does not have a big role in this event.
- (2) Strata Titles Lab on 27th August 2014 by Ministry Of Housing (MOH) at Grand Margherita Hotel, Kuching
PAMSC Chairman Ar. Stephen Liew attended the Strata Titles Lab which was a continuation of the earlier 18th of August meeting reviewing problems in relation to existing Strata Titles Application and proposed amendments to improve its applications and issuances.
- (3) Ministry of Housing Lab on A Proposal for a Levy System on Housing and Development Projects
Ar. Stephen Liew informed that a repeal to the requirement for provision of low cost housing components for AVTC and development of land of 10 acres or more was proposed.

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Schedule of CPD Talks

| | | | |
|------------|---|--|---|
| 29.03.2014 | Topic : Reflection on Voyage of Discovery Speaker : Ar. Mike Boon | | Credit points : 2 |
| | Credit points : 2 | | 29.03.2014 Topic : Water in Light Speaker : Mr. Md Rafiq Azam |
| 24.04.2014 | Topic : Integrating BIM into Architectural Work Process using AchiCAD Speaker : President Chan Seong Aun | | Credit points : 2 |
| | Credit points : 2 | | 29.08.2014 Topic : Problem : Solutions - Projects by WHBC Architects Speaker : Ar. Wen Hsia & Ar. BC Ang |
| 10.09.2014 | Topic : 6 Countries, 6 Projects Speaker : Jim & Ann Dowman | | Credit points : 2 |
| | Credit points : 2 | | 18.10.2014 Topic : Construction Industry Payment and Adjudication Act Speaker : Ar. David Cheah Ming Yew (DCDA) |
| 01.11.2014 | Topic : Draw. Build. Learn. Speaker : Ar. Wee Hii Min (DNA S/B) | | Credit points : 2 |
| | Credit points : 2 | | .11.2014 Topic : Façade and Building Envelope Design Speaker : Mr. Michael Chin (Arup Singapore) |

SECRETARIAT

Sub-committee Chairman

Ar. Stephen Mong



Regina Lee Shian Nee joined PAMSC on 3 June 2014 as our Executive Secretary.

She was formerly with Millennium Crest Sdn Bhd as the Assistant Manager entrusted with project coordination and purchasing. Regina had her early education in Singapore, and is an alumnus of Chung Hua Middle School No.3 where she earned her UEC. This busy mother of 4 manages to also find time to contribute to the community as well – being an active member of the Rotary Club of Kuching South, the Kuching Samarahan & Sri Aman Lee Clan Association, and the Federation of Kuching & Samarahan Divisions Chinese Association – Youth Section.

Regina has recently completed her 'centralised training' in PAMKL and we look forward to her increased contribution to our local chapter.

By Stephen Mong

My Training Experience at PAMKL

By Regina Lee

From 2nd till 12 September 2014, I was fortunate to be sent to PAMKL for their in-house training so that the Chapters' operations will become more in-line.

These are some of the areas where I received training from the PAMKL Staff including the CEO Olivia Lim;

- ACE (Awards, Competitions, Events)
- Finance on Receiving
- Membership
- Heritage & Education
- Pusat Binaan Sdn Bhd
- Conference Planning and Membership
- Front office administration
- CPD & DLS

The most unique aspect of the KL operation is that the staff members work like a family and everyone is working towards the common goal of improving PAM.

I would like to thanks PAMSC for giving me this opportunity to improve myself.



Our newly appointed executive secretary, Regina Lee (1st left Kneeling) with staff at PAMKL during her 2 weeks 'on-the-job training' at PAM centre Kuala Lumpur in September 2014.

“Reminiscing Forgotten Treasure ... Simanggang”



A Peek into the World of a Conservation Architect

A public engagement programme was held in conjunction with the project to conserve Fort Alice, jointly organised by PAMSC, Sarawak Heritage Society, Simanggang Soon Heng Society, sponsored by NS Bluescope Lysaght (Sarawak) Sdn Bhd, and supported by the Talents & Arts Performing Group and Jabatan Muzium Sarawak.



View of Fort Alice under conservation from Jalan Astana. (Photo by Tan Ting Huat)

Conservation of Fort Alice as at 31.08. (Photo by Tan Ting Huat)

(Photo by Tan Ting Huat)

A site visit was organised during Merdeka Day to celebrate the Mooncake Festival. 2 sessions were conducted: the first was attended by 38 visitors from Kuching, the second by 48 local students and teachers who have been participating in our programme. John Ting was on site to give a historical account of the Fort based on his research. Through his research, John discovered archival descriptions related to the Fort in text and hand sketches, which then form the basis for the re-creation of the interior rooms.



Perspective by John Ting shows how the courtroom in Fort Alice will be recreated.



Interior of Fort Alice under construction. (Photo by Goh Tze Hui)

A buffet dinner was later served at the Chinese temple on the waterfront before a public talk by Jonathan Ko; an Archeologist trained in Northwest University in Xi'an, China, and USM in Penang. Unlike the common myths and legends, Jonathan has interestingly traced the origin of the Mooncake Festival from archeological perspectives. He showed examples of antique Chinese porcelain decorated with paintings and poetry related to the festival. He also talked about how he reconstructed the broken pieces of porcelain excavated from the Fort Alice site, and further speculated that these may be the objects of secondary burials of the natives with high social standing.



Perspective by John Ting showing the Resident's quarter and bedroom, with the courtroom at far end.



Interior of Fort Alice under construction. (Photo by Goh Tze Hui)

Following that, more parents brought their children to participate in a lantern procession along Batang Lupar, where all were treated to a supper of mooncakes and local pomelo to end the evening's programme.



Lydia Toh, President of NS Bluescope Lysaght (Sarawak) Sdn Bhd, handing over sponsorship money to Chai Phay Yung, Secretary of SHS.



Lantern procession started from the temple to Fort Alice along Batang Lupar.



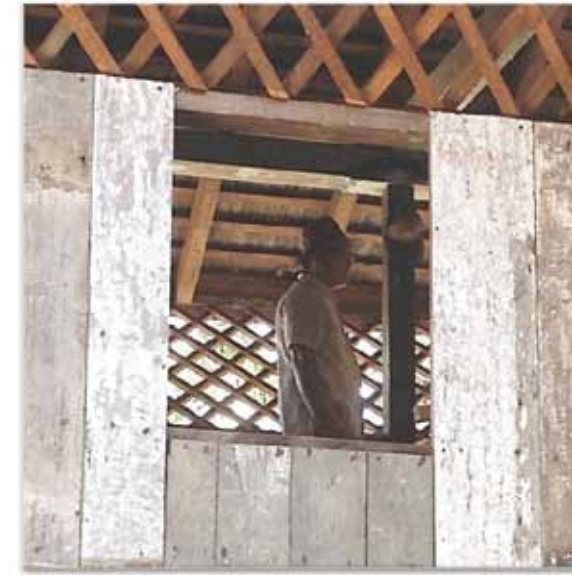
Public lecture given by Jonathan Ko.



Far left : Reconstructed artifacts excavated from Fort Alice site.

Right : An example of Mooncake Festival themed painting and poetry (貂蟬拜月) depicted on porcelain.

(Reported by Ar. Mike Boon. More information can be found on friendoffortalice@blogspot.com.)



Seated at the end of a long wooden table, I was given a thick book entitled “Proposed Conservation of Square Tower.” Not having learnt Sejarah, the history of the Brookes and why these 20 forts were built intrigued me. I learnt about the restoration that was carried out at the Fort to repair damage due to the damp walls, effervescence and about the previous renovations.

Over the next few days, I continued to read about all his other projects such as Fort Alice, located next to the Tidal Bore Conservatory in Sri Aman and I scanned through his reports on Fort Margherita in Kuching. In the course of my internship, I was able to visit some of these architectural marvels. Every now and again, Mike would ask me if I still want to be an architect after seeing him work. He advised me that architecture is not all about designing and drawing, that there are many steps in this long process - designing is only close to a third of it.

Once I was invited to accompany him to a site meeting for the Fort Alice conservation project. There, I met John Ting, Mike's friend from Melbourne University, another architect who is heavily involved in this project. I saw how the meeting was conducted and the various roles of the people there; working to complete the project by November 2014.



A student's account of her internship at Ar. Mike Boon's office by Amanda Chua.

“Just wear your shorts, t-shirt and slippers.”

From that sentence alone I had a feeling that this will not be a typical internship. I was interning for Ar. Mike Boon; conservation architect – well known for his restoration of Kuching's Old Court House, the Tidal Bore Observatory and Fort Alice in Sri Aman.



After the meeting, we visited the Fort where Mike instructed the skilled contractors and made sure they understood what was required of them. I was intrigued of design and construction of the building, how they were able to salvage so many of the old materials to be used in its current reconstruction as well as incorporating it with new materials, producing a fine contrast between the two.

I learnt so much in the short one week; this has been nothing short of an unbelievable opportunity.

Amanda Chua Jia Yun aspires to be an architect and is currently pursuing her A-Levels at the Concord College, UK.



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