



# INTERSECTION

Profile: Arkiskape Sdn Bhd  
Local Projects : Hotels  
Design Forum 2014

ISSUE NO 4/2013-14  
April 2014

For Members Only



# CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS



## Fellow architects and readers,

It seems like only yesterday that I first took over the Chairmanship of PAMSC for the term 2013 – 2014. Our AGM has just taken place and I would like to firstly thank all involved for re-electing me as PAMSC Chairman.

I would also like to thank all my committee members for their effort and commitment for the past year. It has been a very rewarding experience for me, witnessing the selfless dedication of committee members in expending their time and effort in various capacities for the betterment of our profession and institute.

Special thanks to Ar. Ng Chee Wee for organizing the recently held Design Forum 2014 at Pullman Hotel. As in the past years, the event was a great success with over 230 delegates attending this year. It was great to see so many graduates and students amongst the audience.

It is my firm belief that the foundation for a successful career in architecture is hardwork and passion, architects have an extraordinary amount to learn from each other; the more connected and collaborative we are - the better our work will be. With this in mind, it is my hope that our activities such as the Design Forum and CPD events together with our newsletter will inspire the local community of architects to come together to support each other and fulfill our potential as architects.

I hope that you will continue to lend support to us in the coming term, thank you.

Yours sincerely,  
**Ar. Stephen Liew**  
PAMSC Chairman



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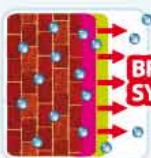
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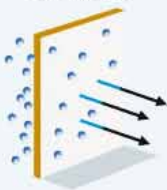
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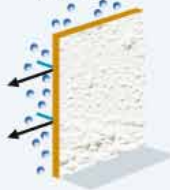


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**This is the last issue from the 2013-14 term. The Annual General Meeting on the 29th March, 2014 signals the beginning of a new term. With all the usual suspects re-elected.**

This means that the Chapter is able to continue and complete the long term programmes set out by the various sub-committees, which for this sub-committee remains pretty much the same as before:

1. Continue to work closely with the IT and Education, and the Graduates Sub-committees – collectively we will work to reach out to local Part 1 and 2 graduates and to pre-register local student members until they receive permanent registration numbers,
2. Promote closer ties amongst local members; in this issue, we feature Arkiskape Sdn Bhd and interview one of their directors.
3. Provide support to graduates and guidance to students – through columns such as Radar and the Student's Section,
4. Highlight local practices and their projects – featuring them in themed issues that focus on particular building types and events; such as the 3 hotel projects in this issue.

INTERSECTION has matured in past 6 years and I have enjoyed working with the various committee members and been encouraged by the support from the past Chairmen. Indeed, the several of the past Chairmen continue to lend support to our Chapter; Ar. Chew Chung Yee represents us at LAM, Ar. Phillip Chang guides us through our liaisons with government agencies, Ar. Peter Wong manages our CPD events and Ar. Desmond Kuek can be called upon for a word of advice or two. This is a close-knit community of peers, familiar with their roles and comfortable with the team work honed through years of 'practice'. These elder 'statesmen' are a valuable resource - one that the other Chapters would crave for.

But for the Chapter (and this newsletter) to continue to improve, we need new blood and fresh ideas, or risk becoming complacent – lulled into doing just enough to get by and putting out a mediocre product. In the coming term, the Publication, Graduates and IT sub-committees will work together to recruit new members into the PAMSC committee and involve them in our events so that our 'products' can evolve and remain relevant to our community. On second thoughts, the recruitment of new members should be the mandate for the whole PAMSC committee.

Email me if you would like to get involved in our projects. Thank you.

**Min (weehiimin@gmail.com)**

With my usual suspects



Close knit community – the present PAMSC committee seen here at the 2013 Christmas dinner with past Chairmen; Dato' Sri Ar. John Lau, Ar. Phillip Chang, Ar. Chew Chung Yee, Ar. Ng Chee Wee, Ar. Desmond Kuek, Ar. Peter Wong, Ar. Hubert Kueh (not pictured) and Ar. Gabriel Wong. (photo courtesy of Kevin Phua)



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# PROFILE : ARKISKAPE SDN BHD



In this issue of INTERSECTION, we met up with past PAMSC Chairman, Ar. Desmond Kuek to talk about his practice, his projects and his passion.

**DK:** Ar. Desmond Kuek                      **I:** Intersection

**I:** Thanks Desmond, for taking the time to talk to us. Tell us how you started your practice.

**DK:** Our practice was formed in 1979 with the partnership of late Ar. Lankie Simbas and Ar. Sim Poh Leng. In 2002, Arkiskape KONSULANT was restructured into a body corporate company and named as **Arkiskape SDN BHD**.

Presently, Ar. Sumardi Bin Ghazalee and I are the directors of the company after the demise of Ar. Lankie Simbas.

**I:** Tell us about the people you work with.

**DK:** As a practice, we are quite well rounded as we have a experienced team of architects, interior designers and planners, supported by highly trained draughting and administration team. We have been fully computerised with AutoCAD for some time now and we find this useful as we transit from sketch design through to contract documentation and working drawings.

**I:** What about you? How are you computer skills?

**DK:** I got my AutoCAD drafting skill training during my three years post graduate working experience in Sydney. When I joined Arkiskape in 1990, I was asked to train their staff on AutoCAD drafting as none of them knew anything on AutoCAD drafting at that time.



Right Side Elevation of The Dayak Bidayuh National Association (DBNA) Resources Centre & Multi-Purpose Hall.

**I:** Where do you see the practice heading in the near future?

**DK:** We have always tried to provide quality services and designs that are sensible and sensitive to the clients' needs. We would like to take the firm into the next level in the near future, to become a leading architectural firm in the region.

**I:** Can you tell us how you plan to achieve this?

**DK:** We try to satisfy our clients brief within budget, and although many of our clients are Federal and State agencies – we still have a 'ceiling' to work with and have to consider their return of investment.

Nevertheless, we always try to design sustainably with time and function in mind. We continue to learn from the construction of each project, to refine our solutions and correct our faults. We find that our clients are quite understanding when we review our projects with them; I feel that they value our honesty. We are very good in striking a happy balance between functionality and flair in our buildings – the clients and end-users feel that it is money well spent.

We strive to continue and elevate this level of service in our future projects.

**I:** Thank you.

(cont. next page)





## Medan Niaga Satok, Kuching

The Medan Niaga Satok is a 'descendant' of the old Satok Weekend Market, re-emerging with the culture of its former self with nooks and crannies treating visitors with pleasant surprises and unexpected treasures as they wander through the space.

Located next to the riverbank of Sungai Sarawak, the market is the permanent site for the Pasar Tani Kekal, bulk merchandising agriculture products centre, support & service centre and the famous weekend eatery known locally as the "Benteng".

The design of the market is based on the 'adventure-trail' of the shoppers as they navigate through the market in search of various products sold. By creating a main pedestrian spine, the visitors can walk from block to block and branching out to explore.

The project promotes ecologically sustainable design through the usage of natural day lighting, rainwater harvesting and natural ventilation - resulting in reduction of energy consumption with a side benefit of educating the public about sustainability. It is not only a market for supplying fresh local produce but is also a centre for local agricultural entrepreneurs and a tourist hub.



## The Dayak Bidayuh National Association (DBNA) Resources Centre & Multi-Purpose Hall

This building was designed as a place of assembly for the members of the Bidayuh National Association while providing serving as a sport facilities for the local vicinity. The project is designed to represent Bidayuh culture and contains the architectural features unique to their culture such as the circular roof form and the raising of the main spaces on stilts.



## Kubah Ria Baru

Kubah Ria Baru is designed to replace the former food court and retail outlets near the Satok Bridge. It is situated along the Sarawak River Bank with an open dining area facing the river, accompanied by a circular exhibition hall surrounded with retail outlets.



## Kompleks CIQ Sungai Tujuh, Miri

The Customs, Immigration and Quarantine Complex and Checkpoint is located at the border between Miri and Brunei and designed to replace the existing complex and to cater for the increasing immigration traffic while cutting down the queuing time and to reinforce security checks.



## Proposed Federal Government Complex

This is a proposal for the New Federal Complex - a 16-storey building to house the various government departments and agencies which are presently still renting properties around Kuching.

Housing them under one roof on the 10-acre site would ensure better coordination between these government bodies and it will become a one-stop-centre for efficient public service.

The design's form is based on the 'sirih' or betel leaf which is an important ritual in the traditional ceremonies; this reflects the formal function of this building.



## Proposed Tropical Peat Research Laboratory (Tpri Complex)

The proposed Tropical Peat Research Laboratory (TPRL) Complex at Kota Samarahan, Sarawak is designed as a comprehensive R & D facility institute with state-of-the art amenities and services within a convenient campus setting. This facility aims to set a new standard in Malaysian Laboratory Design by addressing the following factors:

- Functional work space suited to efficient experimental work flow and contamination control.
- Lab. Complex to operate 24/7 to allow flexi-hours.
- Designed as a "Social Building" conducive to interaction and collaborative research.
- Transparency in Work Environment by using Glass partition.
- Flexibility to accommodate change for future laboratory expansion needs.
- Environmental sustainability to minimize impact to environment.





Galvanized iron, industrial wire-mesh and raw plywood are the main materials used for the renovation.

## BB Bunkers at Damai Central, Santubong, Sarawak

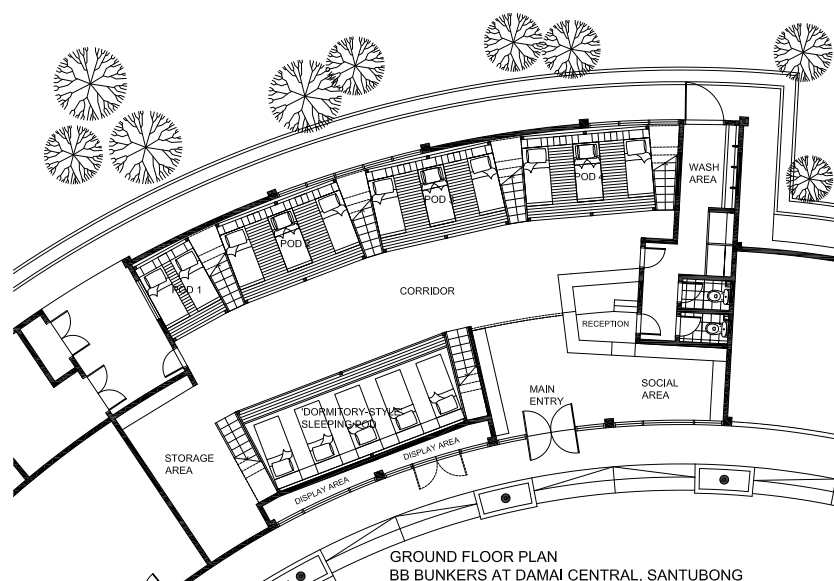
by INTEGRATED DESIGN CONSULTANT

### ARCHITECT'S STATEMENT

The project brief required for an open space 'dormitory-style' bed and breakfast hostel design. Due to budget constraints, the challenge was to create a cost effective design showcasing intimate spaces which at the same time looked elegant and stylish. Hence, the designer adopted for a clean, raw industrial concept as the driving idea behind the design, with 'pods' as bed bunkers to define the semi-private spaces.



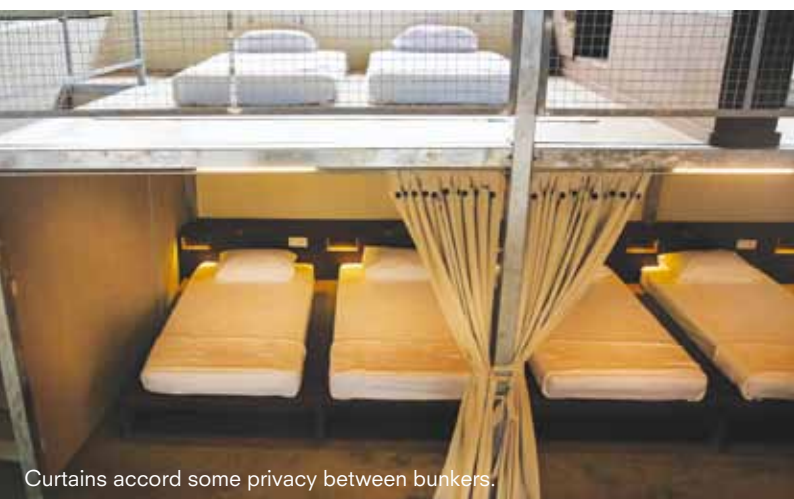
The overall design is simple and minimalist – using industrial materials to keep the cost low. Due to the extremely short renovation period, the main components were designed in modules to be fabricated off-site and installed on site.



GROUND FLOOR PLAN  
BB BUNKERS AT DAMAI CENTRAL, SANTUBONG



The social area serves multiple functions – as a meeting point, a breakfast area and a temporary work-space.



Curtains accord some privacy between bunkers.



Each sleeping pod is provided with personalized lighting and storage compartments.





The ambiance in the evening.



The interior ambiance.

## Village House, Santubong by ATELIER TIMUR SDN. BHD.

### ARCHITECT'S STATEMENT

As aptly named by our client, Donald and Marina Tan, Village House is an unconventional home-stay in an intermediate lot at Kampong Santubong. The landlocked site is situated in a Malay fishing village, with Mount Santubong at the front and the South China Sea a few lots away.

Cultural cues picked up from its vicinity were the general design concept. The overall design is based on a celebration of colours, rich with details composed with a compact U-shaped plan centred on a pool and deck as the main focal point within the site.

The main hall and associated facilities were built as a double storey block to the front of the site. The main hall block is walled up at the front with windows only from the first floor overlooking the entrance driveway; acting very much like our Sarawakian 'fort'. In contrast, the building within the compound, opens up towards the pool and deck.



Play of traditional and contemporary building materials.



Unassuming frontage.

Access to the abode is through a pair of large belian doors and threshold, located at the far right side of the entrance driveway. As you enter, you are greeted by a lush garden and hear sounds of the water cascade from the pond beneath the front hall before you are exposed to the openness of the pool courtyard and its dwellings.

With the main hall and dining deck, your eyes are led by the roof lines of the two parallel blocks. The elevated guest rooms are accessed individually by their own staircases; much like the kampung stilted houses nearby. The two dwellings blocks are separated by the pool and timber decking with a green vista towards the end of the garden. There are various combinations of rooms ranging from bunk-beds hostel which sleeps up to to eight, to 2-bed suites, to the 'Rajah Room' which has its own living lounge and out-door deck facing lush greens and tree-lined views borrowed from neighbouring properties.

The site is landlocked with limited views on the ground level except for the magnificent view of Mount Santubong which the main hall on the first floor takes advantage of.

Open spaces are created below the rooms, which becomes communal spaces thereby optimising the building footprint and yet maximizes the garden.

Structurally it was cost effective to utilize the underside of the rooms as covered open communal spaces. The careful usage of lightweight building material reduces the construction time as well as the cost involved. For example, the RC piles also acts as the ground floor columns. The external building cladding uses corrugated metal sheets in lieu of the traditional timber plank sidings for ease of maintenance. It also provided a clean and textured feel, which compliments the timber structure without it being overly 'traditional' in construction.

The compact planning, provision of lush gardens and open courtyard within, accentuated by the contextual architectural treatment provides Village House her sense of place within Kampong Santubong.



Early sketch of the layout



Sectional elevation



## Hotel 56

J.H.Bong Architect  
in collaboration with  
INTODESIGN Lab

### ARCHITECT'S STATEMENT

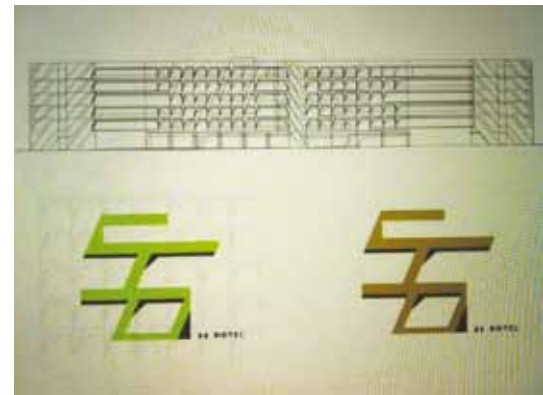
Hotel 56 is so named because this is the client's favourite number and we used it as a catalyst in the design of the facade motif. We knew that the hotel building had to be highly visible from the highway, so the dynamic and colourful facade was used to achieve this purpose, and to act as sun-shades for the west facing elevation.

The angular form of the facade was taken indoors and used as the generator of the hotel interiors - we wanted it to be fresh and appeal to a younger clientele.



The striking facade of the hotel is highly visible.

The colour and design of the exterior is brought inside the building.

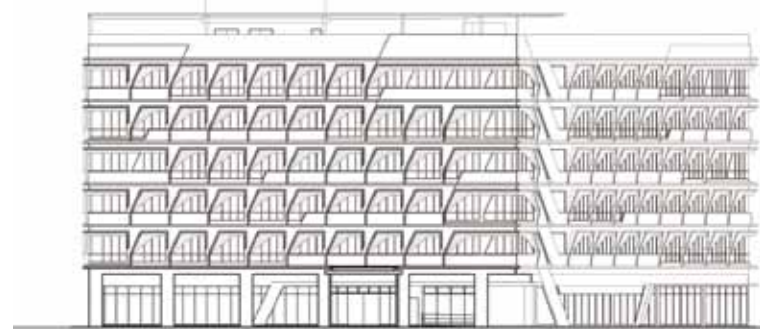


Close-up of the facade.

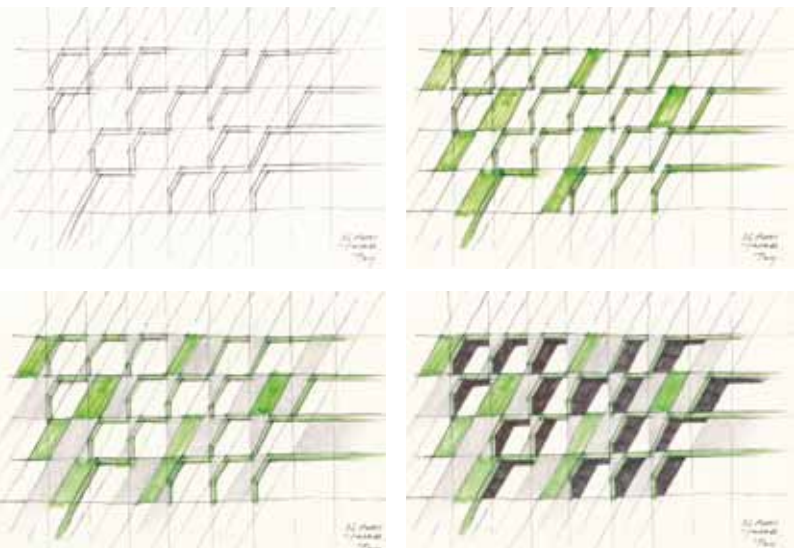
### Ground Floor

SCALE 1:100

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. LOBBY           | 11. GENSET ROOM    |
| 2. RECEPTION       | 12. MSB            |
| 3. BUSINESS CENTRE | 13. HEALTH CENTER  |
| 4. CAFETERIA       | 14. STAFF ROOM     |
| 5. KITCHEN         | 15. PUMP ROOM      |
| 6. LIFT LOBBY      | 16. DISABLE TOILET |
| 7. GENERAL OFFICE  | 17. UTILITY        |
| 8. LUGGAGE ROOM    | 18. FIVE FOOTWAY   |
| 9. MALE TOILET     | 19. LIFT           |
| 10. FEMALE TOILET  |                    |



ELEVATION 1



Sketches showing development of the facade pattern.



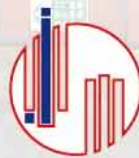


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# P A M K L ' S V I S I T T O R I B A U K



PAM delegation at the entrance of RIBA.



At the Council's Chamber where meetings are conducted.



PAM visit to ECOBuild Exhibition London.



PAM meeting with C.J. Lim (second left) from Bartlett School of Architecture UCL.



Meet up with RIBA Enterprise which is the equivalent to PAM's Pusat Binaan.



Meeting with RIBA president Stephen Hodder at the president office.

On the 3rd – 7th March 2014, PAM (Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia) at the invitation of the RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) visited the RIBA Headquarters in London. Four PAM delegates participated in this trip; PAM President Ar. Chan Seong Aun, Deputy President Ar. Abu Zarim Abu Bakar, Practice Committee Chairman Ar. Thirilogachandran a/l Shanmugasundaram and PAM Sarawak Chapter Chairman Ar. Stephen Liew Ngian Chin.



The objective of this visit were many-fold, chief among them were:

- i) to foster greater cooperation and sharing of experiences both in the education and practice sectors, in particular in relation to the profession's challenge in the face of increasing globalization of services.
- ii) it was interesting for me to note that despite the difference in our context, the challenges and issues were similar. Issues such as fees collection, conditions of engagement, ability to retain architects within the profession i.e. high drop out rate after qualification and education issues such as the length of time required to qualify, cross border recognition of schools and qualifications etc.

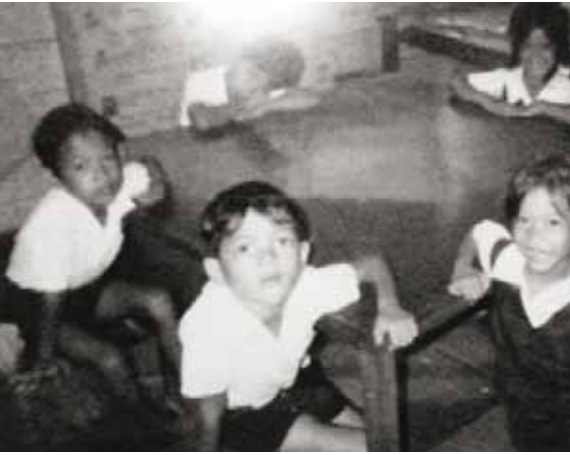
The contingent also took time out to visit the Ecobuild Exhibition in London which featured "Sustainable Design and Construction" - a world wide platform for the promotion of green and sustainable design including management and construction. We also attended a Building Information Modelling (BIM) presentation by RIBA Service provider and visited a sample practice currently using BIM to understand issues relating to adaptation, cost and effectiveness of the system.

Later during the trip, we visited the Architecture School of Westminster University and Bartlett School of Architecture in London to meet some Malaysian Students on issues relating to the recognition and verification of degrees, requirement and processes that were put forward by Malaysia Government and its impact on future Malaysian Architectural students' route to professional qualification in Malaysia.

Detail of the trip such as flyers and brochures are available on the PAMSC website.



Readers are asked to submit their childhood photos and a few sentences about their hometown when they were growing up. Here is another installment of this popular series.



**Mohammad Royzaid  
(PU Architects)**

Hometown: Kg. Pinang, Samarahan

This photo was taken by my Primary One class teacher at SK Pinang on my first day of school. I recall how we sat around a table to do our work in the lower Primary classes instead of rows, and on box-stools that look like dice instead of chairs.

Many people forget that until the 1990's - it took 4 hours to travel the 25 km between Kampung Pinang to Kuching because there wasn't a connecting road and we had to take a ferry for part of the way.



**Dona Rose Amer (Atelier Timur)**

Hometown: Jakarta, Indonesia

This photo was taken at the Ancol Art Market by my dad, who took me with him when he visited all sorts of fairs and exhibitions, from the arts to books to automobiles. My mother on the other hand took us to performances; the theatre, ballet and jazz festivals. This is what I remember when I recall spending time with my family as I was growing up.

I look a little tired in this photo but I think this is just my 'camera' face; I was a shy girl (am shy still, I think)



**Arlene Chew (DNA)**

Hometown (in transit): Kapit

At two years old, Arlene Chew imagines herself as an exponent of Tae-kwon-do, wearing an outfit made by grandma in a photo taken by Dad. 'We were in Kapit at the time, my father who is a doctor was posted here to serve as a flying doctor to the rural villages', she said. Our house faces a field where the helicopter would land and take him off to his rounds. That's where I saw the people practising Tae-kwon-do and mimicked their moves.'

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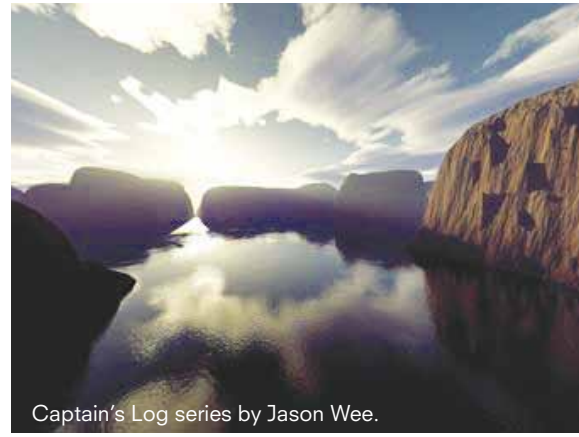
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Casadefflora by VasLab



Captain's Log series by Jason Wee.



Zero Waste Table by Andrew Maynard.

What a wonderful way to spend the day; listening to 5 architects/designers talk about their projects in the company of your friends and peers. The PAMSC Design Forum offered such an opportunity to 230 people at the Pullman Hotel on the 22nd of March – an event sponsored by NS Bluescope Lysaght (Sarawak) Sdn Bhd. This year's invited speakers were: **Vasu Virajsilp - VasLab Architecture, Bangkok, Yip Yuen Hong - Ip:li Architects, Singapore, Andrew Maynard - Andrew Maynard Architects, Melbourne, Australia, Ar Razin Mahmood - Razin Architect, Johore Bahru, Jason Wee - Grey Projects, Singapore.**

The theme of "Sustainable Design; High-Tech, Low-Tech" evoked a variety of responses from the speakers, with several qualifying that they do not see themselves as 'sustainable' architects. Not in the definite sense of the word perhaps. But judging from the forethought some of the speakers put into their work to reduce footprint, to re-use material and to make their buildings last - these are practitioners of sustainable design (possibly without the labels).

Ar. Razin succinctly sums it up when he said that many clients want a building with a green label nowadays as they see it as a marketing device while Andrew Maynard similarly argues that the label of 'green architecture' depends on how much 'mechanical junk' (his words) is attached to the building to make an otherwise ill-designed building reduce its environmental impact. In contrast, they appear determined to achieve the most with the least – Razin distills his surau design into a tropical parasol with enclosing brick walls that breathe while Andrew's Zero Waste Table is built from a single piece of ply with a single router cut.

Yip Yuen Hong from Ip:li (His wife, Lee Ee Lin is the other half of this partnership) convinces his clients to accept aesthetics that are relatively 'third-world' in 'first world' Singapore. His elegantly crafted and beautifully-composed houses make use of fair-faced concrete and un-rendered brick, one has a field of lallang. While some might argue that this architectural treatment is deliberate and not born out of necessity, the choice of these rustic materials allows his buildings to age without fuss. Yip's appreciation of the humble kampong house is apparent in the design of his houses.

Jason Wee conjures up photorealistic landscapes that are out of this world - mainly because they are; created with powerful digital software and his imagination.

Interesting that he compares his art to the slow food movement, which values the 'natural-ness' of the way a product is created. His architectural installations are less successful in achieving their goals and if he were an architect, I would say that 'his hand-drawn is not as good as his CAD'. Nevertheless, the images are breathtaking and imagine a world before Man's intervention.

Architect Vasu from Thailand similarly uses digital software to generate the dynamic forms of the HONDA Big Wing and facades of his urban hotel. There is artistry in his designs, his projects are very photogenic and his sites rival Jason's imagined landscapes. It is therefore a pity that his clients see the need to enhance this experience of nature with plunge-pools and tiki-bars. The constructed landscape is jarring to the eye, much like the green of the Astroturf roof of the chalets.

The day of sharing ended with a lively Q&A session, highlighted by Ar. Razin and Andrew Maynard fielding a question about the role of 'feng-shui' in their designs – which they answered by citing examples from their work, affirming that geomancy is fundamentally rooted in a sustainable co-existence with nature.

The PAMSC Design Forum 2014 was attended by over 230 participants, many of whom are students and the general public – this is perhaps a sign of the event's stature in the cultural calendar and people's quest to learn more about the role of design in their lives.

Text by Min



Surau Nusa Idaman (under construction) by Ar. Razin.



Sunset Place by Ip:li Architects.





In this issue of INTERSECTION, we met up with Ar. Razin Mahmood from Razin Architect, Johor Bahru.

**R :** Ar. Razin

**I :** Intersection

**I:** As a child, did you always want to be an architect?

**R:** My childhood ambition is first to be a bus conductor, then a soldier, lecturer and finally when I was 12; a doctor. I didn't know what an architect does, but one thing is for sure, I like to sketch. My first exposure to architectural drawings was when I was 14, I saw my room mate's parcel wrapped with recycled construction drawings. That was when I decided that I wanted to be an architect.

**I:** Which architect from the past do you admire most? and one from the present?

**R:** I am not able to just name one architect. I studied in the US in early 80's, at that time I admired Frank Lloyd Wright, I.M Pei and (believe it or not) Michael Graves. It was the peak of post-modernism. Some say it was the worst era in architecture. Now I like the works of Lake-Flato Architects from Texas, who have a strong vernacular or simple barn-like approach on their works. I also like Marcio Kogan who produce boxy yet poetic tropical designs. Regionally I admire Kevin Low, Seksan Design, Andra Matin and Ip-li Architects. If i am forced to choose one from the past and one from the present, I would have to say Frank Lloyd Wright and Kevin Low of small projects.



**I:** If a close friend were to describe your architectural style, what would they say?

**R:** I am not sure if I have produced an identifiable character for my works. Most of the time, we are pressured to do what the client wants. But whenever possible, we will seize the opportunity to sell our preferred method of solving their problems. Sometime they listen to us, sometimes our ideas get turned down.

We emphasis on designing for our climate and to be true to time and technology. I think my friends would say that I do Modern Tropical style, but my lecturer friends call me a Regionalist; I like the sound of that too.

**I:** Your earlier projects clearly portray your ideas about sufficiency and tropicality, how has this evolved as the project grow in scale?

**R:** It was quite easy to express your ideas in smaller projects. You have the luxury of experimenting with different solutions without the worry of doing too much damage to the job. But when the projects grow in scale, efficiency and cost comes in and we are required to deliver within a strict dateline. More often than not, we play it safe while maintaining our fundamental aim as much as possible. I keep saying that "we don't just design buildings but spaces for people to feel good".

**I:** What advice would you give to young local architects?

**R:** When we first started, we didn't get interesting projects. The decision to make them interesting depends on you as the architect.

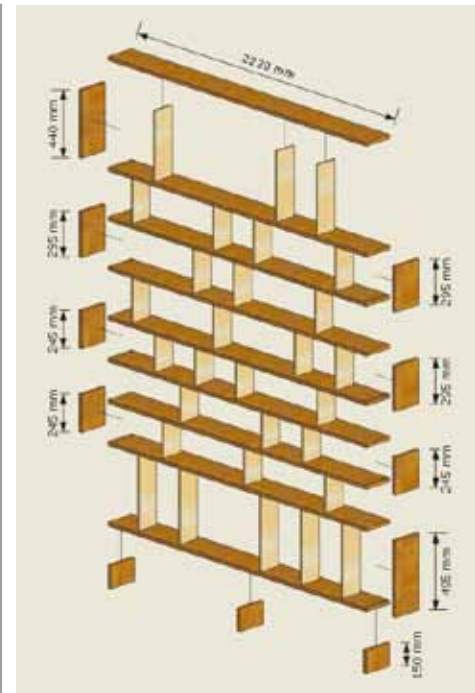
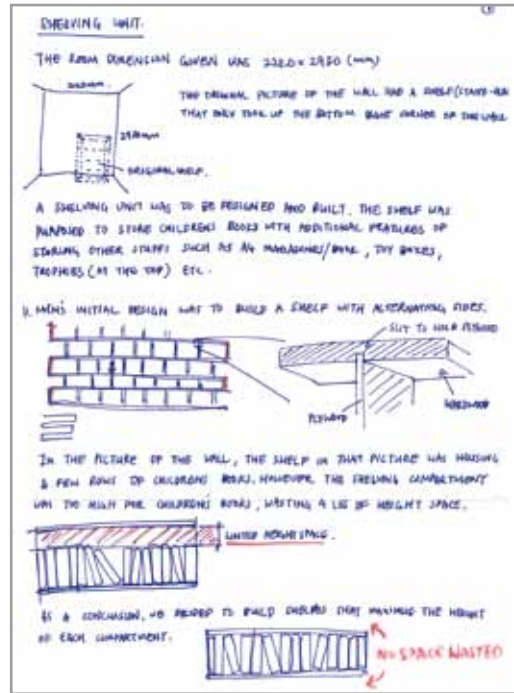
You have to like what you are doing and you have to work real hard. There are no short-cuts.

**I:** Thank you for your time.





The completed project.



3 year old Nicole wanted a shelf to store all her books and toys, so Joel and Sean designed a simple and practical shelving unit with alternating sides. The shelving unit was designed specifically to be low-cost and self-built, with each compartment compatible for whichever object it would store to ensure no shelf space was wasted.

As the height of the shelving compartments varied according to the user's height, lower shelves were specifically designed with young Nicole in mind, she would be able to reach her hard cover books and numerous boxes of toys with ease. The middle shelves were for her parents' novels and magazines, and the uppermost shelves for trophies and important files. The shelves are 25 x 200 mm dressed with medium light hardwood while the vertical supports (which also double as book ends) are cut from a single piece of 12 mm plywood.

Construction of Nicole's shelf took less than a day, from 10am to 5pm. Joel and Sean were aided in construction by Felicia and Nicole's dad. The students were given payment in form of refreshments and a free lunch.



The construction methods had to be simple when the carpenters are amateurs and the car porch is your workshop.



The client.

Team members: Joel Lai (Wellington College), Sean Wee (Taylor's University), Felicia Tiong (Taylor's University)



# "Reminiscing Forgotten Treasure... Simanggang"

A public engagement programme, held in conjunction with the project to conserve Fort Alice, jointly organized by PAMSC, Sarawak Heritage Society, Simanggang Soon Heng Society and sponsored by NS Bluescope Lysaght (Sarawak) Sdn Bhd.

"ADO D.C. Hudden - At 5am on 12.4.1931, after a short ceremony, the first post of the new Office was erected. Despite the early hour, there was quite a good attendance and a point of great interest was the presence of the grandsons of 4 of those people who helped to raise the first post of Fort Alice 67 years ago - Dato Abang Haji Addul Rashid, the grandson of Abang Ali of Pusa, Abang Omar, Native Officer, grandson of Pengeran Matali and Teliang, Resident Office Clerk, grandson of Orang Kaya, Pemancha Nanang of Saribas." (Quote from Sarawak Gazette SG 1.5.1931, P.111, Simanggang Monthly Report)

On close examination of the construction details of Fort Alice, the joineries that resembled Chinese, Iban and Malay traditional carpentry were self-evident in suggesting that the Fort was constructed by these communities with supervision from the White Officers. Local history revealed that the same communities have contributed, in various ways, to the development of Simanggang ever since the Fort was built.

In recognising this unique social history, a series of cultural exchange programmes were initiated to engage these communities, in support of the Community Heritage Museum that will be set up in the conserved Fort Alice. In addition to the regular visits to Fort Alice conservation site, the participants were brought to visit traditional Malay kampung, Iban longhouse and the historical 'Kongsi' house of Hakka gold miners at Marup, during the 2013 year end school holidays.

On 18 November 2013, Mr. Goh Kaw Sze (Project Local Coordinator/ Historian) guided 46 participants down memory lanes. Stories were told on the origin of streets' names and significant historical landmarks, from the Simanggang town to Kampung Hulu Lemanak. Along the way, the participants were fascinated by the quaint kampung life and the local herbs and fruit trees in their gardens. They were surprised when encountered an old steam engine in the compound of an Indian Muslim family house but puzzled by the origin of this equipment.

When visiting a traditional Malay Kampung house, Pn. Hajah Zaleha bt. Abdul Wahid, the owner, treated her visitors with homemade "kuih" and entertained them with interesting stories of her family. Later at Surau Hayatul Islam, the participants learned how Muslims perform their daily prayers.

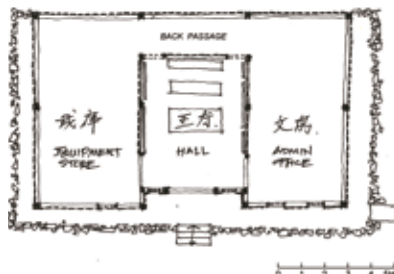


On 17 December 2013, an excursion to Marup (马鹿) at Engkilili was organised to trace the footsteps of the Chinese Hakka gold miners, who had migrated from West Kalimantan during the mid-19th century. The "Twelve Shares Kongsi" (十二分公司) operating in Bau gold mine represented an important history for the early Chinese settlers in Sarawak. However, little is known about the other group of Chinese Hakka miners who later settled in Marup and established the "Fifteen Shares Kongsi" (十五分公司).

According to Mr. Goh Kaw Sze, the 'Kongsi' house functioned as the administrative centre. He said that Ordoardo Beccari, an Italian naturalist, recorded his visit to it in his book called "Wonderings in the Great Forest of Borneo". After the kongsi was dissolved in the late 19th century, the miners turned to farming in the surrounding areas. Each brought with them one of the seven dieties from the Kongsi house to their new settlements. Huan Ji's (黄际, a Kongsi leader) descendants can be traced from the plaque in The Monkey God Temple in Mawan (下梯头).



The 'Kongsi' house is a simple single-storey timber structure with gabled roof.



The rectangular floor plan has three bays. The central meeting hall took up prominent position, with administrative office (文房) and equipment store (武库) on each side.



The equipment store (武库)



Descendants of gold miners shown on a plaque in a temple at Mawan.



Panic stricken participants crossing a dilapidated timber suspension bridge to reach the longhouse.



Fort Leonora Engkilili Camp, 1965 (Source: Photo by Brian Houldershaw, accessed 19.12.2013, <http://flat222.org/gallery2/v/brian/army/B+and+C+Sqn+SingaporeSarawak/sarawak/Enkilili34.jpg.html>)



The new district office was built on the site of Fort Leonora.



Fort Arundell, rebuilt in 1946, has part of its external walls built with cast-in-situ concrete.

On 14 January 2014, the participants visited Rumah Sambun, an Iban Longhouse at Nanga Kesit, Lubok Antu. Accessible by suspension bridges, though only 22 years old, the construction shows great sensitivity to traditional materials and craftsmanship.

A welcoming ceremony with dances and free flow of Tuak was hosted by the Tuai Rumah, Puan Sambun. After which the visitors mingled freely with the residents. The womenfolk politely asked for permission to show their handicraft which can be bought at an affordable price.

While in Engkilili and Lubok Antu, the participants took the opportunity to visit other forts built by the Rajahs. They were disappointed to see a new Sub-District Office at the site of the old Fort Leonora in Engkilili. As for Fort Arundell in Lubok Antu, the old fort was burnt down and rebuilt in 1946 in masonry.

(Reported by Goh Tze Hui, volunteer, architecture graduate from University of Sydney. More information can be found on [friendoffortalice@blogspot.com](mailto:friendoffortalice@blogspot.com).)





## PAMSC CNY's Members Night

This year's PAMSC Member's Night was jointly celebrated with the PAMSC Chinese New Year Celebrations, hence the theme of "Horsing around" for the event, which was held at the Grand Magherita Poolside Pavillion on the 8th of February, attended by 200 or so of our members and industry partners. The evening's entertainment included lucky draws and team games on stage.



Left: Tay Kee Ren (郑企初), Middle: Tay Jen Qi (郑净慈 - pure kindness), Right: Tay Kee Xen (郑企迅)

Congratulations to Lam Choi Suan and Tay Tze Yong; finally! - the meat in the sandwich, arrived on the 4th of February 2014.

## LAM PART 3

All graduates interested to obtain information for upcoming study group, discussions, lectures, etc in preparation for Part 3 exams - please submit your contacts to PAMSC GRADUATES (pamsarawak@gmail.com Attention: GRADUATES ) so we can forward to you information when they are available.

## CONGRATULATIONS !

Intersection would like to congratulate **Ar. Ng Chee Wee**, **Ar. Jeffery Phang** and **Ar. Bong Joon Hin** for being elected as councillors of Majlis Bandaraya Kuching Selatan, Majlis Perbandaran Miri and Majlis Perbandaran Padawan respectively.

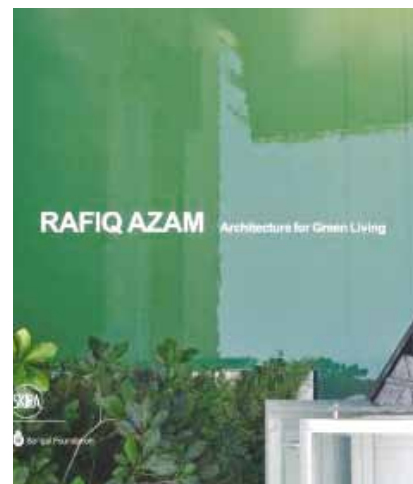
## Changes of email address

Our PAMSC official Streamyx email address will be replaced with **info@pamsc.org.my** (Gmail will serve as alternative).

## Water in Light

**Muhammad Rafiq Azam** is an award-winning and globally acclaimed architect of regional modernism from Bangladesh. He and his firm, Shatotto, specialize in modern architectural aesthetics inspired by the lush, riverine landscape of the Bengal delta, and the ancient architectural heritage of the region.

He was in Kuching on the 29th of March to give a talk about his buildings in 'Mosoon Asia' - the talk was attended by a large number of participants due to his renown and also because it coincided with the PAMSC AGM and Ar. Mike Boon's lecture.



## Reflection on the voyage of discovery

Our home grown talent, **Ar. Mike Boon** shared his views on architecture, design and history in a talk at the PAMSC centre on the 29th March, 2014. As many of us are aware, Mike gained attention for his efforts in conserving heritage buildings in Sarawak, such as his award-winning preservation work on the Old Court House in Kuching, amongst other award winning schemes.



Mike won an ARCASIA award in 2013 for the Taman Panorama Benak.

## PAMSC Annual General Meeting

The PAMSC AGM which took place on the 29th of March 2014, successfully re-elected the present committee as follows:

Office Bearers	Committee Members
Ar. Stephen Liew Ngian Chin (Chairman)	Ar. Bong Joon Hin
Ar. Mike Boon Chee Kian (Deputy Chairman)	Ar. Chai Si Yong
Ar. Kho Meng K'ang (Vice Chairman)	Ar. Felix Wee Lik Chiang
Ar. Stephen Mong Vui Min (Honorary Secretary)	Ar. Ivy Jong
Ar. Tan Kiat Soon (Honorary Treasurer)	Ar. John Lee Hok Kong
Ar. Peter Wong King Lai (Immediate Past Chairman)	Ar. Wee Hii Min



From left: Ar. Razin, Yip Yuen Hong, Vasu Virajsilp, Jason Wee, Andrew Maynard, Ar. Ng Chee Wee and Ar. Mike Boon.

## PAMSC Design Forum 2014

ON BEHALF OF OUR FELLOW ARCHITECTS, INTERSECTION WOULD LIKE TO RECORD OUR THANKS TO AR. NG CHEE WEE FOR HIS DEFT SELECTION OF SPEAKERS - MANY OF THE ATTENDEES TELL US THAT THIS IS THE BEST ONE YET !



# Government Liaison Report 2013 – 2014

prepared by Sub-Committee Chairman: Ar. Bong Joon Hin supported by Ar. John Lee & Ar. Tan Kiat Soon

## 1. **JTCC**

On the 25h Feb 2014, Ar. Philip Chang, Ar. Stephen Liew and Ar. Bong Joon Hin attended the JTCC meeting which was attended by Dato Sri Wong Soon Koh to discuss:

- a) Endorsement of past decisions such as
  - "Habitable room" definition under the Ordinance
  - Submission of Repetitive Floor Plans
  - The requirements for Refuse Bin Chambers and Bin Centres for commercial projects.
  - Flow Chart describing the procedure of Building Plan submission to Council within previously agreed time frame.
  - Low Cost Housing Issues that do not affect the purview of Ministry of Housing which are not specifically covered by the SBO:
  - Ratio of toilets for the disabled in relation to standard toilets in public spaces in Inns, Hotels and Serviced Apartments.
  - Issues arising from the submission of Amendment Plan while building is still under construction based on an earlier approved plan.
- b) The proposal on electronic submission by SAINS Consultant.
- c) Requirements for OP inspection and its issuance by MBKS.
- d) Enhancement fees - Ar. Philip Chang clarified that any variation on work done after approval shall not be treated as illegal work or charge on enhancement fee.

## 2. **Architects as Representatives in Council**

PAM successfully proposed 3 of their members as councillors under NGO namely; Ar. Ng Chee Wee, Ar. Bong Joon Hin and Ar. Jeffery Phang in MBKS, MPP and Miri Council respectively. This is the first time MPP has accepted professionals as their councillor.

## 3. **Dialogue with Lands and Survey Department**

The sub-committee was advised by Mr. William Jee of Land & Surveyors, Kuching Division, officer in charge of building plan to compile issues on building plan submission in order to submit to the director for discussion.

## 4. **I) DBKU New Submission Requirements**

Commencing 4/1/2013, DBKU accepts 'CD' submission in place of hard copy, but the number of sets referring to Land & Survey Department and Bomba remain the same.

## **II) MBKS New Requirements**

- a) Shophouses to allow for disabled toilets at ground floor.
- b) Council allows for the application for early commencement of works for residential project regardless of the numbers of units.

## 5. **Bomba's Requirements 2014**

A circular from JBPM dated 23/1/14 addressing requirement on By-Laws 163 & 164 on occupancy design calculation and also to clearly spell out system 'PASIF' & 'AKTIF' under Bomba's requirements.

## 6. **Revision on Housing Developers (Control & Licensing Ordinance 1993)**

The Ordinance proposed to enforce penalty on submitting person with a penalty of Ringgit Malaysia : Five Thousand only and imprisonment for three (3) years if found guilty on misconduct of responsibility on housing project. The committee has raised the issue to delete imprisonment for three (3) years as this shall be at the discretion of LEMBAGA ARKITEK MALAYSIA instead of MINISTRY OF HOUSING.

## 7. **Minimum Habitable Room Size for Low Cost Submission**

In regards to low cost housing submission, due to tight floor area, it is difficult to achieve a 11.5 m<sup>2</sup> for the first bedroom as required by MPP Council. However, the Building Ordinance 1994 refers to first habitable room rather than (the first) bedroom. PAMSC intends to compile constructive explanation and work with SHEIDA if necessary to put up an appeal paper to amend the misinterpretation. This is critical as Federal Law latest ruling require all housing to have three (3) bedrooms.

For details of this report, please refer to the PAMSC website.





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