



**PAM**  
 Pertubuhan Akitek  
 Malaysia  
 Sarawak Chapter

# Intersection

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PAMSC Quarterly  
 Newsletter 04/2012

March 2013  
 For Members Only



Profile - Ar. Puan Juliah Sabri  
 Women in Architecture : Women Bosses  
 Impressions of Yangon  
 Is architecture in your blood?



We have come to the end of my second term as Chairman of the Chapter. The two terms have been a challenging and yet rewarding for me.

On behalf of the Chapter, I would like to express my great appreciation to the Publication and Information Subcommittee headed by Ar. Wee Hii Min, assisted by Ar. Ivy Jong, Ar. Chai Si Yong and the team for the timely publication of our quarterly: Intersection. The content and quality remains unparalleled; winning the admiration and praise of all PAM Council members. A very BIG THANK YOU to the team. Keep it up.

Recently, windows of opportunities have opened between government authorities and stakeholders in the building industry. We participated in the **Professional Forum organised by Jabatan Bomba** on 18 December 2012 where the Pengarah mooted the setting up of a Joint Technical Consultative Committee to address problematic areas and to review the SBO in regard to fire fighting requirements. On 19 February, PAMSC was invited by the **Ministry of Housing (MOH)** for a stakeholder engagement session where we expressed our concerns pertaining to the proposed amendments to the Housing Developers Ordinance as well as some of the clauses and conditions in its current form. On 26 February, we were again invited by MOH to deliberate on a possible introduction of a **Gated and Guarded Community Ordinance**. I foresee more of such opportunities as government authorities seek to bridge with the professionals for our valued suggestions and feedback. Much more work are ahead of us.

Over the last three months, Committee members were kept busy in preparation for our coveted **Building Trade Show (BTS)**. The event will be held during 22-24 March. I would like to thank our Guest of Honour, Pehin Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud, our beloved Chief Minister for agreeing to grace the official opening. I would also like to commend Ar. Stephen Liew, the Organising Chairman, for a job well done.

In conjunction with BTS 2013, there is BTS 2013 Networking Golf on 21st March, BTS 2013 Gala Dinner on 22nd March and Design Forum themed "**Sustainable Architecture - Greening the Future**". I extend my sincere thanks to the respective Organising Chairmen namely Ar. Mike Boon, Mr. Kevin Phua and Ar. Ng Chee Wee for their dedication and hard work. Thank you to all the distinguished speakers for the Design Forum for accepting our invitation to share your knowledge and experience with us.

Our AGM will be held on 30 March 2013. I hope members will continue to support their Chapter in its betterment of our profession. I remind fellow architects to uphold our professionalism, integrity and the trust that the society has placed on us.

Wishing the incoming Chairman and his team all the best.

**Ar. Peter Wong**  
PAMSC Chairman

## Editor's Message



### Greetings !

This is the last issue for the term, coinciding with the PAMSC Building Trade Show (BTS), Gala dinner and Sustainable Design Forum. This issue is expected to reach a wider audience prompting us to broach the 'weightier' subject of architectural education in our State. Whilst we take a critical look on the available programmes, this is not meant to be a critique, least of all from me – a tutor within the 'system'. It is more useful to understand the present circumstances and find ways to mentor the students in our local colleges. We meet some of our local students who won design competitions recently and uncover their 'backstories'.

We end our series on Women in Architecture and preview next term's series of interviews – 'Is architecture in your blood?' taps the rich vein of stories focusing on children following in their parents' architectural footsteps.

We are at the cusp of a new term; brimming with opportunities for change, for new partnerships to formed and old collaborations to be fostered. The Publications and Information, IT and Education and Graduates Subcommittees will work together on several projects aimed at:

1. Building awareness about PAMSC via our website and our new FaceBook page
2. Spotlighting our smaller towns by travelling there to meet local architects, review buildings and re-visit local history.
3. Promoting our profession by giving career guidance talks in secondary schools; there is one scheduled in Serian this March.
4. Harnessing the potential resource in our graduate and student members in order to groom the next generation of PAMSC office bearers.

There is much to do – so let's stay calm and cut a few more sections.

**Min**  
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## Next Issue :

• **Townscape - Miri** • **Taking Europe by Storm** • **Postcards from the Edge** • **Building Trade Show 2013**

# MARCEL WU

Jan 31 1955 – Dec 25 2012

Marcel passed away in Toronto on Christmas Day 2012.

Although he left Sarawak more than a dozen years ago, those who knew him well would agree that he is a homegrown architect who left behind a rich legacy of architectural work. I was privileged to have trained with him during my time at Kumpulan Design. Marcel had an impressive ability to formulate design solutions quickly, reinforced by his superb draughtsmanship and strong narrative style; with a propensity towards formality and monumentality in his built work. During his time at KDI, Marcel designed many buildings and oversaw the designs of even more. Some of the local projects include The Riverside Majestic Hotel, the Bintulu MLNG New Offices; the Civic Centres in Bintulu, Sibul and Bau – the latter winning a PAM Award for Civic and Public Buildings in 1992.

His close friend and business partner, Dato Sri Ar. John Lau has this to say about him - "MARCEL was a true all rounder – he was good in dealing with clients and he could produce award winning results with incredible speed. With all his talents, he was always humble and ready to share his knowledge with his colleagues without reservation".

He was a teacher at heart, fond of imparting lessons over long breakfasts and even longer lunches. He had a way of making people feel important to be part of his team; recognising those whom others pay no heed and giving credit when it is due. Long and hard as Marcel worked, he always set time aside for his wife, Kummy and their family.

In 2000, Marcel decided to retire and move back to Canada to spend more time with his family. By that time, his third child Avril had been born. The next 12 years brought much joy to the family as Marcel and Kummy travelled the Americas. Their two older children, Sherynne and Shaun graduated from university and found employment in Singapore and Toronto respectively while Avril established herself as a dancer. In 2009, Marcel became a father-in-law when Shaun married Judy Tong.

In retirement, Marcel finally found time to hone his craft and produced several collections of paintings and to develop his interest in gardening with Kummy.

In late March 2012, after returning from a cruise vacation Marcel was diagnosed with lung cancer. The disease was at an advanced stage but he refused to give up and fought for more time. In the next 9 months, Marcel re-acquainted himself with old friends made throughout his life.

It was during this time that we started writing to each other; mostly talking about the subject dear to both our hearts – Kuching. For my sketches of Padungan Road and Carpenter Street, Marcel would re-tell stories last heard during our lunches at the "Cholesterol Café" (Ah Lok Cafe next to the Padungan Police Station, now relocated) – and although he put on a brave front, it was clear that one day soon our conversations would cease.

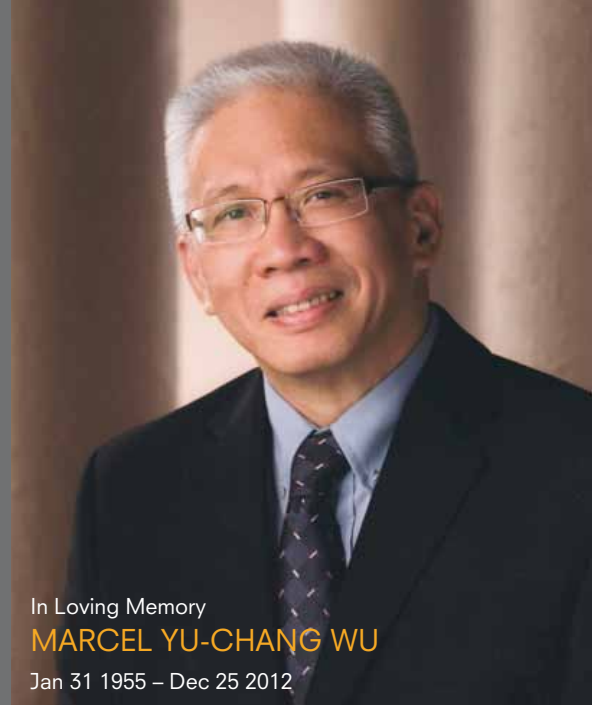
On the 23rd Dec, Marcel wrote his last email to me – he sounded hopeful though worried about the impending winter. He wrote ".....still kicking my legs while I am able to. Still pinning much hope on TCM. Can't seem to find the right words to use in the morning. :) Winter is set in. There is the stiff coldness. Walking as a cold stiff cannot be much fun."

I will miss receiving emails from Marcel. I wish I had insisted on seeing him during his trips back to Kuching; he is always so occupied - everyone wanted a piece of his time and attention. He will be fondly remembered by all of those who had the privilege to know him.

Wee Hii Min  
2013



From left to right : Shaun, Judy (wife), Sherynne, Kummy, Marcel and Avril.



In Loving Memory  
**MARCEL YU-CHANG WU**  
Jan 31 1955 – Dec 25 2012



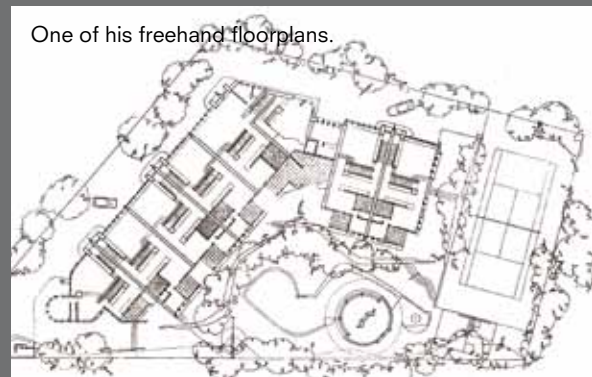
Sibul Civic Centre



Bintulu Civic Centre



Bau Civic Centre



One of his freehand floorplans.



"This is a photo taken at our UTM studio; those were memorable times - most of us became architects. We still stay in touch, we had our reunion last year."



"I went to University of Auckland because I promised myself that one day I will visit New Zealand."



"In 1988 I received Pingat Perkhidmatan Terpuji (PPT) Award from the state government. In 1996 I received Pingat Perkhidmatan Bakti (PPB)."

profile :

# Ar. PUAN JULIAH SABRI

**J** : Puan Juliah Sabri      **I** : Intersection

**I** : Tell us a about your childhood in Sarawak; did you know then that you wanted to be an architect? Being female, were you discouraged from pursuing architecture as a career?

**J** : I was born and raised in Kampung Santubong, which in those days could only be reached by boat from Kuching. I went to school in the kampung until I passed my Common Entrance exams in Primary Six. After which, I continued my secondary school education in Penrissen Secondary School, Dragon Secondary School (now Kolej Tun Abdul Razak), and finally Tanjung Lobang College, Miri (now Kolej Tun Datuk Tunku Haji Bujang)

I come from simple family background; my father was a primary school teacher and my mother a housewife. I was the fourth of nine siblings. I cannot recall what my ambition was then. I remember a friend who wanted to be a princess!

**I** : So how did you end up studying architecture?

**J** : At the time, my elder brother was studying architecture at Institute Technology MARA (ITM). When I finished my Form Six, he persuaded me to join him at ITM. Although I did not know much about architecture then, I was confident that I would do well as I had flair in my art and sketches.

**I** : Were there many female architecture students in the college?

**J** : When I was interviewed for college entry, I remember one of the interviewers provoking me by saying that architecture would be a tough course for a female student. When I became an architecture student, I found that it was indeed tough for all, regardless of gender. The only advantage the boys had over the girls was that they were able to stay in the studio the whole night to finish their works, while the girls were not allowed to stay after hours. We girls managed by bringing our works back to our hostel and converting our rooms into a studio.

**I** : Where did you obtain your degree?

**J** : After my Diploma course at ITM, I went to University of Auckland in New Zealand under the State Scholarship/Loan Scheme. I have been so enchanted by the beautiful scenery in New Zealand that I promised myself that one day I would go there. In those days, New Zealand was not a popular destination for postgraduate students especially in architecture, so there were only a few Malaysians studying there at the time.

**I** : After graduation, you entered the 'workforce'; what was the architectural scene like at that time? What were the challenges like being a female architect at that time?

**J** : After I graduated, I returned to Kuching and joined Jabatan Kerja Raya Sarawak (JKR).

I was the only female "architect" in JKR then, perhaps even the only female architecture graduate in Sarawak. In those days, a graduate architect had to work in the civil service for at least 2 years before being eligible to sit for LAM/PAM Part III Exam.

I recall two other female architects, Lynne Tang and Irene Lim who joined us later at JKR.

After seven years working in JKR, I sat for and passed my LAM/PAM Part III Exam in 1991. Two other female graduate architects, Ar. Loong Sin Jui and Ar. Yap Lih Yung took the exams with me and we all passed. Looking back, I consider myself fortunate, as my experience in JKR did not cover all aspects of the architectural practice.

**I** : You were at JKR for the significant duration of your career, what was the work like?

**J** : I was in JKR for more than 18 years. And although, I was the other female architect in the department, I was given projects to do just like anyone else.

## Examples of JUSA ARCHITECT'S WORK

**J**: Later on, more female architects would join JKR, Lynne Tang and Irene Lim were there for a while. Others like Janet Tiong, Siti Nurainawati and Sharifah Liz are still there.

In my later years in JKR, my scope of work was more administrative. Responsibilities vary from checking drawings to monitoring project implementation. There were other heavy responsibilities especially when we were involved in State or National functions such as the National Day Celebration, Tilawah Al-Quran and Development Expo amongst others. My involvement in these activities is also my fondest memories.

**I**: What were the memorable projects in JKR?

**J**: During my senior years in JKR I was responsible for mosque projects in Sarawak, the biggest one being the construction of the State Mosque now called Masjid Jamek. The main building we see now was designed by an Iraqi architect who joint venture with Perunding Utama. Ar. Gabriel Wong was the resident architect then.

**I**: You are a wife, mother and architect running your own practice. How do you prioritise your time?

**J**: I am a wife, a mother and director of my firm but I hold to the principle that family comes first. Fortunately, when I started my practice the children were grown up and my husband understood the nature of my work. My husband is very understanding and supportive, I am blessed to be able balance my business and family life.

**I**: When and how did you decide to start your own practice?

**J**: Julia Sabri Architect was formed in 2003 as a small sole proprietor practice. In 2007, we formed Jusa Architects Sdn. Bhd with two younger architects; Ar. Kevin Wong and Ar Chan Jian Hong. Our team comprise of twelve people.

I was a senior officer in the "comfort zone" so to speak, when I left JKR. The whole thing started when a friend asked me to join him in his practice. It had been a tough decision so I consulted my husband. Since our children were already grown up and require less attention at home, and the question of "what will I do after I retire from JKR" had a great impact in our decision.

**I**: Your brother is also an architect and your daughter is studying architecture; are there any succession plans?

**J**: Yes, my brother has his own practices in Sarawak and Kuala Lumpur where he spends most of time. We both have our succession plans; his son and my daughter are studying architecture. The future is difficult to predict, but we hope our children will take over our practices.

**I**: Any thoughts about the future of architecture and architects in Sarawak? As a senior practitioner, do you have any pertinent advice for the younger generation of architects especially female architects?

**J**: I believe Sarawak has a lot to offer the architectural profession; housing and commercial developments are growing rapidly especially Kuching. There are many sites, which are ripe for development. The demand for schools, hospitals and clinics have not eased, so there is work out there.

Female architects who are out there working as salaried architects; bide your time and gain more experience and exposure. Gain confidence and sit for the registration exam so that you have the choice of starting your own practice.

**I**: Any thoughts of retirement?

**J**: I used to think that I would retire when I am sixty. But now that I am almost sixty, I realise that I have a lot more to achieve and accomplish in my profession! So I will leave it open for the time being!

End



"Construction of the Klinik Kesihatan Jenis 3XP, at Bintulu, which commenced construction in March 2009 was completed in March 2012."



"The construction of the SBC Research Laboratories and Facilities (RM4,949,765.13) which commenced construction in January 2005 was completed in October 2005 and handed over to SBC on 13 December 2005."



"Administrative Building of SBC Retrofitting Kuching completed in December 2009."



"The Dewan UPM, Kampus Bintulu which commenced construction in August 2008 was completed in August 2010."

# The new **LYSAGHT® 360° SEAM®** in landmark Institut Aminuddin Baki, Santubong



Stunning view of Institut Aminuddin Baki, Santubong with lake front and Mt Santubong as its background.

The new Institut Aminuddin Baki, Santubong or better known as IAB is located around 17km north of Kuching with stunning Mt Santubong view as its background. IAB is an institution of education in leadership and management training to develop the capacity of leaders and managers at all levels within Ministry of Education or MOE. Recently completed, the project was designed by Arkitek Bersinar Sdn Bhd while the construction was undertaken by gapPDMS Sdn Bhd.

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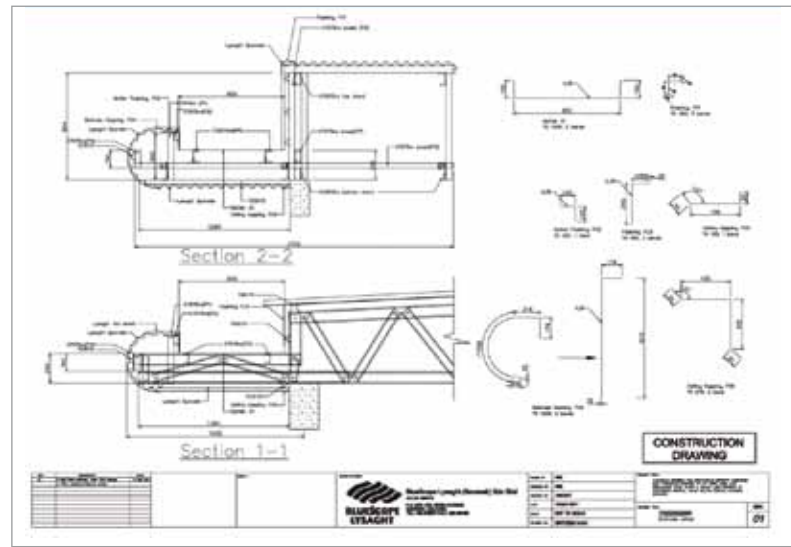


The administrative building's roof forms Chinese fan



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The main administrative building is located at the centre of the site with a beautiful lake front. The building is semi circular with roof forming Chinese fan. This roof shape is made possible with LYSAGHT® 360° SEAM® in Clean COLORBOND® steel. The product is now available in Sarawak with the new acquisition of the advanced German made Schleich machine by BlueScope Lysaght Sarawak. LYSAGHT® 360° SEAM® can be tapered or curved to suit various roof forms, thus opening architects' imagination. The Schleich machine also comes with ceiling and walling profile, LYSAGHT® PRESTIGE® PANEL II.



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In the past three articles about women in architecture, we have spoken to young graduates in the verge of their architectural careers; to mothers balancing family and professional lives; and to wives building a practice alongside their husbands. In this last article in a series of four, 5 women speak candidly about their journey through the ranks to become principals and directors in their own practice.

They are:



**Ar. Juliah Sabri**  
Principal of Juliah Sabri Architect; director of JUSA Architects Sdn. Bhd.



**Ar. Nurina Matnor**  
Principal of NMArchitect.



**Ar. Ai Lin Tay**  
Principal of ALT.Projects Management Consultant.



**Ar. Arlene Chew**  
Director of Design Network Architects Sdn. Bhd.



**Ar. Loong Sin Jui**  
Principal of SJ Loong Architect.

# WOMEN IN ARCHITECTURE : Women Bosses

**I** : Intersection    **JS** : Juliah Sabri    **SJ** : Loong Sin Jui    **ALT** : Ai Lin Tay  
**NM** : Nurina Mantor    **AC**: Arlene Chew

**I** : Tell us about your journey from employee to employer?

**JS**: I was at JKR when I imagined myself being my own boss. So in 2003, I 'promoted' myself (laughs) to become the boss of Juliah Sabri Architect. Then as director of Jusa Architects Sdn. Bhd.

**SJ**: I worked in Australia for a year after graduating. I returned to Kuching to work with Building Design Team and Arkitek Nurcipta before forming SJ Loong Architect in 2004.

**ALT**: I too worked in Australia – with Gareth Cole Architect, who specialises in Solar Design, and Jones Brewster Regan Architect, spearheading their I.D. Department. In 1991, I returned to Kuching to work with Perunding Dayacipta. With Chiew and Simon<sup>1</sup> - they were fun, I learnt invaluable tips from them (Grins)

**NM**: I learnt a lot from JFN Architect as well – Jon and Mike<sup>2</sup> were very hands-on directors. I went there as a trainee and rejoined them after returning from England.

In 2003, they made me a director when I obtained my corporate membership. I set up Arkitek Nurina Matnor in April 2010.

**I** : What were your reasons for setting up your own practice?

**SJ**: To give myself more flexible working hours, I have three children with the younger two less than two years apart. I felt I needed to spend more time with them. I was not very active in the first few years until 2006, when I secured some sizeable projects.

**AC**: In 2000 and fresh out of Uni, I began work at 'Hwong Architect'. When 'Design Network Architects Sdn. Bhd.' was formed, I naturally evolved as one of the 8 original team members in DNA. Later with 'Mission Impassable Part 3' accomplished, the four founding partners offered three of my counterparts and I, directorships in DNA. I guess it was a natural progression for me.

**ALT**: In 1995, I was involved in the setting up of a branch office in Kuching for TAK Design Consultants. It is then that I realised my forte in being the "Opening Team" and enjoyed that experience.

In 2001, I set up ALT.Projects Management Consultant specialising in Project Management, Advisory Services on Design & Contracts and Business Feasibility Studies, where I consult and work with Project Management Companies, Developers, Project Owners, Architects and allied Professionals in Malaysia and other countries.

**I** : There are many facets of expertise in the architectural practice; in which you do feel that you excel in?

**AC**: I believe that a person can only excel if they are doing what they love. I've always loved the creative process and have been fortunate to be in an environment where differences in ideas and styles are welcomed and nurtured. The results are expressed in our built works.

**SJ**: As a sole proprietor, I feel that I have to be good at everything - from getting job to implementing it; managing time, staff and money.

**AC**: I also love the challenge of transforming an idea into reality, especially the human side of it. Often, people are the barriers that make the possible impossible. I enjoy the intricate (and not so intricate) art of breaking these barriers to achieve what you want.

**NM**: I am at my best in the initial stages of a project; schematic design and design development. I usually spend a little time to gather my ideas, let them mature. When I put pen to paper, the results are quite spontaneous.

**ALT**: My strength and passion is definitely to kick start projects and set up the project team with an overview of the project. I also love other aspects like public relations, recruitment of human resources, project and office management, corporate affairs and publicity.

**I** : It sounds as though you enjoy the 'people' aspect of your job..

**ALT**: Absolutely, I love interaction with 'people'. I was doing a marketing pitch there – those who require advisory services, feel free to contact me. (laughs)

**I** : Do you feel that you carry your role differently from your male counterparts? Does it benefit from a woman's touch?

**NM**: I feel that we are better able to strike a balance of calm and productivity in the work place. We are more patient and inclined to let individuals express themselves. This is important in our profession.

**JS**: I agree with Nurina; I think women create gentler work environment. It is our upbringing. I am not aggressive when it comes to looking for work. I believe instead on word-of-mouth recommendation through my good service and relationship with my clients.

**AC**: I don't think gender necessarily affects a person's leadership style. It's more of a personality thing for me (and how big your ego is). This, I've concluded from observing the approaches of our 8 partners (6 men, 2 women), who are as different as different can be. So no, I don't think I do things differently.



**ALT:** That's right. The difference is due to the person's personality and experience rather than gender. Having said that, one of my ex-bosses hires women because he feels we can multi-task better and are more meticulous.

**SJ:** I agree with him – I feel we are better organised and we multi-task better than guys. It's in our nature. We work more effectively and efficiently.

**AC:** The bit about a woman's touch is interesting. I think women are naturally more sensitive when making decisions and dealing with people. This constant 'fine tuning' often helps mitigate office or project related oversights. On the office, colleagues find us more approachable when there is an issue. There is perhaps a higher level of trust.

On the other hand, I can imagine nothing scarier than a pissed off woman, let alone a pissed off lady boss (fortunately, I haven't turned into one...yet); that may have its own benefits.

**I :** How do you think you are perceived as a boss in traditionally male dominated profession?

**ALT:** (laughs) In general, I am pretty relaxed but they know I am serious when it comes to meeting deadlines. They know my motto - "Work Smart" and "Play Hard".

**JS:** I think they see me as someone who is close enough to know them and distant enough to lead them..

**NM:** I don't know how I am perceived but I make it quite clear that my other roles (as mother and wife) are equally important.

**I :** ...you were talking about perception from your staff, what about perceptions from your peers?

**AC:** Being a minority, I think female bosses are actually perceived with greater respect. Like many other male-dominant professions, women have to work harder and achieve more to get to where they are; Men know this (at least REAL men do).

Interestingly from my experience locally, this also carries through to dealing with contractors, consultants and clients. People tend to sit up and listen when a woman speaks in the company of men. So, I strongly feel that there is a misconception that women architects have it harder than their male counterparts.

**SJ:** That's right, there are more and more women in every profession and we are recognised for our dedication.

**I :** In the next ten years, do you think women will play a greater role in our profession compared to now?

**JS:** I think it will still be dominated by men!

**AC:** No, I do not foresee many changes on this front. The number of women architects may increase but I doubt there will be a revolution. The percentage of women architecture graduates at universities may equal or exceed the men, the number actually staying in the profession drastically dwindles with time. The issues behind this need to be addressed before any change can take place.

I believe the make-up of the PAM committee reflects the actual scenario and psyche.

**I:** Ah.. but perhaps the PAM committee's make up reflects something else – the reluctance of women to be in the limelight; their time is better spent with their family and perhaps it takes only one multi-tasking woman to do the work of several men....

**SJ:** I think there are more women holding top posts in the Government and Teaching sectors than before. We have always been recognised for our skill and dedication - the difference now is that we are starting to see it for ourselves.

**NM:** The change will come when the perception of women in Malaysian society changes positively first. Only then will women have a fighting chance to compete on an equal level.

**ALT:** I do not foresee the profession becoming more female oriented. In the early 1990's, there were less than 20% women architects. Now, some 20+ years later, this statistic has not changed much.

**NM:** Yes, perhaps the statistics have not changed much for practising architects but there are more facets that women can participate in now; teaching, printed media, corporate identity and in advisory roles.

**I:** In fact, Ai Lin, you may not figure in the statistics for 'practising architects' – you are one of the evolved roles for women architects. What change would you like to see?

**SJ:** I like to see more women taking up the challenge and step out to be the boss and for society to recognise our capabilities.

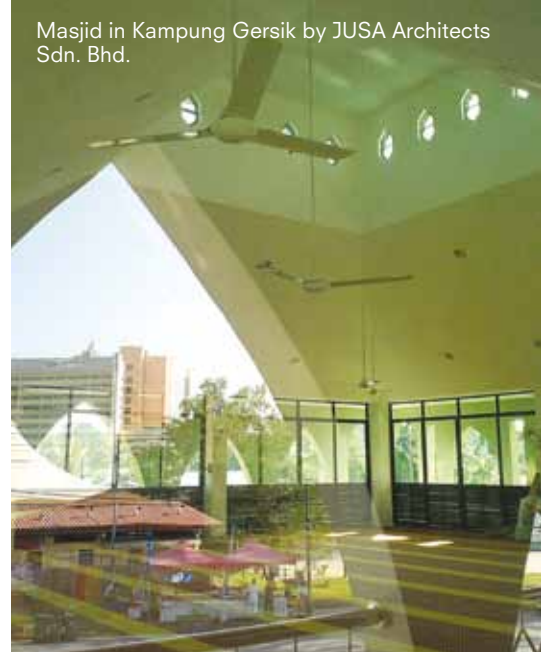
**AC:** That's right, Women need to step up and step in, in numbers and into positions where they can be seen and heard. I admire the women who have come out and set up their own practices, and consequently shine.

**ALT:** Yes, definitely a more evolved role as compared to the role of a traditional architect. Embracing change is the way in an evolving world! (laughs). I would love to see more active participation in the architectural community from women architects.

**AC:** The world would be a better place.

**I:** ... and with that, we end our conversation. Thank you.

Masjid in Kampung Gersik by JUSA Architects Sdn. Bhd.



Kampung Kudey Surau by NMArchitect.



Tropical Peat Research Laboratory by ALT. Projects Management Consultant., a project in collaboration with Arkiskape Sdn Bhd.



Moohouse by Arlene Chew.



Vista Tunku Terrace by SJ Loong Architect.



End

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Sarawak, Malaysia  
Ms Angel  
H/P : 019 - 8627929  
Tel : 082 - 333 929  
Fax : 082 - 336 929  
Email : kentalw@globalniaga.net  
Website : www.globalniaga.net

# PAMSC Design Forum 2013

Theme: Sustainable Architecture – Greening the Future

Date: Saturday 23rd March 2013

Venue: Borneo Convention Centre Kuching (BCCK)

Registration Fees:

PAM Corporate Members RM 200

Non-Members RM 250

PAM Graduates RM 150

Students (limited space RM 100)

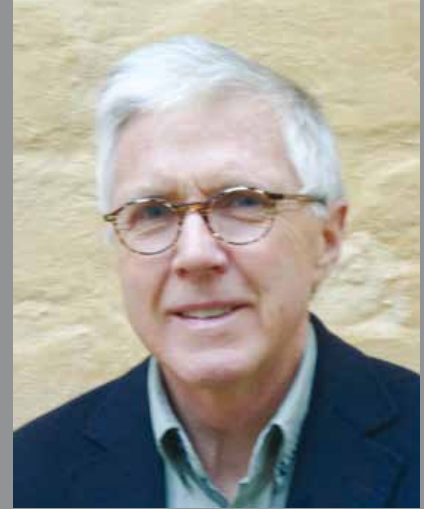


## Haoru Chen

Citiarc International Architects, Hanzhou, China

Mr. Chen Hao Ru is an practicing architect based in China and New York. He was educated and trained in New York as an professional architect, and he is currently an international professor of architecture at the school of architecture in China Academy of Art.

His fields of interest are contemporary architecture and Asian arts and culture. He is currently teaching studios with Professor Wang Shu.



## Professor Dr Donald Ellsmore

Associate Professor – Faculty of Architecture, University of Melbourne

Professor Dr Ellsmore is an expert in the field of architectural conservation, and has taught at several universities in Australia as well as abroad.

Besides his teaching duties, Dr Ellsmore is also the principal of Donald Ellsmore Pty Ltd, a consultancy providing heritage consulting services to diverse clients including government agencies and private enterprises.

## CPG Consultants Pte Ltd

Singapore

CPG Corporation is the corporatized entity of the former Singapore Public works Department (PWD) with involvements in some of the biggest development projects in Singapore, including the Singapore Changi Airport, National Art Gallery, National University of Singapore and National Museum of Singapore.

The group is increasingly focused on green design, and were involved in some of the landmark green projects in Singapore including the Khoo Teck Puat Hospital, the Nanyang Technological University and the recently completed high profile project Gardens by the Bay.



## Gregers Reimann

Managing Director  
IEN Consultants Sdn Bhd

Gregers graduated in 2001 from The Technical University of Denmark (DTU) as an energy engineer and also studied at UCLA, UPM and NUS.

He specializes in energy efficient building designs with good daylighting, excellent thermal and visual comfort.

Since 2005, Gregers has worked for IEN Consultants, the pioneering green building consultancy in Malaysia. Notable project include the ST Diamond Building (2012 ASEAN Energy Award winner) and the Sarawak Energy Berhad HQ (the first green rated building in Sarawak).



## Poh Choon Hock

Centre for Urban Greenery and Ecology, Singapore

Poh Choon Hock is a researcher on Skyrise Greenery Technical Development at the Centre for Urban Greenery and Ecology in Singapore. He will share with us the latest developments in the greening of urban buildings focusing on the Singapore context.

## Darren Neo

Vertical Greens Ptd Ltd, Singapore

Darren is an executive at Vertical Green Ptd Ltd. He is a graduate from Monash University of Australia, and is registered with Centre for Urban Greenery and Ecology (CUGE) in Singapore.

Vertical Green is a landscape consultant company that specializes in design and installation for vertical garden, horizontal garden, automated irrigation system, automated fertilization system for residential & commercial applications.



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# Our State of Architectural Education

Kay and I were talking about her architectural career; one of the half a dozen trainees in the studio undergoing their practical training - some required by their colleges, others self-imposed.

Kay is a newbie; but she feels ready – having studied hard for three years to obtain a Diploma in Architectural Technology. So what's next for this young woman? She has it all figured out - she is going to Australia to complete her degree, confidently naming the university and fees for the next two years for her degree. That's commendable, I tell her and ask – when will you do the second degree?

That's when she pauses – “...second degree?”

Then I find out that she does not know that Architecture is a typically a five year course; carried out in two parts starting with a Bachelor of Science in Architecture (Part 1) and ending with a Bachelor of Architecture (Part 2). Many Universities nowadays give out the more ambitiously or ambiguously named 'Masters in Architecture'. Some students equate this to the traditional Master's Degree, giving them the impression that they do not need to take this extra degree. They would stop at the equivalent of Part 1 under the LAM guidelines. Many others drop out daunted by the length of the architectural course. This has been compounded by various 'institutions of higher learning' marketing courses in architecture, when actually they are simply producing candidates for the Architecture degree.

But we are getting ahead of ourselves.

There are no architectural degree courses offered in Sarawak. Local 'design' colleges only award a Diploma of Architectural Technology after 3 years of study. Some colleges talk about twinning arrangements with foreign universities but the student usually gets into the equivalent of 2<sup>nd</sup> Year in a degree course on the strength of his portfolio and not much else.

This is not meant to be a review of local colleges, far from it – this is a review of what the architecture fraternity can do to foster our fledgling local students.

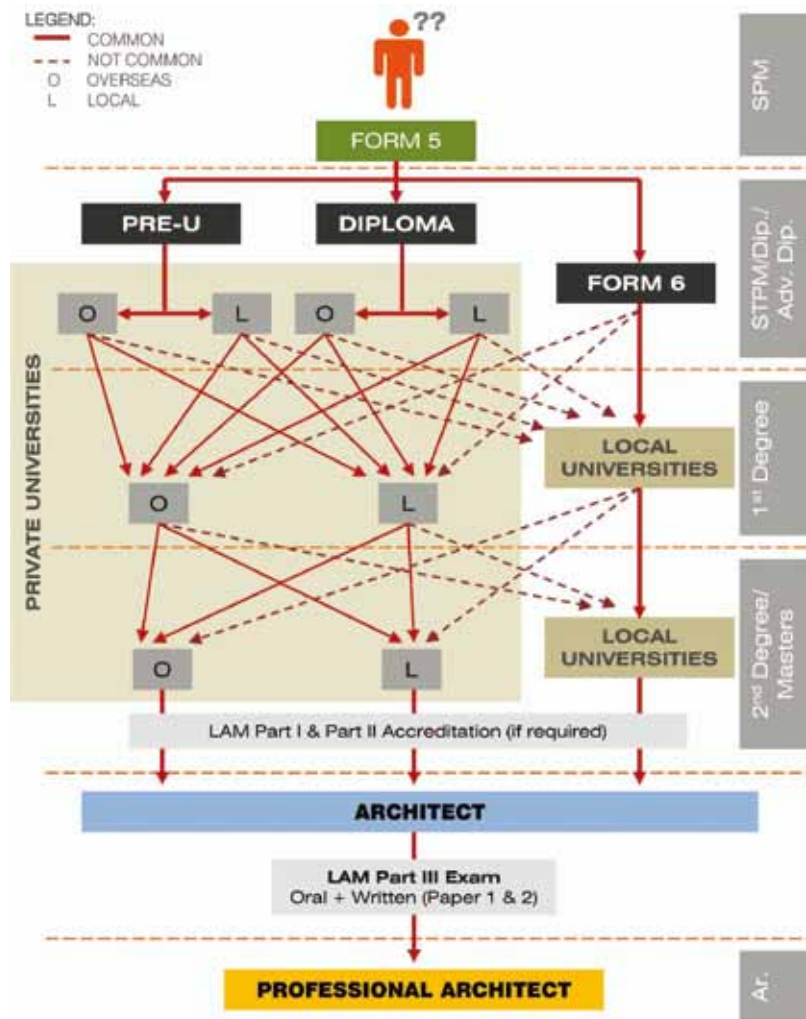
## Teaching in local colleges

There is no shortage of local young talent. In the recent Archiprix Asean competition – 'our boys' competed with University entries from Asean countries and won First Prize. Amid the self-congratulations, much of their success was due to the dedication of their tutor, Tay Tze Yong, a practitioner-tutor who taught them for several semesters, mentoring them in school and in his office.

Practitioner tutors add depth to the course. Ten years ago, students at United College, Sibu benefited when senior practitioners such as Chang Jih Ren, Wong Kiong and others taught there. Their students routinely enter into Year 3 of Australian Universities through the strength of their portfolios.

## Internship programmes

Many Universities and colleges now require their students to undergo practical training in architects' offices. Many local students take a 'year out' while they prepare for university; to hone their skills, to give parents a financial breather. Currently, there is a circular from the Kementarian Pengajian Tinggi (KPT) asking firms to provide internships for Community College students. Local firms are encouraged to take up the offer, so the students can benefit from the exposure to real projects and cross-pollination of ideas and skills. Preparing them mentally and physically as ours is a long-haul vocation; neither for the faint-hearted nor the weak-kneed. That's why we take in Form 5 students to give them a 'taste' before they decide to venture into the expensive world of architectural education. It is for the parents as much the student.<sup>1</sup>



## Career guidance in schools and offices

In the past years, PAMSC has conducted activities geared towards educating high school students about architecture - through careers guidance talks, the recent World Architecture Day installation competition, and movie nights where architects speak to students.

In April, Ar. Ivy Jong and Ar. Steven Mong will be conducting a career guidance talk in SMK Serian.

## Advice to students wanting to study architecture

My advice to students – if you have the means to study abroad, then go. All things are equal, the exposure will do you good and much of our education is about interaction and experiences.

The irony is that having money reduces your options. Without present means to study abroad, you can - study in a local college and go abroad to do Part 1 and 2; or go to a private university in West Malaysia for your Part 1 and later overseas for your Part 2; cheaper. Cheaper still is to do well in your STPM and study architecture in a local University – work for a year or two, beef up your skills and pursue for a post graduate course overseas. Do a real Masters degree.

Some would think this is time wasted – many will get their Part 2 at age 23 others 24 or even 25. I graduated when I was 26 – taking the time to work and study at the same time. Nothing bad happened, noone died.

Look at it this way - architects reach their creative peak in their 40s and 50s so when you graduate later you are actually closer to your creative peak.

End

Footnote – 1. There is nothing more frightening than a late-night phone call from your son in his Third Year of architecture school - "Dad, I can't heck the stress, I have decided to switch to accounting".

# Road to Archiprix SEA 2012

During midyear 2012, Architecture Schools from ASEAN region and their students have been invited to submit projects to the International Competition Archiprix S.E.A. 2012. I decided to adopt the competition brief as the final project in my design studio for the final semester of the Diploma course in LimKokWing Institute of Creative Technology.



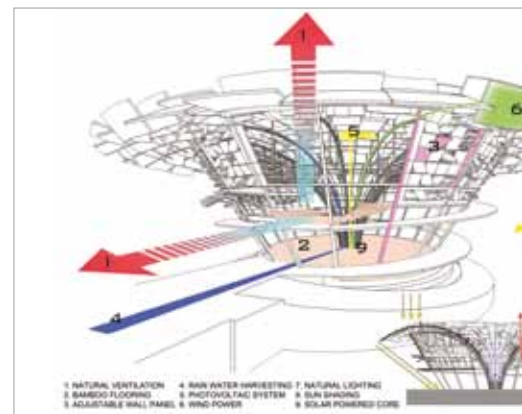
The students made our office their studio when they prepared their competition entries.

The Competition was intended to encourage students of architecture in ASEAN to rethink the specific attributes of localities in terms of their localities to realise tangible ASEAN characteristics in the age of globalisation. I thought this would be an excellent platform for my students and I to explore local cultural heritage and sustainable typology. The students' research was carried out through series of analytical and typological studies on 'Traditional Native Architecture' in Sarawak, as I felt that our native architecture was a 'ready-made' sustainable prototype to be adapted as a solution for this competition.

This competition was 'academically' oriented focusing on research and ideas rather than complete resolution of a project. The students were not intimidated by their University competitors, instead they relished the idea of being the underdog. My previous students and I have won prizes in International Competitions before, so I felt that there was no harm in trying.

There were only 6 students, formed into two teams of three. Team A - Ng Cun Tak, Danny Chung and Yeo Kai Wen; Team B - Lee Von Puok (Issac), Kho Ke Chyi and Germaine Tan. My task was always more than just a tutor; spent lots of time for counseling them; at times resolving conflict between members of the groups, always making sure that they stay focused about this competition.

When I informed the students that both of their entries had been shortlisted, they stared at me disbelievingly. It was beyond their expectations to be short-listed. Almost immediately, they began to think more seriously about their chances; working long hours to improve their boards and models.



**Yeo Kai Wen**

Qualification : Diploma in Architecture Technology, Year 3 Sem 6 ( Dec 2012 )

Currently doing an internship at DNA. Plan to continue degree overseas in a 3 to 6 months time and stay on to work overseas after his degree. He plans to return to Malaysia eventually.



**Danny Chung Chia Tat**

Qualification : Diploma in Architecture Technology, Year 3 Sem 6 ( Dec 2012 )

Currently working at JH Bong Architect; decision to pursue degree course is dependent largely on finances.



**Ng Cun Tak**

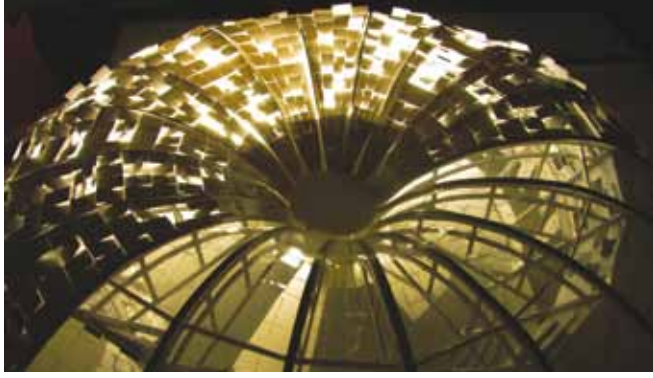
Qualification : Diploma in Architecture Technology, Year 3 Sem 6 ( Dec 2012 )

Currently assisting father in his plumber contractor business. Learning from his current job and will take over to expand the business for the next 5 years. After which, he intends to continue his architectural studies.



**Germaine Tan Pui Yee**

Qualification : Diploma in Architecture Technology, Year 3 Sem 6 ( Dec 2012 )

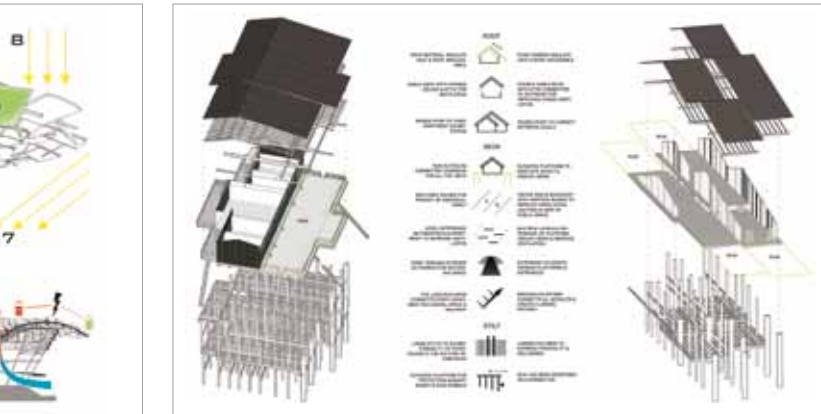


Students were happy about the free trip to Singapore, especially the business minded Cun Tak; Ke Chyi was looking forward to his first trip to Singapore; Germaine was the only one who miss the trip due to her earlier planned trip for vacation to Japan. Passport applications (Ke Chyi did not have one as this was his first trip overseas) informing the college, seeking parents' approval, briefing about the itinerary, packing the luggage and presentation material was taking place slowly and steadily; excitement building.



On the way to Singapore, the students surprised me by 'hand-carrying' their models onto the plane; fragile, open and exposed for all to see. Only when they met up with the other participants did they see how the other's models had been professionally packed and sent. Later that day, they asked in the nearby convenience stores for packing boxes for their model base - just like how they would do in Kuching, I suppose. I wondered if they had left it too late. But they were on a tight budget as they were bearing most of the cost for this presentation.

I feel that Team A had a bit of luck in winning the First Prize; they certainly did not expect to win it although they might have thought that they won 'something'.



By winning First Prize, they proved that it was not always about the level of education nor expenditure that guarantees that top prize. Instead it is about the commitment and passion in your work that shines through.

In being short listed in the last 14 entries, we achieved several things - instilling self belief in the students; meeting like-minded generous people and telling people about Borneo and Kuching.

Other than that, winning this competition enables me to attend the Archiprix International 2013 in Moscow!

Happy journey after all.

by Tay Tze Yong, INTODESIGN Lab

Architectural graphics from the students' competition entry.



our local boys enjoying the rewards for a job well done.



**Lee Von Puok**

Qualification : Diploma in Architecture Technology, Year 3 Sem 6 ( Dec 2012 )

Currently working with JH Bong Architect and will continue in a degree course in KL. He is uncertain about his future in architecture



**Kho Ke Chyi**

Qualification : Diploma in Architecture Technology, Year 3 Sem 6 ( Dec 2012 )

Currently working as a construction worker in Miri. Going to continue Degree in this coming March intake in a private university in KL after which he intends to return to work in Miri.

**PAMSC - UPM Design Workshop**

Coming up in March.  
Visit our website  
[www.pamsc.org.my](http://www.pamsc.org.my)  
for details.

# BTS DIRECTORY



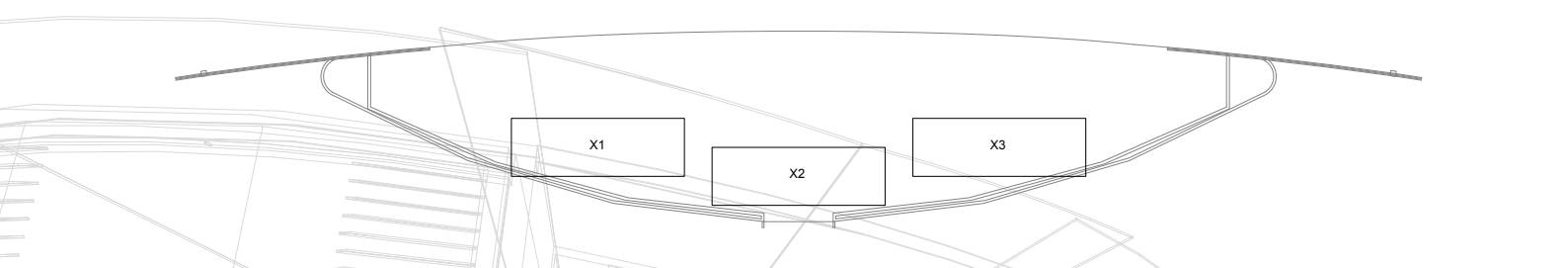
The show begins...!

Our Biennale Building Trade Show 2013 organised by PAMSC promises to be better and have more variety of exhibits for our friends in the building industry as well as members of the general public.

From 22 march 2013 up-to 24th march 2013, more than 15,000 people are expected to visit BCCK for this event.

The list of exhibitors are as listed along with their location in bckk for our reader's ease of reference. We encourage and cordially invite all our members to support this event.

## EXHIBITION HALL LAYOUT PLAN (Borneo Convention Centre Kuching)



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## Exhibition Info for BTS 2013

Company Name	Website	Booth No.
Amcan Color Coating Ind Sdn Bhd	www.amcancolor.com	S2
Advance Building Products		D37, D38
Ajiya Safety Glass Sdn Bhd	www.ajiya.com	E2
AM Home Flooring	www.amhomeflooring.com	E28
Ban Hong Enterprise Co.		D22
Basheer Graphic Books Sdn Bhd	www.basheergraphic.com	P1
BCI Asia	www.bciasia.com	P2
Better Trade Sdn Bhd		D26b
BlueScope Engineering Systems Sdn Bhd	www.ranbuild.com.my	A9
Bluescope Lysaght Sarawak Sdn Bhd	www.bluescopelysaght.com.my	A6
BOMBA	www.bombaswk.gov.my	P8
Borneo Highland Resort	www.borneohighlands.com.my	P10
Breezway Malaysia Sdn Bhd		E27
Canon Marketing (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd	www.canon.com.my	D2b
CIDB Malaysia	www.cidb.gov.my	P7
Cinlepile Sdn Bhd		D8
Claytan Corporation Sdn Bhd	www.claytangroup.com	D24
CN Machinery Sdn Bhd		X1
Cycleworld Global Sdn Bhd	www.cycleworldglobal.com	D14
Daia Equipment & Machinery Trading Co	www.nbmotors.com	X2
DML Products (Borneo) Sdn Bhd	www.dml.com.my	C2
Dong Ji (M) Sdn Bhd	www.pentens.com.my	D6
Ecohome Global Sdn Bhd		C4b
EcoHome Trading		B31b
Emix Industry (M) Sdn Bhd	www.epmsb.com.my	E26
Edaran Tan Chong Motor Sdn Bhd	www.nissan.com.my	M1 M2 M3
ENV Technology Sdn Bhd		E29
Estop Sdn Bhd	www.estop-group.com	E12
Euratech (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd	www.pentair.com	D4
Gard Inc Sdn Bhd		E24
Goodrich Global (EM) Sdn Bhd	www.goodrichglobal.com	D29, D30, E17, E18, E19, E20
Han-A Tools (M) Sdn Bhd	www.magicsaw.com	D31a
Hewlett-Packard (M) Sdn Bhd	hp.com/go/designjet	D3
Hock Peng Realty Sdn Bhd	www.hockpeng.com	P4
Hock Seng Lee Construction Sdn Bhd	www.hsl.com.my	D13a int
Homeidoor Sdn Bhd		E30
Homemax Design Sdn Bhd	www.homemax.com.my	D29, D30, E17, E18, E19, E20
How Turn Tint-Shop	www.solargard.com/ www.v-kool.com.	D34b
Hume Cemboard Marketing Sdn Bhd	www.cemboard.com	E5
Hume Marketing Sdn Bhd	www.hlm.com.my	E6
I-Home Marketing Sdn Bhd		D28
Imperco Sdn Bhd	www.imperco.com.my	C3
De Shine Gallery Sdn Bhd	www.inovarfloor.com.my	D36
Itrontech Sdn Bhd	www.armorshield.com.sg	E10
Kaisu	www.kaisu.com	D18, D25, E8, E9
Kansai Coatings (M) Sdn Bhd	www.kansai.co.jp	D17

Company Name	Website	Booth No.
KANSSAN Hardware Sdn Bhd		D1
Khalil Safety Consultant Sdn Bhd	www.ksc@gmail.com	D7b
Kimgres Marketing Sdn Bhd	www.kimgres.com	A4
Koi Synergy Sdn Bhd	www.koisynergy.com	E7
Kuasada Sdn Bhd		B1
Leader Glass Wholesale	www.ksg.com.my	D19
Madaya (Kuching) Sdn Bhd		D12
Mapleland Corporation Sdn Bhd	www.maplevolve.com.my	D15
Marshall Cavendish	www.marshallcavendish.com	P3
Maxware Enterprise		E31
ME Publications Sdn Bhd	www.me.net.my	P9
Megaplas corporation Sdn Bhd	www.megaplascorp.com	A10
Multi Resources Industrial Sdn Bhd	www.multi-resources.com	D34a
Neofame Technologies Sdn Bhd	www.neofame.com.my	E1
Nippon Paint (m) Sdn Bhd	www.nipponpaint.com.my	A1
PAMSC	www.pamsc.org.my	P6
Poh Yong Tiles Industries Sdn Bhd	www.pohyong.com.my	D13b
PWP Properties (S) Sdn Bhd	www.pwpproperties.com	D16a
Rainbow Concord Sdn Bhd	www.kingkote.com	D10
Regal Advantage Sdn Bhd	www.regalgroup.com.my	E21
Sarawak Consolidated Industries Berhad	http://www.scib.com.my/	D5b
Seri Megah Industries Sdn Bhd		P5
Seven International Sdn Bhd		C1
Signature Wood Builders Sdn Bhd	www.signaturewood.com.my	D7
Sika Kimia Sdn Bhd	www.sika.com.my	E23
Sime Darby Auto Connexion Sdn Bhd	www.simedarbymotors.com	M5, M6
SK Kaken (M) Sdn Bhd	www.sk.com.my	E3, E4
Southern Steel Mesh	www.southsteel.com	D26a
Sriwalemas Sdn Bhd		E32, E33
Structural Repairs (EM) Sdn Bhd	www.structuralrepairs.com.my	E11
Super Glory Industries Sdn Bhd	www.superglory.com.my	D5a
TAK Products & Services Sdn Bhd	www.lamitak.com	D27
TCIM Sdn Bhd	www.tcim.com.my	X3
Tele Dynamics Global Com Sdn Bhd	www.teledynamics.com.my	C4a
Terractta Tiles Centre Sdn Bhd	www.nqmosaic.com.my	E16
Terreal Malaysia Sdn Bhd	www.terreal.com	E15
Titan (Sarawak) Sdn Bhd	www.yaleasia.com	D21
Trans-Ocean Coatings & Chemicals Sdn Bhd	www.transpaint.yungkong.com	E25
UAC Berhad	www.uac.com.my	D11
United GI Products Sdn Bhd	www.ugi.com.my	A5
Vitaja Holdings Sdn Bhd		M4
Wee Hua Boo Trading Sdn Bhd	www.whbfurniture.com	D29, D30, E17, E18, E19, E20
WEIDA (M) Berhad	www.weida.com.my	S1
YHY Engineering	http://kohler.my	B2
Yung Kong Galvanising Industries Berhad	www.ykgi.com.my	D20, D23, E13, E14

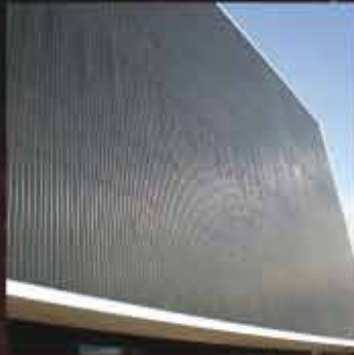


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# IMPRESSIONS OF YANGON

The first time you land in Yangon, you will be surprised that it is not as backward as one might think. Yangon is actually quite a developed city, with a downtown area that is much bigger than Singapore. Most of the main streets in Yangon are lined with old colonial buildings, many are multi-storey and much taller than what we are used to seeing in Malacca or Penang.

Having just come out of military rule in 2010, Myanmar is no doubt the new frontier in Southeast Asia. Hoards of tourists are visiting the country, and occupancy rate in hotels are sky high. It is not surprising that Yangon has some of the highest hotel rates in Southeast Asia at the moment, and there is a dearth of good hotels around.

As an architect, one of the first things you notice is the legacy of old colonial buildings which the city is filled with, though most of them are in dire need of maintenance and repair. If you are a conservationist or love to adopt old buildings, this will be your paradise.

Some of the highlights from our tour are:

## Schwedagon Pagoda

Schwedagon is the most sacred Buddhist pagoda for the Burmese. It is also one of the oldest. The huge stupa in the centre of the complex covered in gold leaf is a amazing sight. A must see when you visit Yangon.

## Kaba Aye Pagoda (World Peace Pagoda)

This pagoda was built in 1952 by Burmese Prime Minister U Nu in preparation for the 6th Buddhist Synod which was held in Yangon from 1954 to 1956. While architecturally nondescript externally, the prayer hall inside is a visual wonder covered entirely in mirror mosaics. Well worth a visit for this captivating sight.

## The Strand Hotel

The Strand Hotel was one of the grand hotels built by the famous Sarkie brothers who also built the Raffles Hotel in Singapore and Eastern & Oriental Hotel in Georgetown. In its heyday, The Strand Hotel was one of the most luxurious hotels in the British Empire.

## Governor's Residence Hotel

This boutique hotels resides in the former official residence of the Governor of the British Crown Colony of Burma. It is a handsome 2-storey teak mansion which has been beautifully restored.

## Bogyoke Aung San Market (Scott Market)

This is an old market named after Aung San Suu Kyi's father. The market was built in 1926 late in the British rule of Myanmar.

## SPINE Architects

During the trip we visited SPINE Architects, one of the biggest architectural practice in Myanmar. The firm is run by husband and wife team Stephen Zawmoe Shwe and Amelie Chai who were both trained in the States. They are responsible for some of the modern buildings emerging in Yangon and around Myanmar in the last few years.



Feel Myanmar



Grilled Pork Chop at Taing Yin Thar.

## YANGON FOOD

The food in Yangon is surprisingly good. It is not as rich in street food as in Kuala Lumpur or Bangkok, but for a place that is so new to tourism there is no shortage of good restaurants around the city. The elites in Yangon must be eating very well.

### Feel Myanmar

This is a cafe style casual restaurant serving simple Myanmar Food. Most of the food here is pre-cooked. You order what you want from the buffet and the dishes will be brought to your table. Most of the items are very good. There are also some stalls outside the restaurant where you can order additional snacks and desserts.

### Taing Yin Thar Myanmar National Restaurant

This is a traditional Myanmar Restaurant serving dishes from various regions of Myanmar. The food is top quality, very refined and tasty.

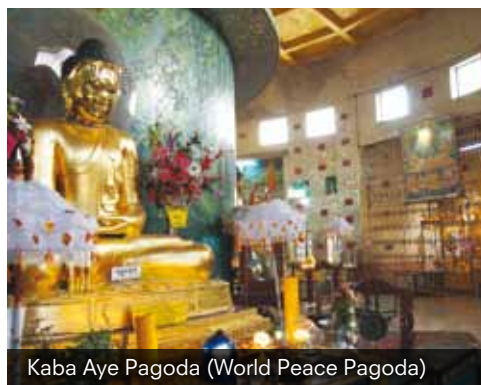
### Le Planteur

You may be surprised to know that Yangon has a fine-dining restaurant helmed by a Michelin-starred chef from Switzerland - Felix Eppiser. It is housed in a restored red-brick mansion with a beautiful garden compound. The service is impeccable, and the food is of international fine-dining standard as you would expect. The pricing is international standard too, and they don't accept credit cards yet so bring lots of cash!

Ar Ng Chee Wee - February 2013



Bogyoke Aung San Market (Scott Market)



Kaba Aye Pagoda (World Peace Pagoda)



Governor's Residence Hotel



SPINE Architects Design Office



Shan Style Beef at Taing Yin Thar.



Main Course at Le Planteur - Ying Yang Lamb and Chicken.



## PAMSC Christmas Dinner

Every year PAMSC Committee Meeting on December is well-attended as it coincides with the PAMSC Christmas Dinner, this year is no different as there was a full turnout. This year PAMSC Christmas Dinner was held on 19 Dec 2012 at My Restaurant, Stutong. As usual, the meeting started a bit early at 7pm, adjourned around 8.15pm to continue with Christmas Dinner. Some guests and friends, judges for the World Architecture Day Installation and Ar Chiew Chung Yee, our LAM delegate including PAMSC secretariat were also invited.



## PAMSC Chinese New Year Open House on the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2013

This year Chinese New Year Open House was held on 18 Feb 2013 at PAMSC premises. The event started at 4pm with Lion Dance and continued with Chairman's new year speech before light refreshment was served. This event was overwhelmingly attended by over 80 architects and suppliers.



## Visit by Delegates from Architecture Society of China (ASC)

Six delegates from Architecture Society of China visited Kuching on 16 Jan 2013 for an architectural tour after their official event in KL. They received a warm welcome from PAMSC and visited Sarawak Cultural Village and some interesting projects in Kuching. PAMSC also hosted a welcome dinner on 16 Jan together with Chairman and some committee members. They were very impressed with Kuching's cleanliness and laid back atmosphere.

## Sharing + Movie Nite



In 2012, we had wonderful people who shared their life's passion with us during our Sharing + Movie Nite on first Friday of every month. We are pleased to thank all the contributors and also those who attended the event.

On 4th Jan 2013, we started the New Year with "Myanmar Night" where participants for our Yangon Study Trip shared their photos and experiences. Ar. Peter Wong started the night with his study tour experience to Gold Coast, Queensland. Ar. Mike Boon & Ar. Ng Chee Wee continued with their Yangon Study Trip photo sharing. The event was attended by 30 people including members, friends & family.

February session of Sharing + Movie Nite, we had Min, Peggy & Azie sharing their passion as "Urban Sketchers". 11 people attended the session on 1 Feb 2013. Two movies were shown that night "A Garden in Cairo" & "The Village Architect".

On 1 Mar 2013, more than 25 people were attended Sharing + Movie Nite. We had Yeo Kai Wen & Danny Chung sharing their winning schemes of Archiprix SEA 2012. They also shared with us their experiences during the archi-tour and workshop in Singapore. The event adjourned at 9.15pm after two movies, "Melbourne Reborn" & "The Art & Science of Renzo Piano".

The next session of Sharing + Movie Nite is scheduled on 5 April 2013 (Friday) and we are pleased to have Jeffrey Yeung of KTS Group to share his passion with us. For more updates, please stay tuned [www.pamsc.org.my](http://www.pamsc.org.my).

# Minutes Of PAMSC Committee 2012 / 2013 Meeting No.11

## 1. DBKU CD Building Plan Submission

DBKU has implemented their new building plan submission procedure in PDF softcopy for their Council's checking purposes. Submission to Bomba and L&S Department will still be in paper format. Ar. JH Bong will obtain the necessary details from DBKU and e-mail a circular informing members. Ar. Ng Chee Wee also suggested the Chairman to hold a joint press release to alert other Councils in implementing similar submission process.

## 2. CPD Talk

23 March 2013 Design Forum 2012 (4 PT)  
27 April 2013 Sika Kimia on Flooring (1 PT)  
4 May 2013 Onduline Roofing (1PT)  
11 May 2013 Technical by Lafarge (1 PT)  
8 June 2013 Strata Titles Act (Ar Chee Soo Teng) (2 PT)  
13 June 2013 Design Lecture by Kenneth Cobonpue (2 PT)  
6 July 2013 Singapore Architect Environment Built (Ar Richard Kirk or Michael Rayner)

## 3. BTS Gala Dinner ( 22 Mar 2013 )

A sub-committee meeting has been scheduled on Fri, 22 Feb 2013, to further discuss on the BTS and Gala Nite preparations.

The venue has been confirmed to be Four Points Hotel.

The Committee agreed to make two RM 5,000 donations to HOPE and Wishesland.

## 4. BTS Golf (21 Mar 2013)

The meeting confirmed the entry form during the meeting. Ar. Mike Boon to arrange and coordinate the game.

## Circular letter to PAMSC members regarding Internship Programme in Architectural Firms

Dear Fellow Architects,

Reference is made to my discussion with Ar. Nurakmal Goh Abdullah, PAMKL Council member and co-chairman of Education Committee and Puan Rusnah Mohd. Dom in Kuching on 19 February 2013.

I was made to understand that the Community College in Betong is providing training for architectural draughtmanship. As part of their pre-requisite before graduating with a certificate, the students must undergo a minimum 3-6 months of industrial training.

PAMKL are currently collaborating with the Kementerian Pengajian Tinggi by offering An Internship Programme for such students from various campuses. The current batch of students from Betong campus shall be able to commence their training starting beginning of April 2013. As such, Ar. Nurakmal has requested for the assistance of chapter members to register their intention in providing training for these students.

Attached herewith the self-explanatory letter from JPJK for your reference. We would appreciate it very much if you could kindly revert to our PAMSC Secretariat, indicating many trainee(s) your firm is willing to receive so that we could make the necessary arrangement with JPJK.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Best regards,

Peter Wong King Lai  
PAMSC Chairman

## CONGRATULATIONS !

INTERSECTION congratulates those lucky few who passed their LAM Part 3 exams this round; **Mr. Lau Hui Saint, Mr. Voon Choon Hin** and **Mr. Bong Kuet Leng**.

Well Done !

## Errata - Apologies

Intersection team carefully reviews each issue to ensure that all of the information printed is correct and complete.

Occasionally, however, something gets past us and makes it into print.

We apologize for any inconvenience these errors may have caused you.

Errata and correction for Intersection December 2012 issue:

Page 1 :  
Editor's Message (L.12) - "Ar. Teo Seng Cheok" shall read "Ar. Teo Cheok Seng"

Page 14 :  
Photo caption (Bottom Left) "Yeo Wen Kai" shall read "Yeo Kai Wen"

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# TOWNSCAPE - *Life by the River*

In our last 'Townscape' for this term – it is appropriate that we return to the banks of the Sarawak River - the place of Kuching's birth.

Is our city named after the cat? Or after the 'mata-kuching' trees that were reputed to have grown along the riverbank? Or perhaps simply a variation of the Indian word for port - 'cochin'.

Those who grew up in Kuching would remember that there was a petrol station near the Tua-Pek-Kong temple; serving cars and river boats alike. Further on near the Borneo Company offices, black and white railings line its banks – there were seats, for courting couples or prawn fishermen depending on the time of day.

In front of the Main Bazaar shop houses were a series of warehouse buildings or 'godowns'. In the 1990's the Kuching Waterfront replaced these buildings and decades of our history were torn down in the name of progress. Only the former Chinese Chamber of Commerce Building and the Steamship Company Building were adapted for new usage. One wonders if there were more imaginative ways to create a new waterfront with more of the existing buildings intact instead of importing a slice of Australiana to Kuching.



Sightseeing by sampan <sup>1</sup>



Docked fishing boats <sup>2</sup>



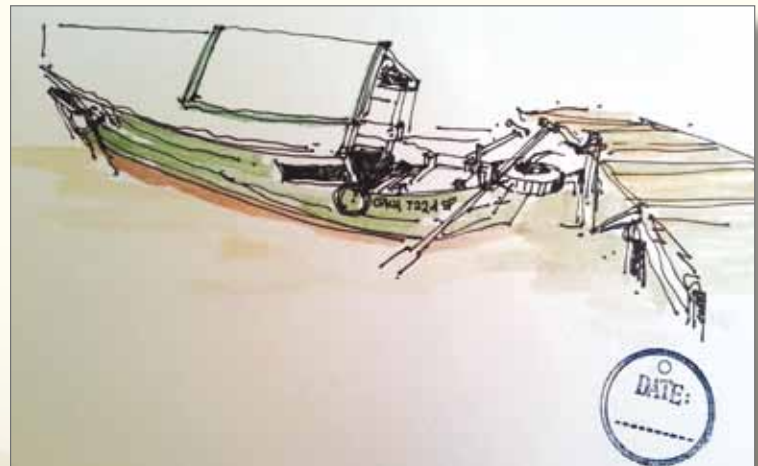
Life of the river begins at dawn and does not end till dusk. <sup>3</sup>



City Skyline at Kuching Waterfront by Peggy.



Sarawak River Downstream by Peggy.



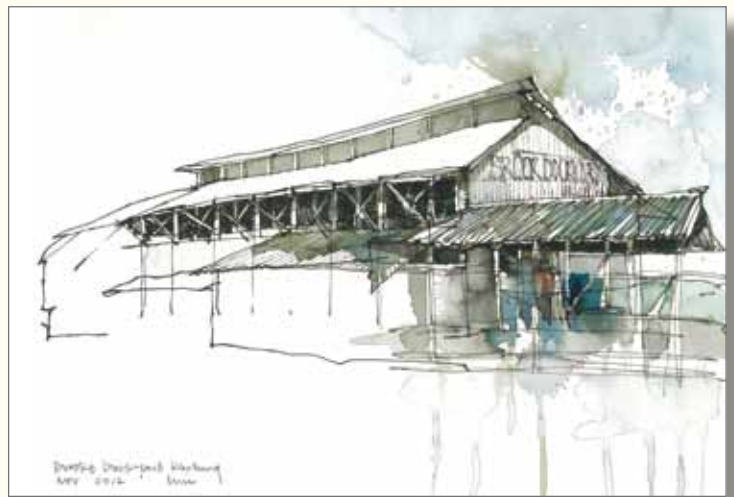
Sampan sketch by Azie.







Brooke Dockyard sketch by Azie.



Brooke Dockyard Kuching by Min

In 2008, the **Pasar Basah Gambir** (Gambier Wet Market), the old **Information Office** and **Ban Hock Wharf Hawkers' Centre** were torn down for the waterfront extension. The Wet Market was of architectural significance – being built in the Brooke Era (1929) for local Malay vendors to sell their produce. So with its demolition, the thread of our architectural heritage gets increasingly frayed and our social fabric worn thin. The hawkers were re-located across town to the Stutong Wet Market, so one assumes that they will be all right. Their customers, from the kampongs across the river have lost their main shopping venues, where lines of business and friendship can be traced back for generations. Can they be relocated as well?

The new extension of the waterfront is built, a poor cousin to the original waterfront; its promenade paved with cement not cobbles, its planters without the wide granite seats. In the middle of it stands 4 cast-iron columns – remnants of the former Wet Market. Meant to be a memorial no doubt, but it is more a mockery of our attempts to save our city's heritage.

**The Brooke Dockyard** building stands next in line, ripe for re-development and adaptive re-use – this should take place soon lest it is cited as 'structurally unsound' \* and demolished as well.

\* One of the reasons cited by the local city council for the demolition of the Gambier Wet Market.



Ban Hock Wharf Hawker's Centre <sup>4</sup>



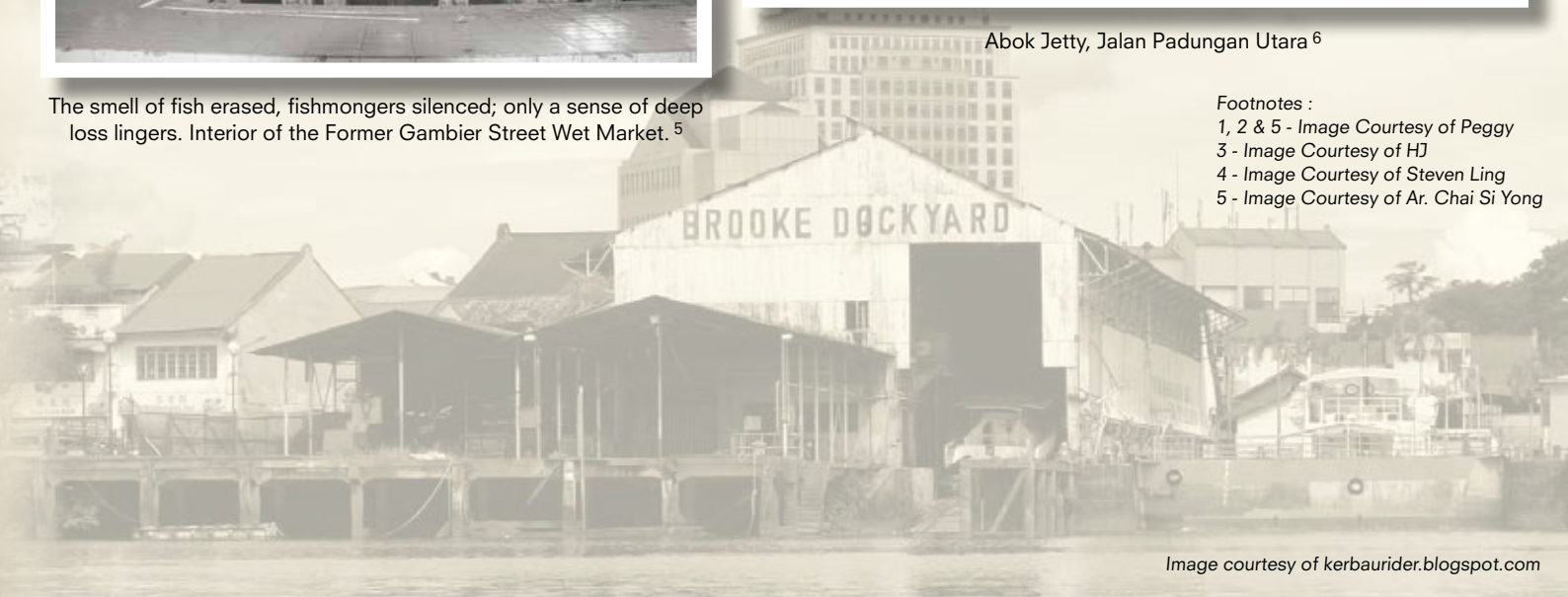
The smell of fish erased, fishmongers silenced; only a sense of deep loss lingers. Interior of the Former Gambier Street Wet Market. <sup>5</sup>



Abok Jetty, Jalan Padungan Utara <sup>6</sup>

Footnotes :

- 1, 2 & 5 - Image Courtesy of Peggy
- 3 - Image Courtesy of HJ
- 4 - Image Courtesy of Steven Ling
- 5 - Image Courtesy of Ar. Chai Si Yong



# IS ARCHITECTURE IN YOUR BLOOD?

INTERSECTION discusses the proclivity of architect's children to follow in their parents' footsteps, and sets the scene for interviews in the up-coming issues.

In a recent article in the Architectural Record by Laura Raskin writes; - "Architects begets architects, so it seems. Eliel Saarinen had Eero Saarinen; two of Frank Lloyd Wright's, John and Lloyd became architects. Walter Gropius's father was an architect."

To add to her list - two of I. M. Pei's four sons are architects, Nick and Glenn Murcutt. Not just the sons either, Moshe Safdie's daughter, Taal is an architect. In our neck of the woods, the children of Dato Sri John Lau, Mike Boon, Chiew Chung Yee, Juliah Sabri and Chang Jih Ren are following in their parent's footsteps.

So, is architecture in your blood? Some geneticists believe there might be some basis in this thinking that since we inherit human variation such as hair and eye colour from our parents - there is a genetical context for creative talent. Furthermore, there are theories that artistic talent is more heritable than scientific talent and since architecture is a curious mix of art and science - children of architects may be more likely to become architects. But that is just a theory. (Architects are more likely to marry architects - but that's another story)

Many others think that it is the environment - in Raskin's article, Taal Safdie was 'breathing architecture' - a heady mix of job-sites, client dinners and office flurry, from a very young age. She spent part of her childhood living in Habitat '67 - the Montreal apartment complex designed by her father. I have met steel fabricators and carpenters who would have made brilliant architects had they been exposed to the 'right' environment when they were young.

The reasons for a child's tendency to follow the parents' profession are probably a combination of both nature and nurture. Although in Asia could there be a third factor - parental pressure? On second thoughts, this is unlikely since our profession commands too little pay for way too much work. No self-respecting Asian mother would want that for her child. My wife has been nudging my son towards dentistry "shorter hours, more money, fewer arguments about fees" - she is an interior designer.

Ultimately, architecture is more a lifestyle than a profession - the love of what we do daily may play a part in sub consciously determining our children's' profession.

End

## Like Father, Like Son

by Witold Rybczynski

Bartolomeo Sanmicheli and his brother Giovanni and his son Micheli  
Andrea Palladio and his son Silla  
François Mansart and his grandnephew Jules Hardouin-Mansart  
Jacques V. Gabriel and his son Ange-Jacques  
William Adam and his sons Robert and John  
James Wyatt and his sons Benjamin Dean and Philip  
Sir George Gilbert Scott and his son George Gilbert Jr. and his son Sir Giles Gilbert  
Samuel Pepys Cockerell and his son Charles Robert and his son Frederick Pepys  
Sir Charles Barry and his son Sir John  
Benjamin Henry Latrobe and his son Henry  
Richard Upjohn and his son Richard M. and his son Hobart

The practice has continued in modern times:

Frank Lloyd Wright and his sons John Lloyd and Lloyd

Eliel Saarinen and his son Eero  
Albert Speer and his son Albert  
Richard Neutra and his son Dion  
Carlo Scarpa and his son Tobia  
Emery Roth and his sons Julian and Richard  
Edward Durrell Stone and his son Hicks  
I.M. Pei and his sons Chien Chung and Li Chung  
Cesar Pelli and his son Rafael  
Quinlan Terry and his son Francis  
Glenn Murcutt and his son Nick  
Hugh Newell Jacobsen and his son Simon



Ar. Mike Boon and Kun with their son, David who studies Architecture at UTAS (Launceston).



Dato Sri John Lau and Sam Lau.



"Like Father, Like Son"  
- Sean Wee and Min Wee.

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