



PAM
Pertubuhan Akitek
Malaysia
Sarawak Chapter

Intersection

www.pamsc.org.my

PAMSC Quarterly
Newsletter 03/2012

July 2012
For Members Only



DESIGN FORUM 2012

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Chairman's Message



Hello all,

It was a busy quarter since the last issue of INTERSECTION, with many events taken place involving various sub-committees. On the 31 March 2012, we had the "The Way Forward" Design Forum, followed by our Chapter's AGM. After which, we had a forum with members to collect feedback on the relevancy of Scale of Minimum Fees. Our Chapter gave talks at Limkokwing Institute of Creative Technology, Kolej Laila Taib and at SMK St Teresa with the aim of educating the students about the role of PAM and to encourage student membership. In May, PAMSC through Ar. Ng Chee Wee and Wee Hii Min shared information about Green Architecture at UPC's K-Chat.

In April and May, weekly workshops were conducted for candidates wishing to sit for the LAM Part III exam. Two CPD seminars were also held at the Chapter over this period.

On 13 March, Ar. Ng Chee Wee, Ar. Desmond Kuek and myself together with some 40 other professionals attended a dialogue with our Chief Minister to discuss about matters affecting professionals. This was followed by a Forum on 7 May, organized by Malaysian Professional Centre in collaboration with UPC. On both occasions I raised issues affecting our profession. I am glad to inform you that following the Forum, UPC is planning a dialogue between relevant professional institutes and the Ministry of Resource Planning and Environment to discuss issues pertaining to planning submissions and approvals.

We are also planning to re-activate the Joint Technical Consultative Committee meeting under the Ministry of Local Government and Urbanization to streamline and standardize the Building Approval processes. I hope that with the setting up of a sub-committee, the reviewing of our Sarawak Building Ordinance (SBO) will materialize. This will be a long and time-consuming process, I urge our members to support us in our activities. Let us know the problems and issues you encounter in your dealings with the authorities so we can pursue these matters with the relevant parties concerned.

Lastly, thank you for your confidence in re-electing me to lead the Chapter for another term. My heartfelt thanks to my committee members; I am humbled by your dedication and commitment to the work of PAM and for the betterment of our profession.

Thank you.

Ar. Peter Wong
Chairman
PAMSC

Editor's Message

Hello!

In the past few months, the editorial team has been run off our feet trying to keep up with the PAMSC activities. Dialogue sessions, CPD seminars, the PAMSC Design Forum, the AGM and talks in colleges and schools; we have worked hard to capture these events documented in this issue together with the usual cast of articles – Townscape, Local Practice and so forth. In this issue, the first in our series on "women in architecture" – we thank the ladies for their time and candour during the group interview.

We are still on the lookout for contributors and volunteers to assist with articles, reportage, site visits, research and the odd photo shoot, so get in touch.

Min, Ivy, Peggy and Si Yong

Next Issue:

Townscape -
KUCHING

satok market



Local Feature

Atelier Timur



PAM AWARDS
2012



A Review

DATUM KL 2012



Please contact
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at 082-457182
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gmail.com should you
wish to contribute.

PAMSC URBAN INSTALLATION COMPETITION & EXHIBITION

IN CONJUNCTION WITH WORLD DAY OF ARCHITECTURE 2012

THEME ARCHITECTS ARE CITY CHANGERS

BACKGROUND

The UIA (Union Internationale des Architectes) celebrate this day annually with the aim of promoting good architecture and raising awareness of architecture among the general public. Each year, a theme is set and this year's theme is "Architects are City Changers"

GOAL

In conjunction with this, PAMSC is holding a design competition

- to encourage young designers to demonstrate their creativity in design thinking.
- to inform the general public about World Architecture Day
- to set a platform for students and professionals to exchange ideas and experiences in architecture

PARTICIPANTS

Category A : students from local colleges

Category B : students from local high schools

Team numbers : min. 2 – max. 5

COMPETITION DURATION

1 Aug 2012 - 1 Oct 2012

EXHIBITION

1 Oct 2012 - 5 Oct 2012

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Ar. CHANG JIH REN



Masland Methodist Church, Sibuan

Ar. Chang Jih Ren grew up in Sibuan and has used his architectural expertise in many of the prominent buildings in his hometown. He talks to INTERSECTION about his journey and a renewed passion for teaching...

J : Jih Ren **I** : Intersection

I : Tell us a about your childhood; what was it like growing up in Sibuan? When did you know you wanted to be an architect?

J : My story began in Sibuan more than half a century ago; a fourth generation of migrant Chinese. My father had a grocery shop and my mother was a primary school teacher. We were not wealthy but my parents made sure that I had what I needed. Not what I want. They instilled in me an important set of values: faith in God, perseverance, hard work, generosity and integrity.

I have had a natural affinity to buildings since I was very young. In fact, at one stage in my life, architecture almost totally consumed me. I am glad that this is history.



In Venice.

Ar. Chang Jih Ren has a passion for education and sharing.

I : You studied in Methodist School in Sibuan and then left to study overseas – tell us about those years...

J : Yes, Methodist School in Sibuan was my Alma Mater. I completed my "A" Levels at the National Junior College in Singapore, where my vigour and discipline in academic pursuit were cultivated. I did my architectural training at the University of Manchester in the United Kingdom, where I finished with a Distinction and the Heyward Medal in Architecture.

I started working in an architect's office after graduation; at the same time I attended the British Isle Nazarene Bible College to begin my journey in the pursuit of the knowledge of God.

I : After that, you returned to Sarawak and entered the 'workforce'; what was the architectural scene like at that time?

J : I was in the UK from 1975 until 1984, when I returned to Sarawak. Kumpulan Design International (KDI) took me into their fold, and I joined the team in building Wisma SESCO. It was a memorable time as I learned and worked alongside many talented people who became friends.

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

J : The increased demand from family business dictated that I could not serve two masters. So I am grateful that in 1989, KDI released me to manage my family business. JRC Architect was set up only to do 'part time architecture' to satisfy my design cravings. My wife, Catherine, had started her landscape architecture consultancy much earlier, so I joined her in a small rented office of 200 SF. It was a very sweet and humble beginning; her beauty was my inspiration as I sat facing her each day.

I : You set up your practice in Kuching, why did you decide to return to Sibuan to practice?

J : Because my heart remains in Sibuan, I was helping out pro-bono in many small NGO's projects there. Fittingly, our first significant fee-paying project was a collaboration with Catherine – the Sibuan Town Square, which is an urban renewal landscape project.

Many have asked me how do I endure working with wife every day. "It makes me a better person" I said. And I would not have it any other way. She was my childhood sweetheart and we have been married 31 years since.

I : Your firm has built many projects in Sibuan – would you care to comment on the architectural legacy that you are leaving in Sibuan?

J : In many ways, Sibuan Town Square was a milestone both in terms of the town's development as well as my own professional career. It cleared the clutteredness of Sibuan and crystallised my design ideas. I became part of BN vision team for Sibuan which pioneered several townscape transformation projects.

Many schools (Mission and Chinese Schools), many parks and institutional buildings followed. And the office slowly grew to its present staff strength of 15.

I: You mentioned a coming-of-age for your design thinking; how did this translate to the growth of the office?

J: As I look back, many architects and students that came through the office contributed to our inspiration and direction. I am grateful for those talented and capable people who enriched the life of the practice. Catherine and I continue to be supported by a team of dedicated and experienced staff.

I: Your daughter is also architect; are there any plans for her to take over the reins of your practice?

J: Friends expect my daughter, Sarah, who is trained as an architect in Melbourne, to join me one day. But who knows she may even employ her dad down under instead! My two other daughters, Joy is a financial planner and Rebecca is studying Hospitality Management; they are all living in Perth, Australia.

Ngu House



Methodist Centennial Park

I: Tell us about your numerous projects; is there a memorable one for you?

J: Our office has left marks in Sarawak, mainly Sibu. Some are reasonably adequate and some could have been better. But they are all precious, like photographs taken on the journey of life. Each project reflects my thinking and maturity (or immaturity) in architecture at that moment in time.

I: You have also been involved in various civic and community activities; but more recently it appears that you have become more involved...

J: I have reached a stage in my life, where I need to do more than just designing buildings and property development. Architecture may improve lives but it does not change lives. My life could have remained at the superficial level of architectural pursuit, only for me to realise that it is a mere phenomenon at my journey's end. I am determined not to live my life with such regrets.

My priority is adjusted these days. I enrolled for new academic pursuit at university; joining cello classes and teaching Christian leadership core values around the world.

I: Any thoughts of retirement?

J: I continue to keep busy with teaching, which I find is an enriching experience that architecture cannot provide. Teaching opportunities open up my life to reach the urbanites in major cities around the world as well as the rural folks in the remote villages of Thailand and China. Life is exchanged and shared in the course of education.

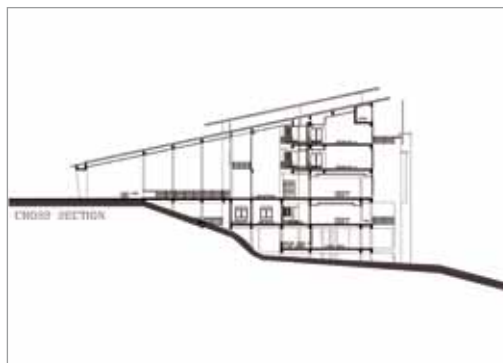
God had given me an abundant life. In the second half of the life's game, I know that my utmost priority is to stay focused in loving God and loving people around me.

That is the legacy I want to leave behind.

Not buildings.



Interior of the Centennial park Building.



Methodist Centennial Park



WOMEN IN ARCHITECTURE : PART 1

the practitioners meet the graduates



In this series of articles, INTERSECTION will interview women architects in Sarawak - from the graduate to the salaried architect, the free-lancer to the director – to unearth the role women architects play in the local architectural scene. Worldwide, there is a disparity in the number of women who graduate from architecture school and the number of women who advance to senior management, based on a report by the R.I.B.A. in 2003, there are many factors that cause women to leave architecture. Some of the factors are low or unequal pay, long working hours, stressful working conditions and more job satisfaction elsewhere.

Based on initial feedback from our local women architects, they do not face these problems in the workplace; even appearing to thrive in that long accepted male domain – the building site. Several highlighted that there is a far less visible but equally important domain of the architect's office – where women form a low key but influential minority in areas of management of projects and people. One went as far as to pose this question; “perhaps Asia is different from the West?” – or is it simply different in Sarawak?

Through the interviews, INTERSECTION hopes to map Sarawakian women's participation in the profession and to understand the rewards and tribulations as gender, workplace and family life intersect.

In the first of this series, INTERSECTION sits down with Ar. Juliah Sabri, Ar. Ivy Jong and young graduates - Peggy Wong, Dona Rose Koemer, Jayne Ting and Liyana Binti Abdul Karim to compare notes and share advice.



Liyana, Juliah and Dona

I : Intersection

I : Ladies, thank you for joining us this evening. Let's get start the ball rolling... In university it is 50% men and 50% women studying architecture courses especially in local universities. In the workforce, for every female architect there are 2 or 3 male counterparts. Where do some of the women go?

Liyana: Most of my female course mates become housewives when they graduate.

PJ: I remember in my diploma course, there were 23 students. We all graduated. Out of these 23 students, all the men furthered their studies. Recently we had a re-union. Out of the 9 female course-mates, 3 become lecturers without starting their practice, one changed her course, the others stopped at diploma. I am the only one running my own practice.

Dona: Quite a number of my female course mates turn to teaching, becoming lecturers which gives them a more structured schedule which I guess is important if you are trying to manage a family as well as work.

Liyana: I have a question to Puan Juliah. How do you manage between work and family especially when you have just started?

PJ: When I started at JKR, I was the primary carer for our family. My husband has always been my 'partner'. My husband is a government officer, so we were able to juggle between work and family as the hours were more 'regular'. When I left JKR to start by own practice, there wasn't much of a problem balancing life because my children children were by then old enough to fend for themselves.

Jayne: I guess if the children are already taking care of themselves or under the care of say, their grandparents, maybe it would be easier to juggle between work and family.

Dona: I think the most important thing is to communicate with your spouse because when I am busy, he would have to take care of the kids, vice versa. If both of us are busy, then someone else has to do it. I guess there are sacrifices from both sides. Mother in-law is our last resort. We try not to though, because it is unfair for them.

I : Would any of you like to run your own practice in, say in a few years time?

Dona & Liyana: Yes, of course.

Jayne: I am not so sure yet.

PJ: When you want to set up your own practice, you need to have clients. (Looking towards the young ladies) Are you prepared? Are you ready? Do you have any clients in mind? In my case, I had been working in JKR for almost 20 years, so my confidence level was pretty high. I was quite sure that I had enough contacts to get work when I set up my own practice. I did not bring out any projects with me when I left JKR. So that was the element of confidence I am talking about. If you don't have any networking, I think it is a bit hard to set up your own practice.

I : It is a question of timing, after you get your LAM Part 3, do you look for work first? set up your practice? It is a hard choice to make for these young ladies especially if you are paid well. How did you decide to set up your practice?

PJ: My decision was triggered by a friend asking me to join him in private practice. So, I discussed this with my husband who was very supportive. He said "it's okay if this does not work out - I am always here" It was tough at the beginning. As I said, I did not take any projects with me from JKR. I was without income for many months during the start up.

I: In that sense, do you think it's easier for women architects to set up their own practice because you have, potentially, support from your spouse. Panic might set in if you don't have any work after 6 months, but I think in women's case, do you think that it is easier as you are not the sole bread winner?

J: I am not married yet. (laughs) Instead of starting your practice straight away, perhaps we can start doing some free-lance work first and in that way establish some connections before setting up your practice.

I: That is provided your employer agrees to that arrangement. There are situations when you actually have to be very upfront with your employer. Maybe come to an arrangement with your employer that allows you to work part-time in an office and also do free lance.

Peggy: For me, I would not think of getting LAM Part 3 for the sake of coming out and setting up on my own. To me, LAM Part 3 is part of my architectural profession and education as advised by most of my peers.

I: What about experience on work site. Do you think women are not taken seriously on site? Are you taken seriously when you issue instructions on site?

Liyana & Dona: So far yes, they would listen to our instructions.

J: I think it depends on how we carry ourselves. I don't think it is masculinity. It is about being confident.

Peggy: I agree. Who is going to listen to you if you doubt what you are saying?

PJ: You have to be confident with your work.

Liyana: In my experience, my male colleagues prefer to work with female colleagues because they are more approachable.

Dona: I have another example. If a contractor wants to propose an alternative to a male or female architect, he usually approaches the female architect first because there is a higher chance that the woman would listen to his proposal.

Peggy: That's from their perspective when they approach you, but it is still up for you to decide, right?

Liyana: Yes, we need to be firm with our decisions. So we let them know we are no pushovers. They would respect that.

Ivy: From personal experience, there are physical challenges. When I was involved in a project in a remote area as a fresh graduate, the male counterparts initially had doubts on whether I could be able to 'rough' it out or not. It was physically very challenging. They were trying to physically intimidate me by intensifying that schedule on site which was gruelling. Luckily I managed and it was funny, because years later, they confided in me that they had trouble keeping up with me which I took as a compliment!

I: I guess there is a reason why women give birth but men don't. A group of women would make decisions faster than a group of men. The ego thing doesn't come into play. Are there any problems you think you face because you are a woman in the workplace?

L: I don't think so. The male colleagues in my workplace are very helpful. When I first started working, I had a hard time because I was a fresh graduate. I was given a toilet project and there was this contractor who would call me up and shout at me. He made me cry, but not in front of him. My boss then taught me how to deal with people like him.

I: In terms of wage, are you paid on par with your male colleagues?

Liyana, Dona & Jayne: Yes.

Jayne: I think the salary is determined by the qualifications, work achievements and experience as well.

I: Do you think this would change when you apply for maternity leave?

D: It was okay. My boss treated me well when I had my first child.

Peggy: I think it depends on whether the boss has a family.

J: Yes, I agree with that.

I: For the 2 women bosses here (Ivy and PJ), are you more inclined to employ male or female employees? Is there a difference?

PJ: I have never thought about that.

Ivy: Not really. My office thus far have more female than male but not intentionally. Women employees in general tends to be more efficient and organised.

J: Women are preferred because they are less likely to leave the company. (laughs)

PJ: I used to write all the reports when I was working for JKR because the men couldn't be bothered. They laughed at me for that but I started to love doing it. So for me, women are the organisers in the office.

I: We need to talk about design abilities. Is there a difference in design abilities when it comes to men and women?

Ivy: We tend to go into greater details... we may tend to fuss around an issue and look at it from many angles as we deliberate, whereas the guys would get it resolved and worry about the rest at a later stage. Women are worried about the smallest details while the male architect tends to look at the bigger picture. There are the pros and cons to this of course.

I: Some companies give their women architects the role of doing interior design in the old days. Women are placed in ID department because the company thinks they are better at that. Do you experience that?

Everyone: No!

Peggy: From my experience, there were certain tasks my ex-boss would ask me to handle as a woman, especially when dealing with men. His reasoning is that they tend to not be aggressive towards woman.

J: In my case, it wasn't from my boss but from a male colleague. My client sent his representative, a man - to discuss matters with an officer from the authorities; his rep ended up getting scolded by the officer. So they suggested that I go instead, and the outcome was very good.

I: So what do you think sets it apart? Is it because of your capabilities, or charm? Or both?

Everyone: Charm (all laughs)

I: Thank you for your time. It has been enlightening.



A quick bio-pic of some of our participants:

Liyana Binti Abdul Karim is at Arkitek Arkiskape Sdn. Bhd.; she obtained her degree from Aberdeen University, Scotland and initially wanted to work in Aberdeen but unfortunately was deterred by the recession during 2009. She chose to come back to Kuching to work instead as she did not want to work in Kuala Lumpur.

Dona Rose Binti Amer Koesmeri is with Atelier Timur Sdn. Bhd.; a graduate from University Sains Malaysia and came to Kuching through marriage. Her husband Roy is also an architect working with P.U Architects.

Jayne Ting is with Akimedia Sdn. Bhd., a graduate from University of Curtin, Perth, Australia.

Peggy Wong is with Atelier Timur Sdn. Bhd.; a graduate from University of Curtin, Perth, Australia; she is preparing to sit for her LAM part 3 this year.

Ar. Juliah Sabri; a former senior officer heading the Building Branch at JKR Sarawak and one of the 'pioneer' female architect in Sarawak, she came out to set up her own architectural firm Julaih Sabri Architect Sdn. Bhd. in 2003.

Ar. Ivy Jong has been practicing along side her husband and fellow architect Ar. Sia Peh Swee at Atelier Timur Sdn. Bhd. since 2007.

COMPETITIVE FITNESS

In the past few years, Sarawakian firms have been featuring regularly in the National Awards and Design Competitions – Arkitek KDI and INTODESIGN Lab in particular have had success in design competitions.

INTERSECTION meets with Dato John Lau (AKDI) and Ar. Chai Si Yong and Tay Tze Yong (INTODESIGN Lab) to find out the how and the why...

JL : Dato John Lau CSY : Ar. Chai Si Yong
TY : Tay Tze Yong I : Intersection



(From left) Tay Tze Yong, Dato John Lau and Ar. Chai Si Yong

I : **Your firms have been actively joining design competitions and winning them – can you tell us your reasons for taking part ?**

JL: We took part in our first design competition some 27 years ago; it was the SESCO HQ in Kuching. We were a young practice then and we wanted to benchmark ourselves against our peers. Also it was an opportunity for young firms to get into bigger jobs, which is normally dominated by bigger, more established firms. Why do you guys do competitions?

(poses question to Tay and Chai)

TY: Probably for the same reasons as yourself; to see how we do in a larger playing field. As you know we are a young practice – still learning to deal with the pressures of work - so we enter competitions to escape the reality of work.

CSY: Our attitude towards entering design competitions is “why not?” – there is really nothing to lose – and everything to gain.

JL: I suppose you can call it the arrogance of youth or is it the ignorance of youth? (laughs).

TY: Maybe so, we find that it is also a good way to develop our design skills more freely, and use it to create teaching material for the design studio.

I : **Now that we know why you participate in competitions, can you tell HOW to ensure success ?**

JL: We believe that there are 3 key points to consider – first you have to truly understand the nature of the project. For instance, if it is a commercial institution, you have to make sure your proposal is commercially viable, and if it is a members’ club, it has to reflect their image and aspirations of the promoter. Secondly, you have to know who the jurors are and the type of architecture that they are into. Of course understanding the site and its context; what is the most suitable solution in that location, not forgetting the rules and regulations as they will impact your design – it helps you understand the parameters.

CSY: That’s interesting, we never consciously think of it that way, the step-by-step method. We simply do anything we want, try to be different and enjoy ourselves.

JL: That is fine if you have afford the time and cost involved.

I : **Speaking of cost, how much money must one set aside for taking part in competitions?**

JL: It is not how much you spent that matters. It is the ideas that count. You need to have a great idea that catches the jurors’ eyes. Presentation does matter of course. In present day, you could spend anything up to RM50,000 for Stage 1; and another RM100,000 for Stage 2, if the competition is in stages.

CSY: We look at the prize money and budget a figure between 25 – 50% of the winning prize to carry out the submission.

I : **That’s very interesting, to base your budget on the size of the prize. Some competitions result in the winning scheme getting built – have you had any of your winning schemes built ?**

TY: No, none of our winning schemes are going to be built – I think Dato has more success in that area...

JL: We have participated in 6 PAM sponsored competitions over the years – we won Joint 2nd Prize (there was no first prize) for KL Golden Triangle Master Plan in 1985. Then in ‘86 and ‘88, we won Honourable Mentions for the Redevelopment of Lake Club and the Sunway Master Plan respectively.

More recently, we won First Prize for OSK Master Plan in 2011 – all of the above schemes are in West Malaysia, the OSK project is at design stage. We believe it will be built.

In Sarawak, we have had some of our competition entries built; the Affordable Timber Housing Prototypes in 1988 (we won 1st prizes for 5 categories & all were built), the SESCO HQ in 1979 (1st Prize & Built), Bintulu Civic Centre in 1988 (1st Prize & Built), Rimbunan Hijau HQ in 2010 (1st Prize – under construction)

I : **So, it seems that one does get ‘work’ out of competitions...**
JL: Definitely.

I : **How important is teamwork, especially in collaboration with other architects – how do you drive the design?**

JL: We did most of our competitions in-house except for the SESCO HQ and OSK Master Plan. In the case of SESCO, we got some architect friends helping part time. We also outsourced rendering. We worked with Alan Kueh on OSK. Alan has always maintained a close link with us since his student days. Nowadays, the promoter tends to encourage local architects to collaborate with foreign architects. There is an obvious synergy in this kind of collaboration. You combine each other’s strength. The downside is that the foreign firm tends to dominate. We live up to our name, Kumpulan Design. We always operate as a team. When we collaborate with others, we contribute more on knowledge of sites, local by-laws, local culture etc. We participate in the brainstorming sessions.

TY: Our collaborators are the usual suspects of architect friends from Uni and our students from local colleges. We find that it is a combination of skills, knowledge and effort from different expertise; the trick is to delegate tasks effectively. Keeping in mind that there is a dateline to meet.

JL: One must be totally committed. You must assemble the best team from your office, people who will put their heart and soul into the competition.

I : **Perhaps you can share some of your experience and expertise with our readers..**

JL: We start by analyzing the project brief carefully, and then we brainstorm among the team members to get the best idea. To come up with a solution which is most sensible, it is your common sense that wins the day not your whim and fancy. You need a leader who can direct, motivate, and be prepared to spend the money.

I : **Tay and Chai, I believe you have a more philosophical approach to this?**

CSY: The Chinese believe the following 3 conditions required for success:

- i) at the right time (天时)
- ii) in the right place (地利)
- iii) with the right people (人和)

and if we can get all three to converge, then the chance of success is high.

I : **Alright, gentlemen – thank you for taking the time to talk to INTERSECTION and let’s hope that you will be successful in your future design competitions.**

END

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DESIGN FORUM 2012

"The Way Forward" was the theme for this year's PAMSC Design Forum - with a diverse group of speakers attended by local architects, industry partners and students. The Forum is made possible by the substantial support of BlueScope Lysaght Sarawak.

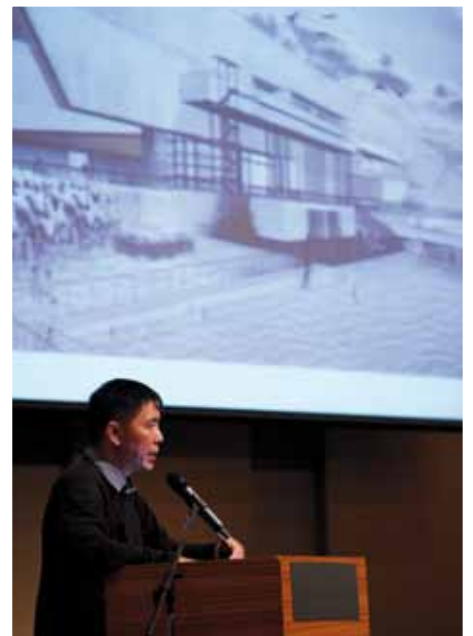
- 8:00 - 9:00 am registration • 9:00 - 9:15 welcoming address by Bluescope Lysaght Sarawak
- 9:15 - 10:00 Cheah Kok Ming, NUS Singapore • 10:00 - 10:30 tea break



There were a large numbers of students attendees this year_ bringing the total number of participants in excess of 200.



Lysaght General Manager Lydia Toh addresses the audience.



Cheah Kok Ming from NUS Singapore.

- 10:30 - 11:15 "Micro Architecture and Sustainability" - En. Marwan Ma'som, Thinking Green Sdn Bhd
- 11:15 - 12:00 noon "20 years in Borneo : A critical response to architecture in Sarawak" - Mike Boon, Arkitek JFN Sdn Bhd
- 12:00 - 1:00 Product launching by Bluescope Lysaght Sarawak
- 1:00 - 2:15 "One small step at a time" - Mr Chutayaves Sinthuphan, Site Specific Company
- 2:15 - 3:00 "Achieving Sustainability" - Dr. Stelios Paliniotis, Nea.Poli Sdn Bhd



Ar. Mike Boon talks about his M+M House.



Ar. Bong tries to win an iPad by solving the Lysaght Puzzle Attack.

What We Think ?



The Forum was well attended by local architects and students.



Some participants really earn their CPD points.



Speaker - Mr Chutayaves Sinthuphan.

- 3:00 - 3:30 - tea break • 3:30 - 4:15 "Designing a Sustainable Building" - Prof Dr Tom Kvan, Melbourne University • 4:15 - 5:00 panel discussion



Forum Organising Chairman Chee Wee and the speakers.



"...the maximum allowable cantilever from the front facade of a commercial building shall be...."

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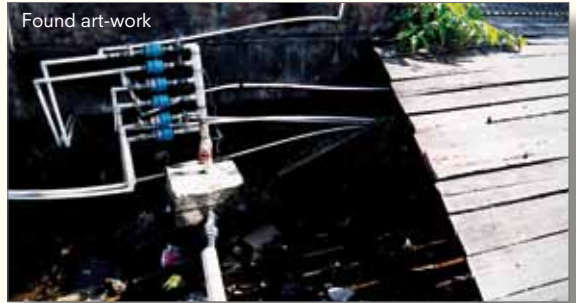
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TOWNSCAPE

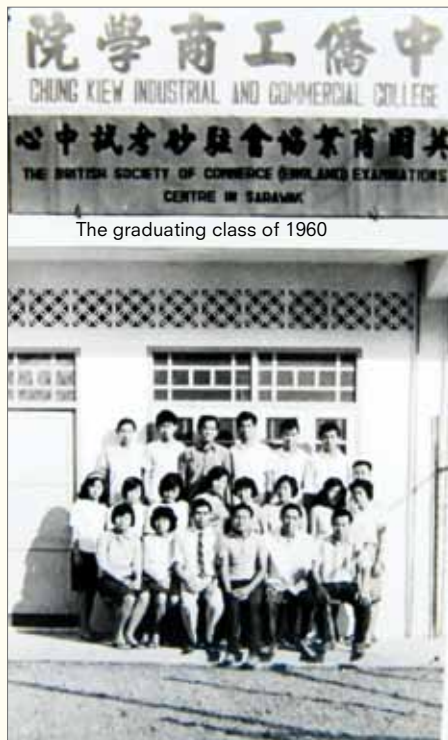
- discovering our towns one picture at a time

In this issue, we go to Sibu in search of the distinct streetscape and town life – shop houses, bicycles and its relationship with the Rejang River. We document the unique link houses along Jalan Bukit Assek, which typifies the local people's practical approach to life and livelihood. We met up with a local gentleman, Mr Hwong Yew Tuong * who has raised a family in one of these houses along Jalan Bukit Assek. Ar. Chai Si Yong interviews him and provides a photographic journal for this issue.

* He is Ar. Hwong How Hing's father.



Found art-work



The graduating class of 1960

Bukit Assek Housing

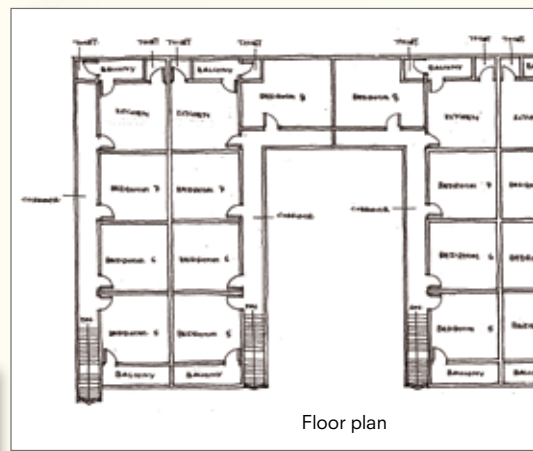
Upon closer study of the floor plans, it becomes clear that practicality takes priority over conventional planning, circulation and personal boundaries.

And upon an even closer look, you find yourself looking at strata titled housing, built in the days before such planning prototypes were used.

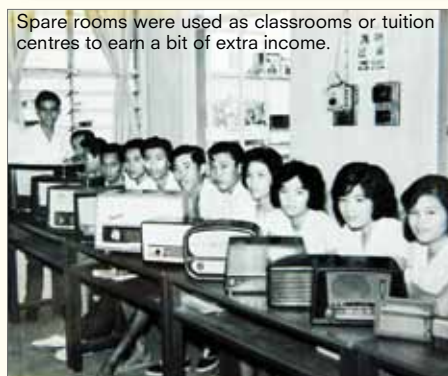
Both floors are laid out in almost the same way; both with their own kitchen with rooms accessed from the corridor.

This enables flexible usage of the rooms which can be used as the living room, study, dining room. The kitchen, bathroom and toilet are shared, which means that one family can occupy the whole house, one floor or one room!

Mr Hwong was kind enough to explain the 'life-cycle' of his house through his collection of family photographs and newspaper clippings.



Floor plan



Spare rooms were used as classrooms or tuition centres to earn a bit of extra income.



Ar. Hwong tells me he used to do his homework in the verandah as it is brighter and more airy.



All the rooms were accessed from the verandah, making it quite common for rooms to be let to 'out-station' government officers and their families.



As the family was growing up, all the rooms were used by the family members.

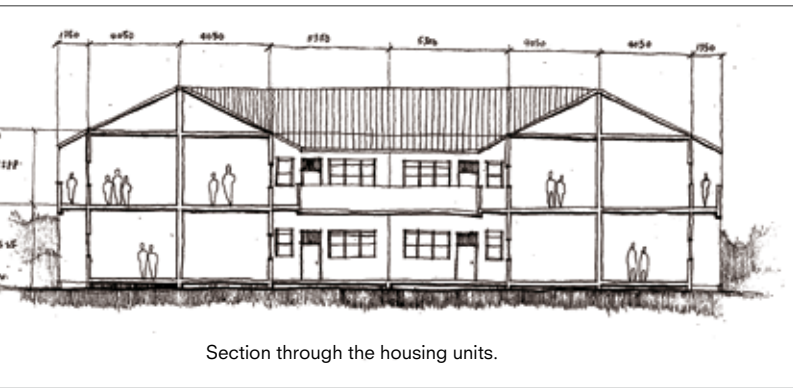


The verandah is also the games room.

Rooms for

美
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MEI JIN
馬家而亞
47A, Bukit As
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Morning walks in Sibü; sketching



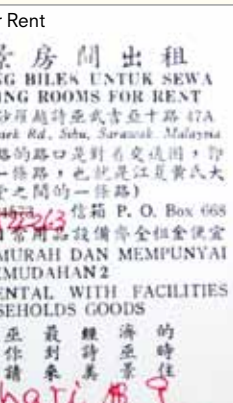
Front elevation from Jalan Bukit Assek.



Mr Hwong Yew Tuong, 75 is a man of diverse talents which probably explains why his house has served wide-ranging functions in its life span. Mr. Hwong was trained in electronics in Hong Kong in the early 60's after which he returned to work in Sibü as a telephone switchboard engineer. He also taught electronics, electrical wiring and book-keeping (!) at home in his spare time. He spent several years in Indonesia managing the accounts in a remote timber camp. When he returned to Sibü this time, he developed a new abacus and mental arithmetic system which he taught from his house and introduced to the schools in the area.

Nowadays, he admits he has 'slowed down' a bit although he still tutors mental arithmetic and memory training (he gave us a demo) in his house.

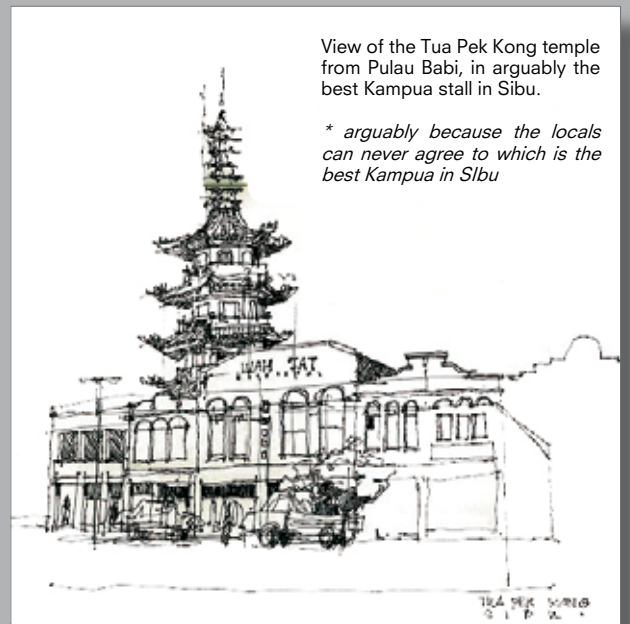
INTERSECTION would like to record our thanks to Mr. Hwong for taking the time in sharing his archive of photographs and memory.



Mr Hwong looks through his extensive archives.



Jalan Bengkel - sketched from the front of the Bomba building; the ends of these shop houses are particularly delightful with rooms that opens to a side balcony.



View of the Tua Pek Kong temple from Pulau Babi, in arguably the best Kampua stall in Sibü.

** arguably because the locals can never agree to which is the best Kampua in Sibü*



View of the RHotel from across Town Square - drawn early in the morning. The black specks in the sky are swifts flying from tree to building to tree.



Sibü Water Board building - the container yard can be seen just next to the Rejang River.

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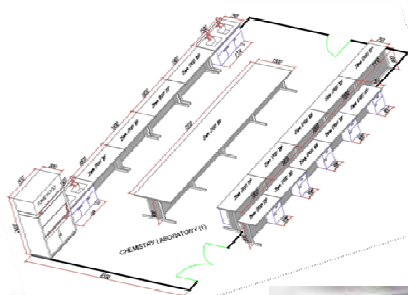
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PAM Session with FABE students



As part of PAMSC's undertaking to establish closer links to local architectural colleges – a talk was conducted at the Kuching Campus of the Lim Kok Wing Institute of Creative Technology (LICT) on the 4th of May 2012 at 2:30 pm. The speakers include the PAMSC Chairman, Ar Peter Wong, PAMSC committee members; Ar. Chai Si Yong and Ar. Wee Hii Min and LICT alumni, student Ms. Tan Ik Chia (who has graduated with her Part 1, Bachelor of Science in Architecture).

About 80 students and LICT staff members attended the presentation during which the architects explained the role of PAM (Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia), the benefits of joining PAM as student members and the various study paths the students may choose to obtain their architectural degree. Ar. Peter Wong announced the waiving of PAM registration fee for students members, and that for an annual payment of RM 37.50 they are entitled a subscription of the Architecture Malaysia magazine.

The students were also briefed on upcoming PAMSC activities such as the students' design competition in conjunction with World Architecture Day 2012; Ms. Christy Tan talked about her "Career path" taking the students through the projects in her portfolio.

The afternoon's 'outing' ended with a 'Meet the Architects' session and enrolment of 28 students as new members. PAMSC plans to travel to Sibul to conduct a similar presentation to students at Kolej Laila Taib.



Ar. Si Yong and Min sharing information and jokes with the students.



Alan Goh, LICT FABE leader and PAMSC Chairman Ar. Peter Wong.



Submission of PAM student member applications.



Si Yong and Peter mingling with the students after the talk.



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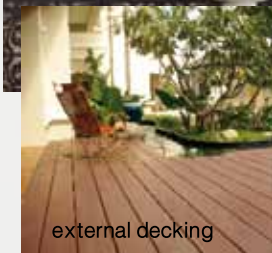
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Lembaga Arkitek Malaysia (Practice Sub-Committee Report) Meeting Held in KL on 22nd March And 17th May 2012)

2.0 Responsibilities of an architect when taking over an existing project.

The paper on this subject has almost completed subject to clearing a few issues before being circulated to members.

3.0 Liberation of Scale of Fees

With the current global market spreading, scale of fees may soon be done away with, LAM will advice regarding an alternative acceptable practice in due course.

4.0 Architecture for Humanity

This new act of Public service is placed under PAM. The current Architects' Act does not allow architects to offer free services even if it is for a good public cause or charity. LAM will issue a circular soon on its stand.

Scale of Minimum Fees

PAMKL has postponed the forum to seek feedback on the relevancy of the Scale until the end of the year.

International Council of Communication Design (ICOGRADA) Design Week

This event is organized by the Graphic Design Association of Malaysia and Swinburne University; from 15th – 21st Oct 2012. PAMKL has agreed in principle to support the event. PAMSC has contacted Mr Greg Wee of ICOGRADA and is awaiting feedback from his associates.

BTS Launching has been scheduled on Friday, 13 July 2012 at BCKK. Committee Members were requested to be present. A BTS Website will be set up.

CPD & PRACTICE

The following CPD events are scheduled for the rest of the term; flyers for individual events will be sent out once details are confirmed.

Date	Topic
20-21 Jul	Qlassic Training Course
23-24 Nov	Building Inspection Training, Risk Management, Culture & Behavior, Housing Stage Certification, Green Construction
22 Sept	Archicad
29 Sept	Autodesk Revit

CONSERVATION & SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

India Street Mosque Demolition - Ar. Mike Boon gave a press statement on the subject.

Site Visit to Chan Mansion - Ar. Mike Boon under Sarawak Heritage Society led a visit to the premises on Saturday 9th June 2012. Several PAMSC members accompanied him during this visit.



Photos courtesy of kuchingbw.blogspot.com
and uncleawang.blogspot.com

Dialogue @ PAMSC Centre

On the 15th of May, PAMSC held a dialogue session with members to discuss:

- 1) Issues pertaining to Building Plan submission & approval with the view of revising the SBO (Headed by Ar. Philip Chang); and
- 2) Matters and issues regarding planning submission and approval (Headed by Ar. Stephen Liew)

The objective was to form sub-committees to study the above matters.

LAM Part 3 Workshop

On 13 April 2012 (Friday), the workshop at PAMSC, coordinated by the Graduates Sub-committee, started with about over 20 graduate architects during the 1st session, where Chairman Ar Peter Wong welcomed the graduates and share some words of encouragement. Later, Ar Chai Si Yong with Ar Michael Chuo shared on their experiences preparing for the exam. Ar Ng Chee Wee who facilitated all the workshops, started with the topic on aspects of Architectural Practice with the Scale of Minimum Fees, Architects Act & Rules, including Architects Code of Conduct. Over the course of these workshops, Ar Chiew Chung Yee and Ar Michael Wong also joined the workshops, in sharing about preparation for Oral Exam and Contract Administrations issues, especially regarding EOT, respectively.

While some are attempting the LAM Part 3 exam this year, others participated in the workshop to find out more about the architecture practice. We hope to continue these workshop sessions again next year, for the Graduate Members.



CPD Event by Ar. Sunny Chan Hean Kee on the 14th April 2012 on "Architect's Appointment"

Ar. Chan is seasoned practitioner and Fellow of PAM, his work experience spans the full range of architectural services. He has held several positions in PAM; especially in the field of education - he is presently serving in the PAM Community Program and LAM's Examination Panel.

In his presentation, he spoke about type of practices, engagement, scope of services amongst other issues related to architect's appointment. He also spoke about the Architects' Responsibilities & Liabilities under Contract and Common Law.

The seminar was well attended by about 70 members.



St. Teresa Career Talk

On the 18th of May, PAMSC together with various professional visited St Teresa's Secondary School to speak to students about their career paths. Architects Ivy Jong, Chai Si Yong, Wee Hii Min together with Ms Peggy Wong spoke to the students about PAM's role in the profession, the attributes recommended for those interested in this profession. The architects were accompanied by two students from NUS, Chong Wen Jin and Anthony Leow who showed the girls examples of their school work and answered questions about their course.

Copies of INTERSECTION were distributed to those interested in pursuing architecture.



CPD Event by Ar. Mazlin Ghazali "The confession of a Low Cost Architect" on the 26th May 2012

Ar. Mazlin Ghazali presented the issue of low cost housing from a social standpoint through his Affordable Mosaic Housing concept, which is an alternative to the present Low-Cost Housing paradigm. This model of cluster houses and clustered neighbourhoods aims to produce better social, environmental and aesthetic environments, by using land more efficiently with fewer roads. About 60 architects and students attended his lecture.



Talk at Kolej Laila Taib

In May, Ar. Chai Si Yong and Wee Hii Min visited Kolej Laila Taib in Sibul to talk to the architecture students about the role of PAM in relation to their study paths; to brief them about the WAD competition and to provide the students with an insight to the architectural practice through their projects.

The talk was attended by about 120 students and their lecturers.



UPM PAMSC Design Workshop in Kuching

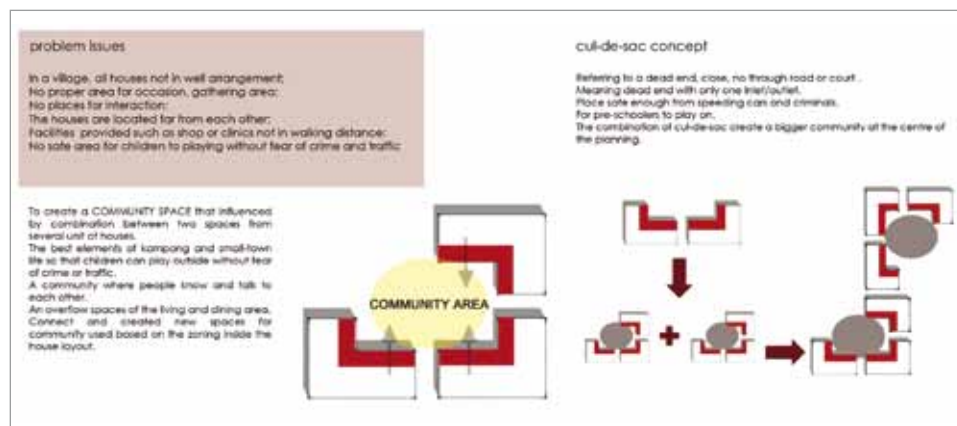
On 17th - 25th March, PAMSC conducted a Sustainable Design Workshop for 40 students from (UPM) Universiti Putra Malaysia; with the objective of designing affordable housing prototypes and communities. The UPM team was led by their lecturers; Puan Wan Srihani Wan Mohamed, Puan Ida Suriana Ismail and Encik Mohd Zairul Mohd Noor.



Students present their final designs at PAM Centre.



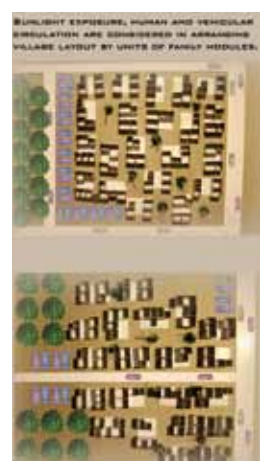
Wong ZiTao is presented with a gift for his presentation about the Roma people.



Design review in progress.



The students quickly made themselves at home; setting up work areas filled with sketches and models.



Being briefed by Eric Yap the HfH const. manager.



Preparing bakau for piling.



These 12 foot long piles are driven by hand.

Local PAMSC members, Ivy Jong, Sia Peh Swee, Chai Si Yong, Tay Tze Yong, Wong Siew Ling, and I mentored the students for the 7-day workshop. In conjunction with this workshop, the students spent several days on a Habitat for Humanity job site where they assisted in the construction of a Habitat home by completing the piling and the casting of the reinforced concrete ground beams.

The students were briefed on poverty housing by architect Wong Zi Tao who flew in from Singapore to talk about his Romanian poverty housing experience, and by the Vice President of the Kuching Habitat for Humanity, Ms. Samantha Yap. A journalist from The Melbourne Age who was in town at the time covered the event.

The Workshop culminated in the final review on Sunday 25th March with a talk by Ar. Mike Boon on the history of Kuching followed by the final presentation of the students' work. Local Architect-mentors together with PAMSC Chairman Ar. Peter Wong conducted a critique of the students' designs.

There was a range of design proposals – some more creative than others with several feasible prototypes in the mix. The general response from the mentors and lecturers was that given the short time-frame given to the students (the students worked on site 3 days out of the 7-day workshop); the students' proposals would benefit from a final review and touch up back in the studio.

The feedback received from the students was that the mental endeavour at the architectural workshop was more strenuous than the physical labour at the job-site.

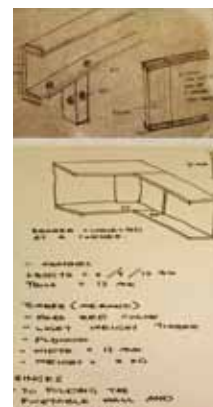
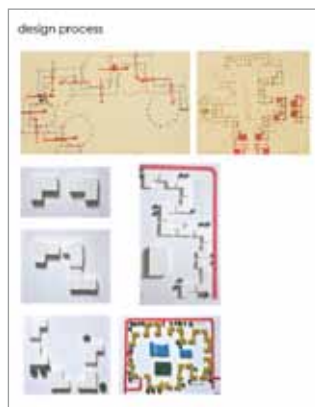
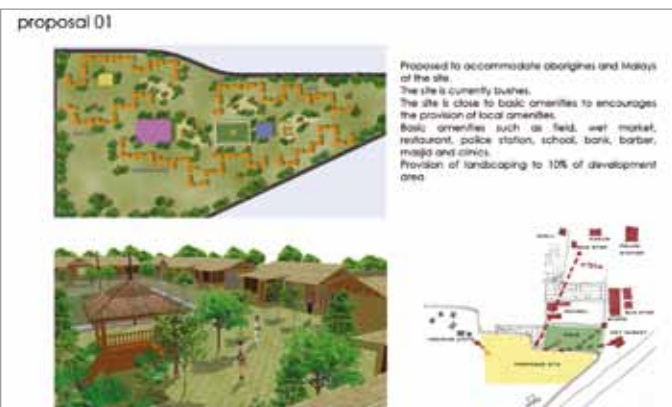
This is one of the Sarawak Chapter's initiatives in reaching out and connecting with local architecture students; PAMSC intends to conduct more of these design workshops in the near future.



Ar Sia listens as UPM students explain their concepts about new housing prototypes.

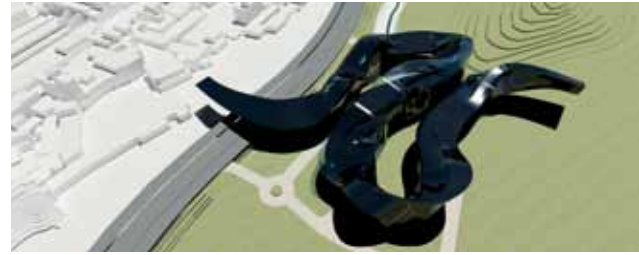


UPM-PAMSC student workshop in progress.

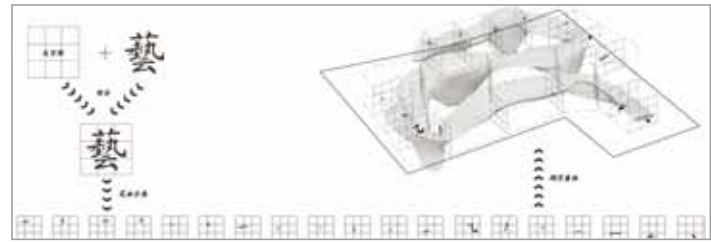


The forty students were divided into two groups to work on site and studio workshop on alternate days.

New Taipei City Museum of Art Conceptual Design International Competition



The competition, organized by the New Taipei City Government invites architects / designers / students from around the world to create a world class museum of the arts for New Taipei City. A team of 6 local architecture students decided to participate in this competition during their semester break, with the ambition of competing their design skills against Peter Boronski, Kengo Kuma and Federico Soriano Pelaez, who were the eventual First, Second and Third prize winners of the competition.



Calligraphy Displaced · Reinterpretation of Form

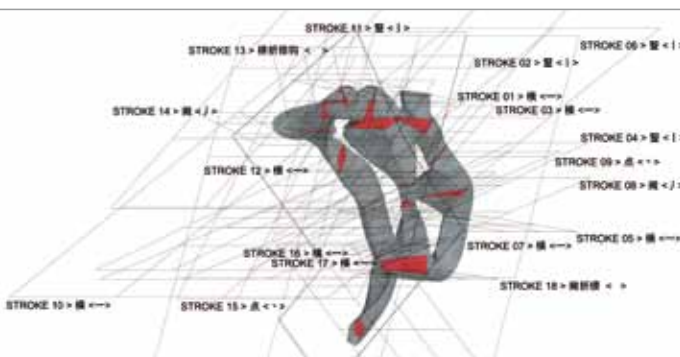
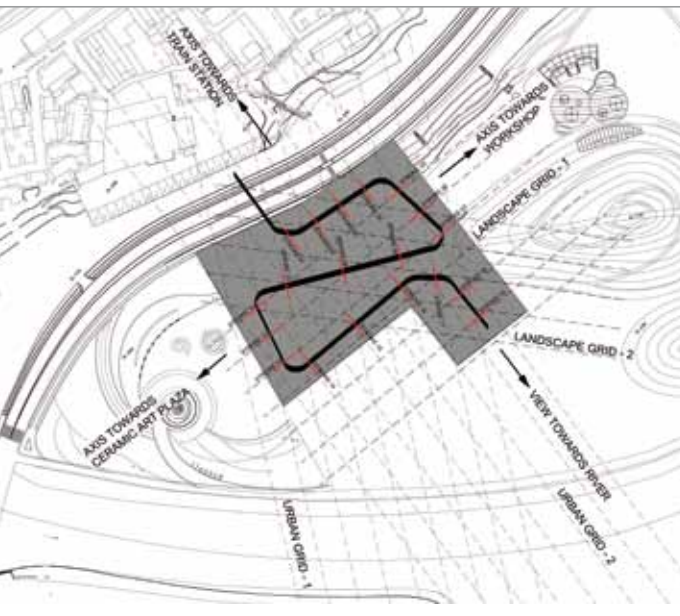
The design process was inspired by Chinese Calligraphy or Shūfǎ 書法, which literally means the 'way of writing'. It is also a form of abstraction and a type of visual arts that is expressed through stroke composition in 2-dimensional graphic. The design of New Taipei City Museum of Art was developed with a design process based on the displacement and re-configuration of Chinese character strokes to create experimental and unexpected architectural form.

Chinese characters '藝' (yì), which embodies a collective meaning of arts and craft, is the main character that was used for the overall formation of the building. Calligraphy Displaced – It involves the displacement of the characters '藝' (yì), through the displacement of its 21 strokes. Each stroke was displaced and configured on site based on grid systems that generated through site context, and an 3D operation command of 'Lofing' has been deployed to link the strokes for the creation of 'new form', three dimensionally. It allows each stroke to be reinterpreted with its own artistic expression through the creation of form and space. The expressive and dynamic form of the museum is played out through the displacement and reinterpretation process, and also as one simultaneous experience through this process, creating a continuous experience through building, landscape and the surrounding site.

The design process is experimental. The outcome provides possibility for further speculation and testing, particularly on the referential and symbolic meaning of 2-Dimensional Chinese characters and its definition in 3-Dimensional formation.

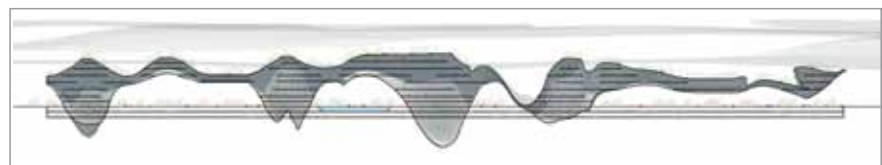
The competition attracted numerous entries worldwide including many renowned architects. This entry did not win a prize but the students were rewarded with a wealth of experience and an impressive project for their portfolio.

Text by Tay Tze Yong, as their part-time tutor in this competition.



Students Design Team:

1. Christy Tan Ik Chia
2. Jonathan Lee Hui Khiong
3. Chong Vui Lung
4. Welson Ng
5. Lau Chun Leong
6. Chang Chun Kiat



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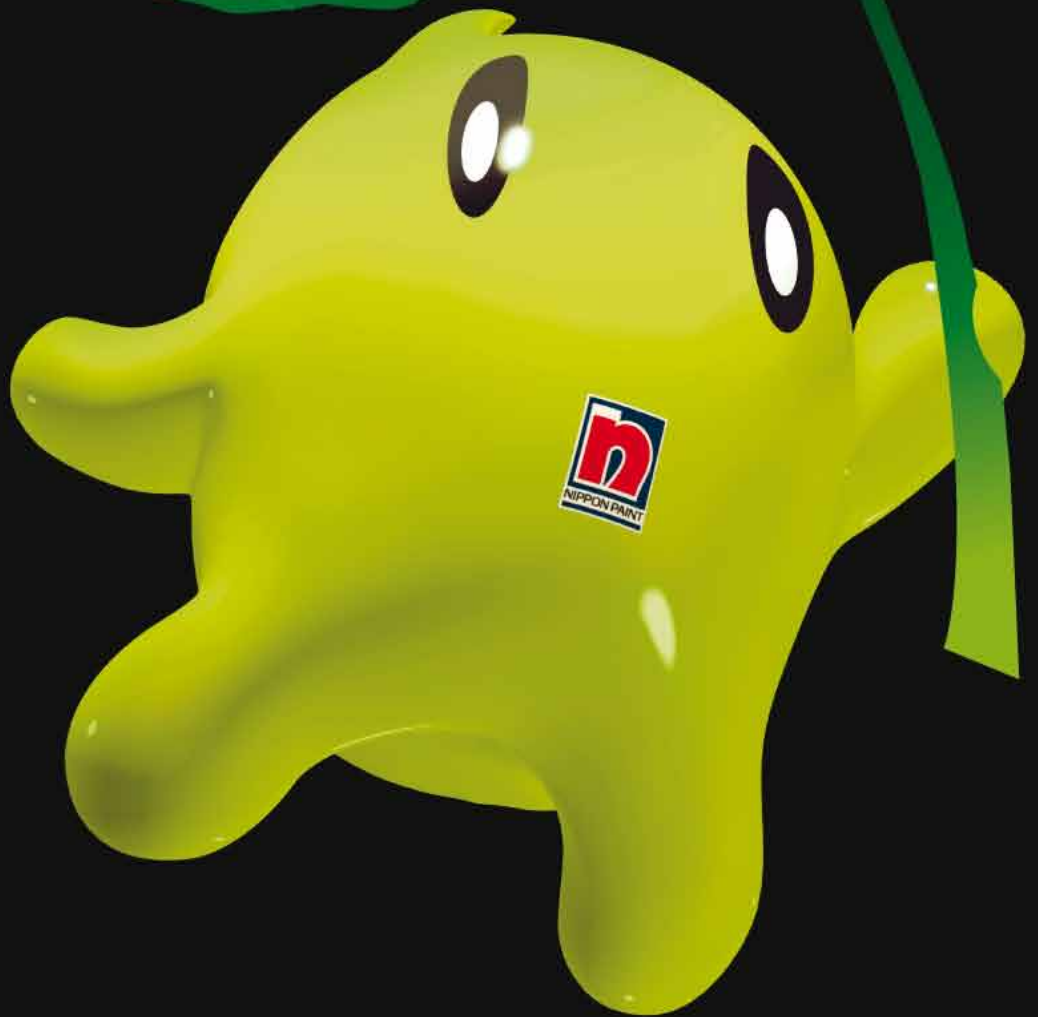
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