

Message from the Chairman



Greetings fellow Architects

As part of our effort to improve communication and interaction among fellow Architects, PAM(SC) has decided to revive the Newsletter starting with this 1st issue for 2004. This Newsletter is meant as an informal channel of communication between the Chapter and Members. We therefore welcome your views and comments, and also contributions in the form of articles or reviews. Features of your projects are also welcomed, so do make use of this opportunity to showcase your designs.

The main focus of the Committee this year is on the Building Trade Show 2004, our major event for the year. This will be a much bigger event compared to BTS 2003, with an expected total of 100 booths. The BTS 2004 will be followed again by a Gala Dinner which promises to be even more fun than last year, so watch out for it.

Another main focus is on CPD Seminars and events. For the benefit of outstation members and also for the convenience of members in Kuching, we have tried to group the CPD Events together within one or two days. This will help to reduce travelling expenses as well as time commitment.

Among other activities planned is the launching of the PAM(SC) Web Site. This Web Site is based on a Portal Concept and will bring together various resources under one banner - including Members' Listing, Building Industry Information, Product Directory, Building Regulations Database and so on. It will be an evolving site which will hopefully become more and more useful with time. The URL for the Web Site is www.pamsc.com and it will be launched at the end of April 2004.

The support from Members for PAM(SC) activities has been very encouraging for the past couple of years. The Committee hopes to receive the same level of support for the coming activities. Without your participation all the effort will be in vain.

Lastly, I wish all of you a productive and prosperous year ahead.

Ar. Hubert Kueh
Chairman
PAM(SC)

PAM(SC) Calendar of Activities

General Activities

19th March	Wine Tasting Cocktail 2004 Party hosted Waterhouse Wine and Books
End of April	Launching of PAM(SC) Web Site
17 to 20 June	Building Trade Show 2004 (1 CPD Point)
19 June	PAM(SC) Gala Dinner 2004

CPD Seminars scheduled for 2004

15 May Morning	Timber Construction – Ar. Jimmy Lim (2 CPD Pts)
15 May Afternoon	To be Confirmed (2 CPD Pts)
19 June Morning	IT in Architecture – Ar. Jasmeet Sidhu (2 CPD pts)
2 Oct Morning	Fire Safety and Prevention – Ar. Chong Lee Siong & Ar. Wee See Foong (2 CPD Pts)
2 Oct Afternoon	To be Confirmed (2 CPD Pts)

New Submission Procedures for MBKS

In the effort to streamline the Building Plan Submission Process, MBKS has agreed to implement new submission procedures after dialogue with the PAM(SC) Committee. The new procedures are as follows:

- 1) All Sets of Building Plans to be submitted to MBKS together with relevant submission forms and documents. The Plans will be endorsed by MBKS and MBKS will issue a cover letter for enclosure with the copies of drawings meant for Lands & Survey and BOMBA. Consultants will then be able to collect and send the plans to the relevant authorities directly.
 - 2) Consultants will need to bring their Company Stamp for acknowledgement when collecting plans for transmission to other authorities.
 - 3) Consultants are requested to assist the Council staff in the stamping of drawings during registration of building plans.
 - 4) The registration time is expected to be reduced to 1 hour with the above measures.
- In order to further speed up the process, the following measures will also be introduced:
- a) The Council's Comments shall be hand-written and photocopied instead of type-written
 - b) Building Plans already approved by Lands & Survey and/or BOMBA but with minor comments from Council will not be required to be sent back to the former authorities. (Consultant to discuss with City Architect on case to case basis if required)
 - c) All building plans are targeted to be approved within 2 submissions. Consultants are requested to check building plans thoroughly and ensure full compliance with requirements to avoid unnecessary delay.

Trivial Pursuit :

Who was the Architect for King Solomon's Temple ?

(Answer in the next issue)

PAM(SC) Committee 2003 - 2004



(From left: Ar. Ng Chee Wee, Ar. Bong Joon Hin, Ar. Hwong How Hin, Ar. David Tini Keen Hollis, Lau Chai Sing, Ar. Hubert Kueh (Chairman), Ar. David Ong, Ar. Kevin Wong, Ar. Desmond Kuek, Ar. Dominic Chuo, Ar. Peter Wong)

Chairman
Immediate Past Chairman
Deputy Chairman
Vice Chairman
Hon. Secretary
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Committee Members

Ar. Hubert Kueh Peng Yaw
Ar. Gabriel Wong Chan Ping
Ar. David Ong Yaw Hian
Ar. Ng Chee Wee
Ar. Kevin Wong Yil Sing
Ar. Peter Wong King Lai
Ar. Tay Ai Lin (Ms.)
Ar. Desmond Kuek Teck Hiong
Ar. David Tini Keen Hollis
Ar. Bong Joon Hin
Ar. Hwong How Hin
Ar. Dominic Chuo Kong Uh
Lau Chai Sing (Graduate Representative)

PAM(SC) Home of the Year Award 2004

PAM(SC) is introducing a "Home of the Year Award" to promote excellence in residential architecture. This Biennale Award for residential projects is open to all interested members of the Sarawak Chapter. The award is for projects completed between 1st January 2000 up to the present date. Closing date for entries is 31st May 2004, and there will be a submission fee of RM 200.00 per entry. The Awards will be presented during the Gala Dinner on 19th June 2004.

Details on the Award will be faxed out to all firms in the next one or two weeks.

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Architectural Musings

Welcome to the 1st Issue of our Newsletter for PAM (Sarawak Chapter) in 2004. We plan to publish future newsletters on a quarterly basis, so contributions from all are welcomed.

So much has happened in the past few years. We had the boom in turnkey contracts from the mid 90s to 2003. Then suddenly there is a dearth in turnkey projects, and so far there are few signs of major new conventional projects coming up. Where is the future direction for the building industry? One can only wonder.

Perhaps this lull in the pace of development is not all negative. Perhaps it gives us a breather to contemplate and reflect on the direction which Architecture in general has developed over the past few years. Is the frenetic pace at which turnkey projects are churned out really a good thing? Do we need more time to produce better and more well considered designs? Has quality in design taken a back seat due to the breakneck demand of getting projects delivered on time in a fast-track environment? These are all questions that each of us need to consider and resolve within our own context and realities of practice.

The way things are going, there seems to be a lack of dialogue and interaction between different approaches to projects and bigger issues in Architecture. We seem to have each fallen into our own comfortable niche. You mind your own business and I'll do likewise. We try not to cross each other's path. But what happened to the idealism in Architecture? What happened to the belief and conviction that Architecture can change the World? Are these all in the past now, to be forgotten and good riddance?

I think the overall view is perhaps not so pessimistic. I think there are creative sparks here and there, dormant seeds waiting to bloom under the right conditions. However, these may be fragile and need to be nurtured. It may be too much to hope for a wholesale renaissance in design. But we need to create the environment for some good ideas to take root and grow.

From the Editor,

Ar. Ng Chee Wee

BTS 2004 Update

No. of Booths Confirmed – 60

No. of Booths Targeted – 100