



E-Submission : Dialogue Session with Stakeholders

Reported by Ar. Chai Si Yong

On the 27th of August 2020, the Miri City Council (MCC) invited PAMSC, consultants and SHEDA to attend a dialogue session on the subject of e-Submission, which was initiated by Ministry of Local Government & Housing Sarawak (MLGH) under the Joint Technical Consultative Committee (JTCC).

This new eLA2 platform includes online submission for:

- Registration of Qualified Person (QP)
- Building Plan Submission
- Temporary Structure Permit
- Early Commencement of Works
- Occupancy Permit (OP)

MCC will be the first local council to adopt the e-Submission in line with their Smart City Initiatives in collaboration with SAINS. The dialogue session was chaired by Miri Councilor, Cr. Peter Chia and presentation of e-Submission system was headed by Mr. Timothy Then of SAINS.

PAMSC has had some experience in this matter as we were consulted in 2019, in the development of the eLA2 system particularly in matters related to building plan submission and approval. From this experience and from working closely with SAINS, PAMSC was able to contribute as follows:

- Registration of QP shall be centralised under MLGH (linked to eSPA or Sarawak Identity database) to avoid separate registration via local councils.
- Format of submission drawings should be in PDF only, which are compatible to many devices. CAD file will creates more technical issues. (plot-styles, layers, colours, external references & etc.)
- No signature & colouring on submission drawings is required until the drawings are approved for final endorsement.
- To consider online payment of submission fees (Sarawak-Pay). To consider a minimum fees to register the submission due to daily credit limit.
- KPI (no. of days) for each stage (OSC Clerk, technical checking, conveying & etc.) shall be clearly stated in the system. QP can check on the status 'live' and this is shared with client.



Overview of System Functions

- Qualified Submitting Person (QSP), the applicant
 - particular, profession history (professional board)
- Application and approval of Building Plans (BP),
 - new, amendment, renovation, building without OP
- Application of Temporary Structures, and
- Application of Early Commencement of work
 - location (Gis), uploads, fee, annotation and red lining, site inspection, calendaring
- Submission of Work on site (WOS)
 - Site setup, excavation, piling, concrete footers, etc
- Application for Occupation Certificate/Permit

www.sains.com.my

- Digital marking & comment on PDF drawings shall be allowed for both authority & consultants (in different colour)
- The system to allow distribution of selected drawings & documents to other authorities (Bomba, Land & Survey, DID & etc.) if required.

DATE: 27th Aug 2020 (Thursday)
TIME: 2:30pm
VENUE: Miri City Council & Zoom Meeting
CHAired BY: Cr. Peter Chia Chau Khiong
PAMSC: Ar. Jeffrey Phang, Ar. Yong Wan Lian & Ar. Chai Si Yong

PAMSC 2nd Committee Meeting

DATE: 27th Aug 2020 (Thursday)
 TIME: 5.30pm - 7.30pm (via ZOOM)

PAMSC 2nd Committee Meeting was held on 27th Aug 2020 via ZOOM chaired by Chairperson Ar. Ivy Jong who welcomed the newly appointed Past Chairmen to join the committee for this shortened 8-month term.

Key discussion points for the meeting include:

- Organising events and activities under the new norm.
- Proposals and budget by each sub-committee chairs.
- Transformation of PAMSC Design Forum (PDF) to 5@5 2020 webinar & new format of Intersection Newsletter into a fortnightly digital circular.



PAM Professional Practice Committee (PPC) Meeting

DATE: 10th Sept 2020 (Thursday)
 TIME: 5.00pm - 7.00pm (via ZOOM)

The 1st PAM Professional Practice Committee Meeting was held via Zoom chaired by Committee Chairman, Ar. Anthony Lee. Thanks to the convenience of tele-conferencing (after the MCO), PAM is now able to invite more participants from Chapters to join their committee meetings.

Ar. Anthony Lee, assisted by Ar. Husam, Ar. Au Tai Yeow & Ar. Zamri, divided the committee into 8 working groups as follows:

1. Practice Matters
2. Practice Bureau - PAM Meet the Public & Members Only
3. Practice Notes
4. Professional Fees - LAM as Stakeholders & SOMF
5. Professional Practice Forum
6. PAM Contract 2018 - Handbook
7. Government Liaison & other Public Agencies
8. Dealing with Construction Permits



PAMSC was represented by Ar. Ivy Jong & Ar. Chai Si Yong, who offered to assist in any tasks in relation to Practice matters in Sarawak.

5@5
De5IGN
2
FORUM
2020

MODERATOR:
Ar. Wee Hii Min

FREE ADMISSION
LAM CPD APPLIED

2 OCT - Ar. Wooi Lok Kuang (Wooi Architect, KL)

9 OCT - Rafael Pasaribu (Aboday, Jakarta)

16 OCT - Shin Chang (Mentahmatter Design, KL)

30 OCT - Liu Jia Kun (Jiakun Architect, China)

23 OCT - Lee Soon Yong (Little Giraffe Story House, KL)

25 min LECTURES + 20 min INTERVIEW + VIRTUAL TOUR

DESIGN FORUM 5@5 2020 is a series of online lectures that will be held from October 2020 onwards on 5 consecutive Fridays at 5:00pm (GMT+8)

INDUSTRY PARTNERS:

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY:

ARCHITECTURE EDUCATION 1.1

This is the first instalment of a series of articles based on our observations at design crits and workshops in local universities, written with the primary objective of promoting discourse amongst fellow architects (as employers) and the possible benefit to our student readers. The topics of our articles are loosely based on the sub-headings in the marking sheets.

SITE ANALYSIS

All students are required to conduct a site analysis when they receive their project brief. Sometimes this part of the assignment is carried out as group work, especially if the site is large or out of town. What we then see is that the task of preparing the analysis is divided into sections such as sun orientation, traffic, neighbouring built environment and so forth. Often these tasks are carried out by small groups and later re-compiled as part of the submission.

Therein lies the problem - that the students are doing the 'site analysis' are part of the submission because the school requires them to do so, so that marks can be given. Often this is just recording, without the analysis. The findings are not used as site forces to drive the brief nor mould the final outcome; the design scheme.

Note to students

It is important to take on the non-tangible aspects of a site as well as physical, this might be patterns of movement at different times of the day, its social history and the aspirations of the local population - this is especially true for life projects.

When I. M. Pei was offered the commission to reconstruct the Louvre Museum in Paris in 1983, he made several secretive trips to Paris (without telling anyone in his firm). The purpose of these visits was for him to determine the feasibility of the reconstruction project, which called for the re-design of the museum (its entrance, especially) and the addition of exhibition space.

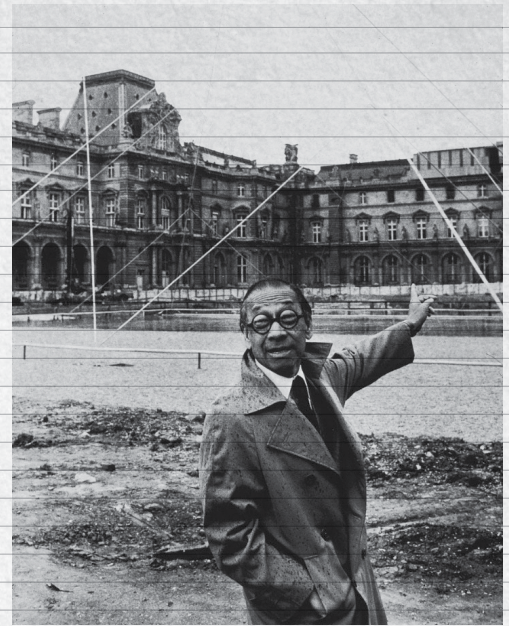
He spent these trips walking the neighbourhoods near the site where he observed the movement of people especially in the main courtyard (Cour Napoleon). This may have resulted in the opening up of the gateway in the north so that people can walk through the court on their way to the Rue de Rivoli (and the Metro). Pei did this to allow the city to meld with the realm of the museum; creating a crossroads of culture and public life.

Pei also understood that the enclosing wings of the Louvre were built gradually over time and that the new Louvre Pyramid would be a continuation of the Museum's rich history. This may have resulted in his decision to sink that entire visitors' lobby under the forecourt; an act of subservience perhaps. And though the pyramid is an imposing form, its sloping sides built in glass obscured very little of the existing buildings around the main court. In fact, the pyramid's sloping sides offer a perfect frame to view the French Renaissance facades from lobby below.

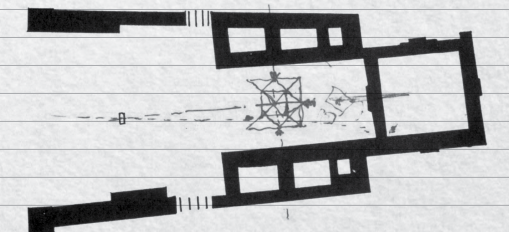
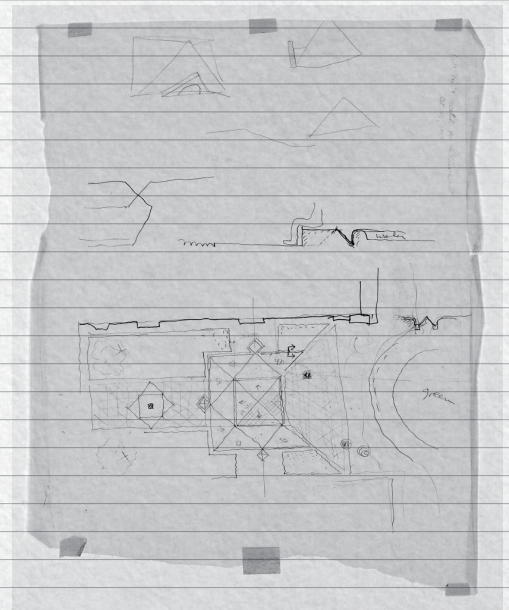
These are just a two of the site forces in play - one which is physical with the full weight of history while the other is transient like the echo of footsteps on a stone floor. Both are used to reinforce the narrative of the final design - together with many others too varied to list here.

Note to students

Watch I.M. Pei in 'First Person Singular'.



'We designed a wire frame structure which we had a crane pick up what would be the top of the pyramid so that Mr. Mitterrand could see the form of the pyramid'.



Initial design sketch of the Pyramid entrance. The dot to the left of the sketch is a folly; a smaller inverted pyramid with its apex in the underground lobby.

Closer to home, DNA's Masjid Wan Alwi is a good local example of how several site forces shaped and placed the buildings and spaces within the mosque complex.

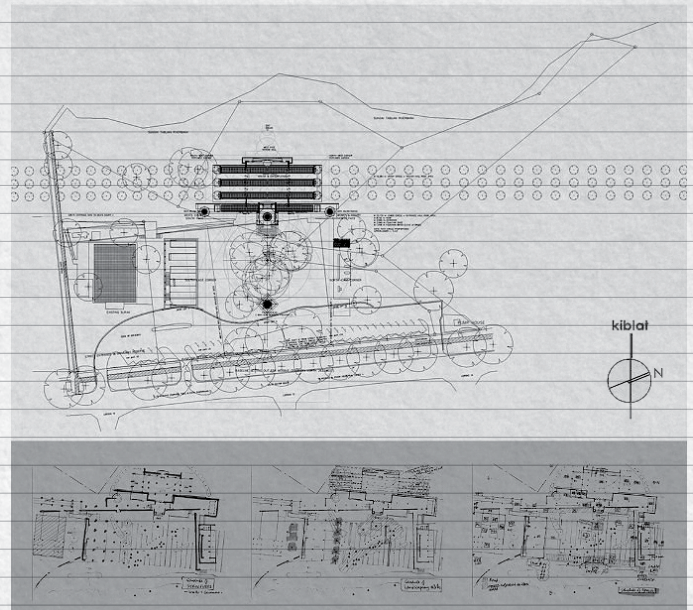
- The Kiblat determined the orientation of the prayer hall
- A grove of existing trees meant siting the buildings away from the street, giving the prayer hall a planted forecourt.
- The alignment of the street provided the angle for the enclosing garden wall
- An existing surau (converted into a new Tadika) was the starting point of the wall, and decided the areas for male and female ablutions.
- The river in front of the prayer hall reminded us to raise the building on stilts so that breezes will ventilate the internal spaces.

Note to students

When all the site forces line up in support of the scheme, it becomes very hard to dislodge the arrangement and positioning of the buildings and spaces. This is very important during design crit when tutors question the rationale behind your design, likewise for architects when clients need reassurance on the 'ideal' site layout plan.

Schools can guide students in this area of design by looking at prominent buildings, complexes and city and try to de-construct the thinking behind its placement, orientation and its form. This is a good event that can take place at the beginning of the semester, as an eye-opener for the uninitiated and a refresher for the uninspired.

Students must visit the site at different times of the day, and spend some time there to take notes instead of photographs. Sketching cross sections of streets is a good way of recording the terrain, changes in levels and sight lines. If it is a site in an unfamiliar city or town, talk to the local and ask them questions - what do people there do on the weekends? what is a favourite pastime?



Masjid Wan Alwi @ Tabuan Jaya, Kuching.

Liu Jia Kun, the architect for Chengdu's West Village said this of the locals - if there is one thing that the locals enjoy more than drinking tea and chatting with friends, it is drinking tea and chatting with friends in the shade of tall bamboo. The resulting project left much of the street untouched and extended their reach overhead in a series of looped paths, ramps and steps prolonging the journey and increasing the opportunities of meeting friends.

To conclude, the site analysis must be carried out as a research project, to seek catalysts that would trigger the onset of the design process, and be constantly reminded that some of the strongest site forces are unseen. Like a person, one needs to spend time with the site to know it, and preferably on your own, not in a group.

by Min



Masjid Wan Alwi viewed from the road.

Introducing Amanda Lau

- our new Chair of Education, Graduates and BIM Subcommittee 2020-2021



My university days.

In an attempt to introduce our hardworking PAMSC committee members - we will be conducting a series of interviews with them and sharing them with our readers over the next few issues.

I: Where did you go to high school?

A: I went to Kolej DPAH Abdillah.

I: Tell us a little about your university experience.

A: I went to UKM for my degree in Bachelor of Science Architecture and Deakin University for my master's degree in Master of Architecture. My university experience was very satisfying and rewarding. I managed to experience and learn from two different cultures and implement them.

I: What you enjoyed during the uni day?

A: I enjoyed meeting new people from all kinds of backgrounds. I learnt about their heritage and how it influenced their designs and creative process. I also loved travelling during my uni days. Through that I think I managed to explore my creativity too and implement them in my work.

I: What kind of projects are you working on now?

A: Mostly housing development. (Landed, Townhouse and Apartments)

I: What kind of projects do you enjoy working on?

A: Residential, interior design mostly.

I: Would you like to feature one of them here?

A: Yes, sure.

I: Do you think that you have a good work-life balance?

A: Yes. Although work is demanding, I still make time for my family and friends.

I: What do you do outside of work?

A: I love travelling. Every country have their own charm and I would like to experience them.

I: How does your family support you with your work?

A: My family gave me their unwavering support and that motivated me to be the best I can be. They give me freedom to explore whatever I want even when they don't necessarily agree with it.

I: Who are the architects who most influence your work?

A: I love VTN architects, Yodezeen, Ken Yeang, Aidea and many more.

I: Do you have pets?

A: Yes. I have two pets named Thor and Loki.

I: Do you do the interior design for your projects?

A: Yes. I am very hands on for all my projects. I love the whole process of creating and designing something from scratch.

I: How big is your office/studio/company?

A: I am currently working with few young designers, who are also art & design enthusiasts.



Thor and Loki.



ID Project - Wonderboom @ Green Height Mall.



ID Project - Ms Yu Restaurant @ Saradise.



Residential @ Kempas.

Herman Hertzberger: letter to a young architect

17 SEPTEMBER 2020 BY HERMAN HERTZBERGER LETTERS TO A YOUNG ARCHITECT

Dear colleague,

The world is waiting for a new generation of architects, ready for a break, and tired of this rat race for money and success. Tired of all those breathtaking acrobatic heaven-high efforts, of all that architecture on steroids, eager to please only successful, rich, glamorous people. It is time to return to basic values.

With our confusing crisis, now or never it is the moment to step down to the ground floor of life and its basic grammar instead of blindly following the formal language of what we consider architecture today. The present crisis shows us the desperate efforts of people to get together and, once and for all, the need for social contact is becoming clear. We have learned how architectural organisations systematically neglected social cohesion and conditions for belonging in favour of serving and even stimulating individualism. Just look at the endless galleries, staircases, corridors, measured simply for circulation with not one square metre dedicated to meeting each other. Buildings as separate units, merely like storage boxes chopped up into floors and separating walls; devices to protect us from each other. Lots of green also, but what happened to the streets that have traditionally kept the city together, providing room for belonging? We need streets as room for children to play near the front doors of their homes and also for neighbours to meet. See how, since public places have been in lockdown, people have congregated around tables outside, adopting a living room quality so domesticating the public realm.

'We should consider buildings more as instruments, open to different tasks at different times'

Instead of designing with exclusively specific purposes in mind we should also include space for alternative interpretations, which are generated by spontaneous situations. Every horizontal plane may become a table under certain circumstances but whether we call it a table is dependent on its

context. Or take a violin, for sure to produce sound, hopefully leading to music, but the genre is free, as well as the sound quality which depends on the ability and mood of the player more than the quality of the instrument. We plea for more freedom and a less nailed-down functional approach. Maybe we should consider buildings more as instruments, open to different tasks at different times.

My plea is that you succeed in getting away from all our bad habits and that you may realise that being successful does not mean that you are on the right track of doing what might be necessary for the world of today. An architect is supposed to provide for better conditions, for everybody, and I hope that you may have an eye for the extraordinary quality of ordinary things, such as shoes that fit you and serve you while walking. I suggest you look for basics, as long as it accommodates.

Good luck,
Herman Hertzberger
Amsterdam
27 May 2020



Streets are rooms for neighbours to meet: photograph taken by Herman Hertzberger in Paris in the 1970s. Today, tables are allowed to spill onto pavements and roads in Paris, in order to maintain rules of social distancing.

* This article was extracted from www.architecturalreview.com

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