

# FLASH<sup>3</sup>

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*News+FLASH is the digital offspring of INTERSECTION. It is published digitally each fortnight for the foreseeable future, until we run out of ideas, articles or money.*



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VIRTUAL TOUR: 1/5 WOOL OK KUANG**  
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YeYuan House - Photo by Pixelaw Photography

## 廁所大不同

殊尾河童/著 林啟碧·蔡明玲/譯

「廁所，每家都差不多？」在《週刊文學》的連載開始前，朋友擔心地問。「沒問題啦，因為目標不在珍貴的廁所。應該說，重點不在廁所，而是人。肯秀出平常少見的部份，願意坦率暢談的人，如果是名人，那更好。當然採訪前不會先提這些囉。我想，從每個人身上看到的態度都會不一樣。最後的結果呢，就是人、人、人適合出的「廁所素描」，如果可以達成的話就好了……」氣勢磅磅地直往後開跑了。結果接下來的一整年沒有絲毫喘息機會，直往後開跑。

**3** 窺看桃花村（系列一）  
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**RETROSPECTIVE**  
Amazing Race, Sibiu 2017 - Pg 7



# Pusat Kebajikan Datuk Amar Hajah Juma'ani

Project by HR Lo Architect



A feature wall was designed to segregate the land into public and private zones, so that every inch of the land within the private zone can be utilised where the walls are removed and/or punctured. Thus, it makes a Big Room with compartments in between.



## DESIGN STATEMENT

### Organization Background

Pusat Kebajikan Datuk Amar Hajah Juma'ani is a building for Pertubuhan Pemulihan dalam Komuniti (PDK) Sri Satok; a training centre for persons with disabilities (OKU). It was established in July 2015 and aimed to provide the best service and utilities for the community with special needs.

### Understand the Brief

We were appointed by a pre-cast concrete builder to complete the project in 4 months, with a very tight budget.

### The Wall: Outside-In

The 0.35-acre site is located under the Satok Bridge fronting the scenic Sarawak River and adjacent to a very busy Petrol Filling Station. The space available for the building was very limited after compliance of setback requirements.

### Million-dollar Sarawak River View

We capitalised on the site's proximity to the Sarawak River, instead of designing an enclosed building with specially designed windows to frame the views. We chose to remove all the walls so the people can flirt with the breeze from the river and enjoy panoramic scenes.

### Cross Ventilation

The depth of all the rooms is limited to 4 metres with large openings on both walls for optimal cross ventilation. All rooms are equipped with ceiling fans for mechanical cooling and air-conditioning is installed only for occasional usage. With this in place, the community centre will have lower utility bills to pay.

### Ramp Vs Lift

Due to the limited site area, we needed a second storey to accommodate all the spaces, and a ramp was chosen over a lift for lower operating costs in the future. Although a ramp takes up more space, it is the right decision for this NGO-run facility; furthermore it has become one of the main features of this building, and a reminder to the visitors about the needs of the disabled.

The Ramp is also designed as a gallery space; A Walk to Remember, which displays children's artwork on special occasions. On the normal days, the ramp is used as a place for exercise and physiotherapy for both the young and old.

Therefore, it comes as no surprise that visitors to the centre prefer to travel between floors by ramp instead of stairs because walking up the ramp has much more to offer to their senses: the view, the breeze and the occasional art exhibition.

Architect: HR LO Architect  
C&S: P.E. Konsultant  
Client: Permodalan Satok Berhad  
End User: PDK Sri Satok  
Builder: Urbanpro Development Sdn. Bhd.  
Year Completed: Feb 2019



### Outdoor Vs Indoor - A Canvas, not an ArtWork

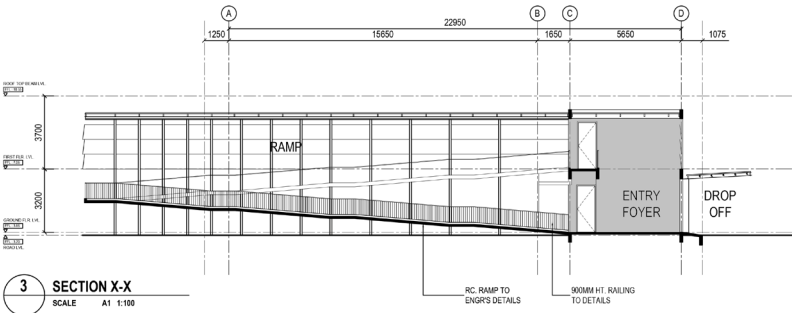
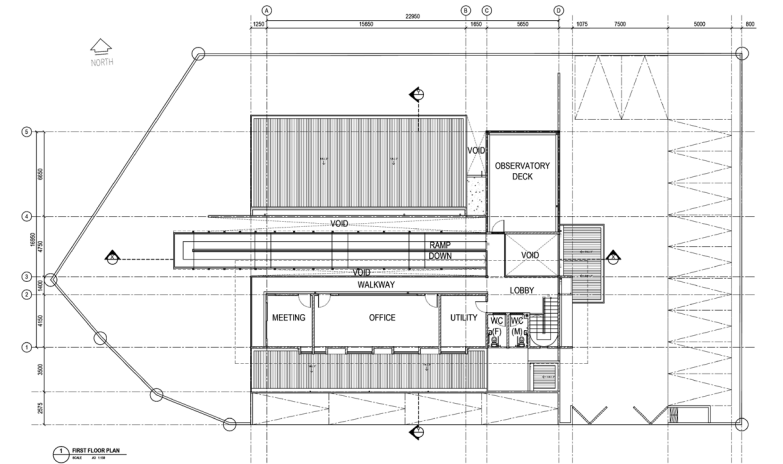
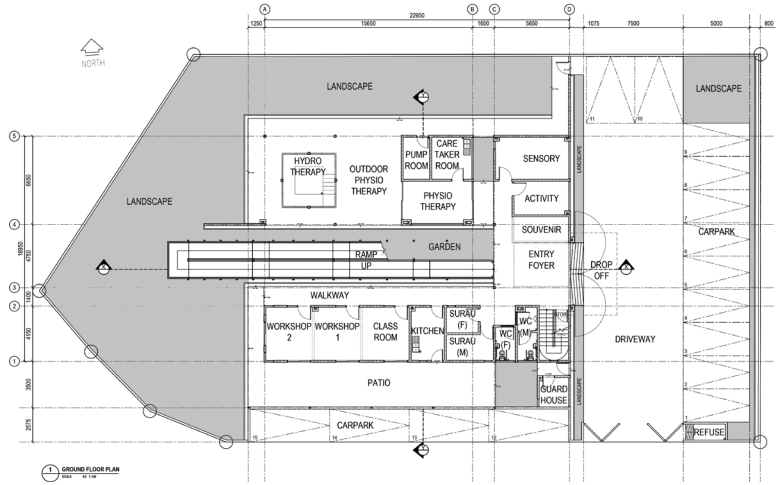
Only rooms with specific functions such as the sensory room, offices, etc are built with walls; all other spaces are open-plan and often linked to outdoor spaces. There are no fancy architectural finishes, it is a blank canvas, the children are the artists and the end-user who would articulate the space as they see fit.

### The Event Hall as Car Parking

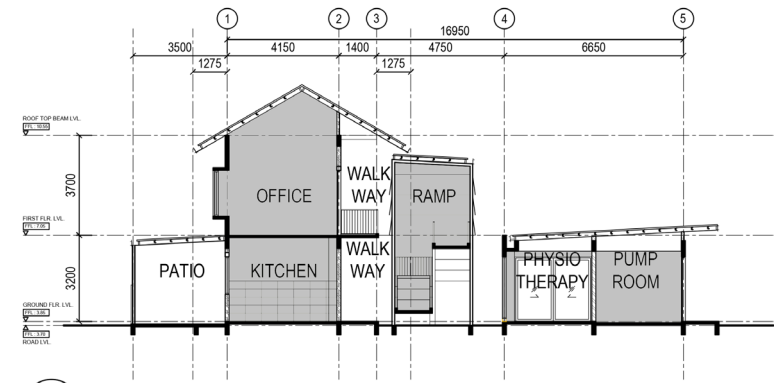
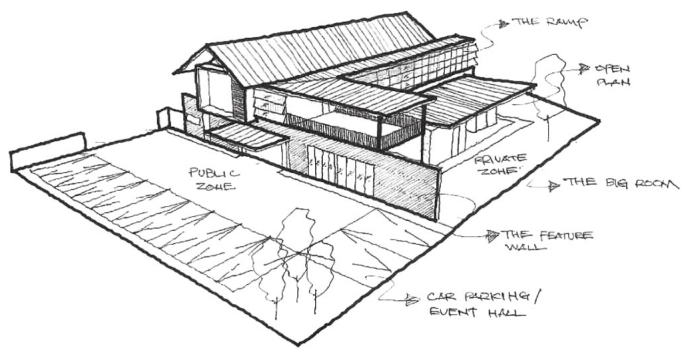
Car Parking and driveways are usually designed as negative space in the planning, but here they are designed with another purpose – to be converted into an Event Hall with the simple introduction of tents and marquees.

### Speed Vs Quality

The short construction period of three months (during the monsoon season) resulted in the use of prefabricated structural components – this meant that some of our intended details had to be changed and simplified. There were other details which we had to sacrifice, such as the welded steel roof structure for bolted steel frame which was constructed off-site. All in all, it was still a rewarding experience which equipped me for future projects.



3 SECTION X-X  
SCALE A1 1:100



1 SECTION Y-Y  
SCALE A1 1:100

# Q&A with Freddie HR Lo

F : FLASH, L : Freddie Lo



**F :** *Tell us a little about yourself.*

**L :** I graduated from USM in 2011, after completing my Parts 1 & 2, I then worked at Design Network Architects (DNA) from year 2011 to 2014 as a graduate architect. In 2014, I left Kuching to work as a project architect for Country Garden Forest City, Danga Bay and Central Park in Johor Bahru with Akipraktis Architect, in their branch office.

In 2020, I set up my own practice; HR Lo Architect back in my home town.

**F :** *You left Kuching to work in JB, what was the main objective other than better money?*

**L :** I saw it as a great opportunity to broaden my experience in my youth; to develop my career and add value to what I do.

**F :** *And then you returned to Kuching this year (in the midst of the MCO) - what drew you home?*

**L :** Kuching is still my favorite place and well, I believe that with crisis comes opportunity.

**F :** *What are your plans, practice - wise?*

**L :** Starting small at the moment. I wish to eventually contribute to the local architecture scene with my experience in West Malaysia.

**F :** *There are many young architects like yourself working outside Sarawak; in Singapore, KL and Penang - what is your advice to them?*

**L :** I think it totally depends on where you want to settle down for your career in the future. And it is never too early to think about it.

Also, think of what you are doing as a career, not just your job. Then it will be less complaints but more self-growth.

## SATS ONLINE LECTURE AND VIRTUAL TOUR: 1/5 WOOLI LOK KUANG @1.10.2020

Last December, when we were looking forward to social discourse instead of social distancing, the PAMSC planned for the second installment of the **PAMSC Design Festival (PDF)** which included design lectures, site visits to local buildings of significance, with exhibitions of products and ideas.

This August, PAMSC decided to change the Design Festival into an online format.

We held our first online lecture last Friday with **Ar. Wooi Lok Kuang**, award-winning architect of refined and well-crafted private homes. I was accompanied by **Ar. Mei Chee Seong** from **aLM Architects**, Penang as a moderator. Ar. Wooi was caught a little off-guard during our rehearsal when we asked him about the virtual tour; he was expecting to sit and talk. No, we explained, we need you to get up and walk – and he graciously consented. We explained that since we are not able to conduct the original site visits, the virtual tour would be its substitute.

Wooi used several of his houses as well as a visitor's centre to explain how he begins a project: by visiting the site, and listening to the client (and the other occupants of the house) for their dreams, their desires and memories of visits to grandmother's houses in the kampong. Wooi also talked about how the tenets of vernacular architecture influence the way he designs spaces to relate to the human scale.

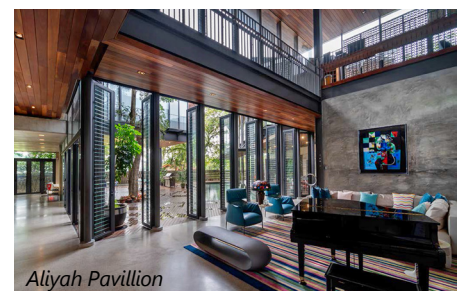
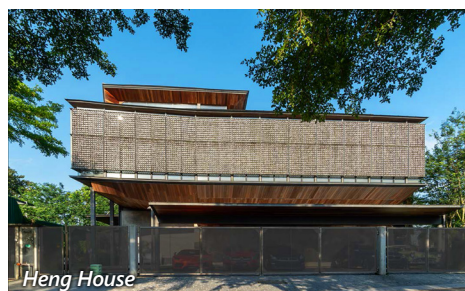
Wooi is intent in refining his craft and seems to express a reluctance to try out other building scales and typologies. He is also an educator, and participates in many design crits at local universities. Even so, he stresses that he does not consciously tailor his work with the aim to educate about vernacular or tropical architecture. The learning-teaching appears to be a fruitful byproduct of his work.

After the Q&A session, Wooi took the audience on a guided tour of his house, with little anecdotes about its construction, its extension, his family life, and his dogs. The lecture was not all strictly architecture and design – instead, it offered a very down to earth point of view of how our craft is honed and executed. The lecture was broadcast live on Facebook, where you can still view it if you missed the live event.

This coming Friday (9.10.2020) we have Architect **Rafael David** from **ABODAY** in Jakarta, who will speak about the "architecture of place" from his studio, after which he plans to take the audience on a tour of his newly completed **Aquantis Clubhouse**.

We record our thanks to our sponsors, in particular **iMetal** and **GarisPXL.CO** for their excellent online coordination of the event.

*For information about registration, please visit our website or call PAMSC.*





到了七十年代，终于有公共厕所，但却分成两类：高脚式有上锁和排列式没上锁，都是由附近住着的几户人家所合资建造的。两类公共厕所都远离居民的房子，以免污染水源（井水）。厕所还是建在河边或湖边，以让粪便可以顺着河水冲走或直接排进湖里。当时马来西亚甘榜的厕所大概都是这样的：建在河或湖边，高脚式，距离河面至少三米，而距离两米以外，由独木桥衔接起来。材料都是木板墙，砂砾屋顶和木门，屋顶与木板墙有一尺的通风间，这种设计能使厕所内的污秽之气迅速排出。七十年代的厕所还没有提供自来水，大家都是从自己家里提水（井水）去冲洗，更别说卫生纸了。任何人要用厕所都必须向搭建这座厕所的主人讨锁匙，而且每次借用都自动付费，大概一两毛钱吧。

到了八十年代，原有的公共厕所设施提升了，门口处也有水管衔接水槽里的雨水来冲洗，方便多了。门旁绑着一个小桶供随意付费（可能是用于保养维修费），也有水桶，可是卫生纸还是得自备。

## ‘如厕’的经验

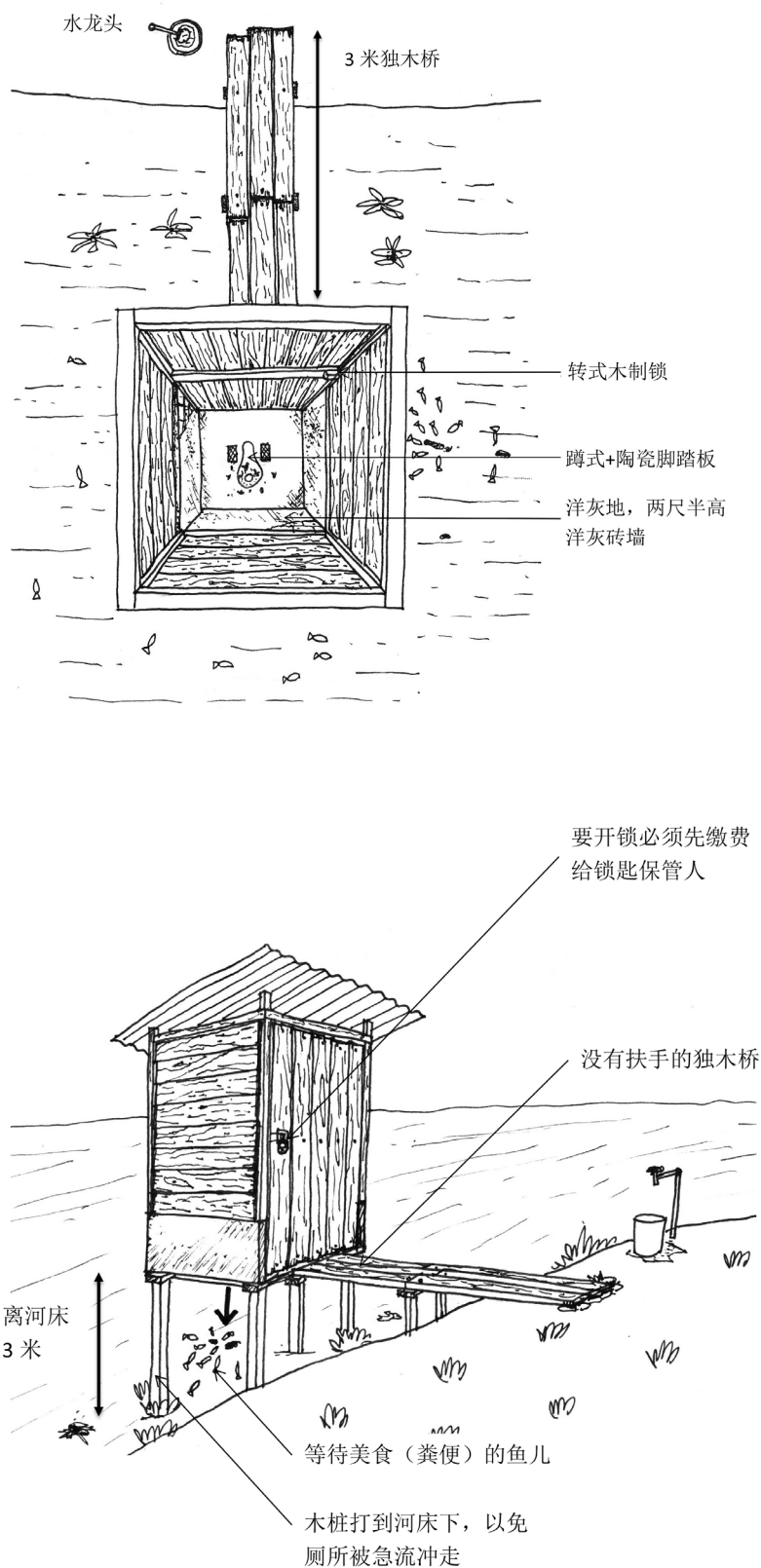
还记得小时候一有便意就懊恼，光顾‘屎坑’对我来说真的是难如登天。一手要提挺重的水桶，另一只手拿卫生纸，要讨锁匙，还要翻山越岭，然后还得强忍着跑着那感觉像是一公里之外的厕所（越急就感觉越远）。到了还要求神拜佛没有人用（因为一间厕所同时由两到三家人保管锁匙），如果被用着了就有两个选择：再跑到更远的排列式厕所（没上锁的）或到附近就地解决，然后找树枝挖个坑，再把排泄物推进坑里再用沙堆埋。

厕所的整体构造看起来不是很坚固，每当人有三急，不管三七二十一，都得踏过摇摇欲坠而发出吱吱呀呀声音的独木桥，如果有幸厕所没人用，还是来得及打开门锁，再加上还没有拉在裤子里，那么第一关就算闯过了。进到厕所里面，‘屎坑’的感觉就呈现无疑，蹲式的，两边有脚踏板，从‘坑’往下看能够直视底部，有时墙壁会有排泄物擦过的痕迹，应该是有人忘了带卫生纸而发‘粪’图强的杰作。如厕时一定要捏着鼻子，还要对准那个坑，有时苍蝇会从坑里飞出来，四周也会有屎虫的出没。虽然臭，最迫不及待的是，当‘扑通’一声，立刻往‘坑’里看，就会发现一群的鱼儿争先恐后的抢吃，这可是如厕的最大乐趣！

这厕所的设计与定位是有实际性的考量。比如距离河面的高度至少有三米，这距离是为了避免秽物反溅到屁股。小时候，这三米距离则是让我胆怯的原因，想象自己一不小心叉错了脚，掉了下去，不知会被鱼儿还是被粪便给吞没了。然而这两个可能性都不会发生，因为这些厕所都会建得离岸至少有三米的距离，都是考量到秽物可以自然落下河内。只是偶尔当遇到了河水退潮时，堆积的许多粪便，才会臭气熏天。可以想象，到了晚上，如果住在这里的人要上大号，一定很惊险。难道爸爸说的‘茅厕里点灯’——照屎（找死）这金句是这样来的吗？

后来，因为这难忘又可贵的经验，让我在自己的家后院建造了如同茅厕般的厕所（不在河边），一间独立式的，远离屋子主墙，没洗手盆，屋顶与墙壁有通风间，有个天井让雨水溅入，让阳光渗入。这厕所即有实际性考量，也让不少人能够怀念以往的如厕经验，尤其是我爸爸。建成就，果然让他振奋无比，掀起无穷的回忆，每次从吉隆坡来访，一定一人独霸这别有一番风味的厕所，那不就是证明了我的设计成功啦！

八十年代的河边厕所



# AMAZING RACE, SIBU 2017

In October 2017, PAMSC collaborated with UCTS (University College of Technology, Sarawak) who offered the use of the school's largest lecture theatre for our Public Design Lecture series. The new UCTS campus was an excellent venue for this event and the lectures were free of charge.

Our invited keynote **BASIC DESIGN WORKSHOP** is two brothers, *Chia Shi Chee* and *Chia Shi Chen* from Batu Pahat. Details of their talk can be found in our PAMSC website, as can be our guest lecturers; *David Nee*, *Ms Wong Lin Sze* and *IntoDesign LAB*.

About 300 people attended the lecture; a quick survey showed that most were students from UCTS and Kolej Laila Taib with a handful of local practitioners. As a way to capitalise on the event, we decided to hold a 24-hour design workshop for a number of the students who attended, and the speakers would be the workshop leaders. It was a way for the students to interact with external architects.

As a way to give the Chia brothers a quick but comprehensive tour of Sibu, we decided to conduct the workshop in an 'Amazing Race' format.



9pm Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Oct  
Design briefing and team selection.

**Presentation on site Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> Oct**  
The teams selected their sites and posted them to the jury via a chat group. Location maps and time for the presentation the following day was decided. The following were the sites for the urban intervention projects:

- 11:00a.m. Corner of Blacksmith Road.
- 11:45a.m. Forecourt of the Sibu Heritage Centre.
- 12:30p.m. TiongHua Road Market
- 1:15p.m. Sibu Night Market @ Butterfly Garden.
- 2:00p.m. Water Pump Station near TuaPekKong.
- 2:45p.m. Rejang Park Cinema/Shopping Centre.

After the presentation on site, the teams were required to submit a short video describing their scheme. This submission is worth 30% of the score. They are given one week to consolidate and submit their schematic design for the remaining 70% of the score.



This event can be viewed on YOUTUBE, look for PAMSC PDLs 2.3 highlight.

## PARTNERS

