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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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## Gully Creek Urban Dwellings

CC Chan Architect  
(now operates in Perth as Chalmers and Co Design)

### ARCHITECT'S STATEMENT

Our client had purchased a magnificent site close to Kuching City. It was elevated, planted with many mature trees, and surrounded by a rainforest in a natural gully. A creek ran through the gully collecting the water from the hillside behind the site. A previous house had been demolished so there was a clearing roughly in the centre of the property.

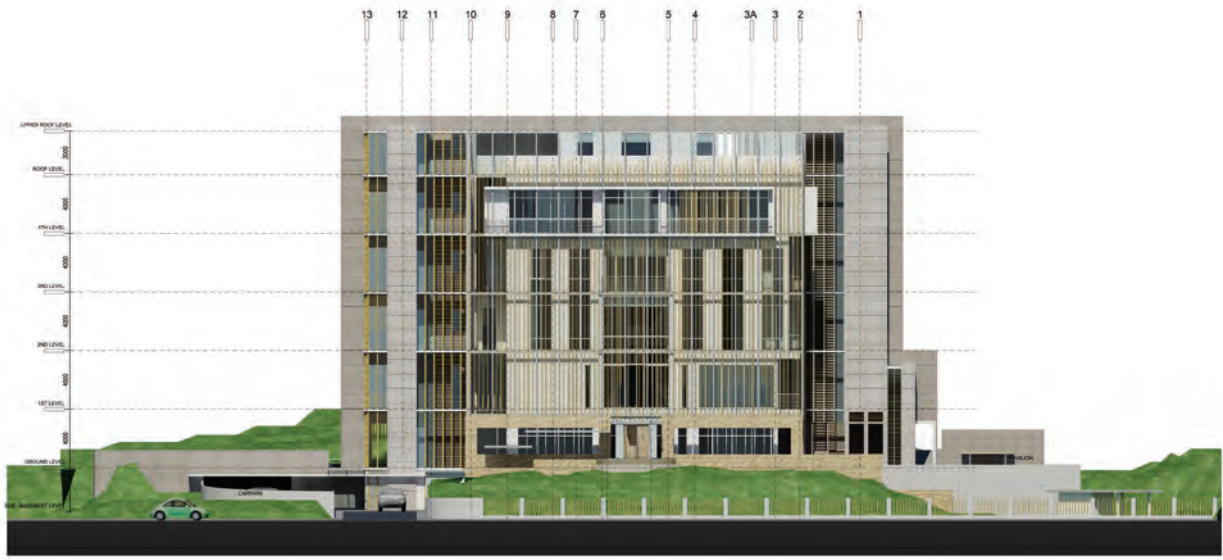
The proposal was for 4 dwellings to be built for 4 related families. At least 2 of the families contained 3 generations. The advantages of the 4 families living together meant cross generational help and the ability to share facilities such as a pool and gym, as well as a shared unified landscape, which may not have been possible with individual landed detached houses.

The desire to keep as many trees as possible as well as the natural gully with a creek on the site, led to the proposal of a single 5-storey building, with one unit per floor (the penthouse unit has 2 floors); rather than 4 separate houses. Shared facilities such as a gym and BBQ area could be located within a roof garden while the swimming pool was on the ground floor cantilevering over the gully. This kept the building footprint small and within the previously cleared area of the site.

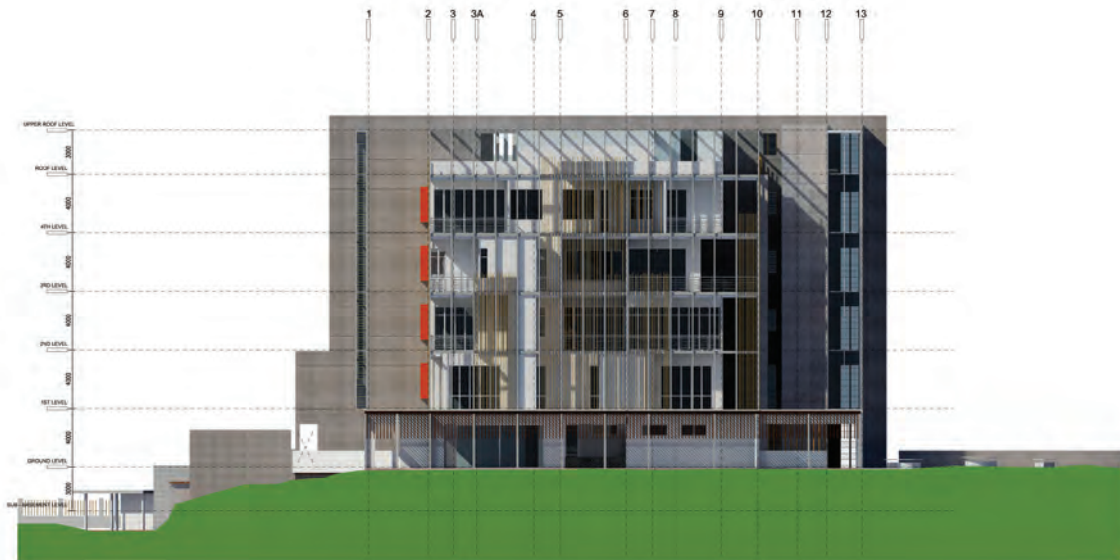


Architect : CC Chan Architect  
(now operates in Perth as Chalmers and Co Design)  
Landscape Designer : Ecoscape Landscape and Integral Design  
Structural Engineer : Fozdar Sdn Bhd.





Front Elevation



Back Elevation



To provide as much landscaping as possible, the driveway and car parking were designed as a sub-basement covered by a grassy berm; a perfect place for kids to play. This also had the added advantage of eliminating a steep driveway while allowing a long lay-by for residents' cars to wait. The walls, on either side of the driveway, acts as a transition between the busy road to the quieter circular forecourt.

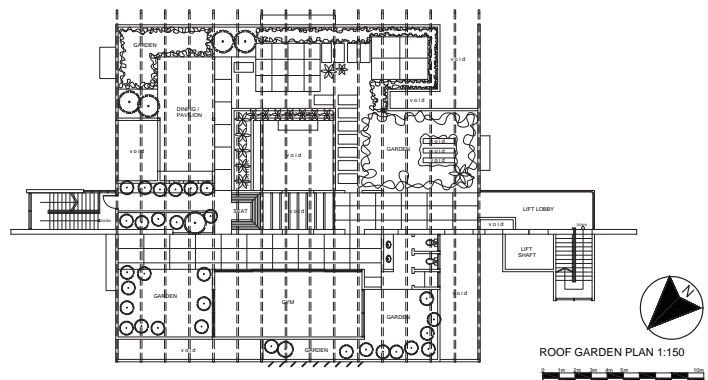
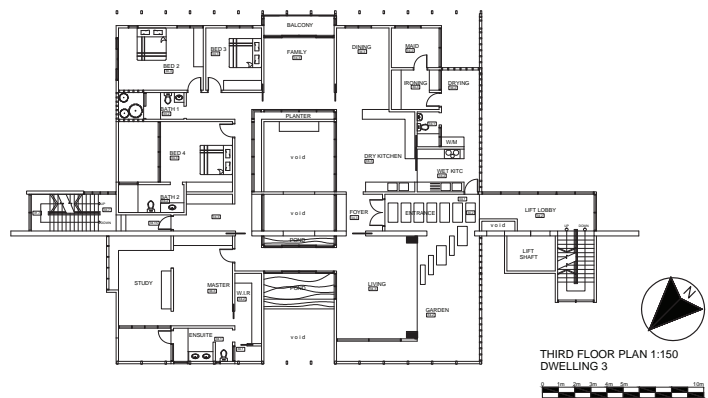
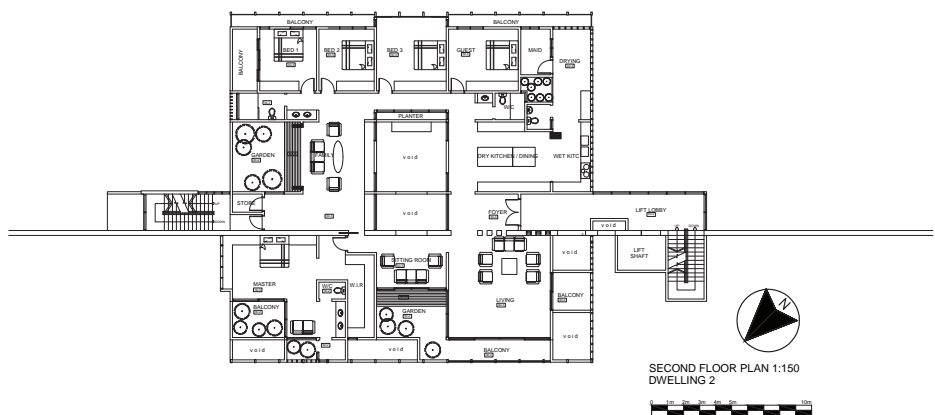
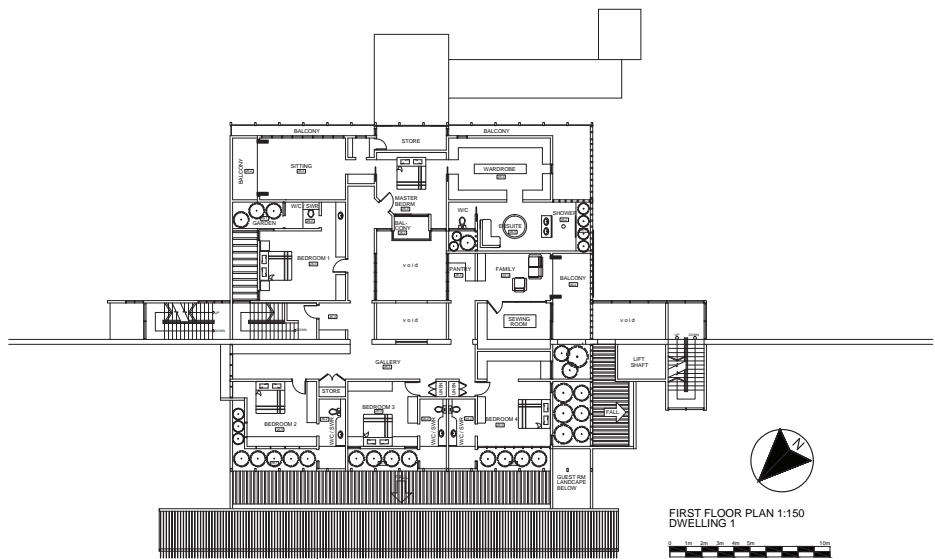
Although each Sky Villa was individually designed, they were linked by common design principles. Broad sweeping balconies to capture the expansive views and to reduce glare. The balconies created overhangs and transition spaces to shelter from the tropical rain. Large door openings allowed cross ventilation to reduce reliance on air conditioning. Use of vegetation, screens and water for shading and cooling of each unit.

The layout was customised for each family and the units varied in size from 4 to 7 bedrooms. Unusually, the double storey penthouse unit was located on the ground floor to give direct access to the swimming pool. It also has a direct entrance from the driveway with a pond opposite the main door. The kitchen and studio, at the rear open onto a loggia and a paved back courtyard with an alfresco and BBQ area.

The multistorey design meant that the customisation had to fit within a standard structural framework, which is different to a normal detached house. A 9-square plan was adopted with the central square left as a void on the upper floors and an open landscaped courtyard on the ground. This void increased the cross ventilation by creating an air well that allows for air movement and internal views. Planter boxes on the upper floors turn the void into a living green space.

The outer layer of screens unifies the elevation of the building into a single unit, as the design of each floor is different. Encasing the entire facade with screens allows the building to blend with the existing forested environment. These screens provide privacy, sun shading (which will reduce the environmental impact of the building) and are aesthetically pleasing, as the rhythm of the slender columns mimics the tall forest trees. At night, strategic lighting behind the screen will cause the building to glow like a lantern in the rainforest.

The nature of the site and its potential to create an exceptional living environment of landscaped gardens against a backdrop of natural forest trees was the major influence on the site layout. From this desire was born a five and a half storey Urban Dwelling containing 4 individually designed Sky Villas which minimally impact the forested site and the natural creek, and provide a safe haven for 4 related families to reside, close to Kuching City.



END





## Hawthorn House

Suburb of Hawthorn, Melbourne  
*Teo and Perperis Architects*

### ARCHITECT'S STATEMENT

*Written by Ethan Sim and Cheng Teo*

Teo and Perperis Architects were engaged to design an extension to a family home on the leafy Melbourne suburb of Hawthorn.

The original house was built around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century in a typical Melbourne Federation style. We were commissioned to design an extension to the rear of the original house in a rather unique modern style with flat roof and shingle walls. The shingles added a wonderful texture to the original house.

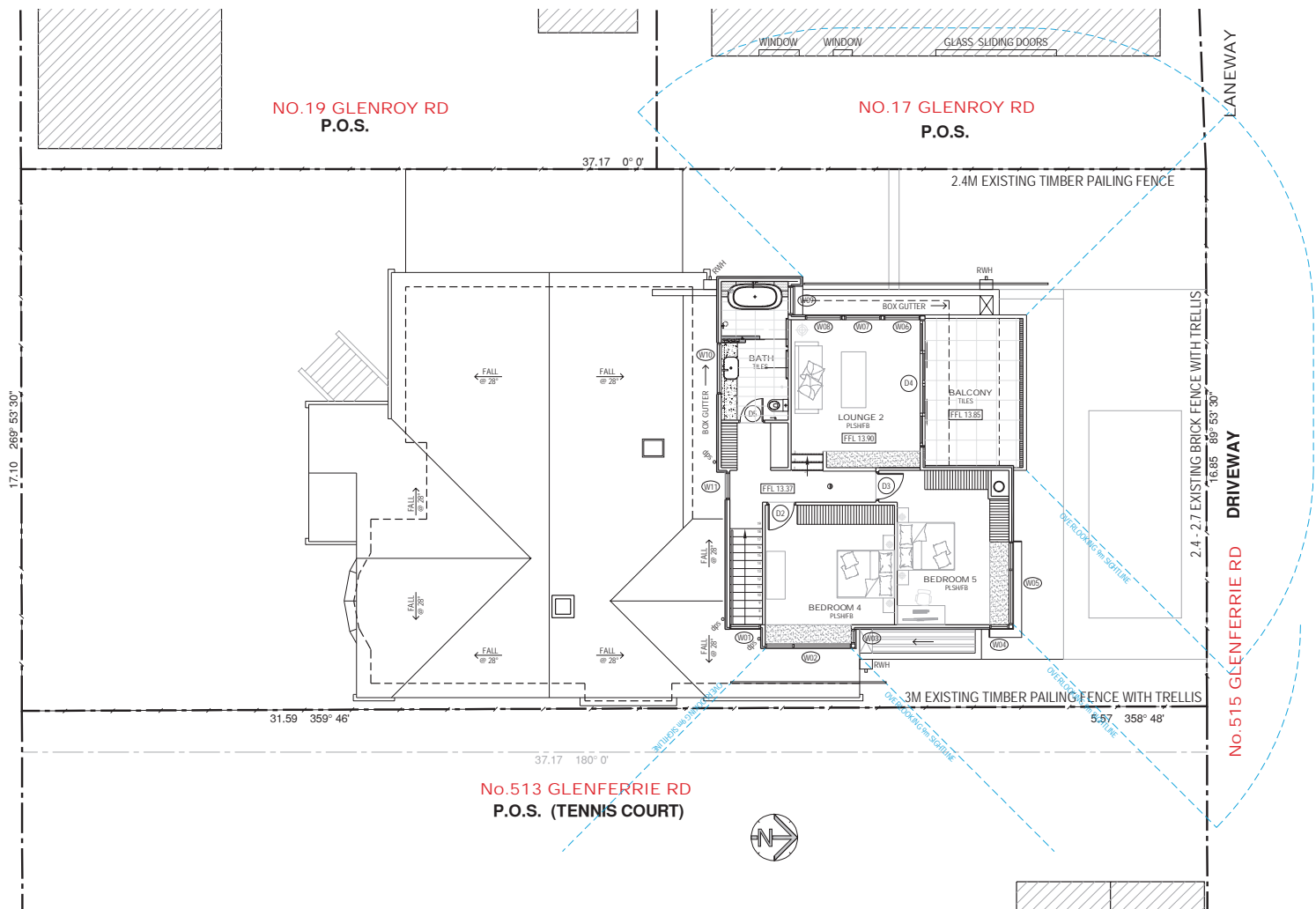
The client is a family with two teenage daughters and wanted to provide larger bedrooms and a separate living space for their daughters.

The design philosophy of Teo and Perperis is to work with the existing fabric. The essence of this house is the contrast of texture and the forms between the original fabric and the modern addition to the rear.

To preserve the original fabric of the Federation house, the first floor was located above the existing extension to the rear. The bedrooms were placed to the east to take advantage of the morning sun. To maintain the higher ceiling of the ground floor family room, the first floor living room and balcony were elevated and had a northerly aspect. A retractable blind provided sun screening to the north facing windows and the balcony while allowing solar heating of the living room in winter.







At the first floor level, there was a good view of the Melbourne CBD to the west. However, there was an overlooking issue into the private open space of the adjacent house to the west. A metal visual screen is designed along the west facing windows and balcony to block the view of the neighbour while allowing the views to the CBD above the screen.

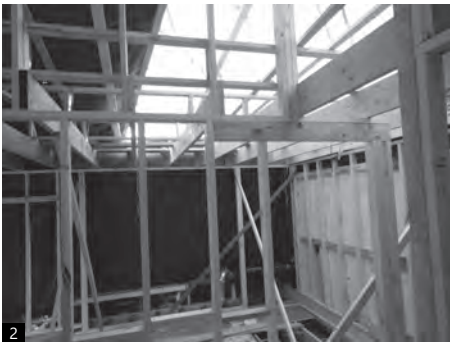
Metal wall cladding and rendered walls provided a contrasting texture to the ground floor shingle walls. Overhangs, recesses and the exaggerated window frames created interesting planes and strong shadows. The bold skillion roof over the first floor living room soars above the adjacent flat roofs resulting in very dynamic forms and pleasing proportions. The cathedral ceiling inside provided a sense of more space for the living room as well.

I was responsible for preparing presentation documents for his director for client presentations, and pricing drawings for builder quotes.

I was also in charge of engaging engineers and consultants. Additionally, I ensured that the final construction drawings met the specifications of the Building Code of Australia, in order to obtain the required permits from the building authority VBA.



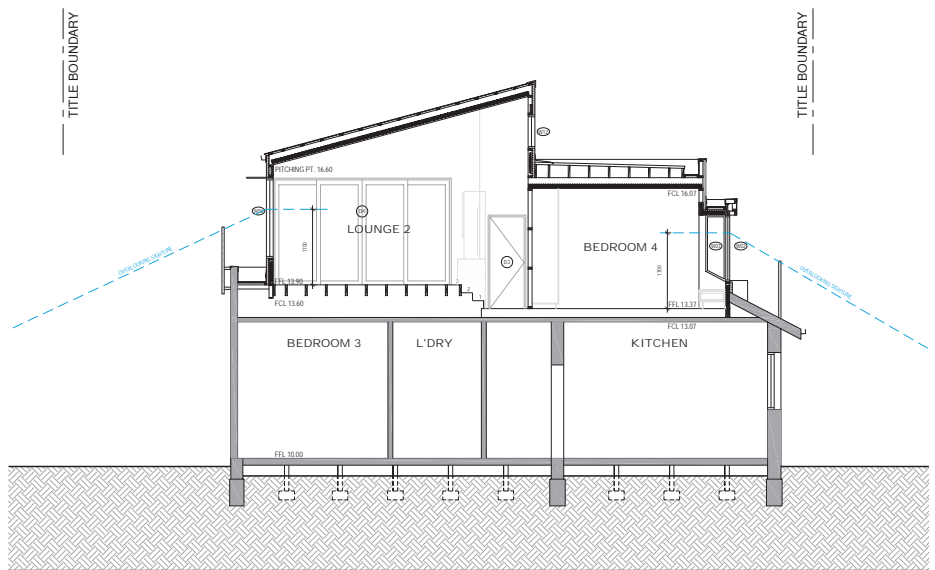
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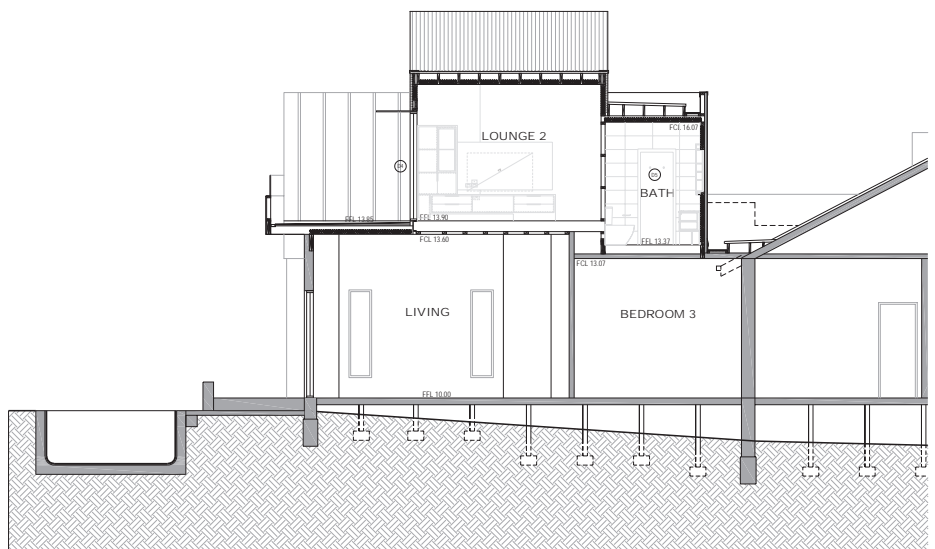
CAPTIONS:  
 1-4. Construction photographs.  
 5. View of original house from the street.



Proposed North Elevation



Cross section through extension



Section showing connection between the extension and existing house



# BIOGRAPHY



## Cheng Teo (Architect)

I grew up in the village of Engkilili and at the age of twelve moved to Kuching and completed the last year of primary school at SJK Chung Hua No. 3 Chinese School. I then enrolled at the inaugural transition class at St. Joseph Secondary School and continued my education there until Form 6. In 1980, I attended Dandenong High School in Melbourne and obtained my HSC. I got accepted to the University of Melbourne and graduated with a Degree in Architecture in 1986.

When I first arrived in Australia as a young man, I experienced a big culture shock. However, I soon embraced the experiences and the diverse culture. After spending 6 years in Australia, I learn to appreciate the lifestyle here. Furthermore, I managed to land a graduate position at a prominent firm of Denton Corker Marshall and decided to settle in Melbourne.

After a year of working at the very large firm, I decided to move to a small firm, Conrad Theodore Partnership. The firm specialised in Interior Design, and this is where I worked with my future business partner, John Perperis, an Interior Designer.

In 1990, I was registered as an Architect in Victoria and in 1993, Teo and Perperis Architects Pty. Ltd. was established. We specialised in boutique residential projects as well as interiors. At the beginning, we were able to gain a client base with the assistance of "Archi-Centre", a division of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects. "Archi-Centre" no longer operates.

At Teo and Perperis, our main philosophy is to strive to strike a balance between listening to our clients and offering advice. A large proportion of our clients appreciated this approach, and they were often delighted and surprised by the result. Our firm was able to last the distance mainly by word of mouth of our clients.

It is never easy to start a new practice. I would suggest that a partnership of two or three Architects, each with different set of skills would improve the success rate. The essential skills are design, building knowledge, and most importantly, marketing.



## Ethan Sim

Ethan Sim was born and raised in Kuching. He obtained his Diploma and Bachelor's Degree in Malaysia, before completing his Master of Architecture in Deakin University, Australia.

In his previous company, he planned designs for large scale projects such as housing estates and commercial developments in Victoria.

Currently a project architect with **Teo + Perperis**, Ethan is involved in single dwellings and renovation projects which he sees from start to finish.

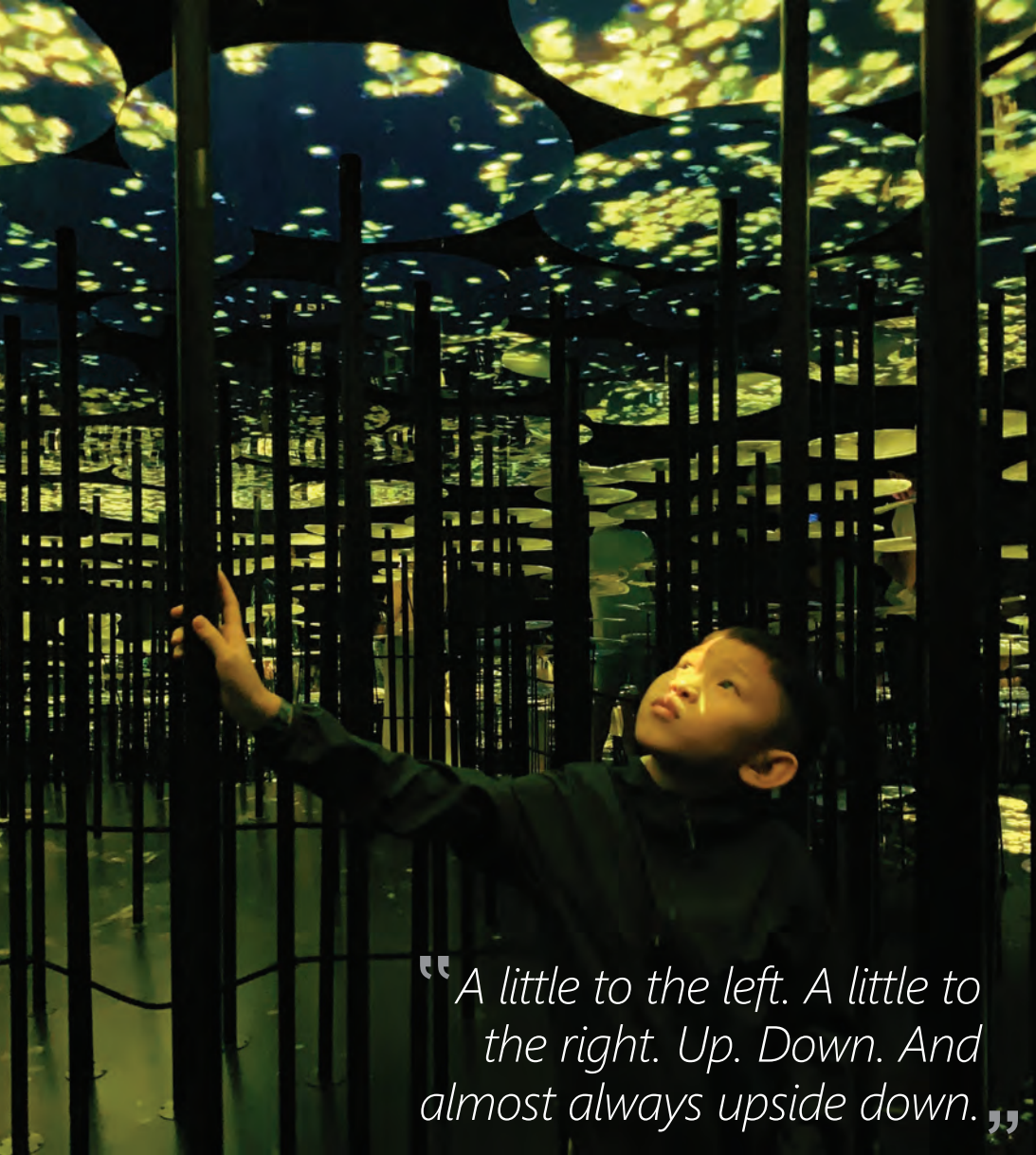
He hopes to one day return and contribute to the architectural landscape of his hometown, Kuching.

## Company Background

Cheng Teo studied at St. Joseph Secondary School at Kuching and obtained a Degree in Architect at the University of Melbourne in 1986.

Cheng formed **Teo and John Perperis**, and interior designer formed **Teo and Perperis Architects Pty. Ltd.** in 1993. Since then, the firm specialises in boutique residential projects as well as interior.





*“A little to the left. A little to the right. Up. Down. And almost always upside down.”*



## **I'm a builder (of my children's dreams)** **Series 5 - On-Going Journey: Nurturing A Dream Chaser** *with Sharon Ngimat*

I grew up in the Kelabit Highlands of Sarawak in the 80's where it is remote, filled with birdsong and pure fresh air. The longhouses are clean, simple with minimal ornament. The Kelabit handicrafts are made for everyday use rather than just aesthetics - mostly made with simple geometric patterns and carvings. Even so, the handicrafts are beautifully made, with great craftsmanship.

When I moved to the city as a teenager, I discovered different spaces and built environment which were influenced by different cultures. I realized then some places made me feel good while others didn't have a huge effect on me. I am pretty sure I had become a designer to influence my surroundings and to generally improve the atmosphere for others as well.

I have always wondered why things are the way they are. Why our longhouses are built in a certain way. Why do we eat and sleep on

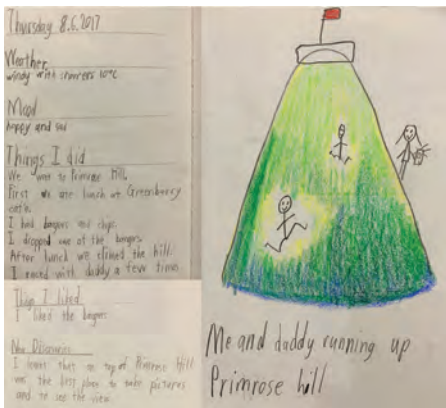
the floor? I always find it astonishing how much thought was put into the design and planning processes to harmonize the cultural characteristics, economics, societal, religious values, and the environmental challenges. It is the mission of a designer to create a functional, convenient, and inspiring living/working space while keeping them aesthetically pleasing, suited to the client's lifestyle. I find such a mission to be intellectually satisfying.

I spent years chasing work-life balance jumping from 'mom' to 'professional' each day; trying to succeed in these roles separately. We strive for these magazines - worthy facades in design, and an Instagram - perfect family, but the reality is, life is messy and unpredictable. It's remarkable, the things that emerge from that organized chaos. I now realize the two cannot be separated. Today, I

integrate home and work, accepting that I need to make adjustments in order to accomplish the tasks at hand and give my family the love and attention they need. I take tennis lessons together with Noah, my 11-year old son, and embrace his online gaming slang. He tagged along with me through my architectural travel bucket list and occasionally gets his school homework done in my office on the weekends. A little to the left. A little to the right. Up. Down. And almost always upside down.

Travelling is one of the most rewarding annual adventures we have together as a family. Away from life's everyday distractions and long working hours, we get to spend uninterrupted time together. We become a team. When at home, we are consistently on the go - there's work, school, sports, and other activities. There's little or no time to have conversations - even the weekends are too short.





Sarawak State Library, Sibul - Interior Design by Arkitek KDI.



Arkitek KDI team building in Bangkok, Year 2019.

While traveling with a child at any age may seem like a daunting prospect, it is an educational opportunity. Travel can expand a kid's world, making them more empathetic toward cultural differences and helping them adapt to changing situations.

'Balik kampung' is a must. These were important elements of my childhood. I always treasure those customary moments gathering around the 'tetel' or our cooking fireplace in the heart of the longhouse listening to my grandparents' life stories, their wisdom and knowledge. Bringing my son back to the basics meant exposing him to his roots to gain a greater understanding of the challenges his ancestors faced and hope to inspire him with greater love and compassion.

I have always been fascinated by how the design of places and neighborhoods can affect the day to day lives of children. The experiences and exposure to various places led me to believe that along with good social policy, the built environment can have a profound effect on the health, well-being, and happiness of our youngest citizens.

I am grateful now I have Noah as my travel companion exploring art and architecture. Even so it is not breezy all the way, it is not without those cranky moments.

Nonetheless, we enjoy making memories engaging with the built environment including running around the local parks, visiting museums and art galleries, monuments, plazas and even attend Sunday Services at the local churches.

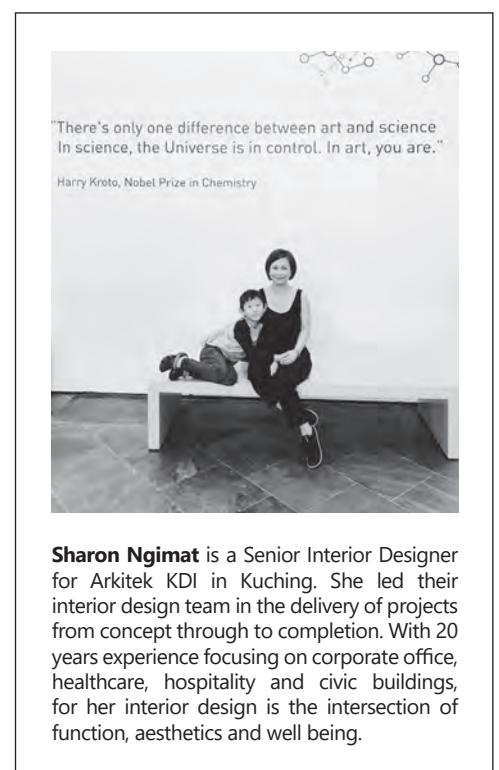
Through our travels, it is fascinating to see what grabs his attention from following a certain route on a map, encounter with new people to the billboards showcasing products he has not seen before. We get him involved in the planning, even in a small way. The more we empower kids to pick what they are interested in doing, whether it is seeing a cool bookstore or gamer store, the more engaged they will be.

When my son first answered that age-old question "What do you want to be when you grow up?" he had not grasped the traditional parameters of the exchange, how he was to respond with a specific dream that would point him toward the bright, shining future that every parent wants for his or her child. Instead, Noah, who was maybe 4 at the time, responded with a colorful, complex mixture of seemingly unrelated ambitions: "I want to be an inventor like Tony Stark. I want to be Bob the builder. I want to be a fireman. I want to be an astronaut. I want to..." And on it went, a plateful of selections taken from his thus far limited experience at the buffet of life.

While his list of ambitions seemed rather long, he did not see why anyone could not be an inventor or a fireman. He did not see all across this great big world, jobs are getting done by many hands in many places. Buildings, bridges, and books do not exist without the workers who are often invisible in the final product.

What I have learnt about myself in studying interior design is grit and perseverance. Any worthwhile project requires dedication, commitment to a vision, and patience as part of a team. I am by no means good with parenting. I made many mistakes along the way. As everyone else, my goal as a parent is to raise a dream chaser. Everyone can be a dreamer. I hope my son will grow to become resilient and responsible, a visionary and a team player.

END



**Sharon Ngimat** is a Senior Interior Designer for Arkitek KDI in Kuching. She led their interior design team in the delivery of projects from concept through to completion. With 20 years experience focusing on corporate office, healthcare, hospitality and civic buildings, for her interior design is the intersection of function, aesthetics and well being.



Ngaiti!\* in those days, don't know how to plan simple simple - got t-shirt design competition (winner's design become tee shirt for the event), got installation design competition (shortlisted entries are built), got building installations, got exhibition, got mayor come to cut ribbon... whose idea was this?

\* etymology Hakka meaning 'oh my God!' equivalent terms in other local dialects involve swearing.

## PAMSC STUDENT COMPETITION 2013

### World Architecture Day 3.0 : Culture - Architecture

30 Sept - Shortlisting Entries



Melia, Swee, and Yun Heong making their choices.



Everyone had their favourite entries.



Winning tee-shirt design by Sara Wee.



*Ethnicity Social Wall: one of the early favourites amongst the judges eventually won First Prize. The jury's citation states - "A delightful, tactile and interactive abstraction delivered with grace, tenacity, beauty and fun."*

This year's theme for *World Architecture Day (WAD)* is 'Culture - Architecture'.

Organising Chairman **Ar. Chai Si Yong** started things off in August with pre-Wad - a tee-shirt design competition aimed at local high school students. This year the winner is **Ms. Sara Wee** from SMK Batu Lintang in Kuching; her design becomes the official tee-shirt for this year's WAD events.

The main event however, is the competition for the design of an architectural installation based on this year's theme. This event is open to college and university students from Sarawak with first stage submission via email which closed on 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept 2013 with 21 entries received. First stage judging shortlisted 11 entries for actual construction of the designs for final judging on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2013.



*PAMSC's WAD celebrations have been very successful in raising the profile of architecture amongst students and the general public.*



## 5 Oct - Assembly and Presentation of Entries



On Saturday morning, the central atrium is abuzz with students assembling their installations.



Jian Hua putting final touches on his "Patterns and Palettes".



Joycelyn hanging up incense which forms part of "Sense and Spaces".



Alfred and James putting together the "Chinese Lantern".



Cika Ai presenting her scheme - she is studying in local design college.



Ar. Hulbert Kueh making a point to a participant as Joanna looks on.



Inez and her team were responsible for the "Origami" scheme.



Sharifah presenting her scheme - "Identi Tea", that won 2nd place. Jury citation : "Poignant, lyrical, highly adaptive recycling of simple modules (tea crates) to create cosy spaces with mobility and spontaneity."



Sean Wee presenting his scheme - "And then there was paper..", that won 3rd place. Jury citation : "Thoughtful, learned mastery of origami delivered with crispness, lightness, Gothic beauty and proportion."

The site of this year's installation was at Tun Jugah which was graciously offered by the Linggi Foundation represented by Puan Melia Linggi.

On Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> of October at 8:30 a.m., the shortlisted students were allowed to assemble their creations for judging at 2:30 that same day. This year's judges were **Puan Melia Linggi**; Landscape architect, **Ms Joanna Ling**; **Ar. Hubert Kueh**, **Mrs. Lai Yun Heong** and **Ar. Sia Peh Swee**. They listened to the presentations of the 11 students and interviewed them on their design, material selection and interpretation of this year's theme.



Alfred presenting his scheme - Chinese lantern, that won the Meri Prize. Jury citation : "Inspiring, bold, sculptural, yet functional gazebo-like interpretation."



## 7 Oct - Official Opening and Prize-giving



Organising Chairman, Ar. Chai Si Yong was responsible for all aspects of WAD 3.0.



Mayor signing the backdrop as Ar. Mike Boon looks on.

On the following Monday, the PAMSC WAD events were officially declared open by MBKS Mayor, **Yang Berbahagia Dato' James Chan** who also presented the winners with their prizes.

There were 5 prizes awarded:

### **TEE SHIRT DESIGN**

**1st prize - Ms Sara Wee**

**Most 'Liked' design (internet poll) - Ms Ellyv Joyce**

### **INSTALLATION**

**1st prize - "Ethnicity Social Wall" - Ms Cika Ai**

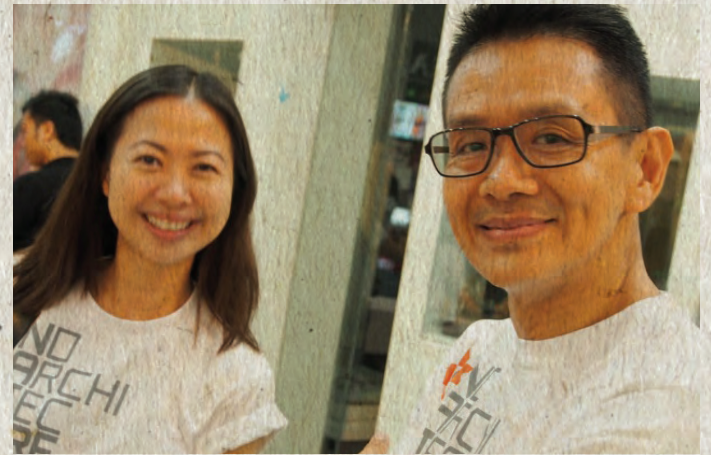
**2nd Prize - "Identi-Tea" - Cik Sharifah Yasmin**

**3rd Prize - "... and then there was paper" - Mr. Sean Wee**

**The Merit Award - "Chinese Lantern" - Mr. Alfred Yap**

The exhibits were on display for one week and they received good response from members of the public.

PAMSC WAD was supported by *Inovar Flooring* as the main sponsor with *Goodrich Global (EM) Sdn Bhd* in support and the Tun Jugah as the venue sponsor. The event has been hailed as a success by many and there are plans to open the competition to the general public next year.



The Judges had a good time as well.





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