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BALINGIAN DISTRICT OFFICE

by Arkitek LH Wong

ARCHITECT'S STATEMENT

This is our very first government project that was under construction when the pandemic hit.

Balingian is located inside the Balingian sub-district, about 60 km from Mukah town.

This project was awarded under the initiative of Project Rakyat in 2019. It braved the storm of global pandemic, and finally, we are now entering the process of Occupancy inspections by various authorities.

This District Office will serve as a local administrative centre providing public services and managing the local district affairs. Upon completion, it will replace the current District Office which is located on the first floor of an existing shophouse next to the project site.

The proposed site is approximately 2 acres of relatively level land oriented in a north-south direction. It is strategically located at the centre of Balingian Town. After studying the brief given followed by a site visit, we proposed the office building with supporting amenities on 1 acre of the land with the remaining site for future extension.

During our site visit, we observed that the Old Bazaar is the meeting point where the local residents would gather along the long corridor space. We decided to adopt this idea into the building design and the corridor space was provided.



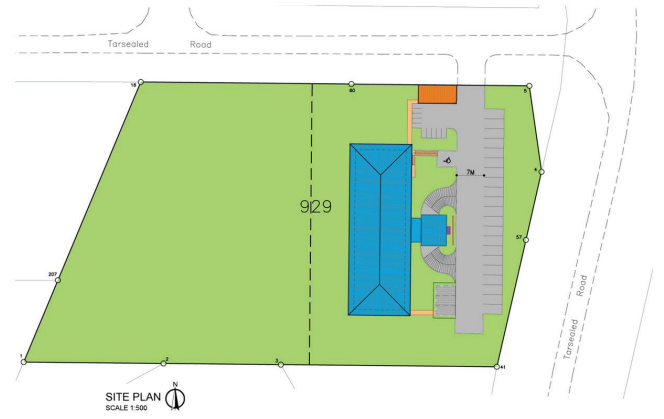
Old Bazaar.



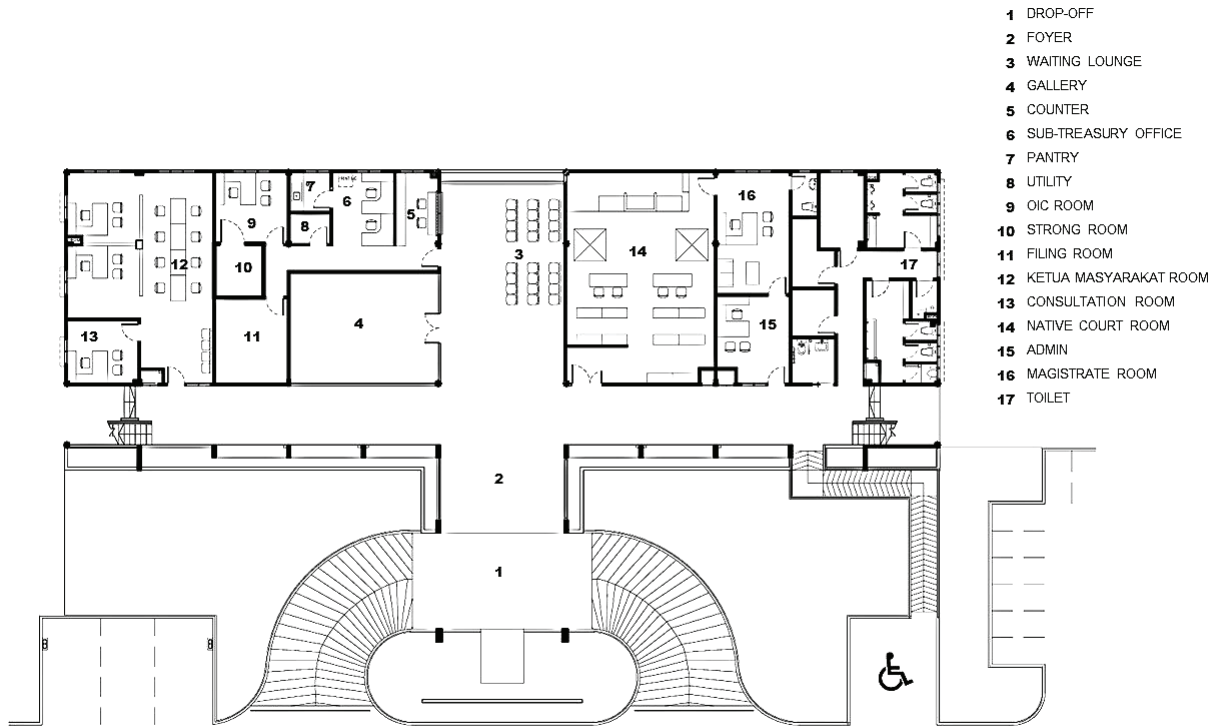
The Old Bazaar corridor.

The 2-storey office was planned with the public zone at ground floor and the private zone at first floor. The ground floor is easily accessed by the public where the managing of the local affairs would take place. In addition, it houses the multipurpose gallery, sub-treasury office, native court room, waiting lounge and the Ketua Masyarakat room. The administrative office with conference room is located on the first floor.

The local identity - Melanau's Terendak motif is expressed on the façade of the building and also on the architectural elements such as the railing and the gate. The double volume foyer space with the polycarbonate solid Terendak motif at the drop-off area would be a prominent statement of the building. The ledge protrusion is added to the front façade to serve as a sun and rain shading device for the corridor space.

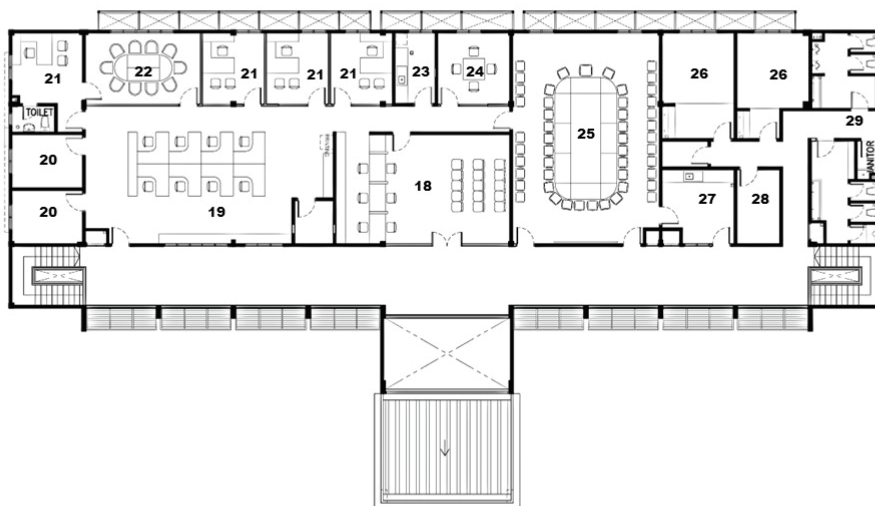


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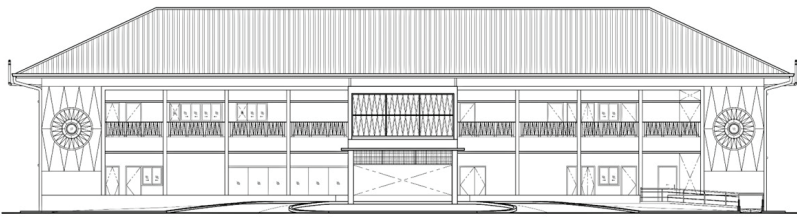
- 1 DROP-OFF
- 2 FOYER
- 3 WAITING LOUNGE
- 4 GALLERY
- 5 COUNTER
- 6 SUB-TREASURY OFFICE
- 7 PANTRY
- 8 UTILITY
- 9 OIC ROOM
- 10 STRONG ROOM
- 11 FILING ROOM
- 12 KETUA MASYARAKAT ROOM
- 13 CONSULTATION ROOM
- 14 NATIVE COURT ROOM
- 15 ADMIN
- 16 MAGISTRATE ROOM
- 17 TOILET

Ground Floor Plan

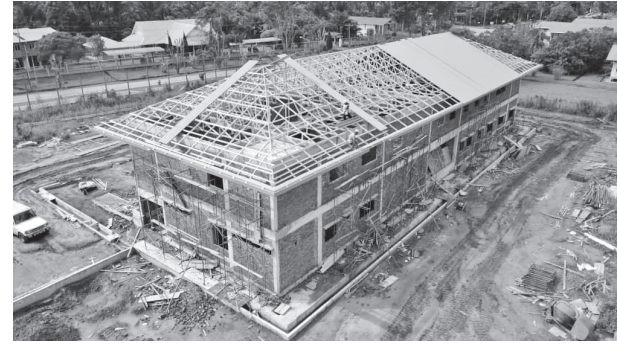


- 18 WAITING LOUNGE
- 19 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
- 20 FILING ROOM
- 21 SAO OFFICE
- 22 DISCUSSION ROOM
- 23 PANTRY
- 24 OPERATION ROOM
- 25 CONFERENCE ROOM
- 26 SURAU
- 27 TEA PREPARATION ROOM
- 28 UTILITY
- 29 TOILET

First Floor Plan



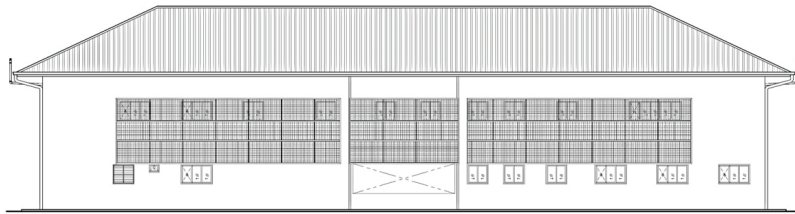
Front Elevation



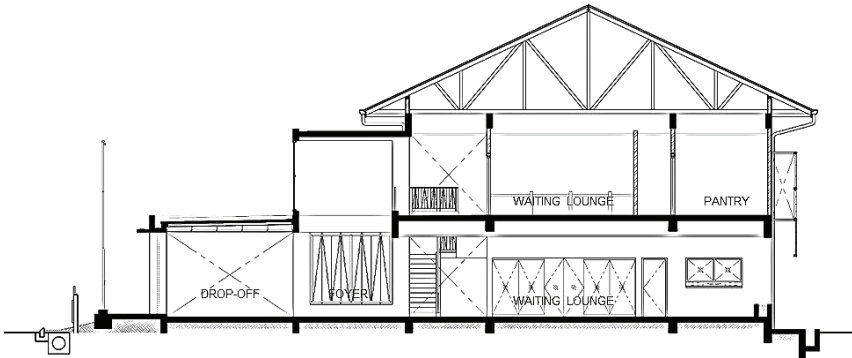
Public Corridor Space.



Terendak motif at foyer.



Rear Elevation

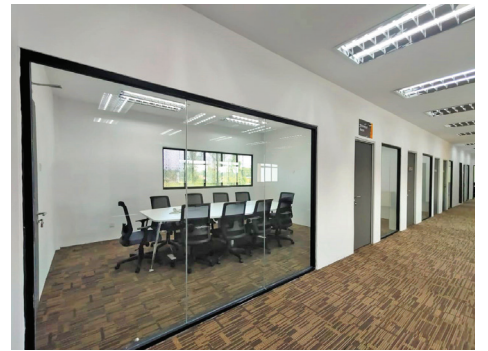


Section



Existing Office.

Client	: Residen Mukah
Implementing Agency	: JKR Sarawak
Location	: Balingian, Mukah
Architect	: Arkitek LH Wong
C&S Engineer	: GBU Consultant
M&E Engineer	: Jurutera Perunding M.E.L
Quantity Surveyor	: Perunding Ukur Bahan LAH
Contractor	: Flownic Sdn. Bhd.





L2 Kitchen and Entry.

CASCADALE APARTMENT SINGAPORE

by IDC Architects, in collaboration with ECORA Architects

ARCHITECT'S STATEMENT

The owner of this 1450 sqft duplex unit in a Singapore condominium, an airplane pilot, requested for an update to the interior that combined functionality with a clean aesthetic. The existing layout comprised an upper level with the principal living, dining and entertaining spaces, and a lower level with 3 existing bedrooms, bathrooms, linked by a dark hallway. The upper level benefited from a lofty double-height living space with clerestory windows; the lower level, while having windows on 2 opposite sides, suffered from a dimly-lit and underused central hallway.

IDC responded by exploiting the uniquely high, naturally-lit volumes of the upper level, while opening up and consolidating the spaces of the lower level to maximise usability, and natural light and cross-ventilation. 2 adjoining bedrooms were combined into flexible accommodation comprising a sleeping space and a TV room linked by sliding wall panels. The previously unused hallway was transformed into a bright, airy study by allowing light and ventilation to penetrate from the enclosing bedrooms.

A limited palette of materials was selected for their tactile qualities, including natural oak floors and cabinetry, luxurious marble slabs, and rough-cut sawn timber panels, juxtaposed against floating white volumes.

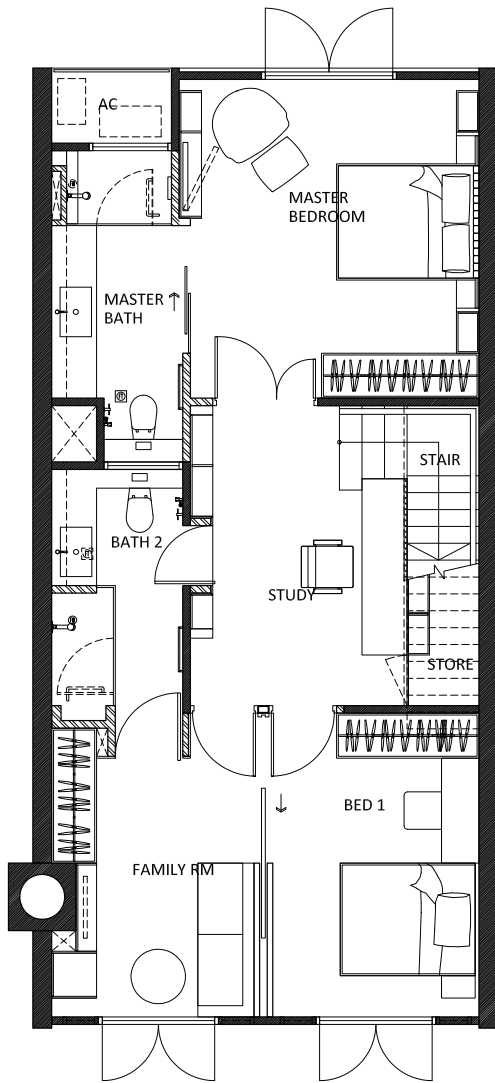


L2 Dining.

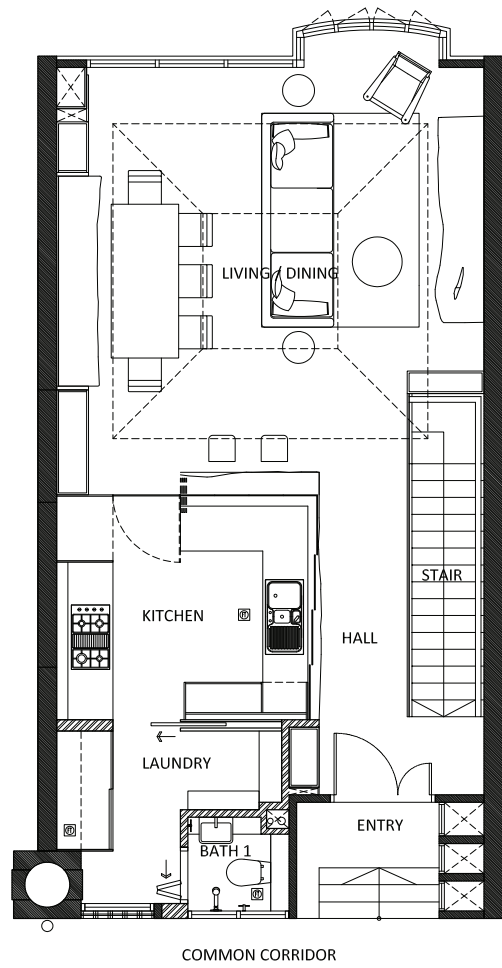


L1 Family Room.

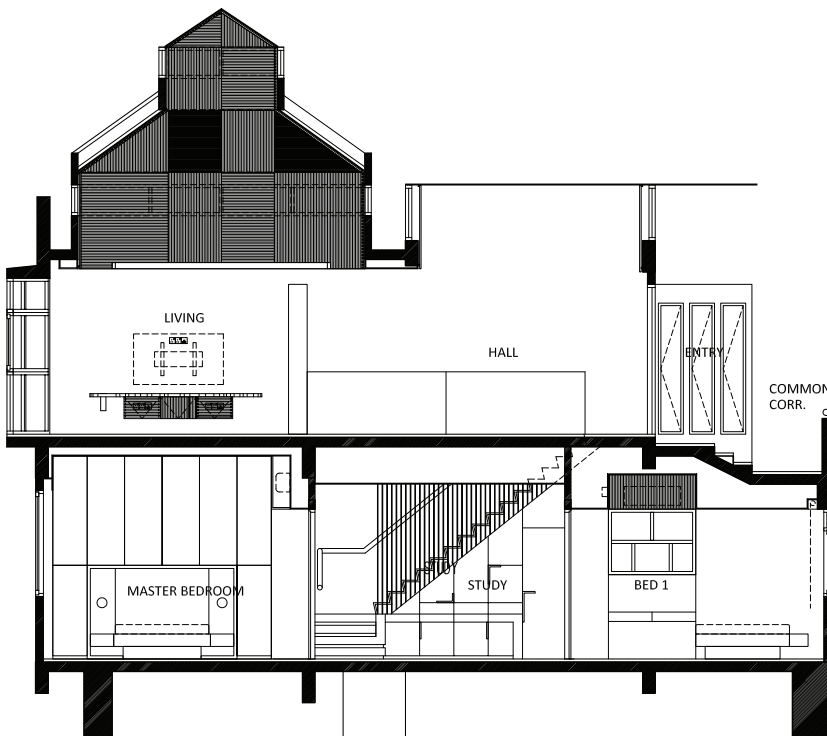
Location	: The Cascadale, Singapore
Project Team	: IDC Architects, in collaboration with ECORA Architects
IDC Team	: Alan Lau, Lily Low
Photographs by	: Design Rebirth



L1 Floor plan



L2 Floor plan



Section C-C



Construction in progress

3D IMAGES



L1 Study.

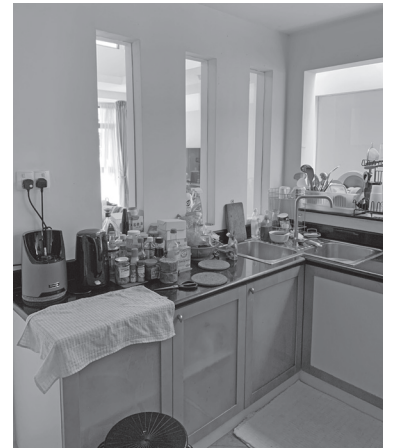


L2 Kitchen.

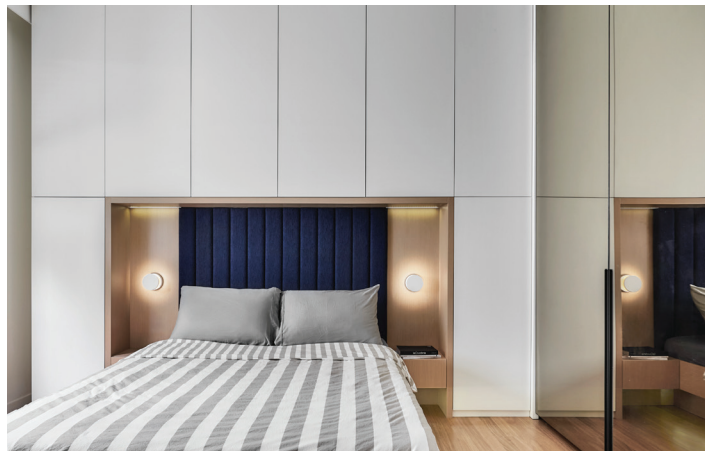
BEFORE & AFTER



L1 Study.



L1 Master bedroom.



L1 Bedroom 1.



L2 Kitchen.

Tribute to Ar. Philip Chang Foh Phing (1952-2023)

Written by Min

It always comes as a surprise when tall timber falls. Especially in our profession where the Almighty seem to bless us with old age. Uncle Philip was only 71.

In his passing, Sarawak lost one of her pioneer architects - founding director of United Consultants Architects Sdn. Bhd., former Councillor in Majlis Bandaraya Kuching Selatan (MBKS) and former Deputy Chairman of the Pending branch of the Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP). Philip has received many awards for his work as an architect, as a local councillor and as an educator. He was also PAMSC Chairman for several terms (1989-1991, 1999-2001), Deputy Chairman of Joint Technical Consultative Committee (JTCC) under the Ministry of Public Health & Local Government, LAM (Lembaga Akitek Malaysia) board member; actively involved in LAM Practice, Education & Disciplinary Committee.

'Uncle Philip' will be much more remembered as a mentor and guiding hand to young architects in the advancement of our profession, a sympathetic ear to his friends and colleagues, a generous soul to whomever seeks his advice about architecture, practice, education and art. In this tribute, some of his friends have recounts their favourite memories with Philip.

Philip was born in Singapore in 1952, his family moved to Kuching where he attended St. Thomas's School until Upper Sixth, before completion his matriculation at Sydney Boy's High in 1970. Philip studied Architecture in Sydney University of Architecture - where he blossomed and became active in student organizations and campaigns. This is perhaps a precursor to his involvement in PAM, LAM and the local council. During his studies, he worked first with Planning Workshop Pty.; a master planning and architectural firm under Darrel Conybeare, Bill Morrison and Peter Armstrong. Philip would later collaborate with Bill and Darrel on the Kuching Waterfront project in the 1990s. He later worked for Granada Homes; a builder and supplier of kit-homes where he spent a year as a builder on construction sites. Philip considers these as his formative years when he crossed paths with many influential lecturers such as Marr Grounds, Prof. Peter Johnson, and Lloyd Rees. Through the guidance of these lecturers, Ar. Chang was fuelled by the impressions left by them.

Philip returned to Kuching after graduating to join JKR where he worked with and formed strong friendships with many of his peers there; Johnny Sim, Vincent Jong, Sim Eng Miang, Sim Teck Hian, Chin Kim Yu, Simon Woon, Chew Chung Yee, Jon Ngui, Roland Tan, and Stanley Chai. In 1985, Ar. Chang and a few other architects worked to reinvent PAM Sarawak Chapter by working with PAMKL to amend and improve working policies. He would later serve as PAMSC Chairman for several terms (1989-1991 and 1999-2001); he was the driving force behind PAMSC's Practice and Government Liaison sub-committee working tirelessly up to the beginning of this year. Ar Chang was Deputy Chairman of Joint Technical Consultative Committee (JTCC) under the Ministry of Public Health & Local Government; working closely with local councils and government agencies to standardise guidelines and policies, including revision of the Sarawak Building Ordinance (SBO).

He was also a LAM (Lembaga Akitek Malaysia) board member; actively involved in LAM Practice, Education & Disciplinary Committee., he was re-appointed as LAM board member in December 2022.



Simon Woon, Philip, Jon Ngui and Johnny Wee, JKR days.



JKR, 1981 with Suharto, draughtsman.



PAM committee, 1982.

Ar. Chang set up United Consultants; a multidisciplinary firm in Miri in 1982, and United Consultants Architect Sdn. Bhd in 2008. Some of their significant projects include The Kuching Waterfront in collaboration with Conybeare Morrison and Partners, the Friendship Park along Jalan Song, Kuching as well as Curtin University in Miri with Perth-based JCY Architects.

Ar. Chang contributed 17 years as a Councillor in MBKS with the goal of amending the rules and procedures and to act as a conduit between architects and the Council. Between 2008-2011, he spent 3 fulfilling years teaching Architecture Drawings at LICT (LimKokWing Institute of Creative Technology).

Philip leaves behind his wife, Tan Moi Moi and his children, Byron, Dwayne and Melissa. He is deeply missed by a community of architects who will always be grateful for his contribution to the profession - some of them have shared their favourite memories with us below.



Where do I begin? It came as a shock to learn that Ar. Philip Chang Foh Ping, a long-term colleague and a legend in his own right, especially in Sarawak, has passed away so unexpectedly.

I first got to know Philip in the 1990s when I became involved with PAM. As a well-known architect from Sarawak, our relationship was primarily professional in nature, and we didn't socialize much in the early days.

However, I got to know Philip a lot better during the year when I served as the Deputy President of PAM. When he was the Chair of PAM Sarawak Chapter, I represented PAM at the PAM Sarawak dinner, where I learned a great deal about the Sarawak Chapter through him during that particular trip. Shortly after that, during the same year, I ran for the PAM President position, and he organized a special dinner in Sarawak for a few of us to meet the members and share our visions for PAM's future. That was indeed a very special and memorable occasion.

Additionally, I had the opportunity to work with Philip as Board Members at the Board of Architects. **He exhibited great commitment and tireless passion in championing issues relating to the architectural profession in Sarawak**, and my admiration for him grew even more.

Philip was not just a great architect, but a true professional. His contributions to the profession and community will be greatly missed, and he will always be remembered fondly by many of us.

- Ar. Datuk Tan Pei Ing

I worked with Ar. Philip Chang at United Consultants from 1992 until early 1996. As a young architect with just 5 years' working experience and newly arrived in Kuching, Philip employed me to work on the Kuching Waterfront.

He taught me about the many intricacies and cultural niceties required when working in Asia. He taught me about the importance of connections, negotiating and working in a team. He taught me to always get the right people to do the job. **He was a fair boss, a great mentor, always approachable and he had a good sense of humour, no matter what type of day we had.**

He set me on the path to becoming the best Architect I could be. For that I will always be grateful. He will be dearly missed.

- Megan Chalmers



I have known Philip since secondary school days; he was in St. Thomas, I was in St. Joseph.

We left for Australia around the same time; both graduated in Architecture, he in Sydney, I in Melbourne.

We drank and got drunk in Australia, drank and got drunk in Sarawak; so many precious memories.

He was my best man at my wedding to Janice. Philip, my brother - **I am honoured to have met you in this life, as a friend and as an architect until we meet again in the next.**

- Ar. Simon Woon

Farewell Philip my comrade in arms! It was Philip who called me persuading me to take on chairmanship of PAMSC years back. Philip assured me he would back me up, and true to his word, he stood by me all the way which made my job so much easier. **We fought for Sarawak architects' interests while we facing stiff competition from architects from outside our State.** We brought the case all the way to the highest decision maker of the State only to be met with very unpleasant response. Thank you Philip for putting up a brave front and backing me up. This incident always remained as something special in our hearts and we always talked about it. May you rest in eternal peace, my dear friend!

- Dato' Seri Ar. John Lau Kah Sieng



Goodbye and thank you, Philip.

Thank you for your dedication for the betterment of our profession - through the refining of government legislation and policies, and the improvement of communication between architects and the authorities. Thank you for instilling in those of us who were fortunate enough to rub shoulders with you - **the importance of good work ethics, integrity and humanity in the advancement of our profession.**

Thank you for the good times in travel, architecture, art, food and wine. Sadly our adventures have been cut short by your untimely departure, but we will remember you fondly and reminisce about your companionship and your guidance.

- **Ar. Stephen Liew**

We will miss you Uncle Philip. Remember the time when we play chess though I am the poorest of all. You can try your chess skills now with the angels. **Deepest condolence to Ar. Philip's loved ones and family.**

- **Louis Tiong**

Deepest condolence to Ar. Philip's family and loved ones. **A great loss to the fraternity. A great leader who inspired many.** Rest in peace Philip.

- **Ar. David Hollis Tini**



Sincere condolences to the family of Ar. Philip Chang and Sarawak Chapter colleagues. Philip contributed many years of service to PAM and LAM. Philip was always respected and liked as a **knowledgeable, dutiful, kind, wise and fair-minded leader** in our architects' fraternity. RIP.

- **Ar. Lillian Tay**



I first met Uncle Philip when he interviewed me for my LAM-PAM Part 3 Oral exams many years ago. As a graduate, I was a tad intimidated by his commanding presence. Later he came over to introduce himself as a friend of my architect Uncle Vincent. Formalities evaporated when he shared with me their boyish antics during their JKR years.

Uncle Philip was PAMSC chairman for several terms - post chairmanships, he continued 'knocking' on the local government's doors in an effort to make practice in Sarawak better for all our members. Through PAMSC Local Government Practice and Liaison sub-committee, he tirelessly rallied a group of dedicated past chairmen and committee members to champion the cause.

His slogan for PAMSC recruits was a borrowed verse from Hotel California - **"you can check out any time you like but you can never leave."**

He was extremely pleased when 'Siaw Chai', (his pet name for Si Yong) our immediate past chairman Ar. Chai Si Yong, took up the mantle to helm the PGL sub-committee. Under UP's mentorship, the sub-committee made headways in formally engaging with the local government and their agencies on architectural practice matters.

His demeanor of making light a tense situation with his witty humour and cajoling during many heated discussions on practice matters, sustained the group and gave us all a united sense of purpose. The new upcoming Sarawak Building Ordinance will be amongst the many endeavors that he spearheaded and contributed significantly to. I know he would be proud knowing that it is coming to fruition.

I had only just met his lovely wife Mdm. Tan Moi Moi during his wake last week. She immediately knew who I was and said that Uncle Philip always talks about PAMSC activities and the people he shared his day with. It is obvious that UP did not draw a line between his public commitments, his work and his family. That sense of kinship I suspect, permeates thorough all his endeavors and felt by those who were involved with him. His title 'Uncle' to all at PAMSC came naturally and affectionately.

To those who were fortunate to have crossed paths with him, he was generous with his knowledge and experience. It was always a joy to hear his many life stories and a privilege to have shared a few laughs with him.

The room will be a lot quieter now that you have left us. Thank you Uncle Philip.

- **Ar. Ivy Jong & Ar. Sia Peh Swee**



During his long tenure at PAMSC, Uncle Philip must have felt at times like the only adult in a room of unruly youngsters. Now that he has left the room, time for us to step up and fill his shoes.

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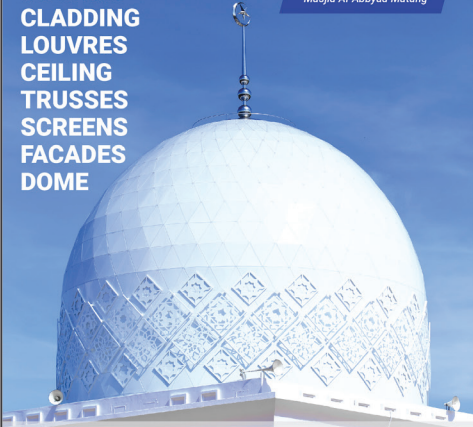


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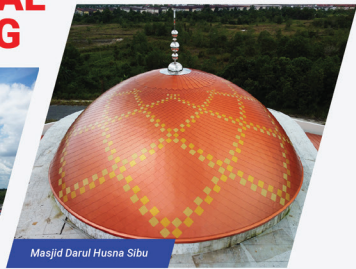
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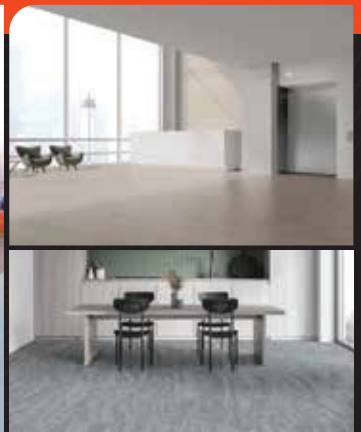
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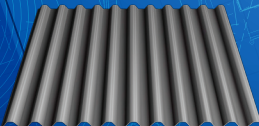
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