

FLASH

33

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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.



1 PROJECTS IN PROGRESS:
SK ORANG KAYA MOHAMMAD @ BINTULU
by Arkitek Nurina Matnor
- PG 2



2 PROJECTS FEATURE:
GALASA EVENT SPACE @ IPOH
by Kuee Architecture
- PG 6



3 ID PROJECTS FEATURE:
TANAH RIMBA LOT 896
Interior by Totem SB
- PG 9

ALSO
IN THIS ISSUE :

DATUM:M.
A PERSONAL ACCOUNT
by Min





Front left aerial view.

SK ORANG KAYA MOHAMMAD @ BINTULU

by Arkitek Nurina Matnor

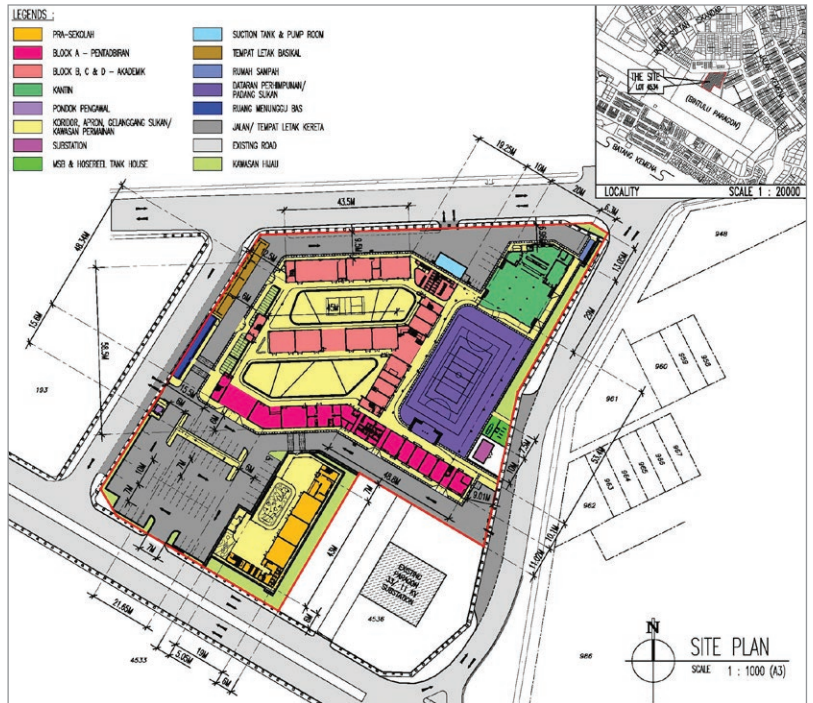
PROJECT INFORMATION

1.1 LAND INFORMATION

- Lot 4534, BINTULU TOWN DISTRICT, BINTULU, SARAWAK.
- Land Area = Approx. 1.3903 Hectare/ 3.435 Acres.
- Registered Proprietor is The Federal Land Commissioner

1.2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- The National Education Policy for all Sekolah Kebangsaan has set a comprehensive and quality program for students aged 6 to 12. The scope involves the formation of a solid foundation in reading, writing, calculating (3M) and ingestion skills; introduction to basic concepts of science; Pre-Vocational skills; Generic skills; as well as the application of Pure Values.
- In the implementation strategy of the National Education Policy, emphasis has been placed on the need to increase accessibility through the addition of the number of schools based on the location, study and implementation of new requirements in the scope and design of primary schools and enhance the level of safety, health and hygiene to create a conducive learning environment.



Client	: Kementerian Pendidikan Malaysia
Implementing Agency	: Jabatan Kerja Raya Sarawak
Architect	: Arkitek Nurina Matnor
C&S Engineer	: Konsortium Bistari CS Sdn. Bhd.
M&E	: Perunding JYS Sdn. Bhd.
QS	: Kumpulan Ukur Bahan Sarawak
Contractor	: EPR (Kuching) Sdn. Bhd.



1.3 PROBLEM FACED BY EXISTING SCHOOL

- SK Orang Kaya Mohammad is a school located at Jalan Abang Galau in the heart of Bintulu city. The existing school remains on the existing site until now since 1950s but has to be rebuilt for safety reasons. SK Orang Kaya Mohammad School is amongst the oldest primary schools in Bintulu and is over 100 years old. It has produced many well-known community leaders for Bintulu, and Sarawak as a whole.
- The construction of the new school will be able to address the congestion and enrolment problems faced by primary schools around Bintulu. In addition, The existing SK Orang Kaya Mohammad has two blocks of dilapidated and unsafe wooden buildings that have been confirmed unsafe by the Bintulu District Public Works Department on 05 December 2015. Therefore, to ensure the safety of all students and school staff, the Bintulu District Education Office (PDD) has placed temporary school operations at nearby SK Kampung Baru which is located approximately 1.5 KM from the current SK Orang Kaya Mohammad, from 01 January 2016 until now. Therefore, SK Orang Kaya Mohammad faced many building safety issues that need to be taken seriously and this replacement is long overdue.
- In order to realize Malaysia's Philosophy of Education, the level of physical facilities (classroom) of the school should be increased. To reduce student congestion in the classroom, the environment must be made more conducive to stimulate the teaching and learning process and further improve the academic performance of the school. The construction of a new school at this new site can benefit locals from different races, cultural and religious backgrounds. Given the rapid population growth is in line with the rapid development of Bintulu, 30 new classrooms need to be built to meet the urgent need for new facility. This school, if realized and operational by Year 2022, will definitely benefit the residents in the catchment area.

1.4 OBJECTIVE

- Provide Teaching and Learning (PDP) and complete, safe and conducive infrastructure for SK Orang Kaya Mohammad.
- Construction of the full replacement of a 30 BD to achieve the following objectives ie:
 - i. Replaces old school buildings that have been confirmed as unsafe.
 - ii. Accommodating student educational development in the best and latest designed environment.
- To accommodate the needs of good quality education in Bintulu area which is in the SCORE (Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy).



CAPTIONS:

1. Play Court View.
2. Pra School Front Elevation
3. Pra School Playground
4. Covered Assembly - Sport Court & Canteen

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS



School Courtyard view.



Left aerial view of construction site.



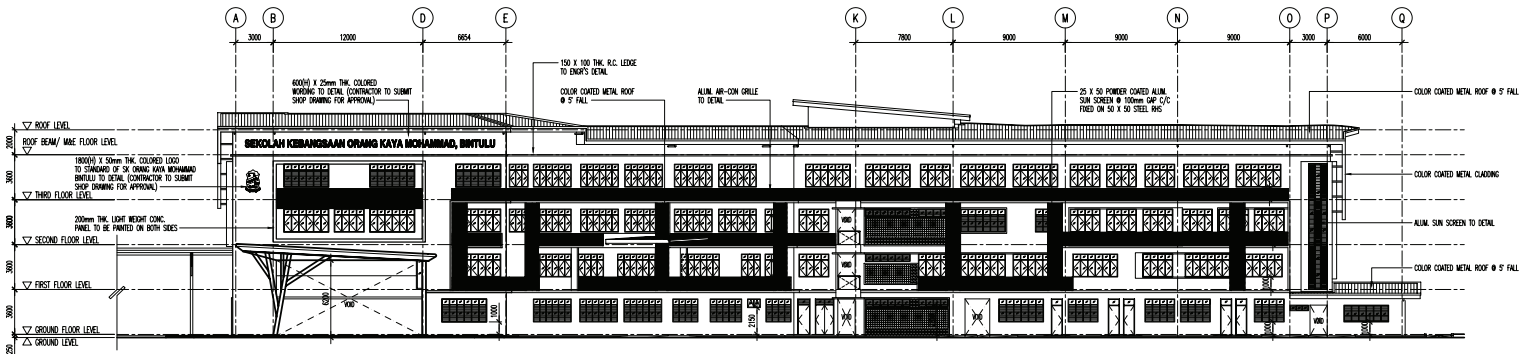
Decorative Steel Column at Connecting Corridor.



PRA School under construction.

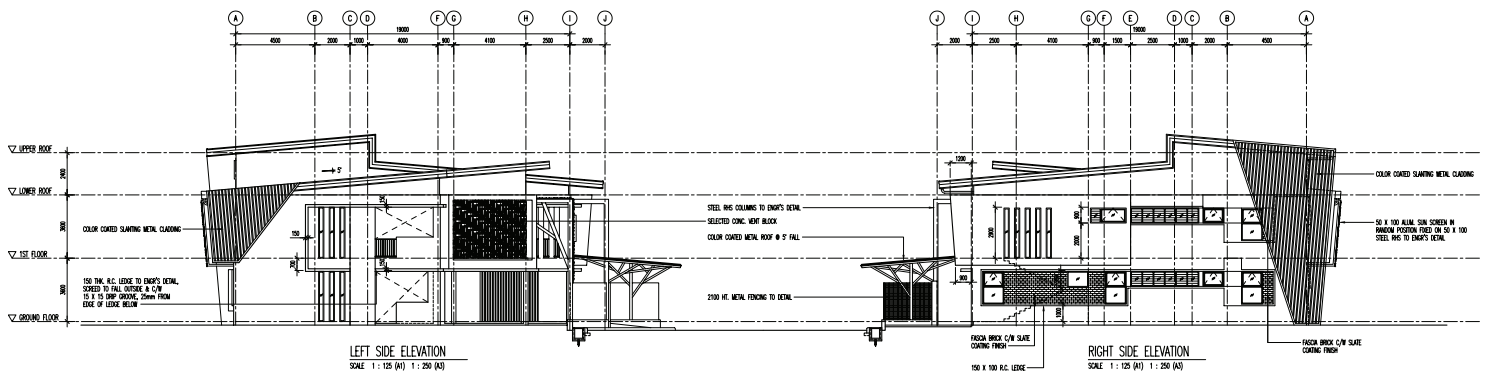


Classroom.



VIEW A/ FRONT ELEVATION

Front Elevation of Administrative Building.



LEFT SIDE ELEVATION
SCALE: 1:125 (A) 1:250 (B)

RIGHT SIDE ELEVATION
SCALE: 1:125 (A) 1:250 (B)

Left and Right Elevation of PRA School.



GALASA EVENT SPACE @ IPOH

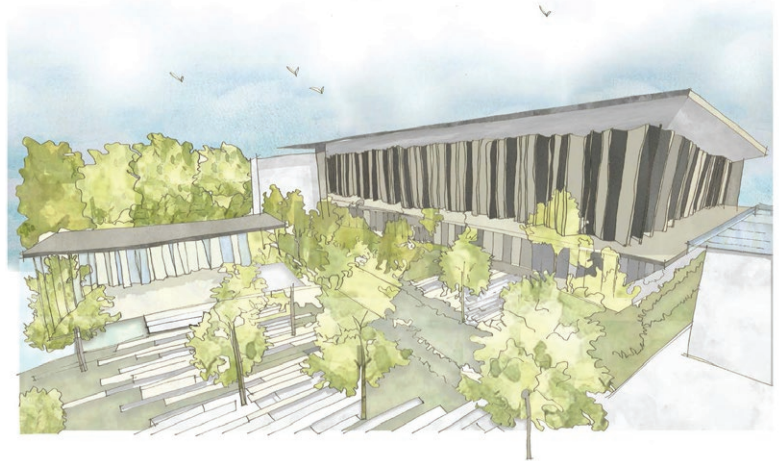
by Kuee Architecture

ARCHITECT'S STATEMENT

Inspired by the black diamond, the design concept of Galāsa Event Place was originated from the gemstone's geometry and its light transmission. The main facades of the event hall are covered by gradually unfolded pleated black and dark grey glass surfaces, carefully designed by the Architect.

Constructed with large-span I beams, a column-free space is created in the main hall to allow unobstructed spectacular gathering space underneath. The main facades with gradually unfolded pleated black and dark grey glass surfaces, stand out to be the main feature of the place. Aluminum framed Low-E laminated glass panels were used to create three different types of arrangements for the pleated surfaces – extreme zigzagged, zigzagged, minimal zigzagged, to symbolize the dynamic unfolding process of diamond facades.

Measuring 2,200sqm (indoor and outdoor combined), the place can accommodate up to 1000 pax. Its unique design supported by green building concepts have made the place a comfortable setting to host many weddings and official government events. Galāsa has been greatly sought after even before its official opening in the humble city of Ipoh.



Architect's sketch.



CONCEPT

Inspired by Diamond structure and its transmittance of visible light, glass material is used for main facade and pleated to represent the Geometric pattern of diamond.



The central aisle with decorative lighting to invite visitors entering from the main entrance.



The tranquil pond also serves as the main water feature to the hall entrance.

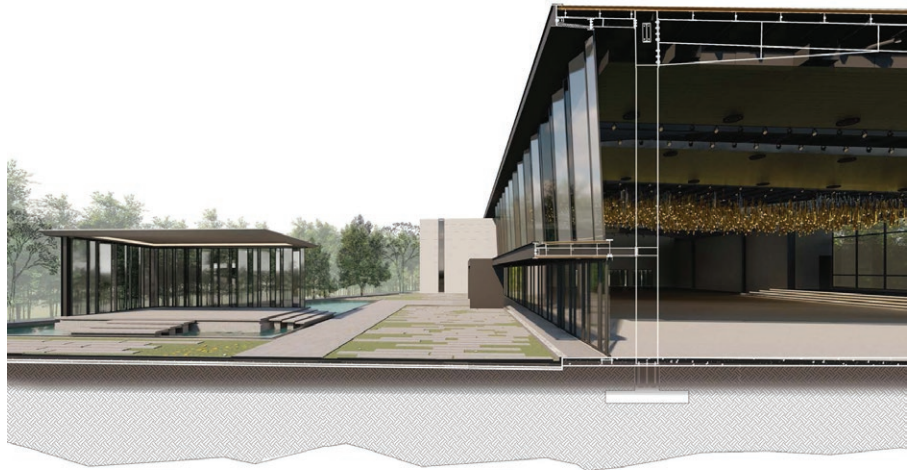


Ground floor plan

1. VIP & Drop off
2. Hall (Vetro)
3. DB Room
4. Changing Room
5. Washroom
6. Parlour (Serres)
7. Orchid Room (Keaw)
8. Discussion/Preparation Area
9. Bridegroom's Room
10. Bride's Room
11. Altair (Pavillion Altair)
12. Vehicle Parking
13. Compact Sub TNB
14. Guard House
15. Washroom



10m 20m

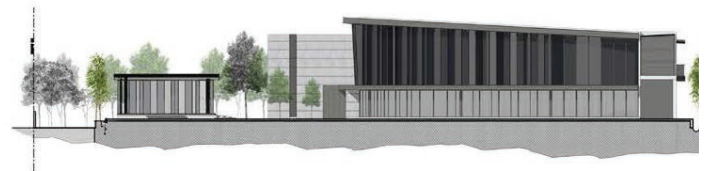


Sectional perspective of site.



The inviting grand entrance welcome visitors to the exquisite event hall which is sitting amidst lush greenery.

SITE SECTION AND ELEVATION



Country	: Malaysia
Name Of The Project	: Galasa Caldwell
Location	: Perak
City	: Ipoh
Land Area	: 5,381 sqm
Built Area	: 2,200 sqm
Year Of Completion	: 2019
Architect	: Ar. Kuee Sheau Shyuan
Team Members	: Shukri Mohamed & Foong Wai Toh
Consulting Firm	: Kuee Architecture
Structure Engineer	: AJL Perunding
Mep Engineer	: Atec Consulting Engineers
Gbi Consultant	: Green Quarter Sdn Bhd
Contractor	: Soon Leong Construction Sdn Bhd
Cost Of The Project (In Us\$)	: USD 1.5 Million



Open deck.

TANAH RIMBA LOT 896

Interior by Totem SB

DESIGNER'S STATEMENT

The interior of this hillside house in Tanah Rimba is inspired by the unique architectural footprint and features of the property. These elements provided a strong base for our interior design works, allowing us to expand on the architectural narratives and create a cohesive and harmonious living environment.

The raw, chic, and classy elements of the surrounding environment serve as our primary inspiration. We aim to celebrate the natural beauty of the rainforest while infusing contemporary design elements that complement the architectural footprint. The well-thought-out architectural features, such as the large full-height glass windows and the expansive outdoor balcony, act as key focal points that bridge the gap between the interior and the lush surroundings.

Building on the architectural narratives, our design concept revolves around the seamless integration of indoor and outdoor spaces, maximizing the breathtaking elevated views of the rainforest canopies and fostering a strong connection to nature. We appreciate the thought and care put into the architectural layout, and we have enhanced and complemented these features through our interior design choices.

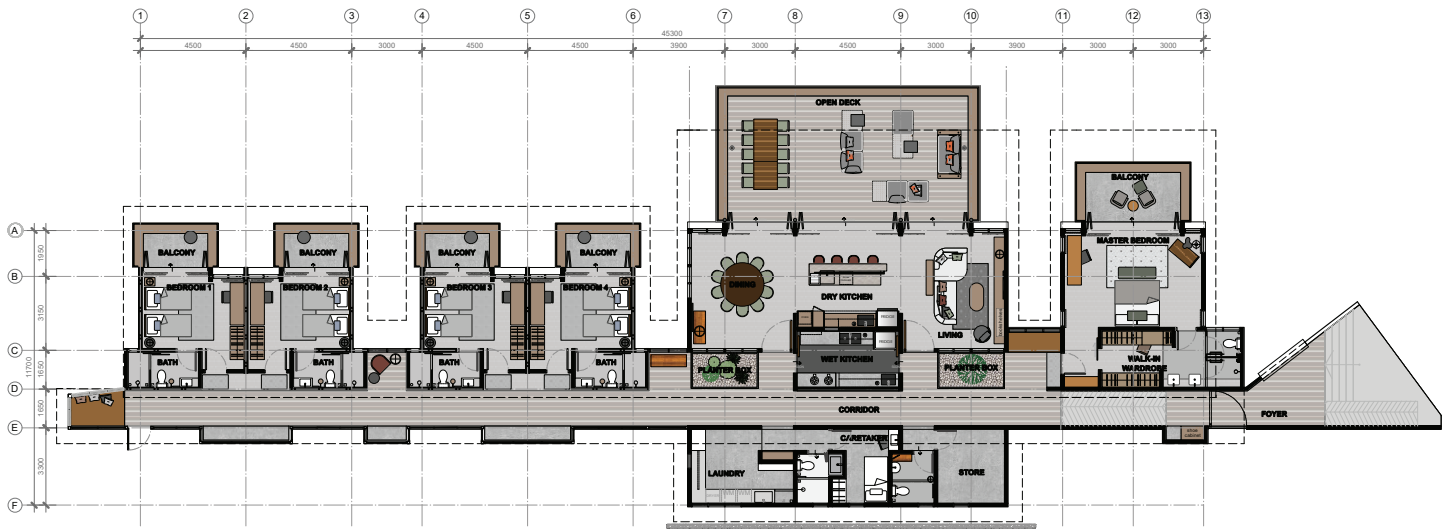
The open kitchen, dining, and living areas are strategically positioned to take advantage of the panoramic views, ensuring that the calming beauty of the rainforest is always within sight. We have carefully selected materials and finishes that reflect the raw and organic feel of the surrounding environment. Exposed wood, stone, and woven materials further accentuates the architectural story.



Living room.



Dining.



Layout plan.



Bedroom.



Bathroom.



Powder room.



The spacious outdoor balcony has a capacity to accommodate up to 20 people for private get-togethers. We have leveraged this space as a multifunctional area for relaxation, entertainment, and dining. The daybed swing, comfortable settees, and dining facilities with a barbeque area are strategically positioned to maximise the panoramic views while ensuring comfort and convenience. The furnishings we have selected combines comfort and style to create an inviting atmosphere.

Throughout the day, the architectural characteristics provide a strong backdrop for our design intent. The large full-height glass windows flood the interior spaces with natural light, blurring the boundaries between the indoors and outdoors. This, combined with the open layout, fosters a sense of togetherness and allows the inhabitants to fully immerse themselves in the mystics of the rainforest.

END

Architects	:	Tetawowe Atelier
Interior	:	Totem SB
Drawing board	:	July 2021
Current construction progress	:	Building foundation works
Targeted completion	:	End 2024



DATUM:M. A PERSONAL ACCOUNT

by Min

Alan Teh, Shyuan Kuee, Azril Amir Jaafar, Mok Chee Paan, Lawrence Loh, Sharina Intan Abdullah, Dexter Koh, me, Michael Ong (L-R)

I gave a short lecture at DATUM:M as one of the seven Malaysian Architects invited to talk about one of our award winning projects. The event was part of the KLAFA Kuala Lumpur Architecture Festival, the speakers were invited to share behind-the-scenes stories about their projects.

My fellow speakers were:

1. Lawrence Loh (Arkitek LLA S/B) who spoke about his UAB Building conservation project in Georgetown, about the stringent standards that he and the owner set for the project in terms of LEED ratings as well as the cultural and historical legacy the building represented.
2. Shyuan Kuee (Kuee Architect) talked about the challenges and rewards in the 1-LASAM project in Ipoh which took 7 years to execute. This is another highly rated building in terms of GBI and environmental controls.
3. Mok Chee Paan (Garis Architects S/B) explained how the Tamarind Square project was conceived and the town squares from Tripoli, Lisbon and Barcelona which influenced its design, and the careful balance in dealing with cars, people, business, leisure, nature and density.
4. Sharina Intan Abdullah (Public Works Dept.) gave a candid and informative account of the renovation and upgrading of the Parliament House and associated buildings, and how the recent quick changes of government did not make her job easier.
5. The fifth speaker was me.
6. Dexter Koh (DEKODA) told the audience that this is the first time he had presented on stage, and gave an informative account of fitting out of the executive spaces within the KYM Tower in Kuala Lumpur.

7. Azril Amir Jaafar (Veritas Architects S/B) was very animated in his presentation on the Saloma Link; a bridge project which was completed during the lockdown. It was an infra structure project with a strong architectural response and place making qualities.

The event covenor was Alan Teh (Atelier Alan Teh Architect) who served as moderator with co-moderator, Michael Ong from BYG Penang.

I was asked to talk about the Sibu Heritage Centre, which won a Gold in the 2011 PAM Awards in the Conservation category.

This is a brief account of my sharing.

I first presented this project at DATUM in 2010, at the time the project was newly completed and I was with my former company; Design Network Architects. Now, more than 12 years later, it is a good time to take stock and to record my gratitude to my colleagues at the time, and there were many of them. This is mainly because we carried out the project like a university assignment; with many teams working on the various elements of the building.

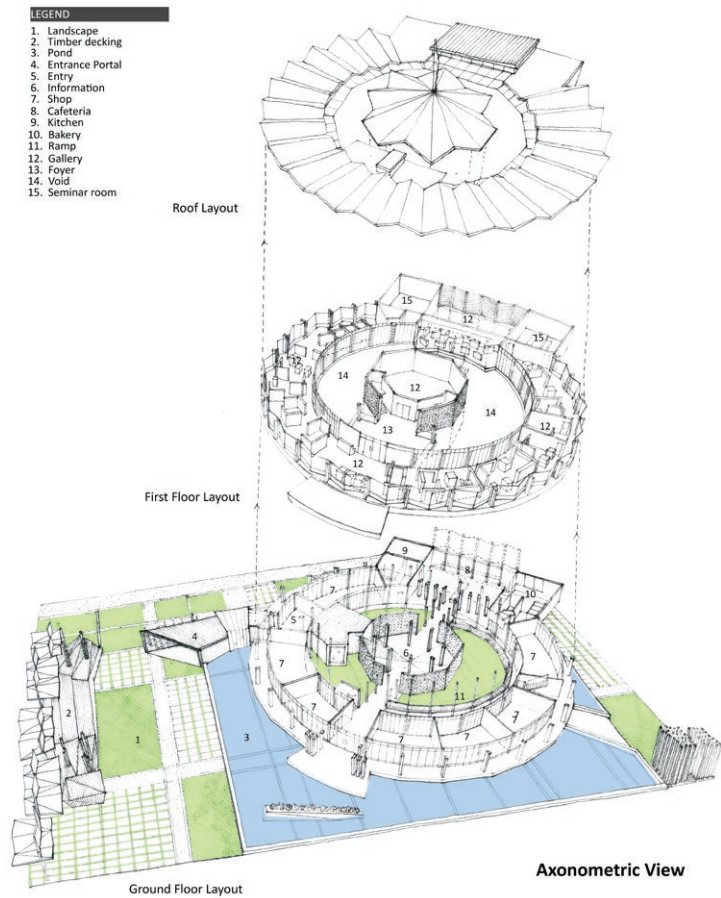


The SMC was designed by the expatriate firm Swan and McLaren in 1960, and completed in 1963 to house the local council.

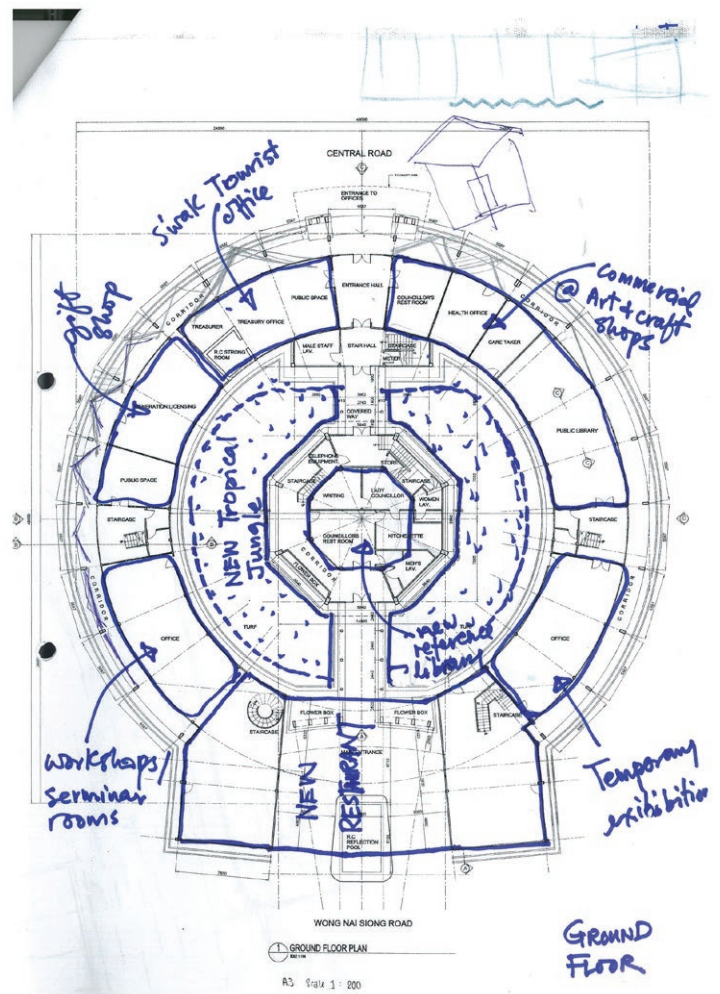
In 2002 the council moved to their new premises and vacated the building, without definite plans for this building, so it was left vacant until 2008. We see that quite frequently; in the name of development – new premises are built without plans for the existing building. Eventually the old building falls into disrepair – by then there is a reason to tear it down and another available resource is lost forever.



“Exquisite effort in conserving a heritage building while enhancing cultural amenities and public space.”
 – PAM Awards 2011 jury citation, Gold in Conservation



The floor of the entry plaza is criss crossed with ‘urban lines’ - these were derived from the adjacent lanes, streets and landmarks. They are filled with the demolished material from the existing building.



Fortunately for the SMC building, the Council made plans to upgrade the currently unoccupied SMC building into a new heritage centre. They contacted Wong Kiong, who sketched out some initial ideas for the usage of the two former office floors. The museum would be located in the first floor while the lower floor would have retail and food outlets – the rental collection would then allow free admission into the museum.

This is an example of how value can be added to existing buildings through interventions and insertions without diluting the essence of the original building; allowing the new to enter into a meaningful dialogue with the old.



Mingi and Suh Chee designed the Funnel and Moat to control the entry of people into the museum, aided by Sean Chew. The form of the Funnel lends itself to many things; a threshold between the new and the old, a performance space, a public sculpture and a device to direct the movement of people. Its construction materials are borrowed from Sibú's riverfront and from her shipping building past.

The Moat gave the new building an urban edge, much like the Terrain along the five foot way of the adjacent shops.

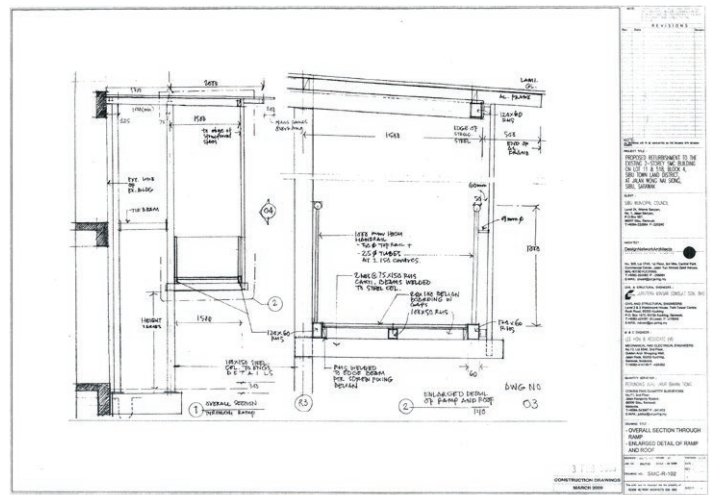
Design development of building elements continued as construction commenced on site, we had weekly design 'crits' to finalise details to issue to Thomas on site. Teams competed with each other to get their schemes built.



Wong Zi Tao from NUS was able to get his design of the Terrain accepted and built, the timber landform was a companion piece to the Funnel; a seating space and a gentle decline between the park and the shops



Another young designer, Lai Lee Hui from University of Wellington 'won' the interior design package for the museum, designing the museum exhibition like a board game with influences from Sibú riverfront alleys and lane-ways.



The new ramp fitted newly along one semi circular wing, moving people upstairs to the museum lobby - its suspended structure with timber flooring is influenced by jungle bridges and river jetties.





I ended the 20-minute sharing by showing the current state of the Heritage Centre; the moat was filled over and converted into a planter, the timber totems at the terrain were cut down and the terrain itself dismantled. I do not know the reasons behind these actions, but know that these took place before the pandemic. I suspect maintenance of the Centre and the park was a responsibility beyond the developer's commitment.



As foster parents of our projects, architects can do little after handing over the completed projects to their legal parents - we hope that we have done enough during the design and development of the scheme to groom the new parents to take over and raise the child well.

END



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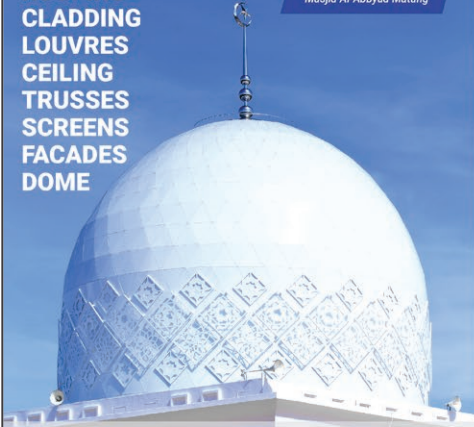


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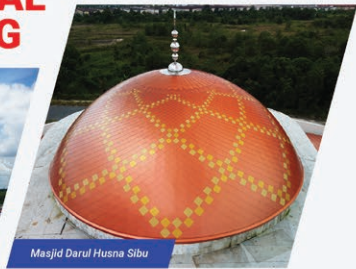
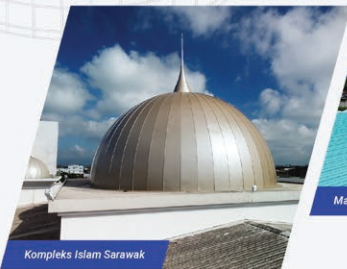


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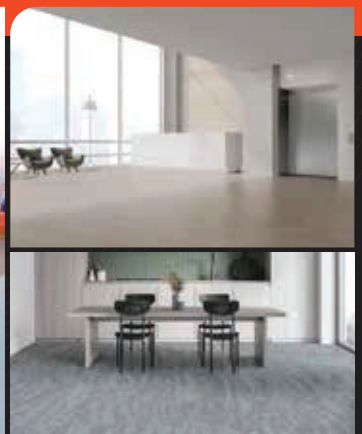
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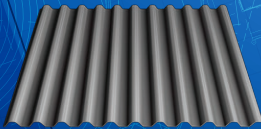
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