

GBI and the Future Prospects of Greening Sarawak

Written by Ms. Nur Aqilah Husna Anuar,
GBI Marketing and Communications Executive

Green Building Index (GBI) and the Future Prospects of Greening Sarawak" was the theme of a dialogue held successfully at the Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia Sarawak Chapter (PAMSC) in Kuching on 25th November 2023. The dialogue was organised by GBI in collaboration with PAMSC.

More than 40 participants including government representatives, PAMSC members and GBI facilitators (GBIF) joined GBI Board Chairman, Ar. Abu Zarim bin Abu Bakar, in lively discussions to chart a strategic course for GBI's enhance presence in Sarawak, and to solidify relations towards contributing meaningfully to Sarawak's sustainable development objectives.

Ar. Abu Zarim, who is also PAM President, delineated the strategic direction of GBI in Sarawak. This includes expanding GBI's outreach to key stakeholders in the building fraternity as well as implementing programmes to enhance the knowledge and awareness on GBI to the industry and public. GBI is the only green building rating tool supported by the Malaysian Green Building Council (MGBC) which represents Malaysia at the World Green Building Council (WGBC).

Ar. Ivy Jong, Past President of PAMSC, eloquently conveyed PAMSC's enthusiastic commitment to collaborating more extensively with GBI to bolster its presence in Sarawak. She articulated PAMSC's support to facilitate a series of collaborative initiatives, and to actively engage professionals including architects in the green building discourse.

Recognising the significance of local players' participation, GBI General Manager, Mr. Andrew Kong highlighted plans for more GBIF courses to be organised in Sarawak. These courses will be jointly organised with the Sarawak Housing and Real Estate Developers' Association (SHEDA) in early 2024 with funding from the Sarawak Business Federation (SBF) BizRecovery Fund. GBIF courses are designed to equip individuals with knowledge and skills to drive the green building agenda based on GBI criteria.

A special presentation by GBI Marketing and Communications Executive, Ms. Nur Aqilah Husna Anuar, provided the latest updates on GBI including data on project applications, registrations, and



certifications across Malaysia. As of October 2023, a total of 665 buildings have been GBI-certified including 19 projects in Sarawak, covering total gross floor areas of 301 million square feet and 3.4 million square feet, respectively.

Another key focus in the presentation relates to green building incentives provided by the Government, such as the Green Investment Tax Allowance (GITA) and Green Income Tax Allowance (GITE). Real time data detailing the benefits of going green with GBI certification were also shared with the participants.

The support and recognition of the Sarawak Government for the GBI rating tools aligns seamlessly with the state's broader transition towards a green economy. GBI's enhanced focus in Sarawak is a strategic response to this recognition, signifying a commitment to actively contribute to the state's sustainable development goals which are among the core objectives of Sarawak's Post-COVID Development Strategy (PCDS) 2030.

END

PAMSC Feruni Study Trip

Reported by Min

Feruni Ceramiche Sdn. Bhd. hosted a visit to their new Headquarters in Kuala Lumpur for 14 PAMSC committee members on the 7-8th of December.

7th December Thursday

10 a.m. arrival at the Feruni Headquarters

We are greeted by Mr. Roger Ong (Chief Commercial Officer of Feruni) who briefed us on the origins of the company, and about their "business of creating, designing and curating artistic tiles that inspire people by transforming living and working spaces into magical experiences". This was followed by All about Feruni presentation by Ms. Julia Toh from Project Sales, and a tour of their offices and showroom and their A.B.I (Art.Beauty. Inspiration) Arena to their our hand in deco-tile making.



Noon

Lunch, followed by a presentation by Laticrete on tile adhesive and grouting, and a demonstration on large-format tile handling, laying and cutting.

4 p.m.

Tea, networking and meeting with Feruni Founder, Managing Director, Dato' CC Ngei before departing to Hotel.

7 p.m.

Dinner at Flour, Fire and Stone hosted by Feruni Ceramiche Sdn. Bhd.



8th December 2023, Friday

9:30 p.m.

Depart from Hilton PJ to visit recently completed projects using Feruni tiles; the Palm Garden Hotel (Le Méridien), and IOI City Mall.

Noon

Lunch at Cafe Chef Wan in IOI City Mall, before departing for PAM Centre for Committee Meeting.



PAMSC records their thanks to Feruni Ceramiche Sdn. Bhd. for the informative and enjoyable study trip.



Julia is the representative of Feruni Ceramiche based in Kuching.



Photo Credit: Julia Toh & Stephen Ong

Report by Hon. Sec. Ar. Stephen Mong

1. PAMSC Committee Meeting No.9 was held at 99L Jalan Tandok on Friday, 8th Dec 2023; from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Some personal observations about the PAM Centre building:

- i. Off-form concrete finish 'reminiscent of my uni'
 - ii. Lobbies, galleries and open stairwell circulation lends to a permeable building which provides simple way-finding
 - iii. Toilet with integrated bidet / blower / wash-let
2. Major issues discussed during meeting:
 - i. Final accounts for PDF 2023 (316 people attended) and W.A.D. Cloud Pavilion
 - ii. eSPA QP renewal issues raised by members. LAM unable to open for renewal before approval is obtained by the Yang DiPertua of L.A.M.
 - iii. DefyLab:
 - a. Our new tenant for Level 2, with a fit-out period in Jan 2024.
 - b. provides high-quality fitness and wellness facilities and related services.
 3. Meeting adjourned for coffee and cake at Naj & Bell
 - i. Strawberry sponge with watermelon - a 'must have' according to Annie (who always must have the cake each time she visits PAM Centre)
 - ii. Discounts for PAM members who drink / dine at the café, I wonder how one proves that you are a PAM member?
 4. PAMSC Annual dinner at Aliyaa (Sri Lankan Cuisine)- Michelin 2024 rated. Ordered the 'Aliyaa Experience' comprising:

Starter: Crab Samosa (where was the crab?)
Soup: Atukkal Rasam
Mains: Fish Sothi -mild and amenable
Deviled Chicken
Mutton Curry
Cashewnut Paal Curry
Brinjal Moju
Nei Soru
Vallarai & Carrot Sambol
Papadam & Chili
Dessert: Sweet Appam

Si Yong and Stephen Liew - spicy sweat during dinner.

Annie - credit card overload when making payment.



Too bad my hand carry 放不下. (Photo by Brendon Tong)



PAM Building - spaces and details. (Photo by Stephen Mong)



Huge tree in the courtyard of Palm Garden Hotel, Putrajaya. (Photo by Leong Pik Shia)



This brush like installation beneath the skylight at Feruni's office showroom has a poetic feel to it. Each 'bristle' are names of each staff printed on a long strip of paper. The installation reminded me how everyone has their roles and together we are stronger as a whole. (Photo by Annie)



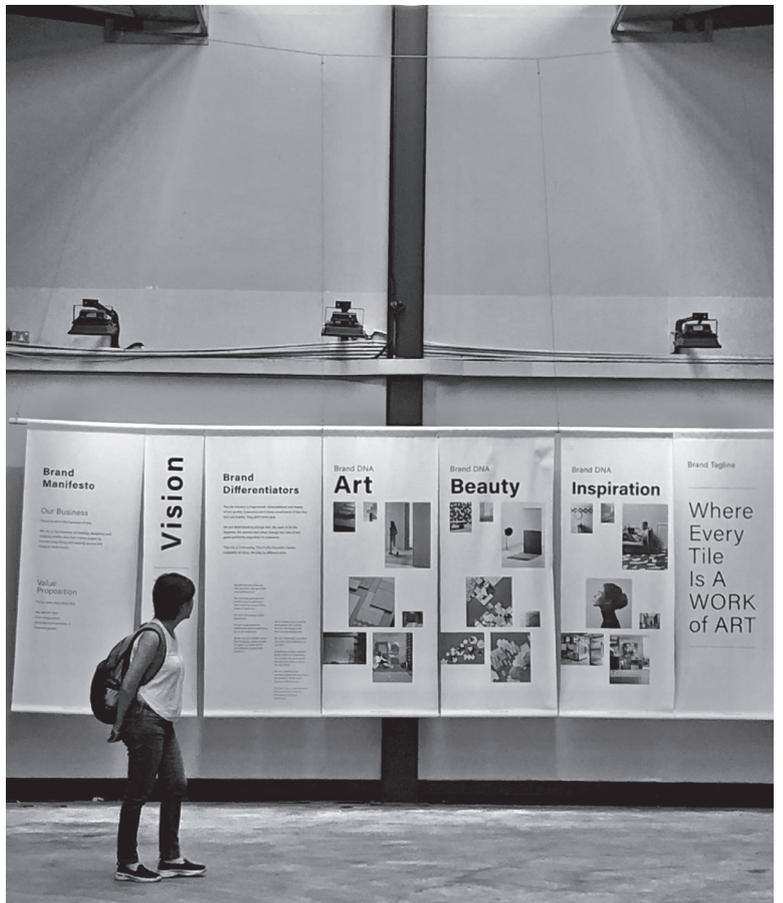
The Aliyaa experience. (Photo by Min)



Ronnie O'Sullivan at Feruni. (Photo by Lau Chun Leong)



Finally..breakfast! (Photo by Ivy Jong)



PS focusing on the "BEAUTY" panel. (Photo by Chai SY)

Crits and Reflections

4 Nations Live Design Discourse Workshop 2023

Reported by Ar. Brendan Tong

To wrap up our 2023 event calendar with a flourish, PAMSC hosted the young practitioners and architectural students of Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia for the 4 Nations Live Design Discourse Workshop on the 14th to 17th December 2023.

The 4 Nations Live Design Discourse Workshop is an initiative fostered by the Architectural Institutes of Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia, and was aimed as a platform for the students and young practitioners of the four nations to come together and exchange ideas, experiences, and culture, as well as to strengthen kinship and collaboration across the participating nations of the South East Asiatic network.

For the very first time since the workshop was initiated in 2017, Sarawak was selected to play host to the event. Participants and mentors of the 4 nations descended upon Kenyalang Park in Kuching on 15th December (Friday) to synthesize with the gardens, the commercial areas, and the socially oriented residences of the aged development, in a bid to propose interventions to enliven and re-engage the spaces with the community. They then worked tirelessly through the next one and a half days to put together their proposals, before presenting it to the Mayor of Kuching South City Council, Datuk Wee Hong Seng, at our Crit and Reflection session on 17th December (Sunday).

The session was attended by approximately 60 people, who were enlightened by the ideas brought forth by the eclectic grouping of students from different national backgrounds and culture. Datuk Wee found the ideas so inspiring, he had requested for the participants to share their concepts in one of his upcoming podcasts, scheduled weekly at 1.30 pm every Saturday, which will be broadcasted to the greater Kuching audience via Facebook Live.

To cap off the event, the mentors of each participating nations, namely Ar. Song Yu Chuan from Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA), Ar. Dr. Nillapat Srisoparb of the Association of Siamese Architects under Royal Patronage (ASA), Ms Linda Octavia from Ikatan Arsitek Indonesia (IAI), and Ar. Ng Shi Qi from PAM Sabah, wowed the attendees with snippets of their own experiences and projects undertaken in their respective vernacular.

We hope the participants of the workshop, as well as our members who attended the event, have found the session invigorating and fruitful. We thank you for your participation, especially on such a beautiful Sunday afternoon, and we look forward to your further engagement with us and our events. A detailed spread of the 4 proposals will be prepared for your viewing pleasure in the upcoming edition of FLASH ! Intersection, so stay tuned!

Lastly, the Graduates, Education and BIM Committee of PAM Sarawak wishes you and your family a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Site analysis in progress.



Participants working through the night.



Presentation to crit and reflection session.



Group photo of the session.

WHAT DO ARCHITECTS DO ALL DAY?

This section attempts to sum up the architects' busy day in a series of snapshots - this is Ar Tang Hsiao Seak's contribution this issue. For the next issue, we feature Ar. Abg Razali (nominated by Ar. Nurina Matnor).

Our readers are invited to submit their 'day's experiences' as well - email to intersection.editorial@gmail.com



Morning call by Sang Suria, flora & fauna interplay.



Daily reminder of good design icons presided by General Guanyu - at my workplace 'altar'.



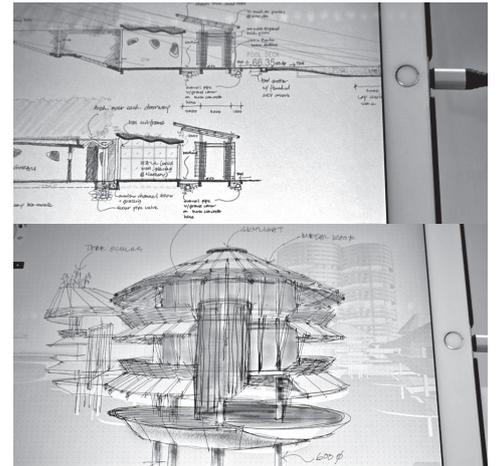
Office tour of duty - being the guiding lieutenant to the platoon - looking at screens and talking to faces, only interrupted by tea & other breaks.



Habit 1: Finger poking, commenting, sketching to convey some imaginary good practice.



Habit 2: Multitasking - pencil (C) vs Pencil (E) + fingers.



Post lunch & caffeine intake: Where Pencil + Pad prevail over pencil + paper.



Site visit before construction: sometimes visual surveillance is more effective than measured ones, but involves climbing and bending.

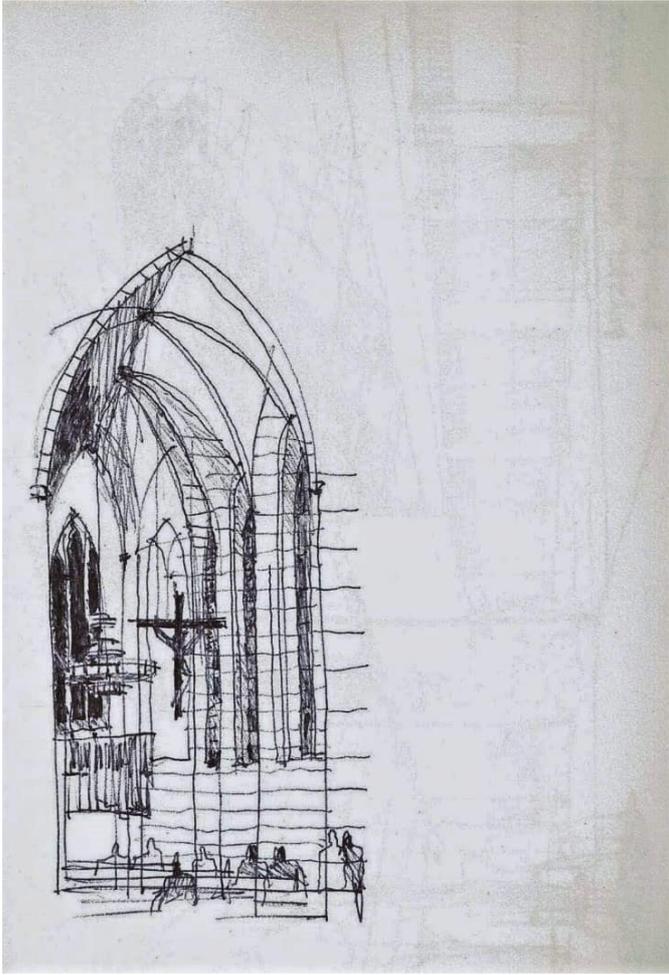


Meanwhile, via post COVID communication solution: site progress reporting via mobile devices is easy & satisfying, however it entails prompt response time from us too.



Occasionally, site visit at the end of construction: Recalling "I told you so it's nice moments", appraisal and satisfaction (in earnest hope).

- Min



From the Germany Sketchbook.

A quick five-minute sketch inside the Frankfurt Cathedral located off Romer Platz - we were on the way to dinner and if I recall correctly, the Cathedral was not particularly impressive but it was good to capture it on paper while the others wandered around taking photos and lighting candles.

Peggy Wong took the photo of me while Irene Lim took the one of us.

#pamsc #studytrip #frankfurt

PARTNERS

