



# LIVE DESIGN DISCOURSE

THE ESSENTIAL FRAMEWORK  
2023

KENYALANG PARK



## Participating Organisations



asa



IKATAN  
ARSITEK  
INDONESIA







Prepared by Ar. Brendan Tong, with the assistance of  
Ar. Goh Tze Hui and Limitless Design.

**PUBLICATION & MEDIA COMMITTEE:**



**PAM**

**PERTUBUHAN AKITEK MALAYSIA SARAWAK CHAPTER**  
*MALAYSIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS SARAWAK CHAPTER*

Level 3, Sublot 11, Block A,  
Saradise, Jalan Stutong,  
93350 Kuching, Sarawak.



+6082 457 182



+6082 451 180



[info@pamsc.org.my](mailto:info@pamsc.org.my)

**DESIGNS & LAYOUT BY:**



**Limitless  
Design**



+6010 8686 149



[hello@limitlessdesign.asia](mailto:hello@limitlessdesign.asia)



<https://limitlessdesign.asia>

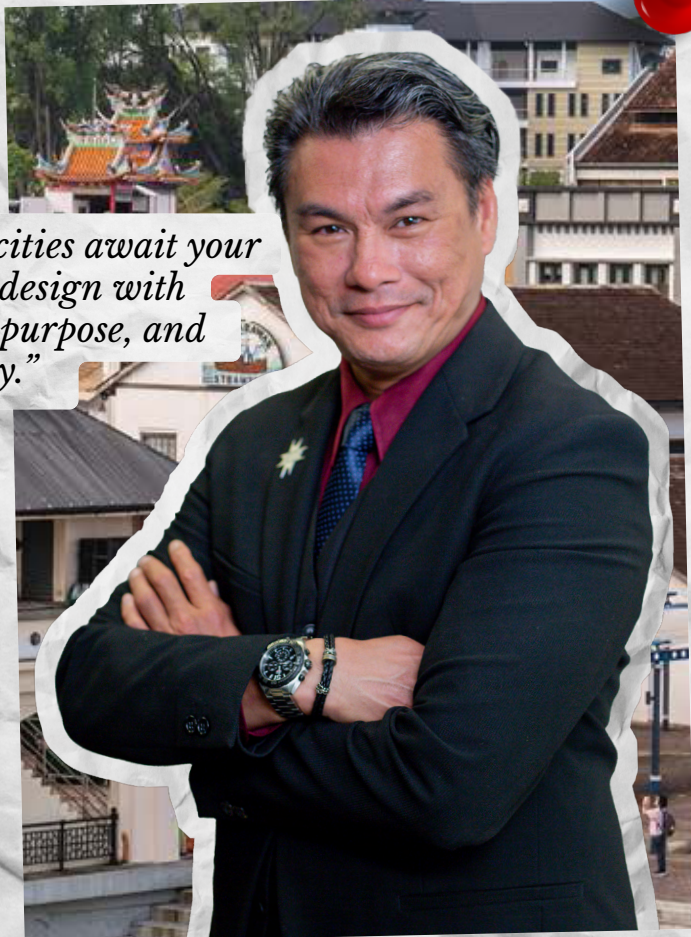
# CONTENTS

PAGE	CONTENTS
<u>4 - 8</u>	— Foreword
<u>9 - 25</u>	— CHAPTER 01 The Reflections
<u>26 - 30</u>	— CHAPTER 02 The Workshop
<u>31</u>	— CHAPTER 03 The Proposal
<u>32 - 38</u>	— GROUP 01 Kenyalang Stage - Bridging Communities
<u>39 - 45</u>	— GROUP 02 Play To - Gather
<u>46 - 55</u>	— GROUP 03 Boundaries To Connect
<u>56 - 69</u>	— GROUP 04 Bridging The Inside Out
<u>70 - 79</u>	— CHAPTER 04 The Sharing
<u>80 - 81</u>	— CHAPTER 05 The Acknowledgements



# FOREWORD

*“Future cities await your vision—design with passion, purpose, and creativity.”*



**Adjunct Prof. Ar. Adrianta Aziz**  
President of Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM)



The journey of architecture is one of constant learning, observation, and collaboration. This truth was exemplified during the 4 Nation Live Design Discourse (LDD) 2023, a transformative event that brought together architecture students and young practitioners from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand. Hosted for the first time in East Malaysia by the Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia Sarawak Chapter (PAMSC), and set against the dynamic backdrop of Kuching, Sarawak, this event served as a vibrant platform for networking, collaboration, and innovation.

The Live Design Discourse is not merely an event; it is a celebration of what architecture can achieve when minds from diverse backgrounds unite. At its core, LDD 2023 focused on the theme of placemaking and urban interventions, with a compelling case study centered on the revitalization of Kenyalang Park, a suburban residential area in Kuching. Participants were tasked with reimagining how this underutilized space could be transformed to enhance its physical environment, foster social engagement, and stimulate economic development.

The real value of this discourse, however, lay in its collaborative spirit. Students and young architects worked in cross-cultural teams, bringing with them unique perspectives shaped by their respective countries and experiences. This diversity enriched the discussions, encouraged innovative solutions, and demonstrated the importance of teamwork in addressing complex architectural challenges. The ability to learn from one another, to see through different lenses, and to create as a collective embodies the very essence of architectural education.

We were honored by the presence of Kuching South City Council's Mayor, Dato Wee Hong Seng, whose participation reinforced the critical role that architects and local governments play in shaping the built environment. His insights on sustainable and culturally sensitive urban development



inspired participants to craft proposals that respected Kuching's unique heritage while embracing forward-thinking solutions.

Events like the Live Design Discourse also offer participants invaluable opportunities to network with peers, practitioners, and industry leaders. The connections forged during this event transcend borders and will undoubtedly serve as a foundation for future collaborations. This exchange of ideas and the bonds created among students from four nations exemplify the power of architecture as a unifying force.

At PAM, our mission is to cultivate the next generation of architects by providing platforms like LDD where learning extends beyond the classroom. Architecture is not just about creating spaces; it is about addressing human needs, fostering connections, and shaping communities. Through initiatives like this, we aim to instil in our students the confidence to lead, the curiosity to innovate, and the empathy to design for a better world.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the student volunteers from UNIMAS, whose dedication and enthusiasm made this event a success. Their commitment to ensuring a smooth experience for all participants was matched by their eagerness to learn and grow alongside their peers.

As LDD 2023 concludes, it marks not an endpoint but the beginning of another chapter in the lifelong journey of learning and discovery in architecture. The lessons learned, the friendships formed, and the inspirations gained will continue to resonate in the hearts and minds of all who participated.

Looking ahead, we at PAM aspire to see the Live Design Discourse grow, reaching new communities and embracing even more voices from Kalimantan, Brunei, and Sabah. We envision a future where such platforms inspire architects across Southeast Asia to dream, design, and deliver meaningful changes to their communities.

To all the students and young practitioners, remember that architecture is a journey without limits. Each design challenge you encounter and each collaboration you engage in will shape your vision and capabilities. Let this discourse inspire you to continue exploring, innovating, and striving for excellence.

“

*Through collaboration,  
we learn. Through  
learning, we grow. And  
through growth, we  
inspire.*

Warm regards,

Adjunct Prof. Ar. Adrianta Aziz  
President 2024 - 2025,  
Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM)

# FOREWORD



*"The 4 Nation Live Design Discourse is a testament to our belief in the power of collaboration, exchange, and learning."*

**Ar. Noraini Narodden**  
Chairman of Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia  
Sarawak Chapter (PAMSC)



It is with great pride and gratitude that we reflect on the success of the 4 Nation Live Design Discourse (LDD) 2023, hosted for the first time in East Malaysia by the Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia Sarawak Chapter (PAMSC) in the vibrant city of Kuching, Sarawak. This event marked a significant milestone in fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange among architecture students and young practitioners from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand.

LDD 2023 offered a unique platform to gather diverse perspectives on architecture and placemaking within Southeast Asia. Through thought-provoking discussions and design challenges, this gathering not only celebrated the richness of regional architectural knowledge but also emphasized the importance of collective engagement in shaping the future of our built environment.

The focus of the discourse was on placemaking and urban interventions, specifically addressing the potential of empty plots within existing urban settings. In particular, the revitalization of Kenyalang Park—a suburban residential area surrounded by rapid development—served as a poignant case study. The challenge was to explore how architecture can contribute to not only the physical transformation of spaces, but also to their social and economic rejuvenation.

One of the highlights of the event was the engagement of Kuching South City Council's Mayor, Dato Wee Hong Seng, whose presence underscored the significance of preserving the unique urban fabric of Kuching while simultaneously seeking innovative solutions for its revitalization. The discourse also attracted a diverse audience, including local practitioners, architecture students, and design enthusiasts, all of whom were inspired by the creative and practical ideas presented.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the student volunteers from UNIMAS, whose enthusiasm and dedication ensured the smooth running

of the event. Their participation was not only invaluable in terms of logistical support, but also provided them with the opportunity to engage directly with the insights shared by the participants.

At PAMSC, we remain deeply committed to advancing architectural education and nurturing the next generation of architects. The 4 Nation Live Design Discourse is a testament to our belief in the power of collaboration, exchange, and learning. We hope that events like this will continue to thrive and grow in the years to come. It is our aspiration to see the discourse return to other parts of Sarawak, and perhaps even extend its reach to include fellow Borneans from Kalimantan, Brunei, and Sabah, thereby further strengthening the regional ties within the architectural community.

As we look to the future, we are confident that the ideas and connections forged at LDD 2023 will have a lasting impact on the architects of tomorrow—those who will design, build, and shape our cities for generations to come.

Warm regards,

Ar. Noraini Narodden,  
Chairman 2024 – 2025,  
PAM Sarawak Chapter

CHAPTER 1

THE

# REFLECTIONS

A peek into the wondrous minds of our  
Convenors, Organizers, Mentors and Participants.



KICKSTART THE DAY:

# BREAKFAST

FRIDAY • 15/12/2023

☀ MORNING

Participants warmed up to each other over  
Laksa Sarawak and Kolo Mee.



It started with a seemingly random phone call. My friend Ar. Goh Tze Hui asked me if I am interested to be a Co-convenor for an international student design workshop. It was daunting, and it was tempting to refuse, considering the short 3 months we are given to put everything together. But the nature of the workshop intrigued the educator in me, the idea of putting together students from Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, and Malaysia, mixing them up, setting them loose, and seeing what a well-stirred pot of different background, experiences, cultures, approaches and ideas can procure. I was sold, I was in.



Ar. Brendan Tong,  
*Co-Convenor*



BEFORE SITE VISIT:

# BRIEFING

FRIDAY • 15/12/2023

☀ MORNING

📍 PAMSC CENTRE

To start the day, Ar. Adrianta Aziz briefed the participants on the workshop deliverables. This was followed by Ar. Goh Tze Hui's elaboration of the workshop schedule, project brief, and project site overview. Since he grew up in Kenyalang Park, Ar. Mike Boon contributed some of his own experiences and understanding of the site and its history.



Ar. Ng Shi Qi,  
*Mentor, PAM (Malaysia)*

For me, the biggest challenge in mentoring the team was the language barrier. The students from all nations were able to speak passable English, but some were more confident in the language than others. When you mix in the need to profess and explain intricate ideas and technical details, the less confident students fall back on the comfort of silence. This did not work well for the team, as all of them had so much to offer. I spent half of the first 2 days coming up with icebreaking exercises, and taking every advantage to build confidence and comfort within the group, just so they can start communicating in earnest.



## SITE ANALYSIS:

# KENYALANG PARK

FRIDAY • 15/12/2023

☀ MORNING

📍 KENYALANG PARK

Armed with a wealth of literal information, participants set off to experience and analyze their site. They were assisted by an organized team of 8 Facilitators, who are students of the University of Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS).

The choice of Kenyalang Park Housing Estate as the project site was a personal one for me. As a resident, I am a firsthand witness to its unique charm and inherent challenges. It felt apt and logical for me to share that experience with the participants. Little did I realize that the collective eyes of the different nationals would end up opening my own eyes to what I thought I was familiar with. It was a joy to observe their interpretation of the community's pulse. And it was as much a refreshing experience for me as it was for them.



Ar. Goh Tze Hui,  
*Convener*







SITE ANALYSIS:

# KUCHING CITY CENTRE & WATERFRONT

FRIDAY • 15/12/2023

☀ MORNING

📍 WATERFRONT

To further enhance their experience and understanding of Kuching, participants were brought on a tour of the old streets and waterfront of the City. The tour brought them

through both the Brooke-era architecture and the modern heritage-driven icons, and concluded with a classic boat ride to Kampung Boyan for dinner.

You may be surprised, but coordinating 4 people was hard! Some of the students worked faster, some slower. Rather literally, some WALKED faster, and some walked so slowly they fell behind! To help the team work in synergy, I tried to guide them to move in the same tandem and rhythm, and that started with making them WALK together, to care for each other, to listen to each other, and to pay attention to each other. Eventually, they learned to match their thinking, and we became more and more efficient in agreeing to specific points in our race towards the development of a united idea.



Ar. Dr. Nillapat "Gig" Srisorparb,  
*ASA (Thailand) Mentor*







LEARNING FROM THE PROS:

# DINNER & DRAFT CRIT

FRIDAY • 15/12/2023

EVENING

KAMPUNG BOYAN



A tranquil dinner overlooking the Sarawak River was brightened by the arrival of Ar. Ng Chee Wee, who was innocently invited by Ar. Brendan “to have a dinner and drinks only, nothing more laa.” The ruse was gradually unraveled as he was ushered to a large table

after his meal, and presented with a centre spot of the draft crit as a VIP panelist. Being a great sport, Ar. Ng was more than helpful in offering his advice to guide the participants through the development of their draft proposal.

We started the workshop with different goals: Mimew was here to make some new friends. Isaac turned up a day earlier at the site in determination to get an immersive grasp of the context. Faza and Merrylove were expecting to be learners of new experiences. But after dinner, our resolve was one and the same: We are here to impress, and we will create a design that could reach out and tug at the heart strings of those who lived in Kenyalang Park all their lives. We were so determined to make an impression at our draft crit presentation that we chose to risk missing our boat back to the city shores for it. As we ran down the dark gangplank to an irate boat captain, a good half a minute before he had to call it a day, we felt illuminated by the glow of pride and solidarity we had for each other. That boat ride will be a memory we cherish forever.

Issac, Merrylove, Mimew & Faza  
*Group 4 Participants*









THE NEXT DAY:

# DESIGN PRODUCTION

SATURDAY • 16/12/2023

PAMSC CENTRE

MORNING

Fresh from a good night's rest, participants converged at PAMSC centre bright and early, in keen anticipation of an intensive day of design production.

The best part about the event was definitely making new friends. It was so much fun pooling together our individually diverse and exotic cultures to tackle the problems we encountered. Sure, language was initially a bit of a problem, but we are designers, and we speak with graphics! All in all we learned a lot, be it newfound knowledge in architecture, working styles, culture, and even food. Kuching was an excellent background for this event, being a city that offers so much to experience. We are only sorry this event merely lasted 5 days, but if we were given a chance, we would love to participate in another LDD workshop in the future.

Aliff, Melinda, Ardian & Dutchmill,  
*Group 1 Participants*



WHEN THE SUN SETS:

# PRODUCTION CONTINUES

SATURDAY • 16/12/2023

PAMSC CENTRE

EVENING

As the sun arcs across the windows, the mood remains electrifying, with the participants showing no intention of slowing down in their progress and intensity.

The experience that stood out the most for us has to be the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in our design. Some of us were fairly familiar with common AI like ChatGPT, but our mentor brought us through a more in-depth layer of understanding and usage of software like Midjourney and Prompt AI. To be honest, we struggled to use the software efficiently within the short timeframe, and we ended up only using them to generate and overlay some of the contextual elements like the greeneries for our presentation boards. But the new experience brought forth a deeper understanding of their capability, and had us teeming with fresh ideas on how we can utilize them in our future works.



Vina, Wan Hong, Euro & Bernice,  
Group 8 Participants



A SARAWAKIAN'S HOSPITALITY

# TOUR & DINNER

SATURDAY • 16/12/2023

📍 KUCHING CITY

🌙 EVENING

This trip has been a very interesting, educational, and fun experience for me. I'm really glad to have been given an opportunity to come to Kuching. I never knew it was so different from Indonesia, even though we are next to each other. Thank you to PAM and the event team for the hospitality over the past 3 days, and I look forward to hosting you in Indonesia soon.



Ar. Linda Octavia,  
LAI (Indonesia) Mentor

The 4 Mentors were brought around Kuching city for shopping and food sampling. After that, Ar. Mike Boon provided the quintessential Sarawakian hospitality by hosting both evening drinks at his home and a culturally infused dinner experience.





THE MIDNIGHT RUSH:

# WORK, CONTINUE

SATURDAY • 16/12/2023

PAMSC CENTRE

EVENING

Midnight came and went quietly, as the centre remained as lively as the Christmas Market next door. The Centre experienced its inaugural 24-hour marathon operation and survived unscathed.

Witnessing the students working deep into the night was truly inspiring for me. Their synergy, their uninhibited sharing, and their enthusiastic brainstorming efforts with enthusiasm are testaments to the power of teamwork. Seeing their remarkable and informative panels borne within such limited timeframes filled me with awe. The harmony they achieved, the concepts they crafted, and the joy they found in working together with a positive mindset showcased the beauty of a unified creativity that transcended boundaries."



Ar. Adrianta Aziz,  
*PAM LDD Event Advisor*



IT'S D-DAY:

# FINAL CRIT SESSION

SUNDAY • 17/12/2023

☀ MORNING

📍 PAMSC CENTRE

The culmination of intensive efforts finally bore fruit, as the architects of Kuching joined us out of curiosity and enthusiasm for the participants' efforts. A surprise guest joined the crit panel. The Mayor of Kuching South

City Council (MBKS), Dato Wee Hong Seng, graced the session and was enthralled by the works put forth by the four teams of participants.



Today, I have seen some great ideas put forward. Some of these ideas, like the one that proposes modular outdoor furniture, are remarkably similar to ideas that we have already intended to implement. With your permission, I am keen to share these ideas with my Councillors and see if we can extract some of these designs to be implemented in the future. We may end up mixing all your ideas together to create something new, like Rojak, but let's not forget, Rojak tastes the best that way.

*(Extracted from his speech on 17th December 2023)*



Dato Wee Hong Seng,  
MBKS Mayor





LEARNING FROM SENPAI:

# MENTOR SHARING

SUNDAY • 17/12/2023

☀️ AFTERNOON

📍 PAMSC CENTRE

To cap off our event, the four nation's mentors gracefully shared some of the work they did whilst in their respective home countries.



Returning from the workshop in Kuching, the echoes of cultural diversity and collaborative creativity linger. Engaging with fellow young practitioners and students from the 4 nations revealed a shared language in design that transcends borders. Kenyalang Park became a canvas for our collective imagination, where ideas flowed seamlessly, weaving together innovative urban interventions. The experience underscored the power of collaboration and the universal nature of design in building bridges across cultures. As I reflect on the journey, it's evident that this discourse was not just about design—it was a celebration of unity through creativity, leaving an indelible mark on my perspective.



Ar. Song Yu Chuan,  
*SLA (Singapore) Mentor*

END OF EVENT

# EPILOGUE

Hosting the Live Design Discourse was thrilling and challenging. As a past mentor, I understood its intensity, but the Convener role surpassed expectations, offering unparalleled excitement and fulfillment. Contributing to friendship and exchange among the four nations was an honor, and the spontaneous feedback affirmed the impact of our efforts. This experience deepened my commitment to dialogue and creative exchange. I'm deeply grateful for the shared moments.



Goh Tze Hui,  
*Convener*





CHAPTER 2

# THE WORKSHOP

Diving into the complexities the project site had to offer.





The Live Design Discourse (LDD) Workshop was initiated by Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia (PAM) and endorsed during the 2017 Tri-Nations meeting in Bangkok. The LDD aims to bring together the architectural students and young practitioners of Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand, and foster an exchange of ideas in a bid to strengthen the ties of the four South East Asian architectural communities. The workshop venue is rotated between the countries, and for every session, the students are separately assigned to one of four groups, and the practitioners are assigned to each group as mentors. They are then given a short timeframe to develop a design response to a project brief and a site.

For Malaysia's turn at the workshop for the year 2023, Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia (PAM), being the organizer, requested for its Sarawak Chapter (PAMSC) to co-organize the event, with Kuching nominated as the venue. The convenor of the event, Ar. Goh Tze Hui and Ar. Brendan Tong, proceeded to put together a brief that designated Kenyalang Park as a backdrop to the design proposals.

Kenyalang Park was initially envisaged by the Borneo Development Corporation of the late 1960s as a pioneer model for an affordable housing development module positioned at the fringe of Kuching city. The approximately 130 acres development hosted low-cost housing developments primarily in the terraced typology, interwoven with efficient footpaths connecting the houses to commercial arenas, offices, markets, green spaces, and unique public facilities like a Dinosaur themed public park and an educational traffic garden.

There are a few notable features unique to the development, with some bearing positive testaments to time, while others being less successful in their ageing progress. The development celebrated the challenging topography and terraneous surfaces by sensitively carving intrinsic public spaces into opportunistic geography, resulting in naturally beautiful landscaped parks, gardens, and even storm drains. These spaces remain opportunistic to modern interventions, with local consultant Arkitek JFN Sdn Bhd interjecting new urban and



social installations such as the Entrance Pavilion and the Rainbow Bridge to further celebrate the topography.

On the flip side, the 3m wide lanes connecting some of the house frontages are now an inconvenience to the vehicular adaptability of the houses. The designers of old had never envisaged that the economically oriented residences will eventually need to host more cars than bedrooms. The rapid growth surrounding the development, effectively enveloping the area into the inner city fabric of Metropolitan Kuching, further complicated the issues through its integration with densely accessed trunk roads. With more cars come more people, and vice activities crept into the previously quaint neighborhood. This subsequently led to knee-jerk solutions to resolve the issue, such as the gating of public spaces, the segregation of a previously contiguous pedestrian network, and ultimately, the



disintegration of the socially oriented urban fabric.

Perhaps the most unfortunate to befall the development was a consequence common to many developments initiated in the 60s and 70s. The commercial spaces enjoyed sounding popularity well into the 80s. It was the quintessential mall of Kuching before the shopping malls we know today existed. It had a cinema and it had markets. Some may even argue it had the vibe of an English High Street. But it has stagnated. The old shops survive on the steadily dwindling long-term customers. The arena has become out of place in the modern market, and it is rapidly outpaced by modern means of commerce. As it descended into a less desirable locality, illegal extensions sprouted out in almost inconceivable ways and manners. The brutalist shops were allowed to deform, decay, or be left derelict. And like the infrastructure, the population ages in stride

with no sustainable means of replenishment or rejuvenation.

All matters aside, the potential of Kenyalang Park is hard to be overlooked. For a start, the strategic position of Kenyalang Park as part of the inner layer of Kuching City allows it to retain the infinite potential to be rejuvenated as a high-traffic commercial hotspot. Adding to this is a resurgence in enthusiasm for curbside commercial spaces, made all the more popular since the COVID-19 times. Nostalgia further fuels the evergreen interest in returning the spaces to its much-glorified heydays. Much of the landscape treatments have also remained intact, and it has become a positive anomaly in the overtly urbanized fabric of greater Kuching. This is further accentuated by the conscious attempts of the residents to cultivate lush gardens around their houses, and the adoption of micro public spaces as orchards.





ABOUT THE

# PROJECT BRIEF



The participants can design an intervention in any area within Kenyalang Park. They are invited to understand the area through interactions with the local community, identifying opportunities and constraints through explorations, observations, and site analysis, and developing new narratives that seek to rejuvenate and reinvigorate the development without losing sight of its past. They are also encouraged to ensure their designs benefit the local community, positively impact the greater Kuching city, and embrace a sustainable approach to urban planning. Their initiatives are required to be aligned to either one of three streams:

## 1 A Better Place to LIVE

Improve housing quality, access to open spaces, embrace nature, foster community bonds, efficient waste management, and inclusive space for vulnerable groups.

## 2 A Better Place to WORK

Promote innovative industries that complement the local businesses, sustaining traditional industries, collaborative spaces for start-ups and creative industries, and enhance connectivity.

## 3 A Better Place to PLAY

Celebrate diverse cultures, integrate art into the public domain, vibrant recreational space, and encourage intergenerational engagement.



CHAPTER 3

# THE PROPOSAL



Compilation of the  
design works from the  
four participating group.

## GROUP 01

# Kenyalang Stage – Bridging Communities



## ANALYSIS

From the get-go, we were drawn to the activities that were carried out in the Traffic and Recreational Gardens. From a combination of observation and interviews, we noted that the spaces were well-occupied throughout the day, with the community carrying out activities such as Tai Chi, cycling, jogging, playing, and communal gathering.

However, there was a notable hiatus in the day's usage, which was during noon time. This was in spite of a high amount of pedestrian traffic through the ravine areas in between the two gardens during this time, as children and parents cross the area under the bearing hot sun to access a school north of the site. We also noticed the pedestrians struggling to move comfortably through the steep topography.

## CONCEPT

Thus, our design strategy was to create a pocket gathering space that is comfortable enough to be used under a hot afternoon sun, and in sync with the greenery and challenging topography. Our space ideally encourages the parents and children to stop and rest, gather and play, or to continue the activities that are already active in the earlier part of the day, thereby bridging similar activities with the evening crowd. The infrastructure we proposed facilitates natural shading, which enhances the green characteristics already prevalent in the space. The furniture

was designed to be durable, weather and landscape-resilient, and universal in their usability so that people of all ages find it comfortable and relatable. We envisioned the space to be as iconic as the traffic garden and the Dinosaur Park, without it being out of lockstep with those established spaces in promoting Kenyalang Park as a place for Kuchingnites to gather.

## Site Information & Notable Issues



Kenyalang



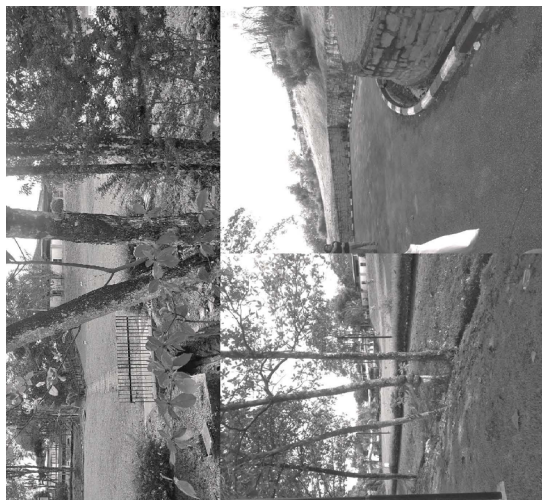
Rainbow Bridge

Kenyalang  
Traffic Garden

Taman Lalu  
Lintas  
Kenyalang Park



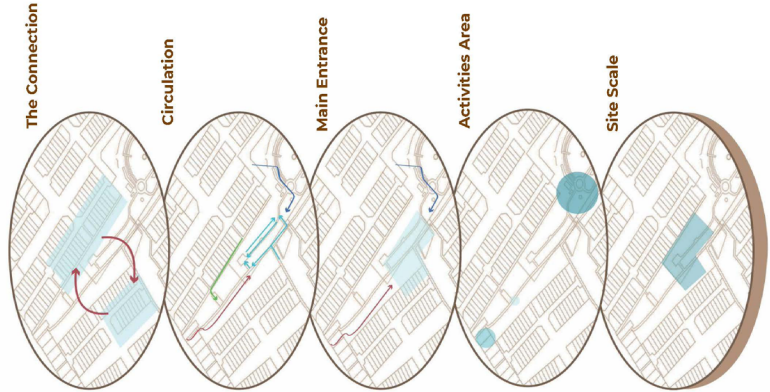
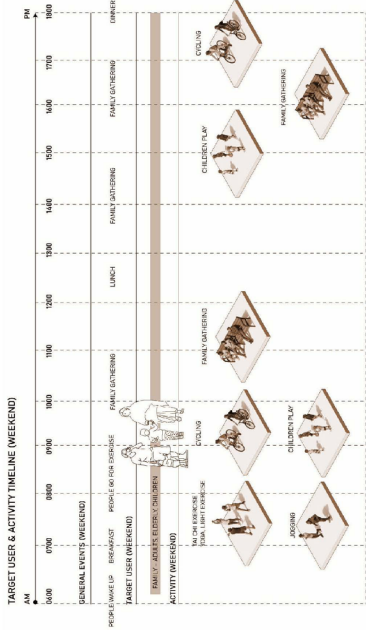
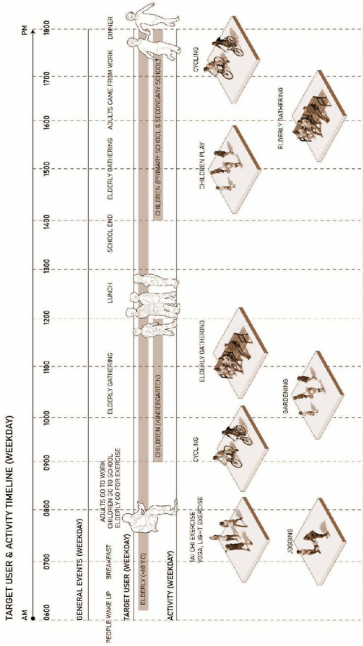
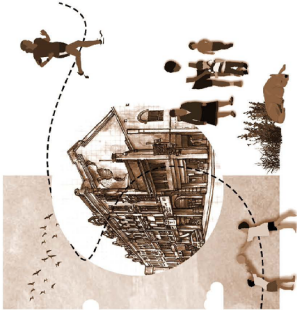
Kenyang  
Recreation  
Park



## Lack of visitors during the day:

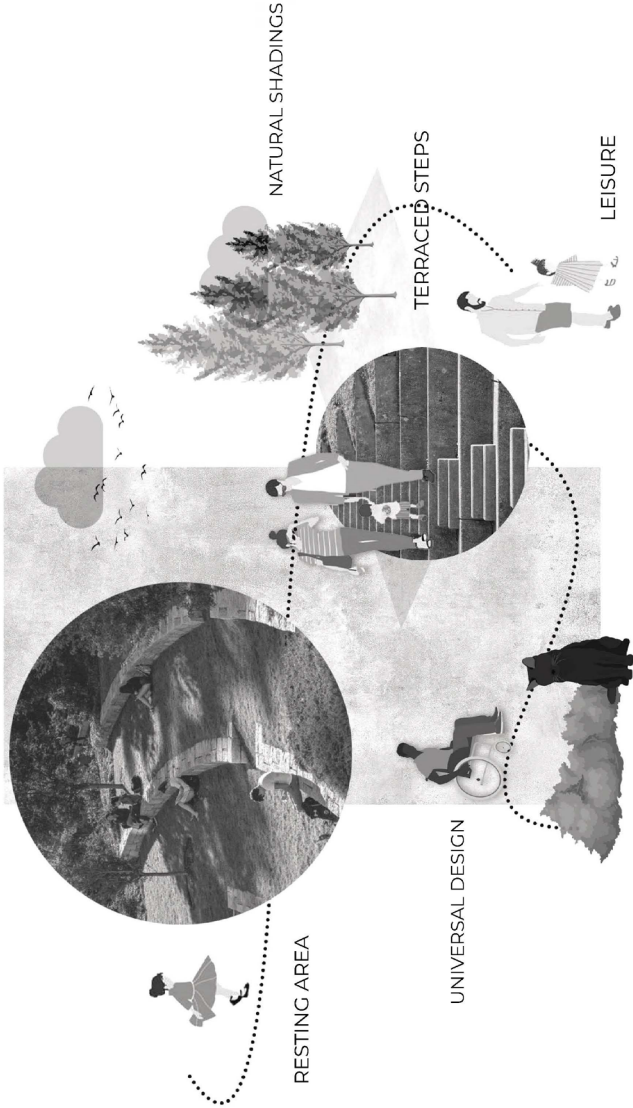
1. Residents do not gather
2. The open space is underutilised, not serving its optimal purpose
3. Hot midday sun prevents people from visiting.

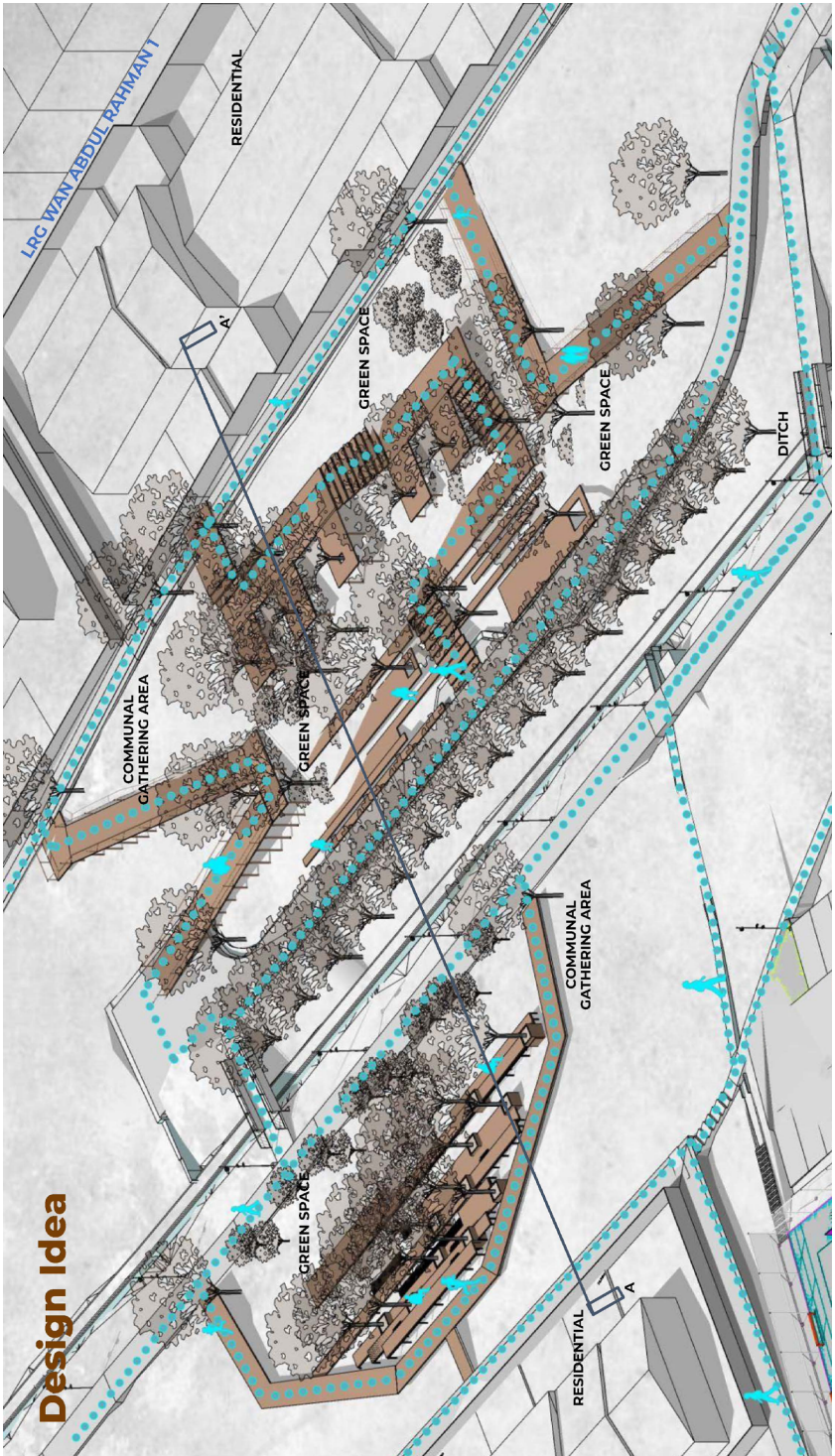
Site Analysis



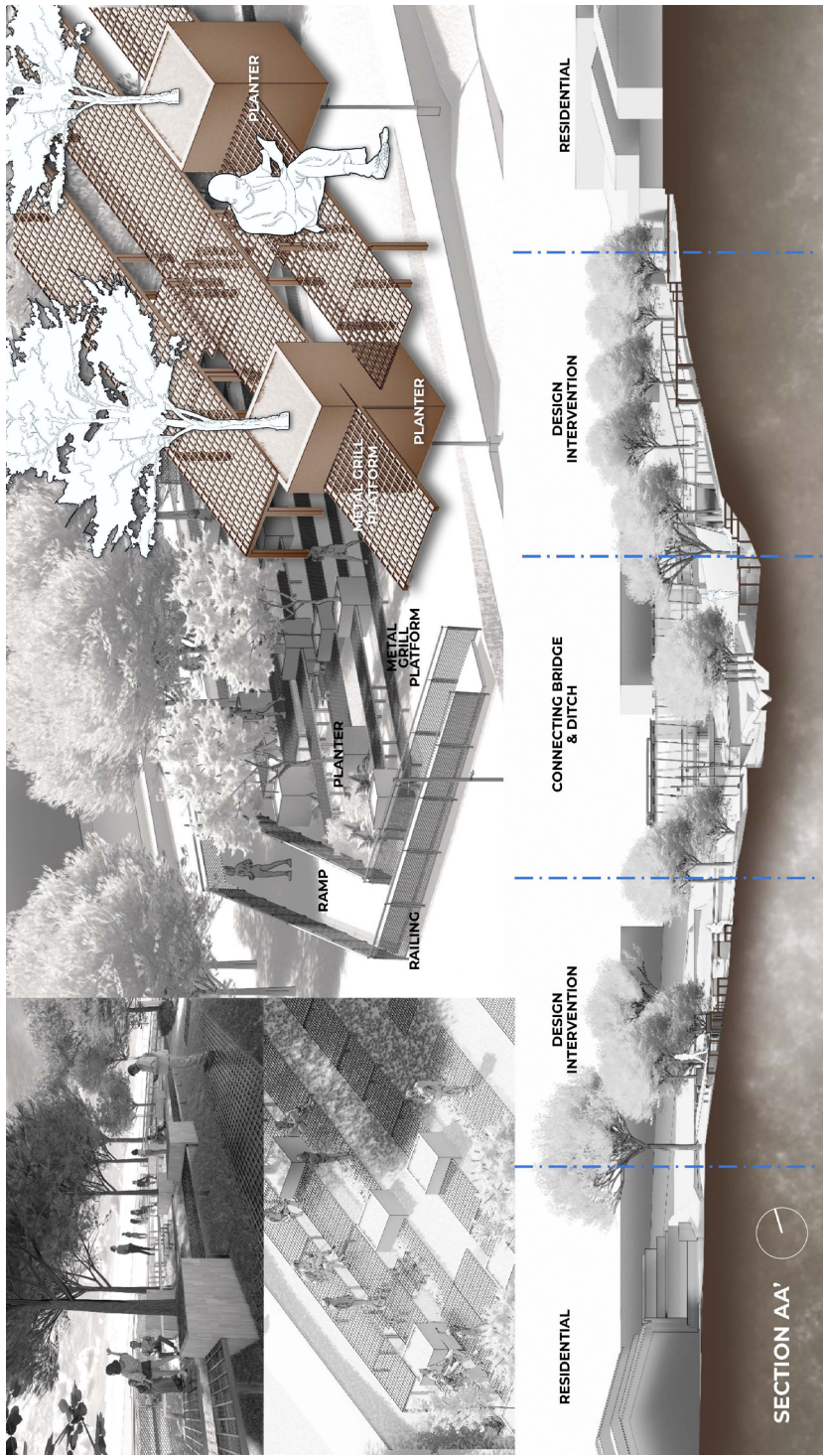


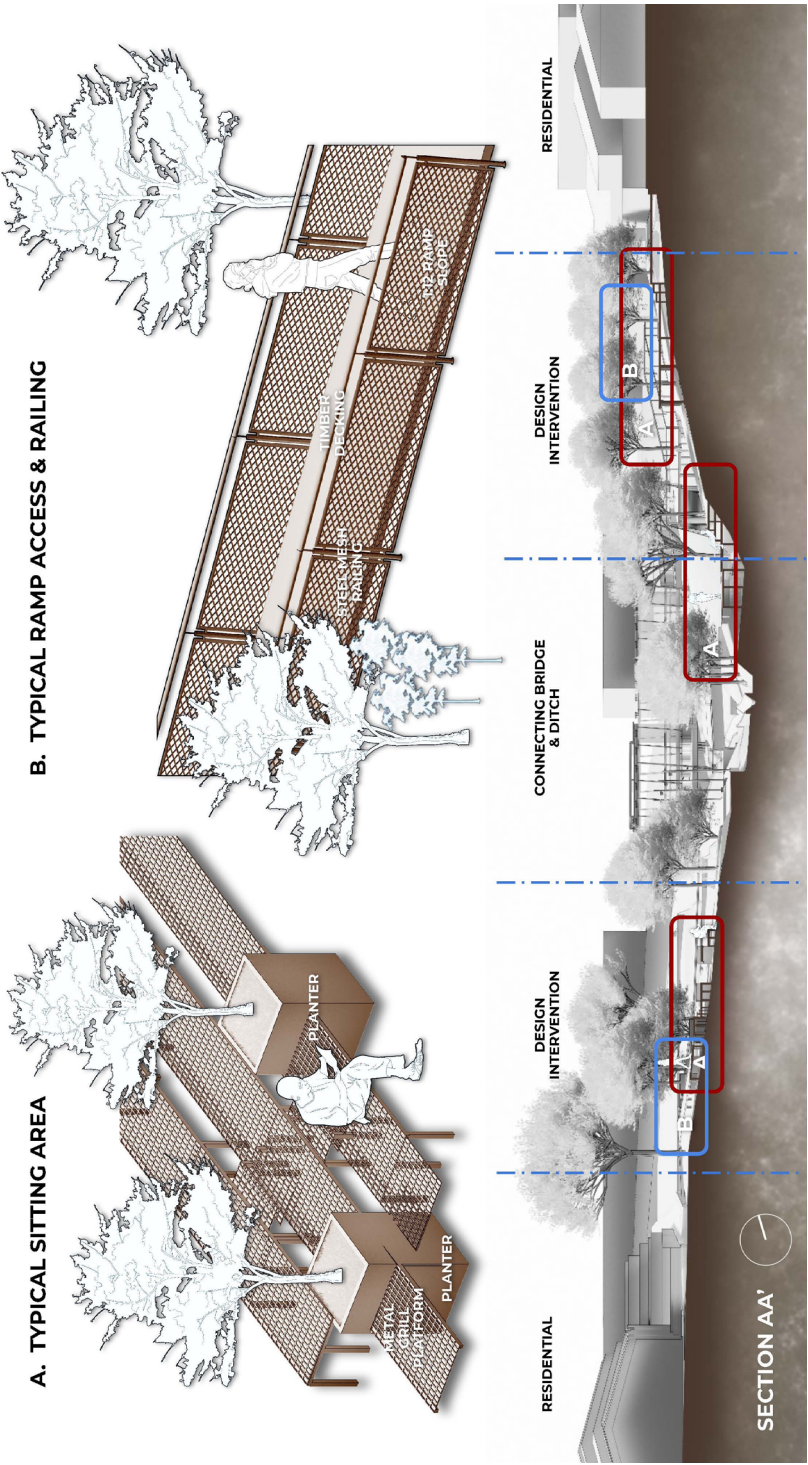
# Design Concept











SEE NEXT PROPOSAL →



## GROUP 02

# Play To – Gather



## ANALYSIS

Nestled across the embankments of the natural storm drain in the Recreational Park, the newly installed Entrance Pavilion piqued our interest. It serves as a connector between the gardens and a main thoroughfare that connects to the commercial area. It has parallel qualities to some of the shading infrastructure we observed at Kuching

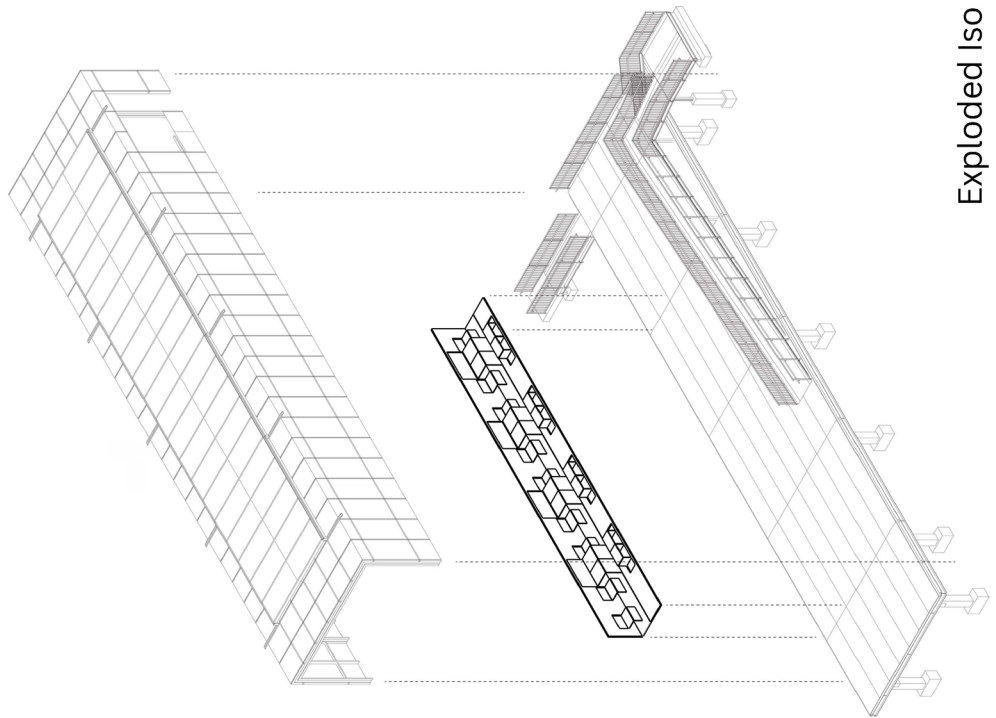
Waterfront, which performs as enablers to host public furniture as if they were inviting the public to use them as a form of living area. So our strategy was to improve the Pavilion and transform it into an extension to the personalized spaces of neighboring houses.

## CONCEPT

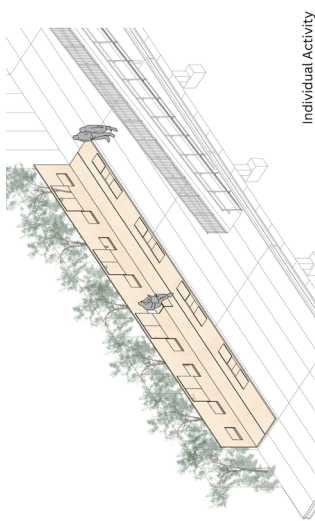
The Pavilion was already well-shaded for all weather purposes, so our plan largely involved the infill of modular furniture that folds, slides, and combines into a huge variety of configurations. The modularity invites the community to determine the narrative and activities that can be held in the spaces, thus adapting to various forms of social play and lifestyles. This was achieved by crafting the furniture with lightweight materials like plywood and aluminum and mounting it on a mild steel slider spanning the entire side of the Pavilion structure. To further improve

the climate comfort of the Pavilion, we introduced a water misting feature on the opposite side of the space, which serves to lower the temperature and make it more comfortable and inviting.

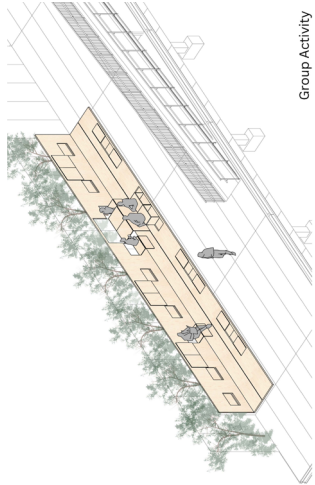




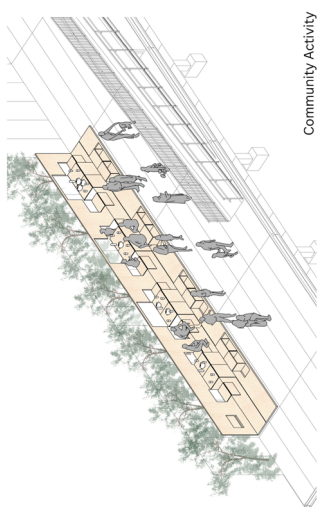
Exploded Iso



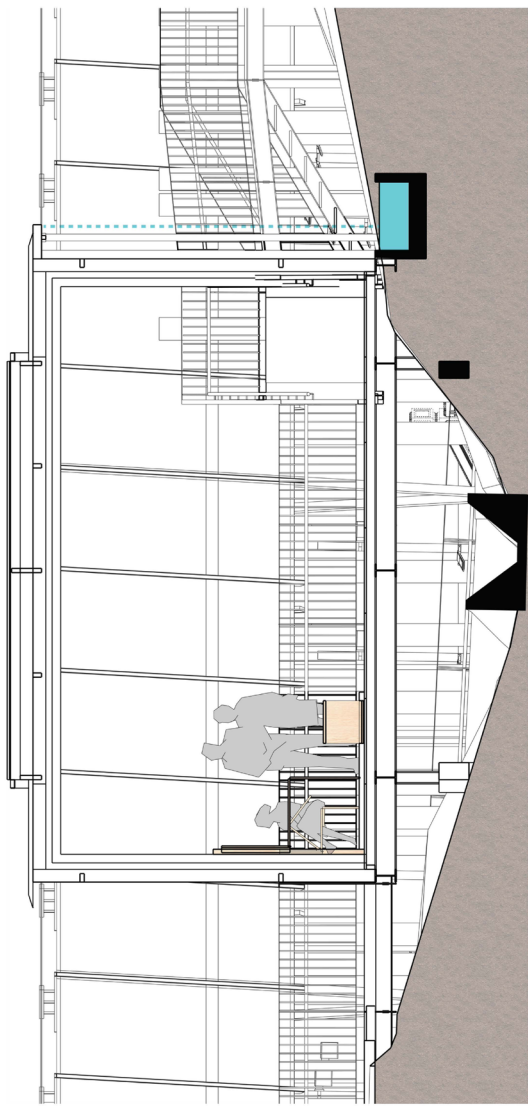
Individual Activity



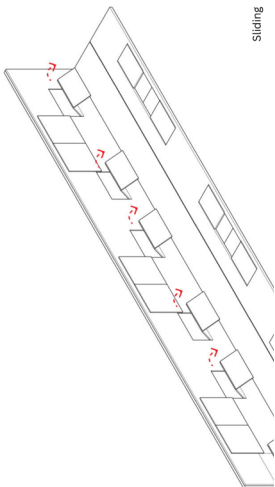
Group Activity



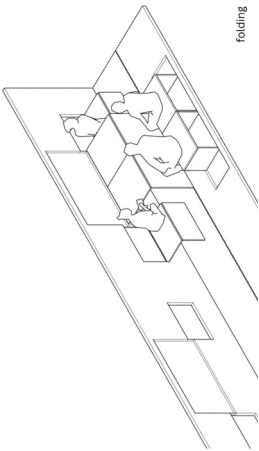
Community Activity



Section

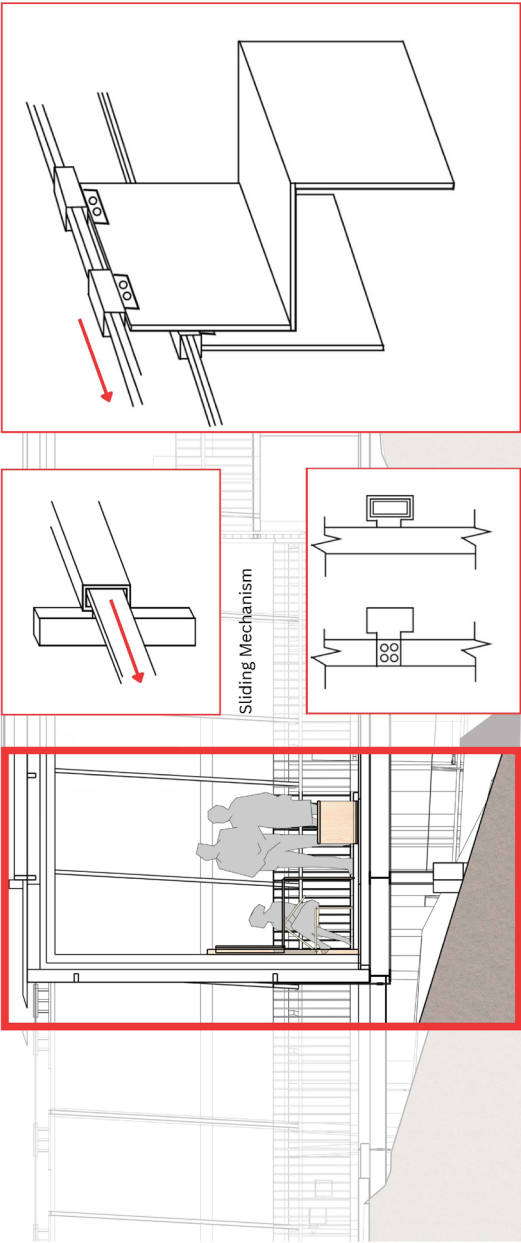


Sliding



folding

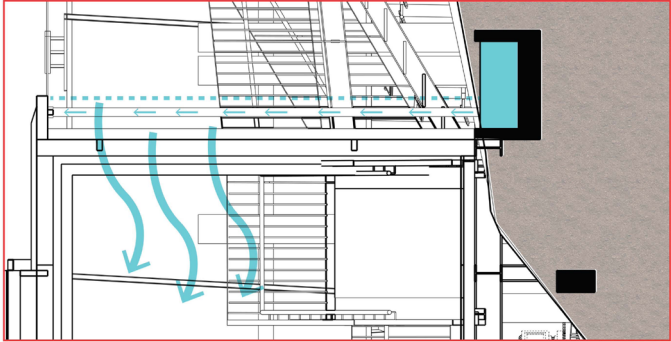




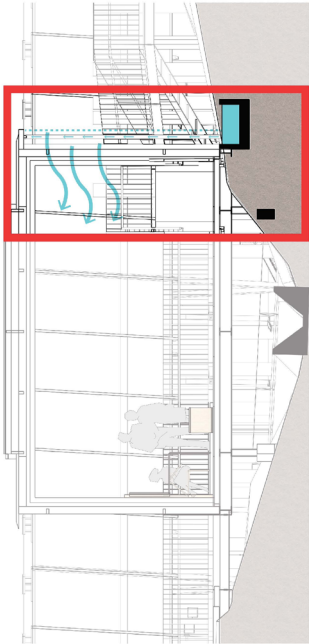
Foldable Furniture

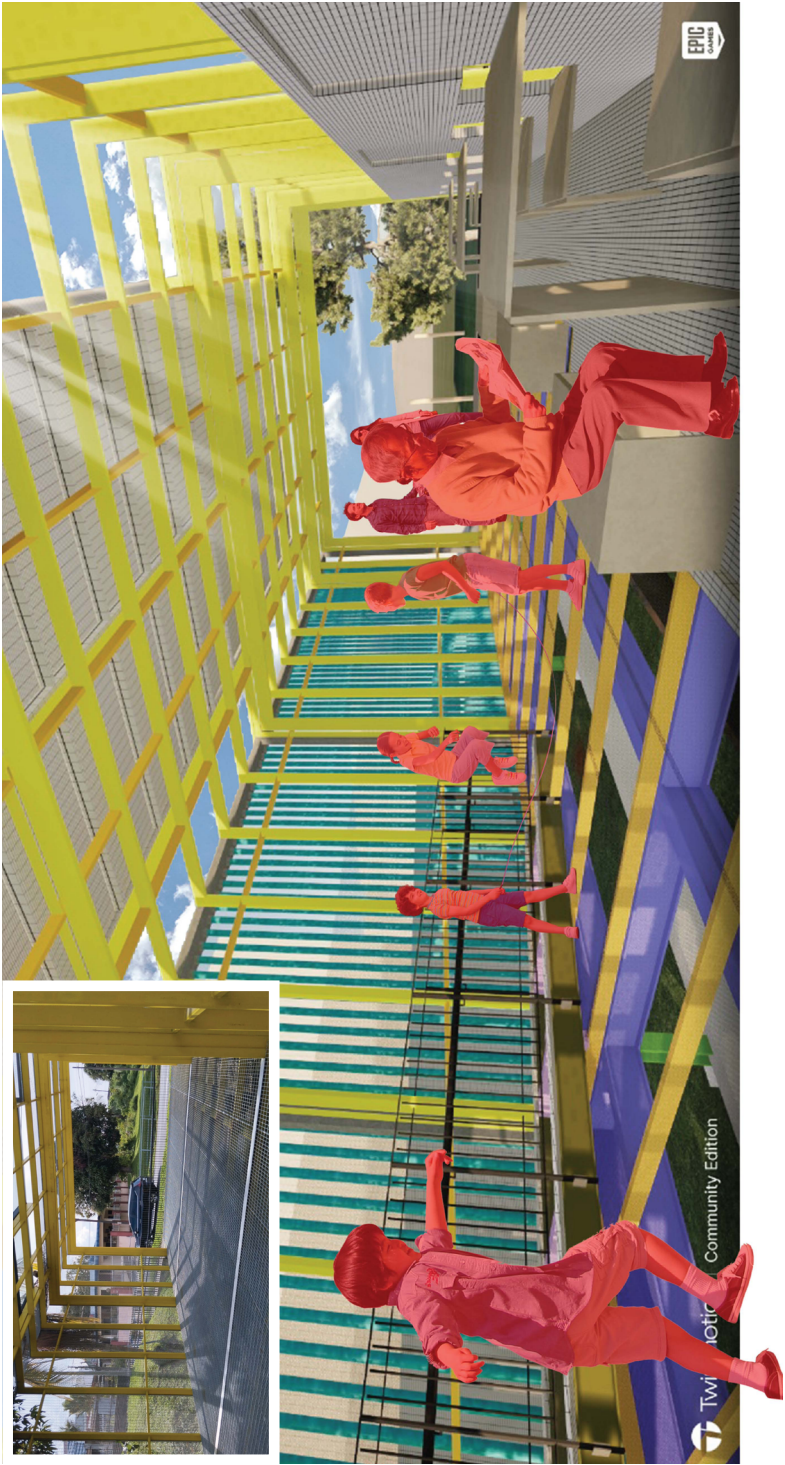
End of Track

Urban Furniture Details



Water Feature close-up





SEE NEXT PROPOSAL →



## GROUP 03

# Boundaries To Connect



## ANALYSIS

While on an observational tour of the gardens, we noticed that the Traffic Garden and the Recreational Garden, which are next to each other, are separated by a hard fence and some drainage systems. This felt like a juxtaposition to the similar function and ambience of both spaces. Further

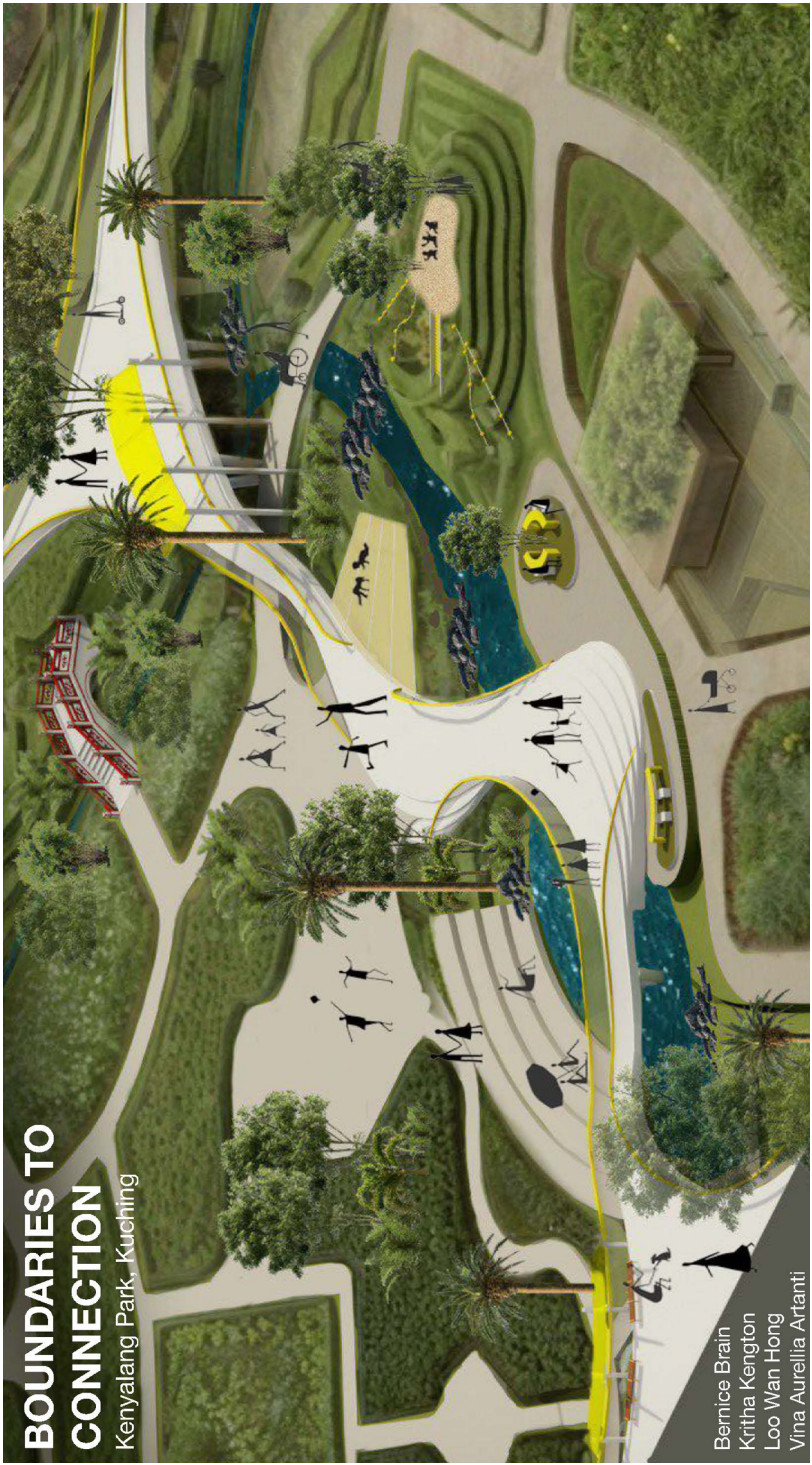
emphasizing the contrast is a series of pathways along both sides of the fences, which connect the North and south end of the spaces. This is a busy connector used by parents and children to cross the gardens, as there is a school immediately north of the area.

## CONCEPT

So we were inspired to convert the separators literally into connectors and bring back some relevance and relationship between the two garden spaces. This was an opportunistic strategy, as the fences and drains, which were designed as boundaries of the gardens, can now be directly transformed into the intermediary connections. The drainage was redesigned to become a water feature under the new space.

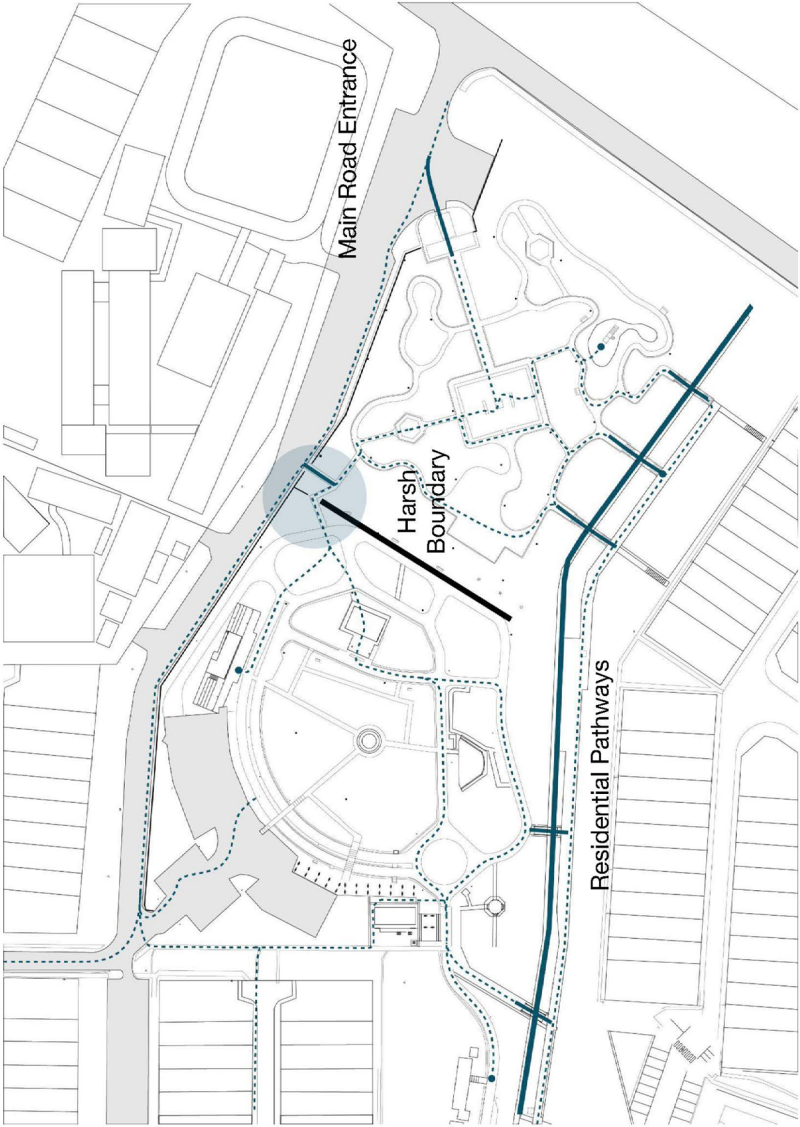
To further enhance the interactivity of the transformative connectors, we designed

the space for play-oriented activities. We integrated water play zones, obstacle courses, and interactive greenery in between the diverse elevations, and the spaces were interwoven between a pedestal connector oriented to bridge the north and the south while opening up on both east and west to ensure the play activities spill into and in between both gardens.



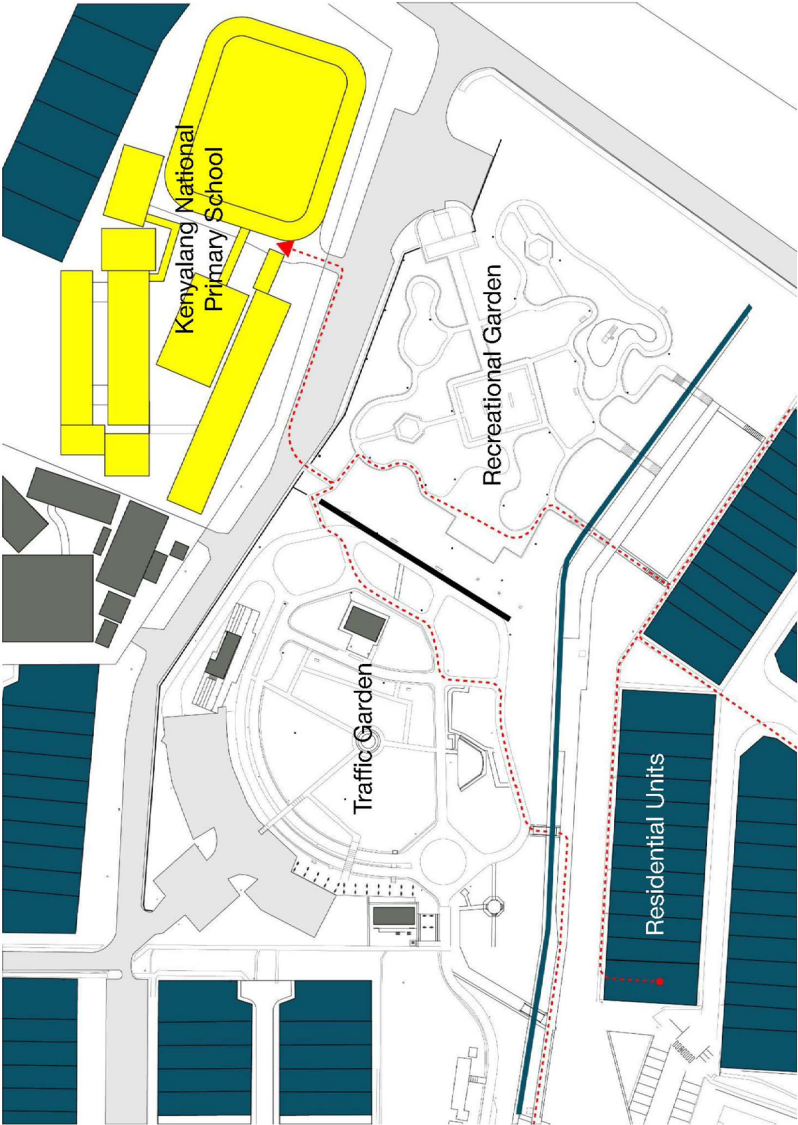
**BOUNDARIES TO  
CONNECTION**  
Kenyalang Park, Kuching

Bernice Brain  
Kritna Kengton  
Loo Wan Hong  
Vina Aurellia Artanti

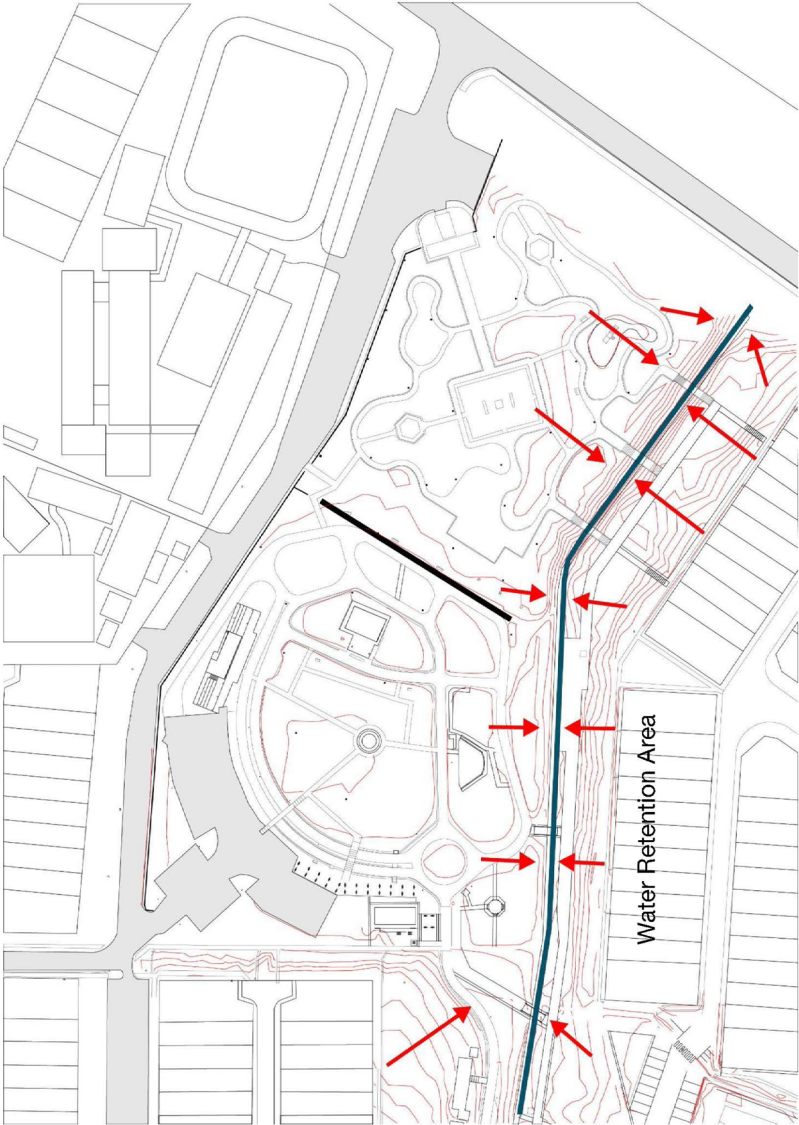


**Garden Circulation**  
Lack of connection





**Programs in Site**  
Residential and School



**Terrain and Waterflow**  
An opportunity

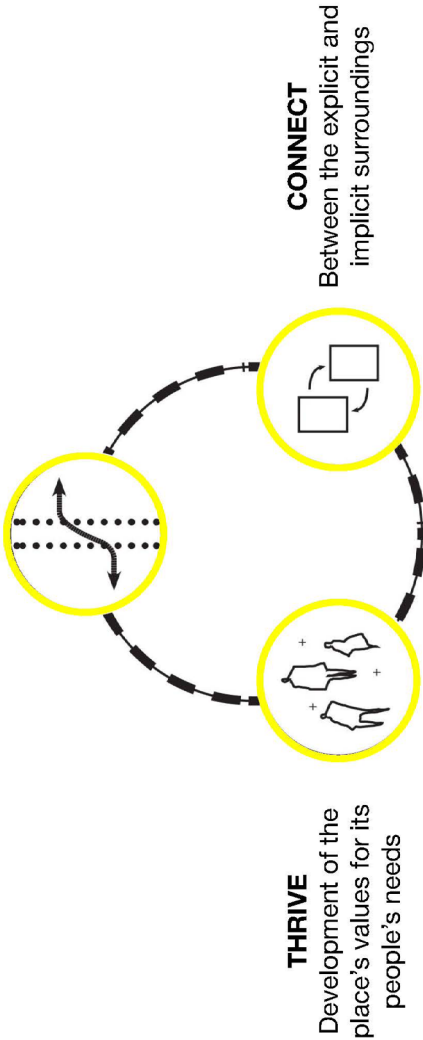


“BOUNDARIES”



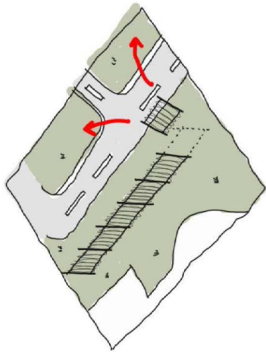
PROCESS

**DISCOVERY**  
Transformation of the new  
physical boundaries for new  
placemaking

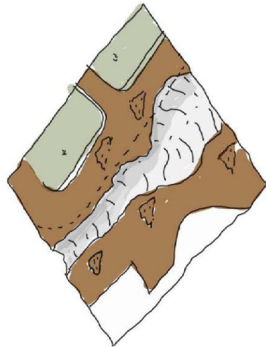


**Multiple Elevations**      **Naturalised Water Retention Zones**      **Coexistence with nature**      **Play Zones between levels**      **Transformation of Boundaries**

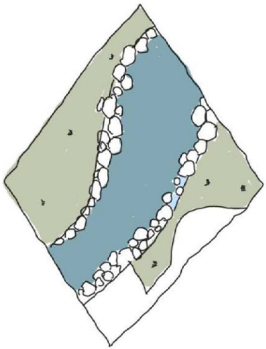
PROCESS



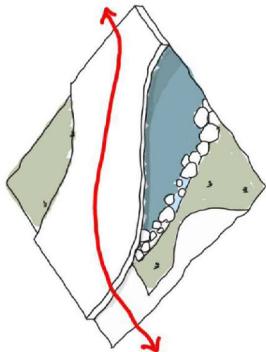
Removal of Fences



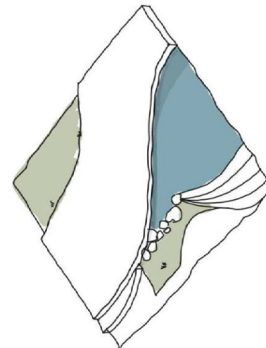
Alteration of Terrain



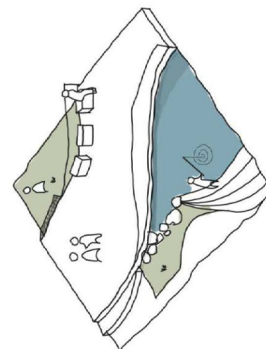
Naturalised Drain



Pathway to connect

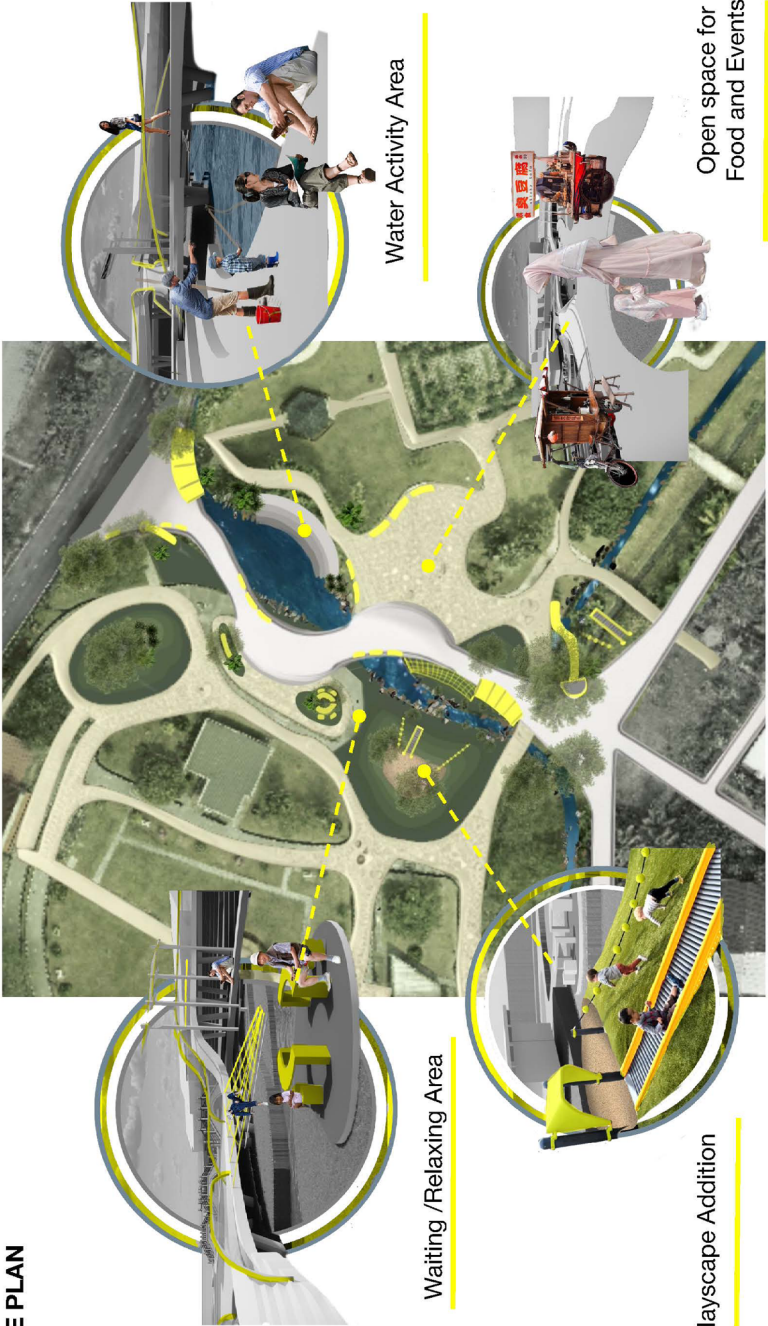


Linking top and bottom



Creation of a playscape

SITE PLAN



Water Activity Area

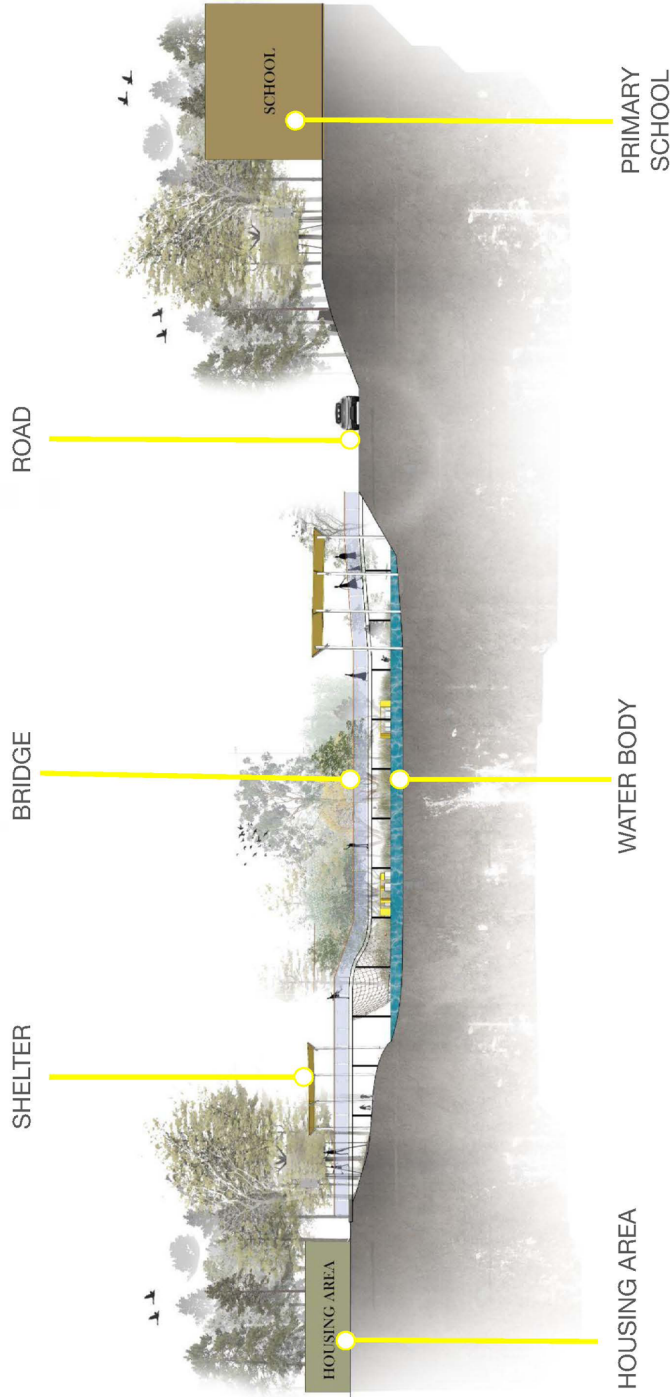
Open space for Food and Events

Waiting /Relaxing Area

Playscape Addition



SECTION



SEE NEXT PROPOSAL →

# Bridging the Inside Out



## ANALYSIS

The people of Kenyalang Park whom we conversed with spoke fondly of three nostalgic things that were lost to a combination of the Covid lockdowns and the passing of time:

1. The community was tight knitted due to a common passion for micro-farming and shared gardens.

2. Many had fond recollections of going to the local cinema together with their neighbours, as Kenyalang Park used to host a very prominent and large cinema in their main commercial area

3. Prior to the arrival of Covid - 19 related lockdowns, almost half the neighbourhood had a common habit of spending time together in outdoor spaces around the park.

## CONCEPT

So our plan was to merge all three of these nostalgias. We were keen not to design spaces, but to design habits, by giving the community a purpose to embrace the traditionalized social cohesion once more.

To facilitate a resurgence of common gardening, we decided that our structure should be designed with hydroponic-based infrastructure. We saw an opportunity to convert the steep terrain between the gardens and the residences into a terraced farming space. The public spaces will be equipped with hydroponic facilities

to encourage the residents to adopt and cultivate their extended farming activities.

To bring back the cinema-going habit, we proposed an outdoor cinema that uses the same farming terrace and seating area to view a movie on the screen at night. We envisioned that the nostalgia of the community to bring part of their own houses to the outside will fuel the return of social cohesiveness prevalent in old Kenyalang Park, and spend time outdoors together once more.

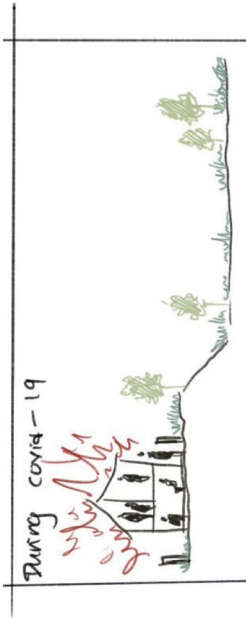




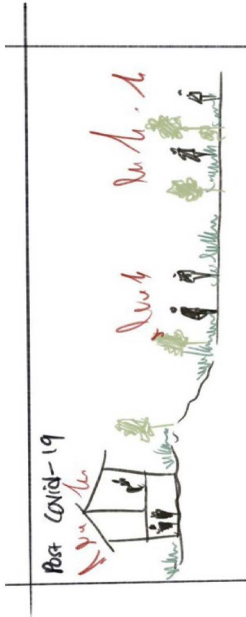
# Main issue: Covid-19 as turning point



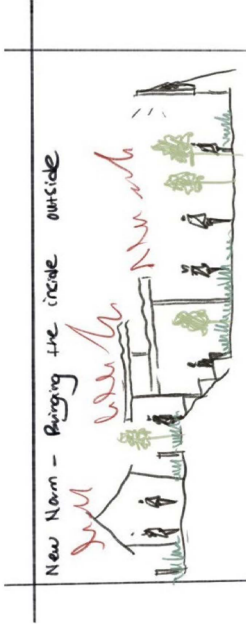
01 Before Covid-19, everyone spent most of their time **together outdoors**.



02 The advent of Covid-19 forced everyone into a new normal that encouraged **social distancing**.



03 After Covid-19, some people returned outdoors, but the **spirit of segregation continues**.



04 To further encourage people to embrace social cohesion once more, we wish to **bring the inside outside**.

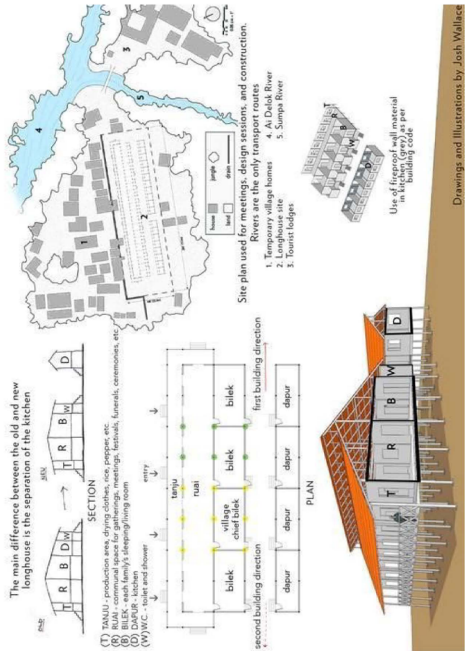
# Underutilized pocket spaces & 'dead' pathways



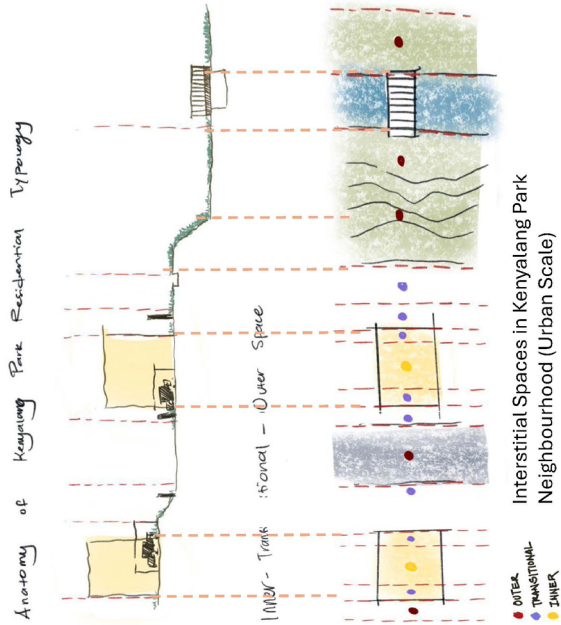
# SITE ANALYSIS

## Inner-Transition-Outer Spaces:

### The Dayak Longhouse & The Site



Interstitial Spaces in Malay Longhouse (Domestic Scale)



WHAT WE NEED

Community and Connectedness

4 KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. CONNECTEDNESS

The way spaces are related in terms of physical access – how one space allows entry to another and how many spaces are connected to one space.

2. CIRCULATION

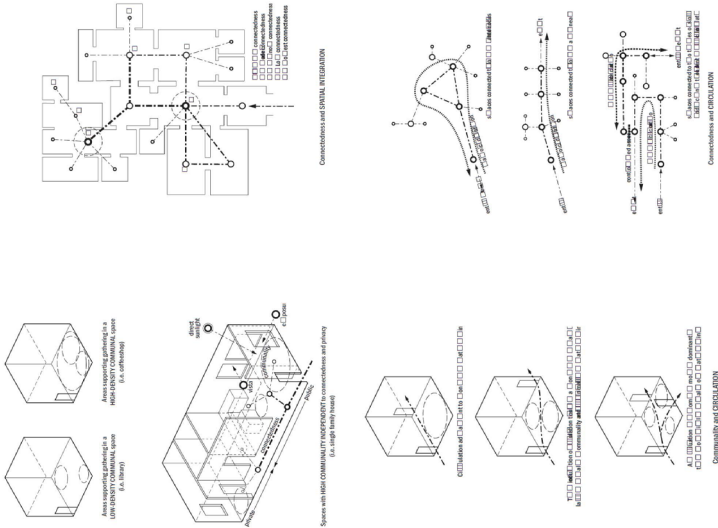
Connectedness has a direct association with the architectural idea of circulation.

3. COMMUNALITY

The degree of socialness of a space. It is the social rather than space itself that attracts people.

4. MOVEMENT

The path is a line that facilitates the procession of a body through space and hence activities.

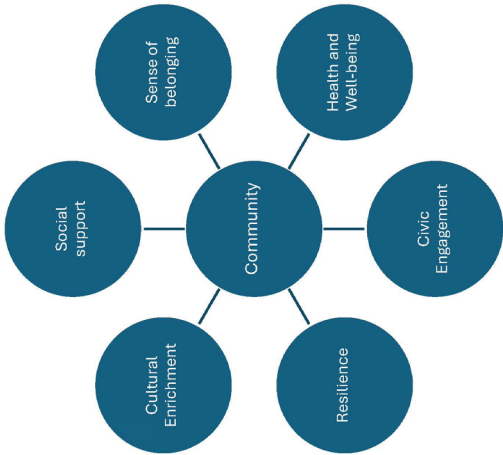






## Case study

Benjasiri Park is located next to the Emporium Bangkok Shopping centre. It is a place where people can go and relax take some time out of their day and unwind, whether that be reading a book or doing some exercise. The park seamlessly integrates with its surroundings, creating a transition from inner spaces to open landscapes. Its central feature is a large pond with sculptures, reflecting the harmony between art and nature. The park also offers recreational facilities, jogging paths, and green spaces, making it a popular destination for locals and visitors alike.



# Design Strategy

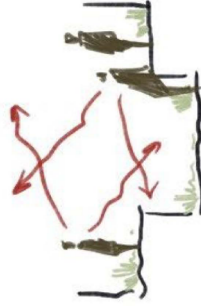
Intergenerational Communal Connectivity



Verbal Communication



Communal Activity

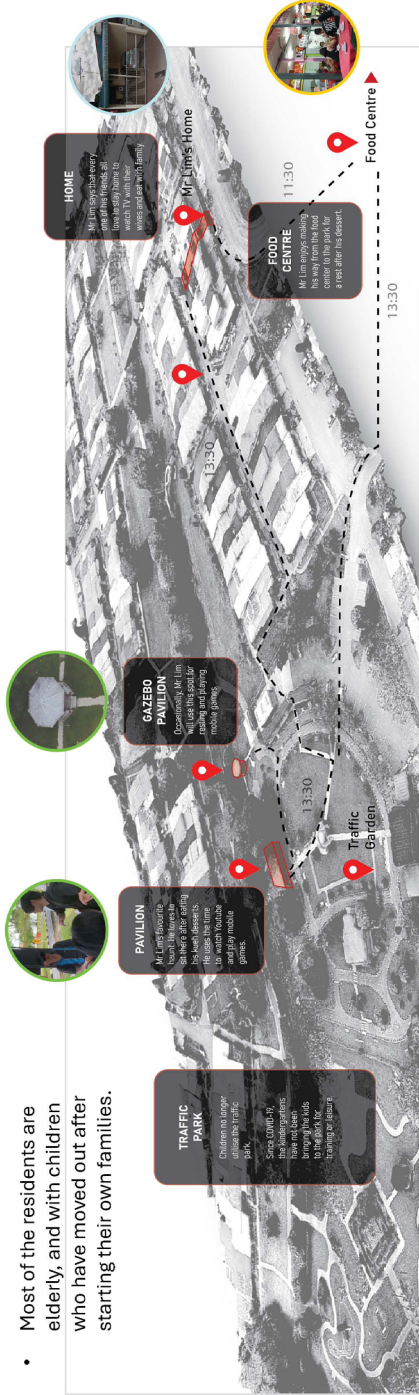


Visual Connecting

TARGET USERS

A Focus on the Elderly, to support multigenerational communal living

- Most of the residents are elderly, and with children who have moved out after starting their own families.

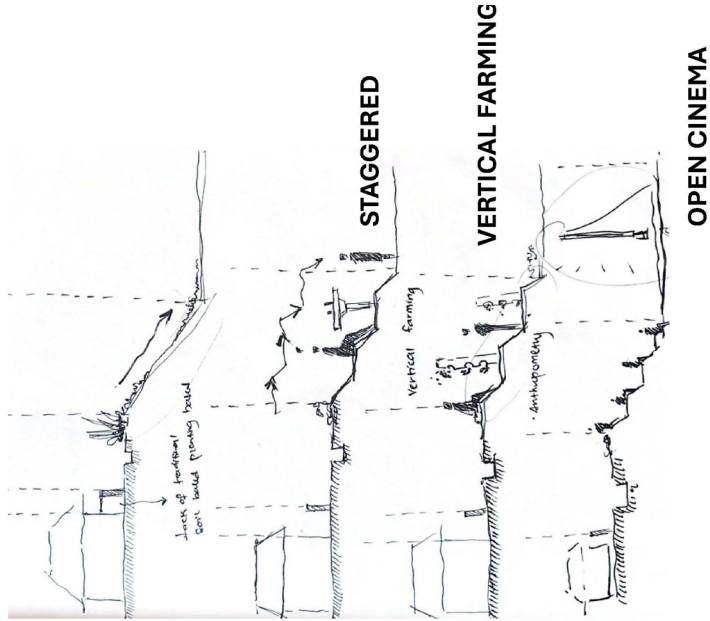


- Our interview with a Mr. Lim, well into his 70s brought us a lot of insight into the current use of the land by the elderly.
- From the findings, we see that the elderly use the park, but the spirit of community is fragmented by COVID.

# UTILISING THE SLOPE

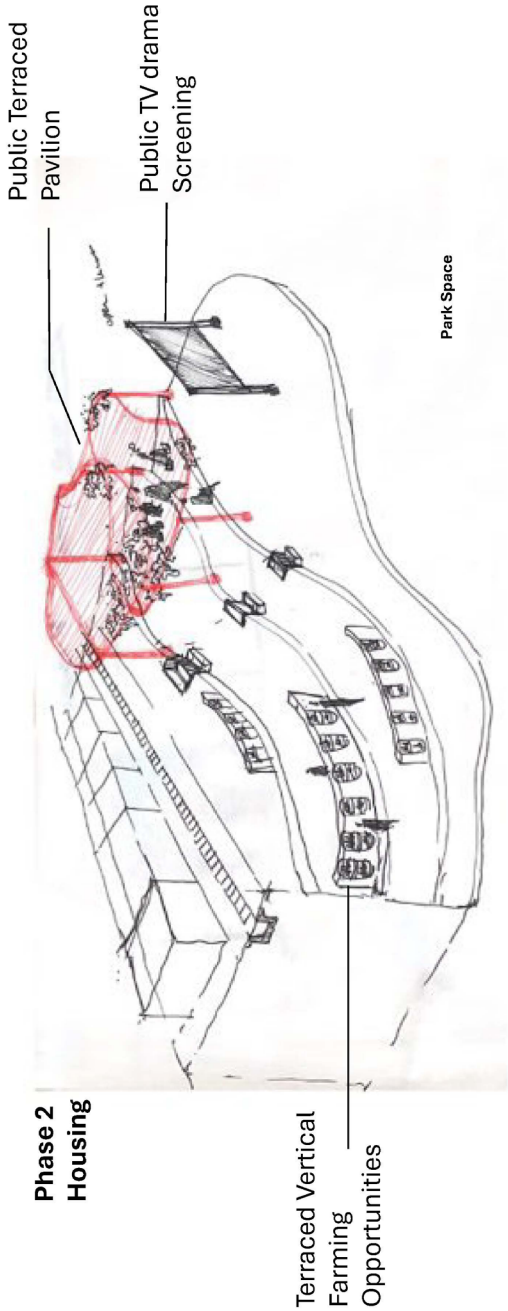
Activated Green Space = Enhanced Connectivity

*Intergenerational Communal Connectivity*





INTERVENTION 01: OPEN CINEMA PAVILLION & VERTICAL FARMING STRATEGY



Further emphasis on farming qualities of the slope, and improved circulation and connectivity.

INTERVENTION 01:

# Open Cinema Pavillion & Vertical Farming Strategy







INTERVENTION 02:

## Slope Pathway





INTERVENTION 02: ALONG THE ALLEYWAYS

## Shaded Work & Leisure Area





## CHAPTER 4

# THE SHARING

As part of the crit presentation, the mentors shared  
some of their own works



# Borneo Divers Dive Centre

📍 Pulau Mamutik, Sabah

Situated on Pulau Mamutik, an island just off the coast of Kota Kinabalu, the Dive Centre was the *first of its kind in Asia* to be built on an island. The 2,707 m<sup>2</sup> centre serves as a private academy for divers and consists of a 300-pax indoor and outdoor dining area, an audio and visual training room, a training pool for beginner divers, a Research and Development lab, and a Scuba Diving gear store.

As Sabahans, we are *immensely* proud of our beautiful islands. Prior to the start of the project, Pulau Mamutik was relatively underdeveloped, and home to the local variant of Lion Fish. Hence, we ensured that our design was as *sensitive to the natural context* as possible. The form of the building was inspired by the lionfish, and most of the spaces we proposed were cut and twisted around the older trees of the island. The building itself was set far back from the shores. This was done to ensure that the external eye-level view of the island remains natural and that the coral reefs and natural habitats of the shoreline were *not disturbed*.

## Meet The Architect



Ar. Ng Shi Qi

Malaysian Architect Ng Shi Qi is passionate about placemaking architecture. Her work is strongly driven by her vision of "Philanthropic Architecture for the well-being of humanity". Her design focuses on the sensory experiences that architecture can potentially offer. Running her practice in Sabah, she has worked on residential, commercial, hospitality, and educational projects of varying scales.

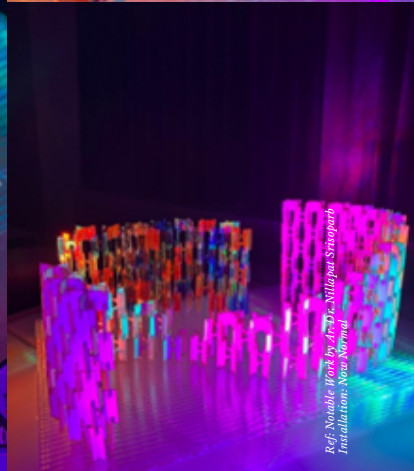
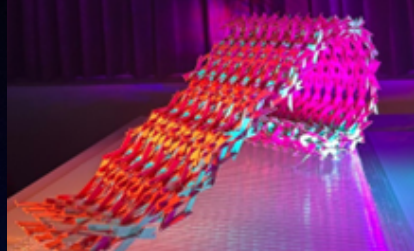






# Now Normal, Aggregate Architecture & ISAN Linguistic Diversity

📍 ISAN Creative Festival, Thailand



Ref: Notable Work by Dr. Dr. Nittaya Srisangthong  
Installation: Now Normal

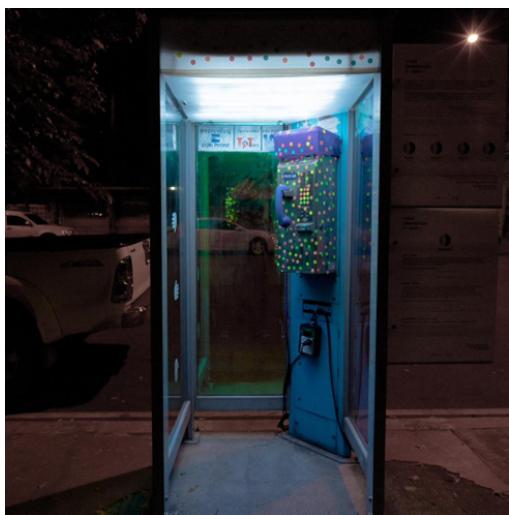
I was a creative partner at the ISAN Creative Festival. The festival was meant to be an intellectual playground that celebrated Isan's potential in the creative industry, by promoting the region's local identity, stories, business and products. The atmosphere of the festival was one of amusement, diversified culture, and tradition, injected through a wealth of entertainment, food, and craft.

For the festival's Student Showcase Sector, I arranged for the display of works prepared by my students from Marasarakham University. In 2022, we displayed an installation entitled 'Now Normal', and it was designed as a parametrically designed piece that metaphorically characterized social distancing ideas. In 2023, we presented

"Aggregate Architecture", a pavilion that featured a modular structure with an infinitely flexible joint system.

In addition to that, I helped work on the installation of 'ISAN Linguistic Diversity'. The ISAN language is a dialect widely spoken in the Northeastern region of Thailand. It is characterized by its mix of a few other local language and its humorous vibe. To promote the language, we installed interactive 'phone booths' at various parts of the exhibition arena, and presented the language through a conversation in the ISAN dialect, split into four parts and recorded in the four separate booths. Audience were encouraged to visit all the booths in order to hear the complete conversation.





# Meet The Architect



Ar. Dr. Nillapat Srisoparb

Architect and Lecturer Ar. Dr. Nillapat Srisoparb from Thailand specializes in Neuroarchitecture, Cognitive Architecture, Human Centred Designs, and measuring what works to improve the well-being of building users. She is actively involved in the Asian Young Architects (ACYA) as a national representative. Besides being a creative partner of ISAN Creative Festival, she was a co-curator in Thailand Architect Expo 2022.



# etc. lab

📍 Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Singapore

I am the co-lead of etc.lab under Ngee Ann Polytechnic's School of Design and Environment, which is an interdisciplinary design studio for collaborative design and research aimed at creating social impact and change. The lab provides both staff and students opportunities to work on real-world

projects using design to effect social, economic, and environmental changes and transformations. A few of our notable projects include the Airleo Eco Air Cooler, a prototype for a portable air cooler, and Shelter+, a transitional shelter prototype for disaster-relief temporary housing.



# Meet The Architect

Ar. Song Yu Chuan

An experienced Architect and Educator, Ar. Song Yu Chuan from Singapore specialises in Spatial Design, Architecture, UX, and Design Technology. His design philosophy centres on innovation, attention to detail, and a holistic approach to design. He sees design and architecture not only as a technical discipline but also as a way of life, where every moment presents an opportunity to learn and enhance experiences.







# The Memory of Birds

I am interested in creating art installation and architecture that pays homage to the vernacular materials and culture of rural communities. One of my installation, entitled '*The Memory of Birds*', was designed as an artistic shelter in the middle of a rice field in rural Jawa Timur. As the name suggests, the form took inspiration from the wings of a bird and was constructed by fastening traditionally made rattan rice sieves onto a bamboo frame. I hope that the installation will increase interest in rural tourism, and generate alternative revenue for the locals through the assembly of rice sieves to be used as decoration.

Another work that I wish to share is the *Bebao House* project. I was inspired by the traditionally made rattan chicken coop the locals of a village in Bebao, East Nusa Tenggara, used to store their poultries. I noticed that the chickens were very comfortable in the coop, and I was keen to create a human-sized version of the structure. I worked with the locals to create the structure. The structure was initially meant to be symmetrical, but the form was adjusted during construction to account for the large amount of rain that will fall on it during the monsoon season. I was glad that it unintentionally ended up looking so organic, and I can personally attest that the house was very comfortable to live in.





# Bebao House



## Meet The Architect

Ar. Linda Octavia

Award-winning Architect, Writer, and Lecturer Ar. Linda Octavia from Indonesia is actively involved in the Young Architects Professional forums of Architecture Nusantara. She draws inspiration for both her designs and her writings from her own life growing up in a small town, as well as from travelling far and wide. In recent years, her interest is focused on the richness and variety of Indonesian ethnic cultures.





## CHAPTER 5

# THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



Convening the workshop has turned out to be a lot more complex than we had initially foreseen. We are overwhelmingly grateful for the amount of assistance from those within and outside the prescribed event team, who have gone above and beyond to make this event end on such a high note. It is just impossible to thank everyone in this one article alone.

That said, Ar. Goh Tze Hui and I wish to take this opportunity to thank a few key notable people. We would like to firstly thank the **PAM team**, beginning with **Ar. Adrianta Aziz**, the event advisor, **Ar. Annie Narodden**, the Sarawak Chapter Chairperson, **Puan Suryati**, PAM Secretariat, and not the very least, **Cik**

**Nency**, the Sarawak Chapter Secretariat; for their round-the-clock support and advice prior, during, and well after the event.

We would next like to thank **Ar. Mike Boon** for his assistance in providing the participants with extensive insights into Kenyalang Park, and for the arrangement of the mayor of Kuching South City Council, **Datuk Wee Hong Seng** to grace our event. We would also like to thank Ar. Mike and his family, notably his son **David Boon**, for hosting the mentors to drinks and dinners in between the programs, and indulging them with a quintessential Sarawakian hospitality experience.



We would also like to thank **Ar. Ng Chee Wee** for his impromptu offer to crit the participants' first draft during the Friday night dinner. His insights provided immense clarity for the team's direction and were immeasurable in value and experience.

We would like to thank **Ar. Mitchell Mos** for arranging the coverage of the event in the Sarawak Tribune newspaper. His expedient coordination allowed the event to be published by the very next day, a feat not small by any means.

Last but certainly not least, we would like to thank the event management team put together for the event, in particular the **facilitators and photographer from UNIMAS**, who offered extensive manpower, chauffeur, and guide services for the three intensive days. We would like to thank the **crit panel** consisting of our friends in the industry, who took great trouble and time off a beautiful SUNDAY • 17/12/2023 afternoon to join us in livening the event. A list of the team has been provided below.

With great  
SINCERITY & GRATITUDE,  
we thank you all *kabans*.

Event Advisor	Ar. Adrianta Aziz
Event Partners	Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM) The Association of Siamese Architects under Royal Patronage (ASA) Ikatan Arsitek Indonesia (IAI) Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA)
Convenors	Ar. Goh Tze Hui and Ar. Brendan Tong
Mentors	Ar. Ng Shi Qi Ar. Dr. Nilapat Srisorparb Ar. Linda Octavia Ar. Song Yu Chuan
Crit Panel	Ar. Adrianta Aziz Ar. Wong Teck Yuk Ar. Mitchell Mos Ar. Nor Afif Nawawi
Facilitators	Amir Hamzah Bin Matnor Delaney Dinang Binti Henry Litong Ray Bon Joel Delphinie Ailbhe Ng Hanan Bin Mohd Azlan Jayasilan Jenenis Anak John Harish Hanan Bin Sulaiman Nur Aliyah Wafiah Binti Mohammad
Photographer	Herisky Den Anak Henry



SCAN HERE  
FOR VIDEO

