

INTERSECTION

JULY ISSUE

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Warmest greetings to our fellow members and readers!

I pen this message just as we have concluded our PAMSC AGM 2020. The longest term due to the lockdown has come to a close on the 18th July 2020.

I am indeed honoured to have your confidence and support to serve and contribute towards PAMSC's current evolution and progress post COVID-19 CMCO.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks to all those who have journeyed with us in the last term - especially to our office bearers, main committee members, past chairmen, our numerous sub-committee members and our secretariat. Your hard work and dedication have not been lost on me, and I sincerely thank you.

This new term is a 'new beginning' in many senses, as we are challenged to adapt and evolve PAMSC to the "new norm." There are some new faces in our incoming main committee which we look forward to introducing in our next issue.

INTERSECTION is featuring new beginnings - we congratulate our soon-to-be new corporate members, who have recently passed their LAM Part 3. We hope they will come and join us to shape our chapter's future.

I am especially proud that Sarawak's architecture has been proudly acknowledged and featured in Professor Robert Powell's latest book, *The Tropical Malaysian House 2*. Our congratulations to our PAMSC members featured! You have made us all so, so proud! With '**Discovering Delight**', I am confident that there will be more to come!

It is indeed heartening to see the many facets of our talents in the architectural community - as seen in Ar. Peggy Wong's '**PPE Initiative Effort for COVID-19**' and IntoDesign Lab's '**Children Art for COVID-19**.' I hope that our chapter will be able to play a pivotal role to propel our many pools of talents and give them a platform to share their works and interests.

With digitalization going into hyper-drive in our "new norm," I am confident that our outreach will now be greater than ever before. There is much to do and I look forward to our community of architects, especially those outside of Kuching to be given the opportunity to be more involved in our chapter's activities and engagements. Our collective efforts - be it big or small - will make a difference.

Our deepest condolences are conveyed to PU Architects and the family of the late Ar. Haji Safri Bin Mohammed. We will take the late Ar. Haji Safri's maxim "Look at all challenges as conditions to grow and evolve" to heart. We have lost a valued member of our architectural family. Al-fatihah.

Last but not least to Team INTERSECTION - thank you once again for another meaningful and informative issue.



Ar. Ivy Jong

PAMSC Chairman 2019 - 2020

AR. HAJI SAFRI BIN MOHAMMED



"Look at all challenges as conditions to grow and evolve."

- Allahyarham Ar. Haji Safri bin Mohammed

The late **Ar. Haji Safri bin Mohammed** was a man full of vision and wisdom. Not only was he a loving husband and devoted father, he was a mentor who had made significant contributions to the urban architectural landscape and development in Sarawak. He was a fearless leader; combined with his compassionate and enduring support, he led his team to achieve milestones that enriched many lives. His iconic architecture will remain embedded in our cities' skylines; a constant reminder of his achievements and a tribute to his memory.

Our hearts and prayers are with his family at this most difficult time. Surely we belong to Allah and to Him shall we return.

PU Architects Sdn Bhd

PROMOTING ARCHITECTS IN SARAWAK

PAMSC is rejuvenating our Website !

Our new website will introduce an exciting new feature – a Directory of Architects in Sarawak that will serve as a way to showcase and celebrate the works of our PAMSC local architects. We join our members in taking pride in our works, and hope that this will become an effective vehicle for the general public to get to know our local practices and their works as well.

We hope that you will take this **golden opportunity** to promote your practice by sending us the required information, which at the moment we will upload to the website free-of-charge !

For more details on how to upload to our website, please provide the following details and email them to info@pamsc.org.my:

1. The Name of your Practice
2. The Names of the Principals in your Practice
3. Your Practice's Contact Details (Address, Telephone, Email) and other relevant information ie. Website
4. Maximum 5 images of your your Practice's Projects (JPEG files, maximum 1 MB for each image). Please provide the name of the project, the location and the project status (date of completion, etc) as well.
5. A short introduction of your Practice (not more than 300 words).

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to our last issue of Intersection during the PAMSC Committee 2019-2020 term.

So many things have happened in the last few months. What started out as an outbreak in China was followed by a worldwide pandemic. It wasn't just the virus that we feared - the MCO and CMCO that followed opened our eyes to the fragile nature of what we assumed, and took for granted, were our 'normal' lives.



Together with the help of the Intersection team and during my time as Editor, I have always tried to curate each newsletter with a theme in mind. Quite often the theme only becomes obvious once we have received all of our articles and we've seen them on a spread. We try to create a newsletter that is relevant not only to our current members, but to our future architects as well. This is why sometimes the topics we feature are not strictly architecture-related. Rather, they are meant to inspire and to instill a sense of camaraderie in our architecture community that benefits and serves the wider, general public as well. We hope that we have done this throughout my last 2 years as Editor, and that we continue to do so with a fresh perspective. We welcome new faces to join our team, to one day lead and take Intersection to greater heights !

We are very excited by the arrival of the new book by Professor Robert Powell **"The Tropical Malaysian House 2"** - which features not just 1 but 8 houses in Sarawak by our very own local architects. We couldn't be more proud, which is why we asked Ar. Ng Chee Wee to recall the time he spent with Professor Powell and the photographer Lin Ho to visit the house he designed in the middle of a jungle at Boyan Heights, Kampung Git. Ar. Wee Hii Min's third section of **"The (Incomplete) Tenets of Architecture in the Tropics"** focuses on the topic of permeability; a great reminder of the necessity for natural cross ventilation in buildings especially in the time of COVID-19.

Arkiskape's **"KPJ BDC Specialist Hospital"** is our local architect's feature in this issue; a hospital that will no doubt become a leading medical facility in the state. **"Discovering Delight"** is a new and special segment in Intersection where we invite members (both young and 'experienced') to submit built designs that bring 'delight' to them. We highlight the efforts of Intodesign Lab's **"Children Art for COVID-19"** and Ar. Peggy Wong's **"PPE Initiative for COVID-19"** to remind ourselves that our architecture backgrounds are broad and multifaceted enough to serve the wider public in different ways.

The work continues for the energetic **Practice & Government Liaison** sub-committee as described in their report by Ar. Chai Si Yong. In the **Graduates, Education & BIM (GEB)** segment, some of our new corporate members, who recently passed their LAM Part 3 Exams in 2019, very kindly offered their words of advice and experiences of the exam. We hope that this inspires our young graduates to take that leap of faith to sit for the exams.

Last but not least, I'd like to thank our entire Intersection Team for their contributions, support and ideas. It is a team effort, and never the fruits of only 1 person.

We welcome your thoughts, suggestions and ideas - and I hope you enjoy this issue of Intersection.

Ar. Tina Lau Kor Ting

TROPICAL MALAYSIAN HOUSE 2

Boyan Heights – A House in the Jungles of Borneo

by Ar. Ng Chee Wee

I first heard about Professor Robert Powell's Tropical Malaysian Houses 2 was in the works when I received an email from PAMSC asking for submissions for consideration. Apparently this second book would extend to houses in Sarawak and Sabah, whereas the first book featured houses mainly in West Malaysia. It was indeed exciting news especially for the architects in Sarawak and Sabah.

After submitting Boyan Heights, I almost forgot about it until I received an email from Professor Powell requesting for a site visit, which was arranged in June 2019. After the visit Professor Powell confirmed that he would feature the house in the new book.

The photoshoot was arranged in August 2019 – right in the middle of one of the worse haze calamities in Sarawak. Air quality was reaching unhealthy levels, and the sky could barely be seen. I was really worried that the photoshoot was going to be a disaster! Quite fortunately, during Professor Powell and the photographer Lin Ho's scheduled visit, the haze eased up a bit and the shoot went ahead without a hitch. The clients are a couple – Cameron is an Australian who has lived and worked in Sarawak for many years, and his wife Suri is an ethnic Melanau from Sarawak. They have lived and worked all over the world and are quite cosmopolitan. This house was going to be their place for retirement – back in the jungles of Borneo.

Boyan Heights is located in Kampung Git, around 33km from Kuching city. The site is surrounded by tropical jungle, and faces a majestic limestone mountain. The house was designed to blend into the surrounding natural environment, with inspirations from the traditional longhouses and 'kampung' houses. The living area is planned like a longhouse with a layering of spaces from the private (bilik) to the semi-public (ruai) and public areas (tanju) - whereas the private area is planned like a cluster of individual houses. On the whole, the forms were meant to be familiar and accessible to the local residents, so that it did not deter too far from the existing neighbourhood character.



From Right: Professor Robert Powell (Author), Mr Cameron Maclean, Puan Suriyanna Maclean, Ar. Ng Chee Wee, Mr Lin Ho (photographer)



A house in the jungle.



The view of the Living Room.



Nestled Nest by Ming Ngi & Suh Chee

A typical detached house it may seem; Nestled Nest offers a surprise beyond its entrance – a flood of openness awaits its' visitors. An uninterrupted horizontal visual connection links the core spaces to the surrounding garden; rendering a blurred notion of the interior-exterior boundary.



Park 2, Lo Residence by Megan Chalmers & Chan Chaw Chuan

The existing house was upgraded with new materials and services, but retains its original footprint. More importantly, its personal history was kept with an open and airy ambience - a semi-rural spirit reflected in the rustic nature of its occupants, both former and current.





Open House by Min

In October, we had a conversation about a renovation. One year to complete, the wedding date has been picked. Four boys, four rooms – one slightly larger for the groom. An entry with a durian tree, a ruai where grandma comes by. A pool, a patio and a grand piano, a year later, wedding photos.



Rumah Besi by Sam Lau

'Rumah Besi' is a modern interpretation of the traditional 'kampung' house. Replacing traditional timber construction with lightweight steel and concrete, the house is raised almost a metre from the ground. Its 'H-shaped' plan has bedrooms facing the north and south, flanking a double volume, open central atrium that promotes natural cross ventilation and cooling of the house.



KerANJI Bungalow by Arlene Chew

KerANJI Bungalow reflects the essence of 'Tropical Living.' Surrounded by lush greenery and large existing trees, the house has been designed to be as permeable as possible - a combination and play of different architectural components such as the laced brick 'veils', concrete blocks, steel screens, timber and glass.



Borneo Mansion by William Khoo

A refreshing departure from the typical detached house, the double-fronted Borneo Mansion challenges the notion of luxury by means of converging courtyards into an extension of the interior living spaces, or outdoor rooms. The multiple layering of spaces, as well as the dialogue between nature and structure mirrors the blending, contrasting and balance commonly found in nature. Heavily influenced by the Borneo narrative, the design of the house aims to be a translation of it into tangible spaces for people.

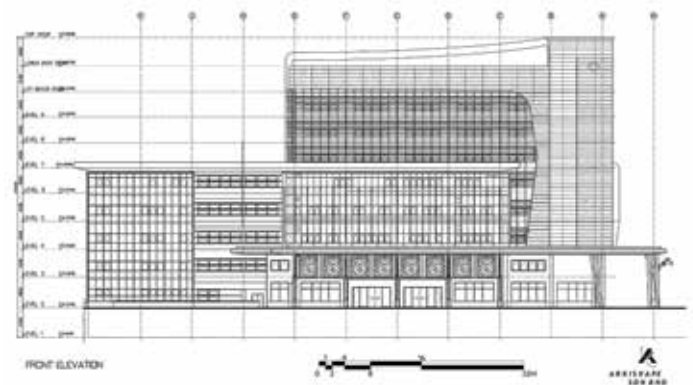
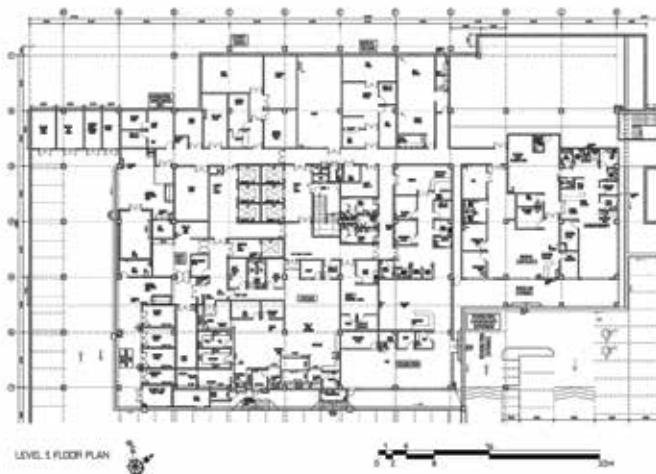


Keffir House by Mike Boon

The project reinforces a participatory relationship between Client, Architect and Contractor; empowering the occupants in making decisions through the design and construction process within a small budget. The result is a simple, single-storey house that is flexible and able to facilitate future changes. Designed to emulate a farm-like setting, it provides a shell for the occupants to grow edible gardens; a reminder of the site's agricultural past.

KPJ BDC SPECIALIST HOSPITAL

BY ARKISKAPE SDN BHD



DESIGN STATEMENT

KPJ BDC Specialist Hospital is a 10-storey development that consists of Outpatient & Inpatient Services, Intensive Care, Diagnostic & Treatment Services, Medical & Non-Medical Services as well as other supporting facilities. It is strategically located with direct access for medi-travellers from the airport, nearby townships and prime residential areas. Likened to the human heart with its capillaries and blood vessels, its central location ensures that it can provide continuous healthcare for the general public and visitors alike.

Various material and building skin applications give multiple effects to the building facade. Draped with a gleaming metal skin, it reveals and protects - simultaneously providing vistas through the massive glass facade as well as privacy for the more sensitive medical functions by wrapping these areas with fitted metal wall panels. The result is an avant-garde monumental building defining its' primary purpose as a leading medical facility in the state.

Client:
KPJ Healthcare Berhad
BDC Specialist Hospital Sdn Bhd
(End User)
Healthcare Technical Services Sdn Bhd
(Project Management)
Architect:
Arkiskape Sdn Bhd,
Ar. Haji Sumardi Bin Haji Ghazalee
Ar. Desmond Kuek Teck Hiong
Mr Irwan Iswandi Mohammed

C&S Engineer:
Jurutera TCS Sdn Bhd
M&E Engineer:
Perunding Malca Sdn Bhd
Quantity Surveyor:
Juruukur Bahan Tema Sdn Bhd
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THE (INCOMPLETE) TENETS OF ARCHITECTURE IN THE TROPICS: PERMEABILITY

By Ar. Wee Hii Min

The third section of this series talks about permeability in tropical buildings; the subject of natural ventilation that promotes comfort in buildings, reduces energy consumption and often articulates our architecture (and our discussion about architecture).

There is another type of permeability that deals with urban accessibility, walkability, linkages and public transport – that is a topic for another article.

Permeability in buildings has been overlooked in many of the recent examples around us. We remember these as lessons from the second year of architecture school; lessons that still apply. (Fig. 1)

Openings

1. Have Openings on Opposing Walls, or at least on Adjacent Walls - Although this is difficult in a typical terrace house, one way to overcome this is to have vents in the roof such as a clerestory or a jack roof. Another way is to have an air-well that not only promotes a stack effect, but allows natural light to enter to the lower floors. (Fig. 2)
2. Direct the air to enter Low and exit High - This is quite easily achievable and one that should be familiar to us; the Malay window. (Fig. 3) This is very useful for the upper floor where privacy is not an issue, as the breeze flows through on the floor level where the typical tropical dwellers spend most of their resting time.

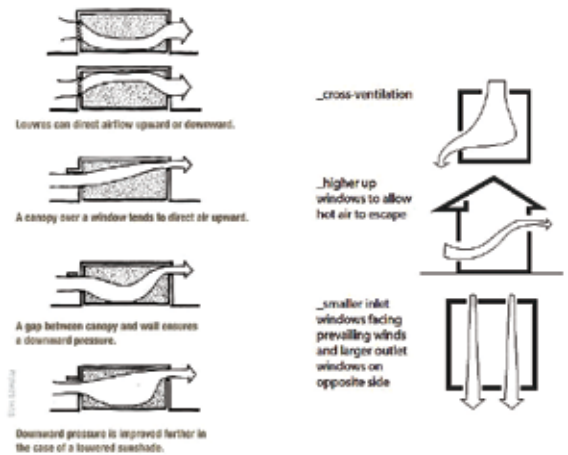


Fig. 1 the placement of openings to promote natural ventilation.



Fig. 2 Airwell in terrace house. 7th Avenue by Design Network Architects.



Fig. 3 The modern Malay window.

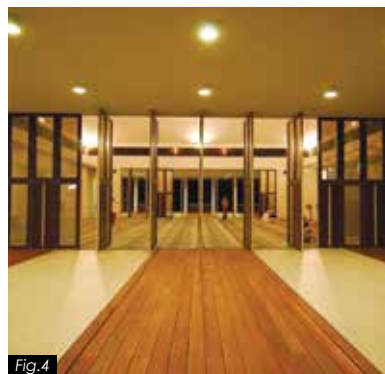


Fig. 4

Fig. 4 Floor boards allow ventilation through the floor of Masjid Wan Alwi.



Fig. 5

Fig. 5 A series of climatic filters at the KERANJI House by SML Architects

3. Floor Openings - Openings in the floor are more common than we think. Some are unintentional such as the gaps between floor boards of a house raised on stilts. Some are intentional as seen in the floor of this mosque that interlaces the concrete floor slab with Belian floorboards laid with 5mm gaps between them (Fig. 4). This also adds to a cooling effect provided by a grid of water pipes that 'irrigate' the undercroft space prior to the afternoon prayers.
4. Layering - Providing permeability in buildings is often an excellent opportunity to articulate the building enclosure which can be designed as a series of filters. The occupants can participate in the cooling and ventilation of the building by adjusting, closing and opening these filters. Something as simple as adjustable glass louver windows are excellent in providing almost 100% natural ventilation when they are opened. They are also easily adjustable and are relatively cheap to install. Combined with large glass sliding doors, steel mesh screens and concrete vent blocks or brick-lace walls, the effects are amplified more. (Fig. 5)



Fig.6



Fig.8



Fig.7

Fig. 6 This house is mostly one-room wide. H-House by DNA.

Fig. 7 Permeable internal walls of the Termitary House in Danang by Tropical Space.

Fig. 8 Monsoon window, Moulmein Rise by WOHA Architects.

Planning

1. **Skinny Floor Plans** - Floor Plans that are 'one-room' thick are the easiest to cross-ventilate especially if they are laid out to catch prevailing breezes. (Fig 6)
2. **Internals Walls** - When there is a corridor to serve internal rooms, it would be preferable if these internal walls are permeable or open-able. Those of us old enough to remember will recall that internal partitions between rooms were often not full-height, often stopping at a lattice above door-height, or in some cases not touching the floor at all. These 'gaps' in the internal wall partitions are instrumental in promoting natural ventilation within the building envelope without compromising privacy. These are often built most commonly in timber which is a lightweight material with low embodied energy. Modern examples of permeable internal partitions stretch the idea of permeability by using building materials normally not seen as 'porous', such as seen in the Termitary House by Tropical Space in Da Nang. (Fig.7)
3. **Stack Effect** - The internal stairwell is often under-utilised for this advantage. In Vietnam, where the shop houses are 4-5 storeys high and slender in comparison to their width - the internal stairwell is usually capped with a wind turbine mounted on a glass skylight, gently drawing air through the internal spaces throughout the day.
4. **Devices** - An example we are all familiar with is WOHA's adaption of the monsoon windows which I have heard many architects lay claim to, however this window have not been integrated well into the external glazing system of a high-rise building in the tropics. (Fig. 8)

Unlike our earlier discussions about 'tenets' of tropical architecture (thresholds and roofs), permeability in buildings require more of the occupants' participation and efforts. Glass louvers have to be opened and shut manually (or mechanically with a press of a remote button), and doors have to be opened or left ajar to guide a breeze into the house. Perhaps this is why many of the ideas and mechanisms for passive cooling is forgotten and replaced by mechanical cooling and ventilation - it is so much simpler (and lazier) just because we can afford to do so.

It is when we cannot afford it that innovation truly starts as seen in Ashis Paul's Eco Coolers in Bangladesh.



ECO Coolers by Ashis Paul

(an excerpt from inhabitat.com)

Few places reach the scorching temperatures that the residents of Bangladesh experience, and air conditioning is simply not an option for most people living in rural areas. Ashis Paul developed a clever DIY cooling system that doesn't need any electricity and is built from a common waste item: empty plastic soda bottles. In just three months, Paul's company has helped install its smart powerless air conditioners, called Eco Coolers, in 25,000 households, with many more still ahead.

The Eco Cooler method is fairly simple, from a construction standpoint. A board is cut to fit the desired window, and bottleneck-sized holes are cut out in a grid pattern. The bottoms of empty plastic bottles are cut off and discarded, leaving funnel-shaped bottlenecks that are placed on the grid. That's all there is to the Eco Cooler, except for the task of installing it in place of the regular window. When mounted, the wider part of the bottles faces outward and catches the passing wind, literally funnelling cool air into the building's interior.

DISCOVERING DELIGHT

In an attempt to elevate our collective mood post MCO, we invited members of our community to submit built designs that projects 'delight' to them, to the end-user and hopefully to the casual viewer such as us.

The brief requested for one photo, one caption and a tidbit of information about the designer, with the primary aim of promoting the individual rather than the practice.

**we initially intended for this article to feature young designers needing the exposure, but in small communities news travel fast and soon, some of the 'older' designers put forward their delights as well; after which we re-named the article (the new title is better)*

We foresee that many of these delights will be featured in full in our coming issues.

Curated by **Min**



Hide + Seek is a playscape imitating the concrete jungle, it is a space for children to conquer, and re-imagine their little city within the apartment development.

Adrian Hong Sheng-Jie had a year of internship with **Intodesign Lab** and is recently graduated from his RIBA/ARB Part II studies at Bartlett School of Architecture, London.



Jewel Changi Airport: sunlight changes how we look at the building during different parts of the day, it draws our attention to details that we tend to miss at first glance.

Sean Chew spends most of his free time entertaining his foster furbaby, **Mei Mei**.



One of 3 baby palm civet cats peeping into my house from a skylight. My roof; their playground by night bears traces of their visits as my morning gift, but I welcome them.

Wong Jeh Tat of **JTNS Studio**, graduate architect who seeks intimate relationships between buildings and landscape.



Screen Envelope mediates the relationship between the inside and outside; repeating, stretching, folding and peeling to reveal the programmes behind this factory building. **PDC Design Group**

Jonathan Lee graduated from RMIT University, he is newly wed, has a new practice and is going to be a new father.

Lau Chun Leong (M.Arch. UTM. 2016). Other than architecture, he has interests in travelling, golf, business networking.



The Kitchen Verandah has articulated windows which says "come have a seat, drink some coffee, have a chat, we will keep you (and your groceries) cool and dry.

Tan Sher Lin, graduate architect who loves to wander to discover the new and familiar.



John's Garden Room - Screened from view, bathed in filtered daylight and cooled by the lap pool.

Joyce Wong of **J Hous Studio** has a Masters Degree in Interior Architecture, she sees herself as an intuitive designer backed by extensive work experience in Malaysia, Australia, Papua New Guinea, and China.



The Ribbon of Life at the Swinburne IT Science Faculty by **Daryl Chung** of **PDC Design Group**, who enjoys singing and strength-training.



Home where we delight in merging the indoors with the outdoors; punctuated by meals from the kitchen.

Lau Chee Kiong whose passion is architecture and food.



The Living Wall delights in using simple materials to create tropical living wall for a toilet block that produces multiple layers of experience and functions; screening, ventilating, transition, sun light and shadow, movement and colour.

Wong Siew Ling from **PDC Design Group**, enjoys serving the community in simple ways.



The Book Hive is the spatial embodiment of the learning experience; a circular, semi-enclosed wall of shelves designed to leave a lasting impression on the children.

Lam Choi Suan and Sim Siok Pheng of **Infodesign Lab** enjoy leading their young team in delivering this project; finding it similar to multitasking with children at home.



Showroom and Service Centre, Jalan Tun Razak, Kuching has deep overhangs and shading louvres, drawing ideas from the surrounding lines to add functional texture and protection while transparent.

Noraini Narodden - a Numismatist, photographer, always the Wonderer and an aspiring world traveler.



Ngit Sen Enterprise gets an upgrade where the new space is divided with a re-created 80's folded shop front in glass.

Hil Wei Sheng at **MNSC Architects** is passionate in crafting details, he believes that the detail itself is architecture.



A homemade kitchen extension (architecturally and literally) of recycled windows and walls - a few weekends of building; a lifetime of feeding hungry guests.

Sean and Sara - slaves to father's whim and mother's fancy.



I'm pinned to the wall, and hung from the ceiling. I move people up and down, but I don't touch the ground. What am I?

Chan Lek Heng - 94 edition architect-in-progress, likes drawing lines and cats. But not CAD.



Hope Biotech Office pairs the honeycombed vent block screen with timber parquet flooring, enriching the space with warmth and comfort.

Lily Ting Shu Chi at **MNSC Architects** is a Foochow speaking nerd who is struggling to survive in Hokkien/Hakka dominant meetings.



Stool - weatherboards from a dismantled primary school gets a second life while teaching a lesson in carpentry and up-cycling and most importantly, end-user satisfaction.

Lionel Kueh draws to create, takes photographs to remember, exercises to eat more.

Pusat Kebajikan Datuk Amar HajahJuma'ani - adopts tropical design approach for a public building. (it is a welfare centre located next to the Sarawak River).

Freddie Lo of **HR Lo Architect** - a homecoming architect to practice in Sarawak after 6 years working in West Malaysia.



Cosy Sarawak Boutique enjoys a minimalist design approach, using a 'chic' combination of blush pink and gold to embellish the fashion pieces.

Apart from designing happy and beautiful spaces at **@studioatik**, **Yon Syafni Samat** teaches architecture to university students while juggling three boys and her many plant babies at home.



Wushiland Boba makes the most of the limited space by defining different areas using clean lines of recycled pinewood.

Lim Chiawen at **MNSC Architects** appreciates the little things in life, and is grateful for opportunities to shine, with **Lily Ting**.



The batten screens of this house limit the sun's direct glare, while allowing natural light to enter and form shadows in attractive ways. They maintain the garden views while obscuring the prying eyes of others.

Mervyn Wong from **DNA** grew up in Tapah, and is very proud of his Hakka heritage.



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QUALITY ENSURED.



CHILDREN ART FOR COVID-19

AN INITIATIVE BY INTODESIGN LAB

“Sad that the whole world needs sanitiser, but we will be good again soon” Shu En, 7 years old, Kuala Lumpur. Children give us hope during uncertain times.

The outbreak of the novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, caused many countries to initiate lockdowns around the world. When the Movement Control Order (“MCO”) started on the 18 March 2020, fortunately it coincided with the beginning of the 1st Mid-Term Break for school. Children were ready for their school holidays, however this time they were not allowed to leave their home to go on vacations, attend holiday programs, or meet their friends and relatives.

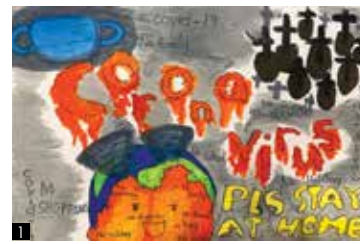
My children raised many questions about the pandemic - What is this virus? Where does it come from? How does it look like? Why is everyone so afraid? How do we fight it? We were overwhelmed with the amount of information we received everyday about COVID-19. Yet, we adults were uncertain about the answers. Like many parents, we encouraged our children to share their thoughts through their drawings so that their voices could be heard. During the 2nd week of the MCO, we created a public group on Facebook called “Children Art for COVID-19” to encourage children to express their feelings, creativity and showcase their talent during this period.

Having to adjust to the new situation, many children kept themselves occupied and expressed hope through their drawings. The works they shared showed support and thankfulness to the front liners – they imagined fighting the battle of the unknown virus, conveyed stay-at-home and hygiene messages and more in their drawings. There was a wide variety to the artworks submitted; some were comics, posters, paintings, doodles on the walls at home (supervised hopefully by their parents!) and scribbles on paper. They all shared their concerns with what was happening in the world even though they were contained to their homes. We received artworks from children of all ages, both locally and internationally as well. On top of this, we collaborated with an Italian group and shared the children's artworks as a form of moral support.

Proud parents and their kids were happy to find such a platform to show their care through art. Their artworks have gained significant attention to a few E-news media groups such as Mashable Southeast Asia, Free Malaysia Today and the local Chinese newspaper See Hua Daily News. To conclude, we are grateful for being able to achieve our goal of spreading positivity and hope during these uncertain times.

CAPTIONS

1. Coronavirus, Pls Stay At Home, by Sujata Lee, 10, Doha, Qatar
2. Defeat Covid-19 Bong Zi Qian, 9, Kota Samarahan
3. Fighting the virus in this cloudy day, by Chai Yu Syang, Kuching
4. Let's fight it together!, by Zheyu, 9, KL
5. Random art by Lu Wenn Yung, 8, Mu Jein Yung, 10, Selangor
6. Thank you scientist, by 王壹 Belle, 7, Beijing
7. Sad that the whole world needs sanitiser. But we will be good again soon, Shu En, 7, KL
8. How Corona Virus Attacks Your Body, by Mu Jein Yung, 10, Selangor
9. Medical hero as an angel, by Ana Heng, 4, KL
10. Stay at Home by Estelle, 5, Kuching
11. the Rainbow is coming soon, by Jie Ning, 7, KL
12. Uplift by Valkyrie Rivera, 9, Philippines



PPE INITIATIVE EFFORT FOR COVID-19

At the start of the MCO, I joined the Tanoti PPE Initiative efforts while working remotely away from the office. I wanted to volunteer to help sew the Personal Protective Equipment ("PPE"); however I ended up being tasked with drawing the sewing block patterns. Due to the scarcity of the medical-grade material, we had to work with whatever was available in the market, which was available in either sheets or rolls. This had to be optimised for sewing in order to minimise our wastage as much as possible.

The patterns acted as instructions for the 100+ volunteer sewers, and I designed the block patterns for every size that the fabrics came in, as well as for each of the PPE items we were making; which included hoods, shoe & boot covers, surgical gowns, aprons and coveralls. I ended up producing over a hundred different layouts. Innovation was key as we also customised our patterns based on the needs of the end users.

Since I sew as a hobby, I understood the importance of being able to print the block patterns from home into A4-size sheets so that the patterns can be accessed anywhere. Due to the increasing demand for the PPE, we shared our patterns onto <http://bit.ly/KuchingPPE> so that we could share them with the rest of the sewing community. Our patterns were accessed over 500 times all over the world. We branded this shared effort with the slogan "With Love from Kuching." As our fight against COVID-19 is far from over, I am also sewing reusable tightly-woven cotton face masks to help reduce our waste. Medical-grade face masks are non-biodegradable and cannot be re-used.



Be it a small face mask to a large scale building, an architect is always a product designer. I believe that through our architecture training, we are able to understand the user-experience as well as to manage projects – important skills that I've utilised in all of my involvement with the PPE project. Problem-solving and coming up with new solutions was a major part of the design process for the PPE.

For more information on this project, head over to <https://tanotcrafts.com/KuchingPPE/>

Written by:
Ar. Peggy Wong



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For our Graduates & Education segment, we decided to give the limelight to the Architects who had recently passed their LAM Part III exams. They have kindly given us their insights and shared their experiences of the exam, including some useful tips on the preparations.

If you are a Graduate Architect thinking of taking the exams, or in the midst of preparing to sit for the exams, make sure to read the following words of advice from your fellow architects. Feel free to get in touch with them as well !



A Mockup of the Oral Exam organised by PAMSC. Photo courtesy of Ar. Hajah Noraini Narodden.



After the Oral Exam; photo taken by Ar. Kong Yean Wei.



Reading materials and past exam papers; photos taken by Ar. Goh Tze Hui.



AR. KIUNG TAT YEUNG
Passing Year: March 2019

When asked by friends on how I prepared for the LAM Part 3 exams, I told them that I approached a bunch of peers who were determined, ambitious and "die-die also want to pass LAM Part 3" and formed a study group with them. Not only is studying with a group of like-minded people fun (eating snacks was a bonus), everyone benefits from it as different opinions and perspectives are shared during the sessions, which are run like Q&A discussions. Our group discussions became more effective as we rationalised agreed methods of answering for certain exam topics. We also made it a habit of explaining an answer to a question to other members in the group, as a way of trying to gain a more in-depth and clear understanding of the topic. We also practiced on past year exam papers as homework, and discussed the answers whenever we met.

My involvement in on-going projects at work was also a great help to me as it helped me to understand the role of the architect from council submission procedures to the administration of the Building Contract.

It's a long journey that requires persistent efforts and whole-hearted contributions. The exam is just a tip of the iceberg in the architecture journey. There are a lot more things to learn in the future such as construction detailing, networking, project management as well as running an architecture practice. Let's grow together !!!



AR. MICHAEL CHEU
Passing Year: March 2019

I have been through an extremely hard time trying to pass the Part 3 LAM exams. In order to pass the exams, I sat for the Oral Exam four times and passed the Written Exams on my sixth attempt. I never gave up, and finally I did it.



AR. SHARINA LAW
Passing Year: March 2019

All the best to the upcoming LAM Part 3 candidates on your upcoming oral and written exams! For most people, it will be a tough journey – just don't give up and you can do it !



AR. NORMAN LU JUEN JYE
Passing Year: Sept 2019

Before the Exam, make sure that you:

1. Plan out a 3-6 months (or 12 months) revision routine.
2. Try to attend a few revision workshops organised by PAM.
3. Seek advice from Architects who have recently passed the exam.
4. Practice past year exam questions, at least from the past 10 years. Note: Some answers may no longer be relevant as laws may have changed.
5. Remember where the important clauses/sections are located, in order to save time searching through the books during the exams. If you can recall where they can be found, this means that you are ready for the exam.
6. Use simple notes to cover all the key points into a simple but compact summary. Just read them 1-3 days before the exam.
7. Tips for the Oral Exam - Imagine that you are already a licensed Architect. The examiners will also assess your mental state during a stressful situation to see if you are able to handle it professionally. You must try to emit a sort of "Professional Aurora" - but not come across as overly-confident or aggressive.

Strategies during the Exam:

1. Personally, I would do the questions that are more structured first; such as letter writing, fee calculations, Bomba calculations and so on. I would leave questions about professional conduct, conflict of interests or ethical matters to the end.
2. Allow some space in between your answer sheets so that you are able to add to your answers if you have time to spare.
3. You may even use examples of scenarios to explain your opinions on a particular topic. Diagrams can be used to explain processes such as the OSC, Strata Title applications, Development Approvals and others.
4. Read the questions carefully! Sometimes irrelevant information is given to deliberately confuse your judgement.
5. Do not provide answers that the question is not asking for.
6. Ensure that your hand writing is clear even when you are writing fast. Check how many marks are given for each of the questions - it normally gives you an idea of the timeframe to answer them.
7. The most important thing is to NOT PANIC! If one starts to panic, your brain will go BLANK !

Thoughts after getting your AR:

1. It means that you can become a professional individual and set up your own practice or partner with other professionals.
2. Congratulations that you are entitled to sue and be sued as well! This just means that you have gained a lot more responsibility.
3. Any judgement made shall deeply influence the building and construction industry as a whole.
4. This is a huge accomplishment in any professional career. However, it is also just a milestone of the journey in architecture. It is a life-long journey of learning.



AR. GOH TZE HUI
Passing Year: Sept 2019

4 THINGS TO CONSIDER WHILE PREPARING FOR THE LAM PART 3 EXAM

1. **Only you know when is the best Time to start**
Apart from the 2 years working experience required by LAM, there is no golden rule to when you can start taking the exams. Everyone learns and progresses at a different pace, be patient and understand your goal. When the time comes, you will know that you are ready. Once you have made the decision, stay focused and the rest will come.
2. **You will need Support from the people around you**
Juggling between exam preparations and other commitments, such as work and family was quite challenging. I was lucky as I received a lot of help from the people around me. My office was extremely supportive by allowing me to work at flexible hours. I also met a few mentors who generously provided me with guidance and motivation, and I was surrounded by a group of study buddies who helped to keep my momentum going.

If you are not surrounded by the right support, do reach out !

3. **You will need a lot of Discipline**
Once you have decided to take the exam, create a realistic schedule and stick to it. Take the time to review the schedule and adjust where necessary. About 6 months ahead of the exam, I spent an average of 4 to 5 hours daily for the revision. With this constant pace, I was able to maintain the balance between work and study.
4. **Completing the exam is not the End**
Before taking the exam, I always thought that this was the last milestone of my architectural education. However, as I dived deeper into the topics, I started to think that this was only the starting point of my professional career. The learning curve is steep but it is a rewarding journey !



AR. KONG YEAN WEI
Passing Year: Sept 2019

I enjoyed the group study with my peers - everyone gets to share their opinion from different points of view. It is beneficial if you get the opportunity to be fully involved in a real project as it enables you to have better understanding of your role as an Architect.

It was a long solid 3 years of preparation for the exam. The process was tiring but worth it !

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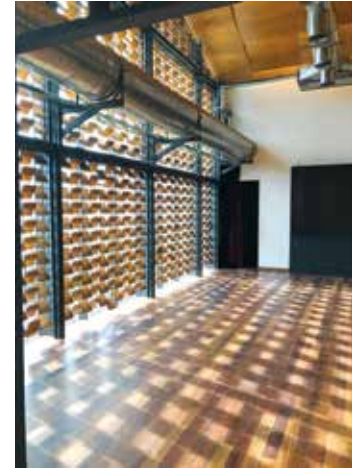


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FIVEatFIVE

The New format for PDF 2020 is a series of online lectures that will be held from September to October 2020 on 5 consecutive Fridays at 5:00pm (GMT+8). The 25 minutes-long lectures will be followed by a 20-minute interview session hosted by guest moderators. As the speaker will be hosting the lecture from their own home or office, several of them have prepared a short 'visit' of these premises to bring another dimension to the new normal for architectural discourses. Stay tuned !



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Letter to the Ministry of International Trade & Industry, Industrial Terminal & Entrepreneur Development Sarawak (MINTRED)

Date: 30th March 2020 (MCO Day 13)

In response to a public survey titled "Impact of the Movement Control Order ("MCO") on Local Entrepreneurs in Sarawak" carried out by MINTRED during the MCO period, PAMSC took the initiative to write to the Minister YB Datuk Amar Awang Tengah. In the letter, PAMSC highlighted the impact of the MCO on architecture consultancy practices, which are mostly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

PAMSC suggested a few measures in order to help cushion the immediate economic impact caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and MCO. The letter was sent out and confirmed received via email on the 30th March 2020.

Quick Survey Amongst Sarawak-Based Architects

Date: 5th May 2020 (MCO Day 48)

The PAMSC PGL Sub-Committee sent out an online survey to find out how many Sarawak-based architecture firms have applied and received the Special Relief Fund ("SRF") by financial institutions and the Wages Subsidy Program ("WSP") by PERKESO. The survey form was shared in the "Architects S'wk" chat group and the findings were summarised in the previous issue.

Review of Sarawak Building Ordinance (SBO)

Date: 7th May 2020 (MCO Day 50)

Due to the MCO, the Joint Technical Consultative Committee ("JTCC") meeting scheduled on the 19th March 2020 was postponed by the Ministry of Local Government & Housing ("MLGH"). However, the PAMSC SBO Task Group took this opportunity to fine-tune the SBO By-Laws & Regulations proposed by MLGH and initiated a discussion with Tuan Haji Abu Bakar Sepawi of MLGH via a 'Zoom' video conference call on the Wesak Day public holiday.

Other than the SBO, issues that have become critical during the MCO such as the online e-Submission for Building Plan submissions to Local Authorities were also discussed.

Courtesy Visit to the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Urban Development & Natural Resources (MUDeNR)

Date: 22nd June 2020 (MCO Day 96)
Venue: Level 2, Menara Sumber Alam

PAMSC was led by our Chairman, Ar. Ivy Jong, to pay a courtesy visit to the Permanent Secretary of the MUDeNR, Datu Sr. Zaidi bin Haji Mahdi. The following salient points were discussed:

- A 2-stage system for SPA submissions & approvals
- Recompilation of the latest SPA circulars and planning guidelines
- Formulation of a Development Plan for Sarawak
- eSPA submission & approval

It was a very fruitful dialogue where the items above were discussed in detail. The Permanent Secretary agreed to proceed with the recompilation of circulars and guidelines immediately. The Head of Planning, Encik Wan Sufian & Senior Planning Officer, Puan Sri Ratna also attended the courtesy visit.

Lab for the Preparation of the Draft of a New Housing Policy in Sarawak

Date: 2nd July 2020 (MCO Day 106)
Venue: Planning War Room, Level 21, Menara Pelita

MUDeNR was instructed by SPA to study and prepare a draft of a new housing policy in Sarawak due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This new policy will cover all categories of housing in Sarawak (landed & high-rise) including normal houses, Spektra, Sri Pertiwi, Prima & others.

PAMSC was invited to the 1-day lab, which was also attended by MUDeNR, L&S, Bomba, various councils (MBKS, DBKU, BDA) HDC, MLGH & MIP. Participants were divided into two groups (landed & high-rise) to prepare a draft policy for each category. After the group presentations, the draft will be presented to the stakeholders in another week's time before the final presentation is made to SPA.