

# Intersection

June 2010



**PAM**  
Pertubuhan Akitex  
Malaysia  
Sarawak Chapter

For Members Only

PAMSC Quarterly Newsletter No. 03/2010

www.pamsc.com



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**PAMSC** has organized two major events in March and April 2010 respectively. These were the Green Building Index (GBI) Forum and MS1525 seminar in March and the Design Forum on Sustainable Architecture in April.

GBI Forum and MS1525 seminar, a Full day programme, was successfully held on Saturday 20th March 2010 at Sarawak Chamber in Majestic Riverside Hotel, Kuching. It recorded 140 attendants for the GBI Forum and about 100 attendants for MS 1525 seminar. YB Datuk Sri Wong Soon Koh (Second Minister of Finance and Minister of Environment and Public Health)

officialated the Forum on behalf of YAB Chief Minister of Sarawak.

GBI has received overwhelming acceptance and adoption by the building industry since it's launched in May 2009. In line with the awareness of a greener environment by the State Government which is also evident in the implementation of SCORE projects in Sarawak, sustainable development and renewable energy resources is a big part of our YAB Chief Minister of Sarawak's vision for Sarawak.

GBI is a useful and important rating tool, which provides an opportunity for developers and building owners to design and construct sustainable buildings including adoption of recycling and greening for their projects which will help reduce drastic impact on the environment in general.

In support of YAB's vision for sustainable energy and sustainable development in Sarawak, this Forum was timely for the introduction of GBI in Sarawak. It acts as the platform for us to get first hand information on GBI Rating tools available for buildings, and also enables the exchange of valuable ideas and experiences in achieving sustainable developments.

On 24th April 2010, PAMSC organized the Design Forum on Sustainable Architecture

titled 'From Theory to Practice'. It was held at the Pullman Hotel, Kuching. We would like to congratulate our PAMSC Conservation and Sustainable Design Sub-committee which was led by Ar Ng Chee Wee for successfully organizing the forum. The main purpose of this Design Forum was to bring together a group of professions who are at the fore front of Sustainable Design, to share their experiences and knowledge in solving the complex issues involved and to apply appropriate technologies in creating sustainable architecture.

We also would like to thank the panel of speakers who took time off to join the Design Forum and shared with us their invaluable knowledge and insights.

The invited speakers were Professor Dr. Roger Fay from University of Tasmania, Australia, Kevin Mark Low from Small Projects, Kuala Lumpur, Francis Goh from WOHA, Singapore and Professor Dr. Singh Intrachooto from Kasetsart University, Bangkok. PAMSC would like to also thank AkzoNobel - ICI Dulux Paint for making this a reality as the main sponsor for this event.

Cheers!!

**Ar Desmond Kuek**  
Chairman  
PAMSC

## EDITORIAL



We are pleased to present to you our 3rd issue of INTERSECTION for this term. We hope that in some small ways INTERSECTION has inspired you and have made some impact in the way we perceive Sarawakian architectural works.

PAMSC have been busy bringing the latest 2 events to our members. Namely the GBI launch to Sarawak; MS1525 seminar and the Design Forum on sustainable design. We are featuring among others, the 2 events in this issue.

Collectively among professions, ACEM (S'wak branch) and MIP (Sarawak & Sabah chapter) are also playing their respective part in promoting sustainability in the aspect of design and planning with their up and coming seminars\*.

It is heartening that there is a growing awareness within our local industry to try to set the ship towards the right course.

Our earth's depleting resources and global warming are simple truths which we cannot afford to be ignorant about. Professor Dr. Singh Intrachooto's statistic in the recent design forum on the construction industry waste; which amounts to an average 30-40% of urban landfills worldwide is indeed food for thought.

INTERSECTION would very much encourage our readers to re look at the way we think and the way we approach our craft. As the change a caterpillar goes through in becoming a butterfly, the process of metamorphosis will be a laboured one. The result we hope will be of stunning beauty. It is an endeavor that cannot be a solitary individual pursuit. Our architectural community whom can and has made significant impact to our environment must work collectively towards changing or improving the way we do things in Sarawak. Change will be slow but necessary.

In support of a sustainable way of life, be it at work or at play, INTERSECTION hopes that in we can nudge you to consciously play a collective part in advocating a 'metamorphosis' of sort, one which its fruits can be enjoyed by you and by generations to come.

\* ACEM is organizing "green Building Index & Green Future" on the 7th May 2010  
\* MIP is organizing "The International Public Transport Conference" which deals with the urban public transport system role in managing and ensuring sustainability of the city's growth in August 2010.  
For more information on these, kindly contact the respective organization.

## CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Ar. Desmond Kuek is pleased to inform all members that PAMKL has agreed to rebate 75% of PAMSC 2010 membership fees which translates to RM56, 493. 00, back to our local chapter on the condition that the allocated funds are for the upgarding of PAMSC IT and AV facilities at the centre.

We look forward to enjoying the new facilities in the near future.

## REGISTER WITH PAMSC AND ENJOY 10% DISCOUNT TO DATUM KL 2010:

**PAMSC** members can register for the attendance to Datum KL 2010 in July 2 and 3 through PAMSC and enjoy 10% discount from the registration fees.

PAMSC will issue the 'DATUM' flyer to members in due course.

Please contact the secretariat at 082-457189 (Melinda) or mail:pamscintersection@gmail.com should you wish to contribute.

**Ar. Ivy Jong**  
Editor



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## K-HOUSE BY LINGHAO ARCHITECTS

from the garden

### Old house, New flow

The old family house, it was to become the son and his family's new home. They had stayed in a room at the back together with the larger family. And now, the parents and brother were moving to 2 other new houses built next door. While it was on a nice spacious land, the existing house was relatively inward looking and had become filled with decades of accumulation.

It would still be the old house but there would suddenly be more space with lesser people and things. So the project was envisioned as creating a new sense of flow and openness between things.

Previously, you walked around the house from the driveway to enter. It was an auspicious entrance. Now you would step onto a generous deck and be sheltered by a low ceiling. It would also be like a stroll along the garden.

From the driveway, a new curve brick wall would screen the house. You would walk through it onto the timber deck. The house was an efficient rectangular plan house. A generic bungalow of the 70s. Where the entrance walk was, the walls were opened up to full height glass doors. Inside it would be an open plan. As you sit in the living room the garden would appear beyond the timber deck. Into the house, on the other side, you would now look into the reverse side of the curved brick wall holding various secret gardens; from the stairway, from the washbasin, from the study.

Wrapping around the 2nd level was a balcony. It had become a no access zone. A new timber deck raised to seating height was placed on it. 3 rooms were arranged to look into and get onto this deck. So now the deck becomes part of the room and the kids run along it to play and access each other's rooms. At night, they now sleep with windows open behind the layers of mosquito net and metal screen beyond.

### New house, old ways

The timber floors are all unstained. The ironwood deck will turn black to match the black algae of the pond. The timber cabinets and doors are handpainted in enamel paint. The sinks are made of concrete and tiled. For one of the toilets, we wanted a mix of colors and could only find a few 100 x 100 tiles. We made a list of diameters and percentages for these tiles to be broken into and randomly mixed. When we came back they were all cut with the edges rounded off and beautifully arranged. The colors of the house are to be found all over in the coffee shops and places around town.

#### Data:

Client: Jackie & Alex

Architect: Linghao Architects

Main Contractor: Hevision Sch Bhd

#### Bio on Ling Hao

Ling Hao is from Kuching, having completed his secondary education at St. Joseph's school, he studied architecture in Australia at the University of New South Wales ( graduated 1992 ). He worked with TANGGUANBEE Architects in Singapore from 1992 to 1998, collaborated with Tan Kok Meng as HAM Architects from 1999 till 2002.

He has practiced as Linghao Architects since 2002 as well as lecturing at the Architecture department at the National University of Singapore. The Niven Road shophouse was awarded URA Architectural Heritage Award 2007 and an Honourable Mention at the Singapore Institute of Architects Architectural Design Award 2008. He was a co-presenter for the Singapore Pavilion at the Venice Biennale 2008.



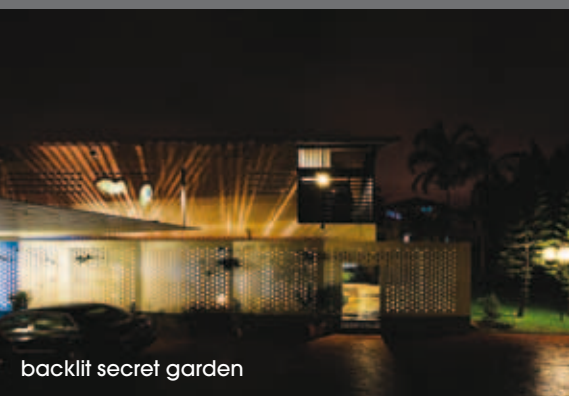
round the house to the entrance



view from the raised dining



behind the curved wall



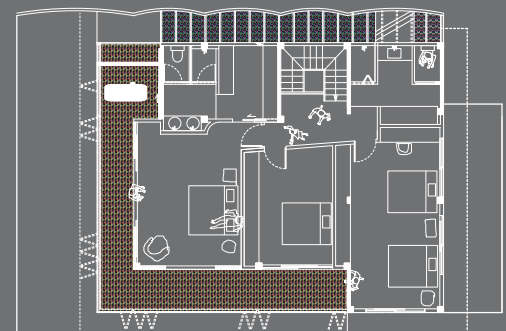
backlit secret garden



play deck



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN





## INTERVIEW WITH FRANCIS GOH FROM WOHA

INTERSECTION had the opportunity to chat with Francis Goh from WOHA during his 'balik kampung' as speaker at the recent Design Forum. A native of Kuching, Francis has professionally 'made his mark' in Singapore with the award winning architectural firm WOHA. He shares with us his thoughts on architecture and reminiscences of his formative years in his hometown.

**INTERSECTION:** Tell us a little bit about your background;

FG: I've always thought of myself as a Kuching boy although my father was originally from Bau. My grandparents came from Fujian Province in China. My current project at WOHA is in China; working on this project, combined with the frequent visits to China causes me to reflect on my heritage. And how this cyclic chain of events now enables me; a Sarawakian to contribute to my grandparents' home country.

**I:** What was your childhood like?

FG: During my primary school days, my time was spent on studies and tuition; and for recreation I drew and played table tennis. I was very active in scout activities, through which I learnt a great deal about independence and gained skills in outdoor activities such as camping and hiking.

**I:** What is your favourite subject in school?

FG: Art – it was something that came naturally to me as I did not have to study or practice hard for it. I was drawn to it at a young age after seeing my mother paint in watercolour; seeing how she was able to create varying hues, tones and intensity from a small palette of colours. Her process of experimentation captivated me, more than the result – I learnt at an early age that art is objective and one should not mindlessly follow the norm. In my schoolwork, this sometimes resulted in lower marks because I chose not to follow the 'rules'. But instead of being disheartened I was spurred on to do better.

**I:** Did you know then that you wanted to be an architect?

FG: I began developing an interest in Architecture when I was about 10-12 years; at that time we were living in a semi detached house designed by an Australian architect. Perhaps sub-consciously, our house became a benchmark for the other houses that I would visit or see. For instance, when someone started to build a new house in the neighbouring lot; I was able to observe the transformation of the empty plot of land into a house. I started to sketch what I saw each day – I was intrigued with the construction processes which took place. However, I recall not being impressed with the eventual house especially when compared to ours; at that point I decided to study architecture.

**I:** At University, at what point did you feel you made a breakthrough in your course - and start to do well in design projects, win competitions, etc?

FG: What I learnt from primary and secondary school was “美术” which can be interpreted as the “Art of making aesthetic work.” So when I entered the architecture course in University of Western Australia, my concept of architecture was rather vague. My earlier efforts in amounted to producing architectural drawings that were pleasing. Fortunately, my work quickly evolved into something more substantial which resulted in producing good architectural ideas. I found that the semester exhibitions were good opportunities for me to study the more intriguing projects and speaking to the students who produced them. These exhibitions became a platform for me to learn and share my knowledge with other students; sitting in at their critiques to pick up presentation skills, etc.



I was very active in scout activities such as camping and hiking.



a member of the SRK Chung Hua No 3 table tennis team (third from left)



Francis Goh during his formative years in Kuching





"Located on a designated "illuminated node" within the entertainment district, the metal skin includes a large media façade, developed together with realities:united, based in Germany."



"Rather than a podium and tower, the development is treated as one complex subtractive form. The multiple scales are created through a metal skin which wraps the entire form...."

I feel that the breakthrough happened gradually; I noticed that lecturers began to take my work more seriously and discuss them during exhibitions. In retrospect, the process of architectural discourse had helped me to be more discerning of good architecture and to hone my own design skills.

**I: What is your advice to architecture students?**

FG: Be your true self. Be inspired always. If you do not have a passion in architecture, or find yourself struggling in your course; then you should consider quitting.

**I: At what point of your career did you realize that you have achieved something of significance in architecture?**

FG: Architects need encouragement or recognition after several years making architecture. I believe that recognition in the form of architectural awards is the best encouragement to help an architect to progress. The first building that I worked on is Tan Quee Lan Suites, which was awarded an Honourable Mention in AR (Architectural Review) 2006 Emerging Architecture. I worked on and completed Wilkie Edge in Singapore's entertainment district, which consists of retail, office and serviced apartments.

**I: Someone said that architects have to be optimists; do you agree?**

FG: I feel that often it is more important for the client to be an optimist, rather than the architect. To complete a project, architects need to work hand in hand with all parties from client, contractor, sub-contractor to the suppliers. Perhaps there is some truth in the statement in that despite of the odds, excellent designs can still be built.

**I: You are now an Associate in WOHA; do you feel that you are able to contribute differently as a Sarawakian?**

FG: Since I have always considered myself a Kuching boy, I do not know if my contributions will be any different if I were someone else!

After the recent Design Forum, I would like to continue to share my working experience with my fellow Sarawkians via a long term relationship with PAMSC; through an annual discourse in Singapore, Sarawak or elsewhere to exchange information and knowledge. The main aim is to promote our passion in architecture.

**I: What do you think of the recent buildings in your home town?**

FG: During my childhood in Kuching, the strongest influence was from the colonial style buildings in the town centre; later in Perth I was exposed to an interesting mix of old and modern architecture. We should design something representing our existence, to express the Zeitgeist.

Several years ago, I saw some new housing being built at BDC; the modern design was a departure from the typical 'classical' replicas seen in mass housing in Kuching. For me, this meant that the public is willing to accept good contemporary architecture. Recently, I visited several interesting buildings in Kuching; the detached house at Jalan Tan Sri Ong Kee Hui and showroom at Jalan Rock comes to mind.

**I: Would you like to build something in Kuching? And if so what would you like to build?**

FG: I'm not sure if it is too soon to plan for a vacation house in Kuching. I enjoyed the road trip to Borneo highlands. I won't mind designing a retreat with views of the mountains surrounded by the tropical rain forest; to build something true to the nature of Sarawak and capitalize on our natural resources.

**I: Any parting words of advice and encouragement?**

FG: For architecture students, remember that Architecture is not simply about what the result looks like; Louis Kahn describes the process as the 'thoughtful making of space'. Do not be seduced by beautiful images, instead appreciate how spaces link and flow from one to the other; experience the hierarchy and layering of spaces as you move through them.

For the rest of us - remember that some of the best buildings begin with a simple idea. Keep it simple and make your decisions with justifications. And enjoy the journey, it will last your entire life.



"The architectural concept allows for a contrast between the old conservation shopfront façade and the rear new lightweight steel structure separated by a series of courtyards."



"... I worked on the Tan Quee Lan Suites, which was awarded an Honourable Mention for Emerging Architecture 2006 in the Architectural Review."



# DESIGN FORUM 2010



Francis Goh

Design Forum on Sustainable Architecture titled 'From Theory to Practice' was held on the 24th 2010 at the Pullman Hotel, Kuching.

PAMSC Conservation and Sustainable Design Sub-committee which was led by Ar. Ng Chee Wee successfully organised the forum which saw 150 registered attendance.

The Design Forum brought together a diverse group of architects who are at the forefront of sustainable design.

The invited speakers were Professor Dr. Roger Fay who is head of the school of Architecture and Design at the University of Tasmania, Australia, Kevin Mark Low who is the principal of Small Projects, Kuala Lumpur, Francis Goh, an associate from WOHA, Singapore and Professor Dr. Singh Intrachooto who is Head of the Building Innovation and Technology Program in Kasetsart University, Bangkok.



Dr. Roger Fay

They showed the audience a wide range of works and generously shared their experiences and knowledge in the field of sustainable design. Various aspects of sustainable architecture were discussed from the passive to the automated, and including innovative ways of re-using construction waste. The speakers urged the local architects and product manufacturers to collectively put their minds behind this cause. This waste could be mitigated if architects and those involved in the industry can put their creative thoughts into it.

AkzoNobel – ICI Dulux Paint is the main sponsor for this event and PAMSC wishes to extend their appreciation to them.



Professor Dr. Singh Intrachooto



Kevin Mark Low



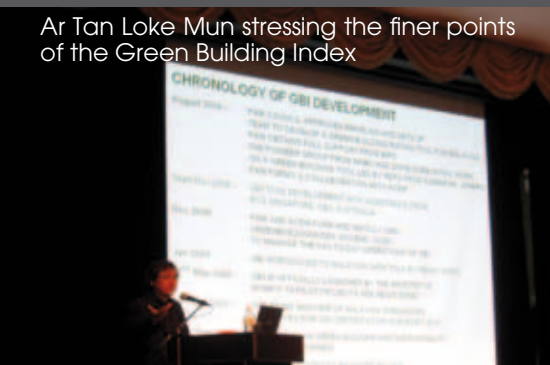




## GREEN BUILDING INDEX LAUNCH IN SARAWAK



YB Datuk Wong Soon Koh giving his address at the GBI Forum



Ar Tan Loke Mun stressing the finer points of the Green Building Index



Following the launch of the GREEN BUILDING INDEX in Kuala Lumpur in May 2009, the GBI Forum Sarawak 2010 was successfully launched on 20th March 2010 at Sarawak Chamber in Majestic Riverside Hotel, Kuching.

GBI is the world's first and only profession-driven green building index for the tropical climate.

YB Datuk Sri Wong Soon koh (Second Minister of Finance and Minister of Environment and Public Health) officiated the launch on behalf of YAB Chief Minister of Sarawak. The event was also attended by PAM president Ar. Boon Chee Wee.

The forum was also well attended with more than 140 registered attendances.

### GREEN BUILDING INDEX RATING SYSTEM

BUILDINGS WILL BE AWARDED THE GBI RATING BASED ON 6 KEY CRITERIA:

1. ENERGY EFFICIENCY
2. INDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
3. SUSTAINABLE SITE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT
4. MATERIAL AND RESOURCES
5. WATER EFFICIENCY
6. INNOVATION

#### ENERGY EFFICIENCY (EE)

Improve energy consumption by optimizing building orientation, minimizing solar heat gain through the building envelope, harvesting natural lighting, adopting the best practices in building services including use of renewable energy and ensuring proper testing, commissioning and regular maintenance.

#### INDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (EQ)

Achieve good quality performance in indoor air quality, acoustics, visual and thermal comfort. These will involve the use of low volatile organic compound materials, application of quality air filtration, proper control of air temperature, movement and humidity.

#### SUSTAINABLE SITE PLANNING (SM)

Selecting appropriate sites with planned access to public transportation, community services, open spaces and landscaping. Avoiding and conserving environmentally sensitive areas through the redevelopment of existing sites and brownfields. Implementing proper construction management, storm water management and reducing the strain on existing infrastructure capacity.

#### MATERIALS & RESOURCES (MR)

Promote the use of environment-friendly materials sourced from sustainable sources and recycling. Implement proper construction waste management with storage, collection and re-use of recyclables and construction formwork and waste.

#### WATER EFFICIENCY (WE)

Rainwater harvesting, water recycling and water-saving fittings.

#### INNOVATION (IN)

Innovative design and initiatives that meet the objectives of the GBI.

Achieving points in these targeted areas will mean that the building will likely be more environment-friendly than those that do not address the issues. Under the GBI assessment framework, points will also be awarded for achieving and incorporating environment-friendly features which are above current industry practice.

### GREEN BUILDING INDEX STRUCTURE

**GBI ACCREDITATION PANEL (GBIAP)**  
REGULATORY BODY

**GBI CERTIFIERS**  
ASSESSMENT & ACCREDITATION

**GBI FACILITATORS**  
GBI PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

#### 1) GBI ACCREDITATION PANEL (GBIAP)

The GBI rating system will be regulated by the GBI Accreditation Panel (GBIAP), an independent committee consisting of senior building professionals that will be reviewing and awarding the GBI rating to qualified projects.

The GBIAP comprises leading industry professionals recognised for their contribution in sustainable developments in Malaysia. They have been actively involved in every step of the rating system's development, ensuring that the rating system is fully tested and compliant to both local and international standards and best practices.

#### 2) GBI CERTIFIERS

Rainwater harvesting, water recycling and water-saving fittings.

#### 3) GBI FACILITATORS

The roles and responsibility of GBI Facilitators are to provide services to enable building projects to achieve GBI accreditation.

"We must be prepared and be ready to change the old way of doing things. The Green Building Index gives us an opportunity to be able to develop and build in a more sustainable and environment-friendly manner. It is appropriately created and customised for the Malaysian culture and climate. As such it is truly Malaysian whilst at the same time benchmarked against internationally recognized best practices and standards. In addition it is also one of the first green rating tools developed by professionals for the tropical climate and this has attracted a lot of international interest."

**YB DATO' SHAZIMAN ABU MANSOR**  
MINISTER OF WORKS MALAYSIA



## MEMBER'S NITE 2010

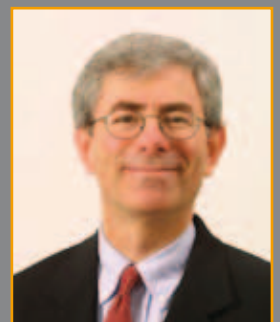
Member's Nite was a blast as can be seen in the accompanying photographs. It was a grand opportunity for members, graduates and building industry suppliers and providers to come together and let their 'hair down'.



## PAMSC Book Project update

Dr Roger Fay, one of the Speakers for the recent PAMSC Design Forum on Sustainable Architecture, has generously made a RM 400 donation to the PAMSC Donate a Book Project. To date we have collected over RM 3,000 from member firms and architects. We hope to make another book donation to the MBKS Library towards the end of this year. The Project is still on-going and we would like to urge all members and firms to contribute generously. Minimum donation is RM 200.00, but you can donate as much as you like.

Lets work together to make this library project a useful resource for all of us.



# PRACTICE NOTE

## 1. Malpractice

### 1.1 False Certification

PAM Sarawak Chapter received a complaint from a solicitor acting on behalf of his Client, claiming that there was a contravention of LAM's Guidelines on Certification (under the Third Schedule of the Standard Sale and Purchase Agreement) by an Architect in Kuching.

Evidence submitted by the complainant revealed that the entrances to the house, sub-base, wearing course and tar-sealing of the roads leading to the house were not completed as certified, neither were the power and water supply to the house.

An official complaint was then lodged with PAM citing inappropriate Certification for the Delivery of Vacant Possession by the said Architect. This complaint has been referred to Lembaga Arkitek Malaysia (LAM) for further action.

PAMSC views this matter very seriously and urges all Professional Architects adhere strictly to the Guidelines under LAM General Circular 3/2008 when certifying in respect to housing projects. This is in view of the numerous complaints received by the local authorities with regards to false certification by the Architect/Submitting person. PAMSC is currently in the midst of drafting the Guidelines on Certification based on Sarawak Form G of the Housing Developers (Control and Licensing Regulations 1998 Amended June 2009).

## 2. The Process of Building Plan Submission is under review

From 23rd – 26th March 2010, PAMSC was invited to participate in the Public Services Transformation Programme organised by Padawan Municipal Council with the following objectives:

- To review the Building Plan submission process with the recognition of the legal parameters.
- To identify the legal requirements that may weaken the submission process.
- To identify existing bottlenecks in the approval process and to propose solutions to improve the delivery system.

The 4- day workshop was attended by various government agencies and stakeholders like PAM, IEM, ACEM and SHEDA, during which solutions for the improvement of the Delivery of Building Plan Approval were tabled and shall be put forward to the Ministry for to be adopted.

Some major bottle-necks in regards to the submission process were identified by the participating Architects, and they are as follows:

### 2.1 Enforcement of Architect's Act

#### 2.1.1 Professional Integrity

There are errant Submitting Persons known for their unethical practice which tarnish the profession's image and in doing so jeopardises public confidence in the Architect.

#### 2.1.2 Submission by Submitting Person residing overseas

Submitting persons residing overseas have been known to submit plans locally while NOT able to provide supervision during construction of the building, and yet they are able to certify Stage Completion of Sales and Purchase Agreement, including Form F for the application of Occupation Permit. This practice has cast the Profession's integrity in doubt.

#### 2.1.3 Endorsement of Building plans for third party. (Runner)

The professional image of the Architect is cast in doubt by Architects who endorse plans for projects which are not theirs; typically endorsing plans for unregistered building draughtsman or a 'Runner' who is not governed by any Statutory Act.

These notes is prepared by Ar. Tan Kiat Soon who is the PAM Com member responsible for liason with local authorities. Those interested on these matters, please do contact Ar. Tan accordingly.



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### LOCAL PROJECTS IN KUCHING



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- Gate - SHERA Strip, 8x75x3000mm, Square Cut, Smooth Texture



**KGS**  
- Wall Cladding  
- SHERA Plank, 8x200x3000mm, Cassia Texture



**Tabuan Laru**  
- External Wall Cladding  
- SHERA Plank, 8x200x3000mm, Teak Texture

CEILING

WALLING

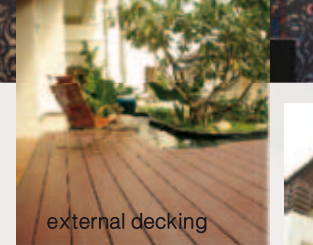
FLOORING



external siding



louvre/screening



external decking



eaves/fascia



external ceiling

INTERIOR EXTERIOR

INTERIOR EXTERIOR



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## MOVIE NITE SCHEDULE

- 1) My Architect – A Son's Journey (on Louis Khan)
- 2) Frank Lloyd Wright: a Film by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick
- 3) Sketches of Frank Gehry by Sydney Pollack
- 4) I M Pei – First Person Singular/ The Museum on the Mountain (very good and touching movie)
- 5) The Alchemy of Building (on Herzog and De Meuron)
- 6) Antonio Gaudi
- 7) An Inconvenient Truth by Al Gore (Ar. Ng Chee Wee says '.....a wake up call - everyone must watch..')
- 8) The Sydney Opera House

Announcement on actual time and date to be announce in due course by flyers.

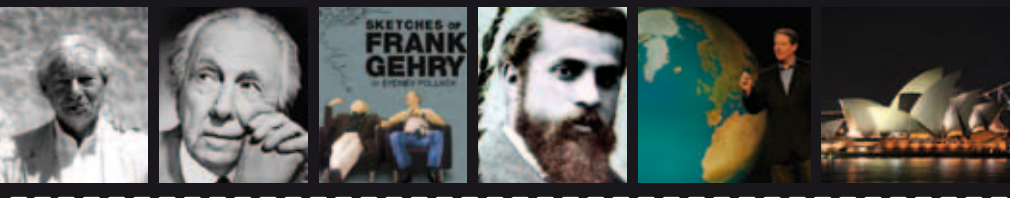
Herzog and De Meuron Movie next. Tentative date 11th June 2010. To be confirmed in due course.

Actual date of movie nite will be announced in due course via flyers to our members.

## UP AND COMING SEMINARS FOR 2010

1. Fire Safety
2. Ecotowns for Asia – an application of sustainable technology
3. Architect and Landscape architect working together maximizing a project site's potential
4. A comparison of two sole proprietor

Actual date of seminar will be announced in due course via flyers to our members.



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Contact Person: **Kelvin Yeo**

Email: [kelvinyeo@projeqz-i.com](mailto:kelvinyeo@projeqz-i.com)

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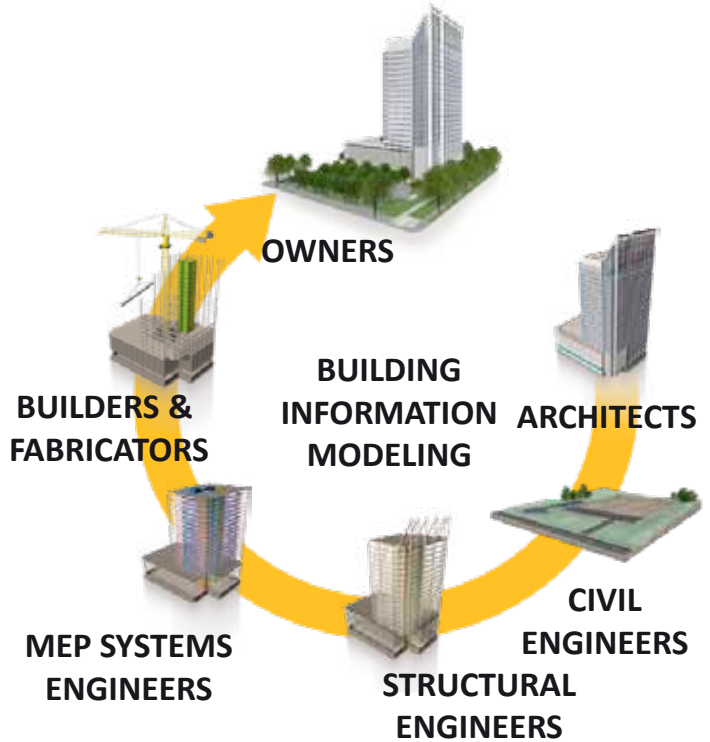
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## Arkitek Binarjaya, Malaysia

# Autodesk Revit's Built-In Smarts and Ease of Use Provides Competitive Edge and Boosts Productivity

"Arkitek Binarjaya is committed to investing in innovative and advanced architectural solutions. These enable us to achieve continuous improvements and efficiencies within our entire design process, offering our customers greater gains in time and flexibility while maintaining profitability for us." "We found that Autodesk's solutions, especially Revit, go a long way towards accomplishing this."

At the forefront of The Klang Valley, Malaysia's administrative, commercial and industrial hub, with over 25 years of experience, is Arkitek Binarjaya. It has built a specialized architectural practice noted for quality and an attention to detail. With such a track record, the need to stay competitive and on the cutting edge is a paramount objective. The firm, which garnered the coveted ISO 9001:2000 certification in 2003, constantly seeks tools that would give it an upper hand in delivering quality and innovation to customers.

## Building Across the Board

Arkitek Binarjaya's initial encounter with Revit came at a time when it was looking for a design solution that would not only complete the task, but would also enhance the firm's entire design process. After considering everything else in the market, the firm chose Autodesk Revit which soon became a mainstay of the firm's design process.

In an industry where time is of the essence and rapid turnaround time critical, the ability for instant design review in a full 3D environment and to make globally reflected design changes were key considerations in the firm's adoption of Revit.

We needed something that would fix our immediate need for a design solution while offering us better processes as well as growth and scalability as we grew in the market. Autodesk's Revit did this." said Henry Lee, Principal, Arkitek Binarjaya.

Prior to the use of Revit, several drawing concepts were required. With Revit, the entire concept of modeling – the space, floors, fittings – is within one model. Editing, sharing, and improving on the design can be expedited effortlessly, thus saving time and minimizing errors.

## Customer Success Story

Arkitek Binarjaya, Malaysia

## Boost in Productivity Levels

Citing the industry's move from standalone CAD solutions to Building Information Management systems, Mr. Tan Kee Keat, Project Architect explained, "The traditional

CAD operator can now use 3D, which was previously restricted to designers due to the fact that you needed specific skill-sets. This posed limitations as to what we could do with it. However with Revit, we can now arrange our office in a more flexible manner. Even a novice CAD specialist can now produce the drawings

and 3D at the same time without requiring a 3D specialist to do the job for him which saves time and makes things considerably more effective."

"If you make one change, then Revit will change the rest. Revit detects omissions in the model as well as we found out recently. We had omitted the staircase and roof from a project design that Revit picked up immediately. Through its 3D modeling functions, Revit allows us to see the missing links from the ground to top floor, increasing the level of accuracy in our projects and ensuring that everything is there. It allows us to anticipate potential problems before we proceed with construction which is invaluable and makes it especially useful for a junior draftsman who might not be able to foresee missing linkages."

Greater control can also be exercised over the quality of projects with Revit, as it significantly reduces redundancies and uncertainties during the construction phase of a project. Unlike conventional CAD drafting solutions, Revit renders drawings that represent the actual design of the building into a full 3D model.

## Efficiency Plus

But how does Autodesk Revit stack up against the competition? The firm's design architect, Mr. Abi Sarwan who has extensive experience with other solutions attested to Revit's efficiency.

According to him, Revit enables users to generate a series of views from the same basic model and eliminates the need for several perspectives. It provides for file flexibility in terms of managing files, generating a report directly from designs and models rather than creating it individually. Revit also alerts users to issues that they need to be aware of during the construction phase of projects eliminating problems further down the road.

Although still new to the use of Revit, Arkitek Binarjaya has already begun to find the solution a vital asset. One

Revit has enabled us to achieve continuous improvements and efficiencies with in our entire design process, offering customers greater gains in time and flexibility while allowing us to maintain profitability.

Henry Lee  
Principal  
Arkitek Binarjaya,  
Malaysia

of the key advantages lies in the fact that building elements remain constant across all models. This means that modifying the main model makes the corresponding changes in all the options while still maintaining the integrity of the building model.

## Learning Curve

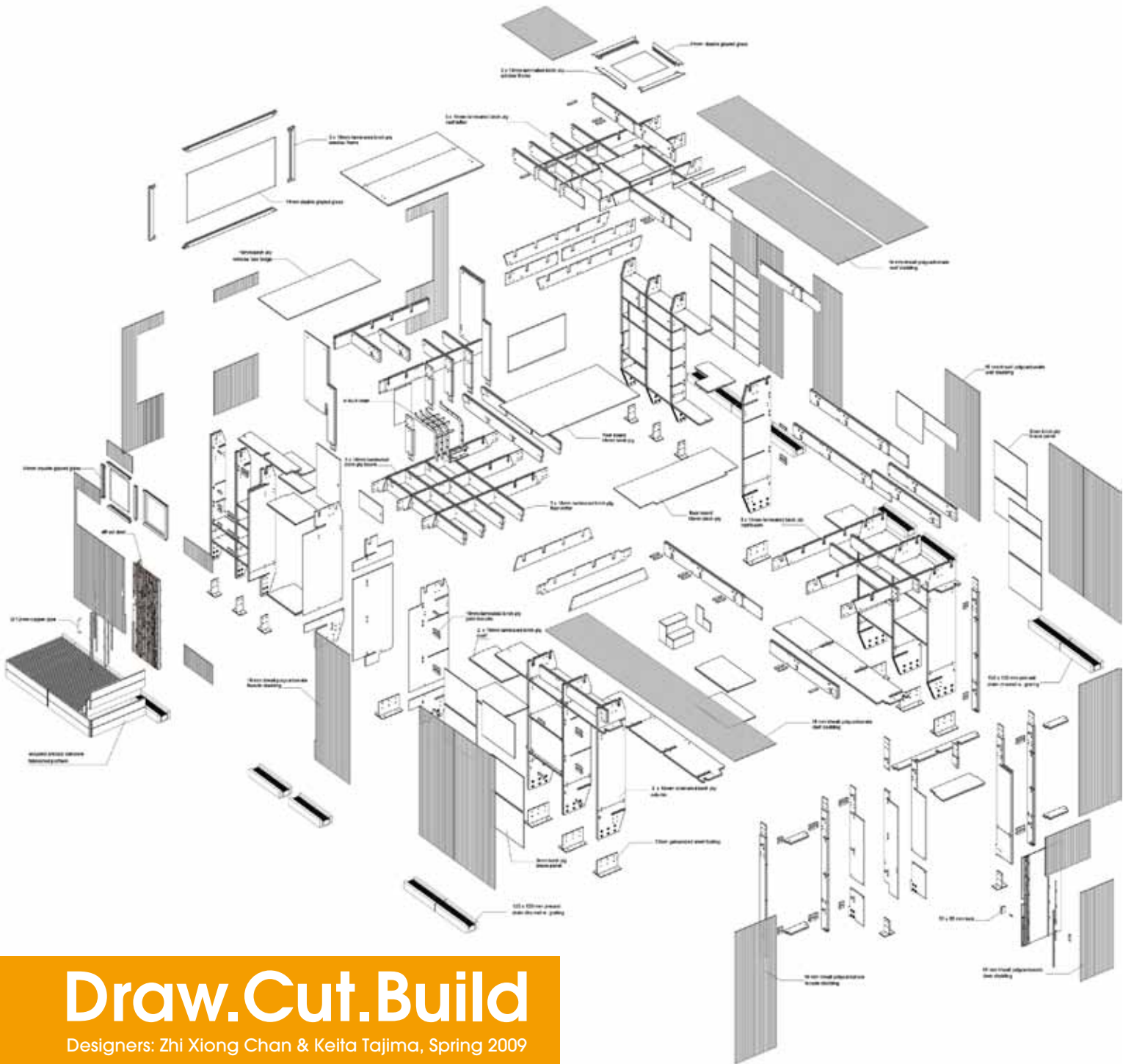
Mr. Lee recalled, "At the outset, we thought Revit was rigid and were quite daunted by the prospect of it being too technical for us. However, through careful planning of the project we found that it was actually quite easy to get into. It was all about optimizing our resources. Our staff has group sessions to exchange ideas and we also learn from each other what Revit can do. Through this, Revit has brought a greater sense of process, efficiency and competency to the way we do things."

## Conclusion

Revit's time-saving and ease-of-use aspects coupled with its inherent ability to promote efficiency and produce accurate and fullycoordinated documentation offer a greater competitive advantage than anything the firm had used before. It definitely adds to a healthier bottom-line.

On whether the firm recommends Revit to its counterparts in the industry, Mr. Tan quipped, "Of course not! That would give them an edge over us!"

[www.autodesk.com/revit](http://www.autodesk.com/revit)



# Draw.Cut.Build

Designers: Zhi Xiong Chan & Keita Tajima, Spring 2009

## A NOTE FROM AR. CHAN ZHI XIONG (from the edge)

I lived in Kuching for a period of time and while there, I attended Lodge School. After which, I left for further studies in London at the Architects' Association (AA). I often visit my relatives in Kuching during school holidays. During a gap between my 3rd and 4th years, I interned at CC Chan Architects - following my Uncle Chuan and Aunt Megan to project sites and meetings and learning valuable lessons from them. Sarawak has a wide variety of natural and cultural textures, which are both inspiring and refreshing for me after my time overseas.

This featured project won 2nd place for Asakura Prize in Japan; and is a joint effort between Mr Keita Tajima (an A.A. course-mate) and myself. At present, I am employed at Kengo Kuma & Associates.





This small project in the village of Pinner on the outskirts of London is a combination of storage shed and relaxing hide-away room.

Built to replace an existing garage in the garden of a private house, the building serves as a filter between the road outside and the leafy garden.

This project was designed by two young graduates from the Architectural Association in London. In order to experiment with new ways of building they also undertook the construction of the project.

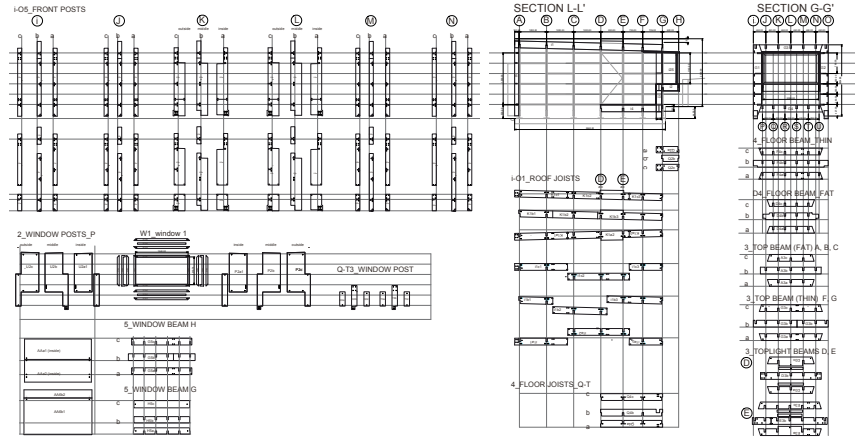
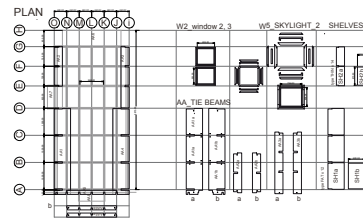
### Furniture as Architecture

The structure arises from the practical function of the building as a storage space, using an integrated system to compose both furniture and structure.

The shelves designed for storage also serve as the structure for the building. Main structural members are composed of 3 layers of 18mm birch ply, CNC cut and laminated together.

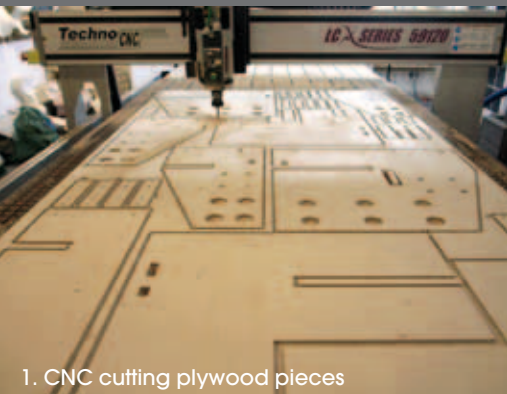
These are dry-jointed, to form the main structural frame, which is then braced by 6mm birch ply panels.

Using this system, all individual components were prefabricated in a workshop before being dry-fitted and set up on site.

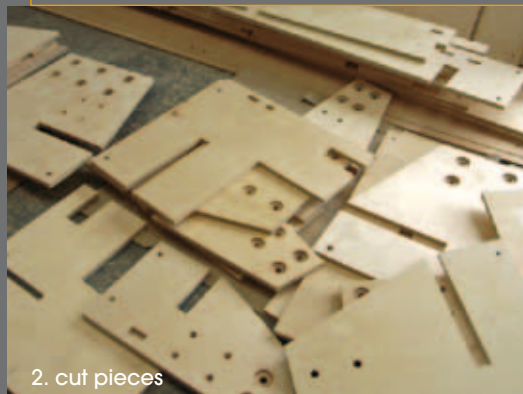


sectional drawing

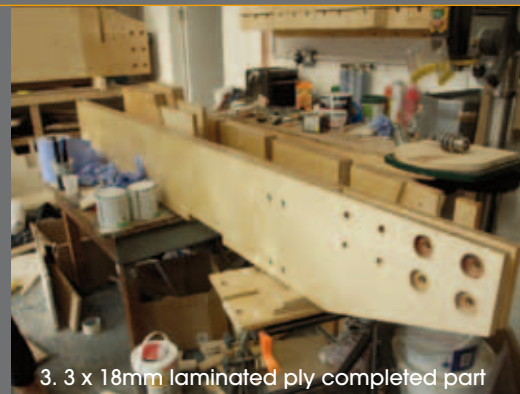




1. CNC cutting plywood pieces



2. cut pieces



3. 3 x 18mm laminated ply completed part



4. part-assembly of structural section



5. assembly of structural frame



6. Fitting the roof structure

### From drawing to Making

To compensate for the lack of professional building skill and equipment in construction, CNC milling technology was employed to prefabricate all building components to suitable size and weight so that the building could be assembled by a small group of amateurs.

The use of CNC technology, that directly links the drawing and construction processes allowed the designers to test and explore construction details at 1:1 scale.

### Flexible building language

The 2 distinct interior functions of the building are differentiated by a selective application of the same material and building system.

The practical nature of the storage space is reflected by its interior. It has generous 600mm deep shelves on each side, with a narrow corridor along the centre for loading and unloading. Structure of walls, roof and concrete floor are exposed, and occasionally the ply wood panelling is omitted allow natural light into the space.

On the other hand, the interior of lounge space has a relaxing and comfortable nature. The space is widened by narrowing the structural shelf-walls to half depth. It floats above the concrete on a timber floor, and the hard lines of the wall structure are smoothed by ply panel doors and ceiling surfaces.

The space is brightly lit by a skylight above and large window box, projected towards the lush green garden, and also provides a place to lie and rest.

### Realising experimental thought

DRAW. CUT. BUILD is a project that combines modern fabrication technology with sensitivity towards detail and space. It is an example of how the gap between the design and construction processes can be bridged, empowering designers to explore material details and effects on a deeper level, and discover new and novel methods of building.



interior view



external facade



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## New Economic Model for Malaysia

Ar. Ng Chee Wee on behalf of PAMSC attended the briefing held recently in Kuala Lumpur on the 'New Economic Model for Malaysia'. This is a brief summary for our member's information.

### WHAT YOU MUST KNOW

#### Objectives of NEM

To achieve Developed Economy Status with 3 Key Achievements:

- High Income - Targeted USD 15,000 to USD 20,000 per capita by 2020
- Inclusiveness - Enables all Communities to fully benefit from the wealth of the Country
- Sustainability - Meets present needs without compromising future generations

#### Current Status of the Country

40 % earning below RM 1,200 per month  
 80% earning below RM 3,000 per month  
 Increasing Income Gap between the haves and have-nots  
 Private Sector Investments have stagnated since the economic crisis in 1997  
 Salary Growth have stagnated over the last 20 years  
 Public Sector Investments cannot sustain long term growth

#### Selected Sectors to Spur Growth

Sectors with potential to drive growth and revenue – generating higher income:

- Financial Services - potential to Export Services
- Oil & Gas - potential Export Services
- Palm Oil - increase added value through R&D and Downstream Activities
- Electrical & Electronics - increase added value through Design and R&D
- Tourism - focus on Eco-Tourism
- Agriculture - R&D on Yield Management

### New Approach to Growth under NEM

**Growth Through Productivity** – Focus on innovative processes and cutting-edge technology, supported by healthy levels of private investments and talent, for high value added goods and services

**Private Sector Led Growth** – Promote competition across and within sectors to revive private investment and market dynamism and adopting internationally accepted standards

**Localised Autonomy in Decision-Making** – Empower State and local authorities to develop and support growth initiatives, and encourage competition between localities

**Cluster and Corridor Based Economic Activities** – Concentration of business activities for economies of scale, agglomeration and better provision of supporting services

**Favour Technologically Capable Industries and Firms** – Grant incentives to support innovation and risk-taking to enable entrepreneurial spirit to develop higher value added products and services

**Asian and Middle East Orientation** – Develop and integrate actively into regional production and financial networks to leverage on flow of investment, trade and ideas

**Retain and Attract Skilled Professionals** – Embrace talent, both local and foreign, needed to spur and innovative, high value added economy

### 8 Strategic Reform Initiatives (SRIs)

- Re-Energising Private Sector
- Developing Quality Workforce
- Competitive Domestic Economy
- Strengthening Public Sector
- Transparent and Market Friendly Affirmative Action
- Building Knowledge-Based Infrastructure
- Enhancing Sources of Growth
- Ensuring Sustainability of Growth

For more information on the New Economic Model visit the National Economic Advisory Council Web Site [www.neac.gov.my](http://www.neac.gov.my)

# BRING BACK THE CANE

## Furniture for the Environment

Rattan (Calamus) is a climbing or trailing palm from the Southern Asian tropical rain forest mainly collected by tribesmen in the remote jungle places of Borneo. Because of the plant's stifling nature, the cutting and collection of this palm has considerable benefits to the larger hardwood trees forming the forest canopy and should be encouraged. In Sabah in East Malaysia, a pioneering plantation of rattan has been planted inside the natural forest. Although the crop takes eight years or more to mature; the venture appears successful as the forest area containing the planted rattans is full of wildlife.

Rattan is perhaps the soundest natural material resource used for commercial purposes and should be enthusiastically encouraged; with the added benefit of financial reward for the tribesmen who collect cane.

Rattan shoots are cut to the length of about 3 metres, split, washed in a stream and then dried for three weeks. Larger cultivated stalks are boiled in oil, then cleaned and split. The manufacturing process splits the outer bark (cane) from the inner reed-like material which is used for weaving panels and known as rattan. Basket-weaving is one of the oldest skills practiced by man with early examples in Tutankhamen's tomb c. 1340BC and in early Chinese woodcuts and Roman stone reliefs.

The early colonization of the Far East in the eighteen century by Britain, Portugal and Holland saw an influx of cane furniture within Europe when retiring plantation managers brought them back to their home countries. This type of furniture was disliked by the upper classes because of the cheapness, but usefulness and especially lightness eventually found it a place in many of the greatest apartments.

The major breakthrough in furniture design occurred in 1849 with Michael Thonet's invention in Frankenburg Austria of a process for bending beech wood by steam into suitable chair shapes. These frames were then dried and polished and given cane backs and seats. The European café society's one and only chair style had been born and Thonet's chair



Poul Kjaerholm - PK 24

No. 14 (pic) became the classic for every cafeteria and restaurant – over 50 million of these were produced between 1859 and 1930 and are still available for sale in the shop.

In 1900, Thonet's industry was employing 6000 workers and one million pieces left the factory, with key executives later fleeing the Nazi regime, a major factory was opened in North Carolina. Production continued except Native American elm replaced beech as the framing material. The Thonet furniture industry was big time in a big way for a very long time.

Cane was used by Adolf Loos, the pioneer of early modern architecture whose work was years ahead of its time, in the famous Knize men's outfitters and Hans Wegner. The famous furniture designer later designed his famous armchair and folding chair with cane material from Spain.(pic) Egon Eiremann later produced a full basket chair using Spanish cane. (pic) Cane was used in Britain during the 19th Century and early 20th Century in George Walton's furniture for the Buchanan Street tearooms in Glasgow for Miss Cranston. Walton (pic) used cane for specially designed furniture in the White House Shiplake Oxford

in ebonized birch framing, and it was also used for Roger Fry's 1913 painted wood and cane chair by Omega Workshops. Examples of both of these are displayed in the Victoria and Albert Museum.

A full basket chair called "Sleepy Hollow" was marketed by Dryad around this time.

Bentwood had heralded the age of the stacking chair, but the further material production of tubular steel framing was immediately seized on by early modern architects, again with cane as the favorite seating material. 1927 saw the production of Mies Van Der Rohe's MR Type with a cane seated stool, manufactured in the Thonet factory.

Marcel Breuer produced his renowned and very popular chair "Cesca" (pic) in a combination of enameled bentwood with tubular steel framing. This chair was recontinued in 1965 by the manufacturers Gavina. Also Gebruder Thonet (the company set up by Michael Thonet's five sons) produced a chair model B32 with chrome plated tubular steel, solid beech wood and cane.



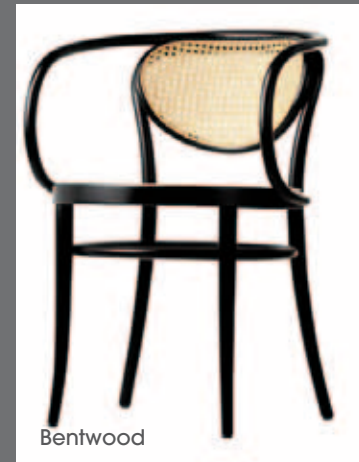
Thonet - Café Daum



Thonet



Cesca chair



Bentwood

Le Corbusier seeing the flexibility of cane and rattan used these materials for furniture in his early houses and his brother Pierre Jeanneret designed an armchair around 1950 for the city buildings in the new city of Chandigarh in India.

These designers had seen the potential of the materials to construct backs and seats without the need for heavy upholstery and to provide easy handling. Cane and rattan are also ideal for use outdoors and in conservatories, restaurant and cafeteria, particularly in hot and humid climates. Rattan and cane formed the backs of early office swivel chairs and used for the traditional American rocking chairs.

The last decade has seen little inventive designs with these materials, except for John Makepeace's 1978 arch chair in ebony but once again we are seeing a revival with a re-invention of new furniture by British, Italian and Spanish designers using the potential of this ecological sound and sustainable material. Italian companies appear now keen to encourage bold and modern designs from their furniture designers.

The famous Danish Designer of the 1960's, Poul Kjaerholm was commissioned by E. Kold Christensen to combine stainless steel frames with Rattan. Kjaerholm's famous PK1 and PK15 (pic) are now classic designs with the PK1 pirated by unscrupulous Spanish companies in the sudden explosion of cheap mass produced chairs seen outside the trendy payment cafes but beware, however, these clever imitations in synthetic woven fiber products are not good for the environment.

As long as the framing material is from a sustainable source and the manufacturing methods are not energy wasteful, rattan and cane furniture must have a successful future and be enthusiastically encouraged.

*The original piece was written by Mr. Mervyn Whiffin.*

*INTERSECTION have been given the permission to publish a re-edited version in view of the article's relevance.*

Mr. Whiffin's profile:

Born in Essex and now lives in West Norfolk, Mervyn Whiffin has had a long and varied career as a chartered architect, landscape designer, exhibition designer, hospital engineer and writer for various associated publication.

Mervyn has been involved in the design of universities, hospitals and major modern buildings in the United Kingdom, Europe, Finland, Malaysia and finally an artificial island city in the Java Sea off Indonesia.

He collaborated with a local firm in Kuching in the 1990s and had since retired to produce beautiful pieces of art work inspired by the land of the hornbills. His recent art work was on a series of pastels entitled 'Wild Fishes of Sarawak River, Borneo'.



Ron Arad Zago Stool

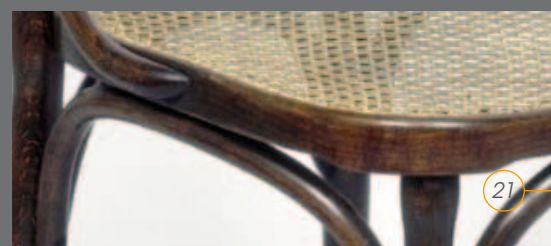


King Tubby

Adolf Loos



Poul Kjaerholm - PK 15



# ELMICH LANDSCAPE ROOF



GREEN WALL



EXTENSIVE GREEN ROOF



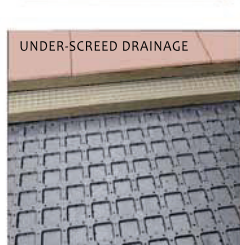
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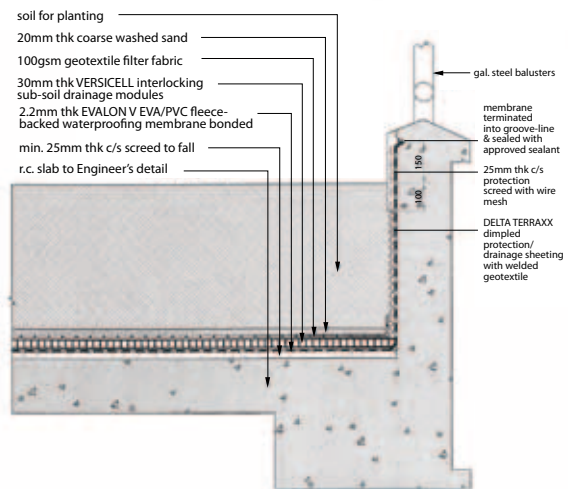
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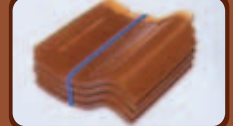
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\*See Limited Warranty for details.

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#### Light Weight

Only 6.4kg per sheet less purlin support needed.  
(Length: 2000mm, Width: 950mm, Thickness: 3mm)

#### Strong

Withstands winds up to 120mph (192km/h) proving its suitability in hurricane and earthquake conditions.

#### Durable

Not subject to rust, corrosion and brittleness.

#### Asbestos Free

Onduline does not contain asbestos. Asbestos has been classified as a cancerous material in 1977 by the International Agency for the Research on Cancer. Many countries in the world have already adopted new regulations accordingly.

#### Cost Effective

Needs very little maintenance once the roof is installed according to our fixing instruction.

優越建材有限公司  
ADVANCE BUILDING PRODUCTS SDN BHD

Vincent Ling

H/P: 013-365 5962

#### Kuching

SL 4, Lot 496, Jalan Muara Tuang  
93250 Kuching, Sarawak  
Malaysia.

H/P: 013-365 5962

**Sibu** No. 58, G/Flr, Jln. Sg. Antu 3,  
Sg. Antu Industrial Estate 96000 Sibu,  
Sarawak Malaysia.

**Fax: 084-328 044**

**KL** No. 4, Jalan Ara SD7/4B, Bandar  
Sri Damansara 52200 KL, Malaysia.

**Tel: 603-6277 6488**

**Fax: 603-6277 6489**

Email: jerus\_deco@yahoo.com



Certification No. 032-065

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Nature is the mother of all colours. We, at Nippon Paint, dedicate our best efforts to protect and preserve mother nature for the benefit of our future generations. We reduce energy consumption and minimise water disposal. We also developed ultra low VOC and energy saving products. As one of the leading paint manufacturers, we remain firmly committed to a better, brighter and cleaner future for the planet.  
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