

PAMSC COMMITTEE 2011-2012



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Chairman:

Ar. Peter Wong King Lai (NEW!)

Deputy Chairman:

Ar. Mike Boon

Vice Chairman:

Ar. Stephen Liew

Honorable Secretary:

Ar. Stephen Mong

Honorable Treasurer:

Ar. Tan Kiat Soon

Committee members:

Ar. Kho Meng Kang, Ar. Wee Hii Min,
Ar. Felix Wee, Ar. Bong Jin Hin,
Ar. Kevin Wong, Mr. Chai Si Yong

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GOVERNMENT LIASON

Chairman

Ar. Bong Joon Hin

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Ar. Stephen Liew

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Chairman

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Ar. Desmond Kuek

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Ar. Ng Chee Wee (Co-opt)

SECRETARIAT & RESOURCE CENTRE

Chairman

Ar. Mike Boon

GRADUATES

Chairman

Mr. Lee Chai Guan (Co-opt)

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



PAMSC 36th AGM was successfully held on 30th July 2011 at PAMSC Centre.

Ar Peter Wong King Lai was elected PAMSC chairman for the year 2011-2012. I would like to congratulate our New PAMSC Chairman and wish him all the best.

I would also like to thank all our fellow members for their continued support to PAMSC activities and events during my last two years as PAMSC Chairman. To my previous PAMSC committee members who have contributed their time unselfishly and worked tirelessly for the good of PAMSC, a BIG THANK YOU.

Lastly, my best wishes to you all !

Thank you

Ar Desmond Kuek
Chairman
PAMSC

PRACTICE NOTES:

PAMSC has been liaising with Jabatan BOMBA dan Penyelamat Malaysia on the issue of additional sets of Architectural and Mechanical & Electrical drawings to be submitted to their department.

Previously, they will only accept 2 sets. This means that upon approval, the client or consultant will not be able to have a set of the approved submitted plans for their reference or record keeping.

PAMSC is pleased to inform members that effective August 2011, **Jabatan BOMBA dan Penyelamat Malaysia** has consented to accepting 3 (THREE) sets of Architectural and M & E plans for submission to their department. The 3rd approved set will be returned to the consultants accordingly.

The minimum sets required for submission to their Department is 2 sets.

EDITORIAL



A warm welcome to the September 2011 issue of **INTERSECTION**!

It is really encouraging to note that more firms from Sarawak are making the effort to show case their work as the recent PAM Awards show. We congratulate the successful firms. **INTERSECTION** takes pleasure in highlighting those projects mentioned at the awards in this issue. We hope that more and more Sarawakian firms would come forth in participating in the PAM awards. I am very sure that there are many 'unsung' projects out there which design and execution deserves a loud mention.

This issue also sees the fourth and last installment of our 'Sarawak Architectural Pioneers' series. **PAMSC** and **INTERSECTION** would very much like to take this opportunity to record

our thanks to Dr. Paul Yong Min Hian, Ar. Andrew Tan, Ar. Dato' John Lau and Ar. Phillip Chang for their contribution and their generosity in sharing with our readers their stories, aspirations and advice. We hope that the four outstanding individuals featured have given our readers a cross sectional glimpse of practicing in those days as well as the architectural development of Sarawak.

We also acknowledge that Public Works Department (Now JKR) would easily be devoted a entire series of articles for their contribution to the built landscape from the 1950's until today. However, I would leave that for our editorial team to explore in future issues.

It is with great pleasure that I hand over the editorial-ship of **INTERSECTION** to our newly elected chairperson to the Media & Publication Sub-committee, Ar. Wee Hii Min.

I am very sure he will be able to take **INTERSECTION** to greater heights.

Last but not least, I wish to express our appreciation and thanks to all our contributors. I do hope that more members will come on board to contribute to **INTERSECTION** so that our PAMSC newsletter will be one that not only records excellence in Sarawakian or Sarawak related works for prosperity but one that will hopefully inspires among our members the 'can-do' spirit and make ARCHITECTURE relevant.

A Selamat Hari Raya Aidil Fitri to all our Muslims members and a Happy Hari Kebangsaan to all !

Ar. Ivy Jong
Editor

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

Q AND A WITH PETER AND DESMOND



PAMSC has a new Chairman; Ar. Peter Wong King Lai graduated from University of NSW, Australia where he worked for 3 years before returning to Malaysia during the building boom of 1993. He worked in Arkitek Majubina in Petaling Jaya for a couple of years, and later for Architect Design Practice in Kuching before setting up his own practice PKL Wong Architect in 1997.

INTERSECTION met both incoming and outgoing Chairmen; Peter and Desmond for a short interview.

I: Peter, congratulations for being elected Chairman of PAMSC; what are your plans for the term?

P: This current term is a rather short one. Nevertheless, my plans for the term are

1. Firstly to promote architecture to the general public; by holding exhibitions in public places such as shopping malls, etc.
2. With the new committee, I will speak on behalf of Architects on issues that affect our profession.
3. I will continue to initiate dialogues with relevant Ministries and government authorities. In addition, I plan to re-activate the Inter-professional Government Liaison Committee so that we can work with the other related professional to voice our concerns and opinions in a coordinated manner to the relevant Ministries and government authorities.

I: Desmond, thank you for your time in this past two terms; can you tell us how you would support Peter in his new role?

D: Over the past few terms, PAMSC has developed a sound structure for the implementation of events and activities, and for effective administration within the Committee. With this in place, I am certain that the transition period will be very smooth. I am confident that Peter will easily assume his new role and I will lend my support to help him and his Committee to bring the Chapter to new heights.

I: PAMSC has grown and improved under your stewardship; how do you think we can continue to improve?

D: We will continue to work with PAMKL; so that they are able to support our Chapter. We need the continual support from PAMSC members for Chapter's activities

and events. We have to ensure a steady growth in membership, to have increased involvement from members and to improve our involvement in the local governments' programme for the building industry.

I: You have served with Desmond on the committee for a number of years; what have you learnt from this experience and how would you inject your own style?

P: I have been serving in PAMSC Committee for 10 years starting from the time when Ar. Gabriel Wong was the Chairman. I have learned many things from the various Chairmen; especially from Desmond in the past two years. Desmond has done a tremendous job; he is particularly strong in PR and is able to harness peoples' strengths to get plenty done while making it fun.

I hope that my many years served in PAMSC will provide me with the strong background knowledge to lead and to make wise decisions. I see myself as more of a team player; as such, I will work with my Committee members to achieve our common goal and vision.

I: What do you expect from the committee? From our readers; how would you like them to contribute?

P: I hope my committee members will support me in their various roles in the sub-committees, - and yet not limit their contribution within their sub-committee only but to assist when help is required - for the organizing of events, for instance. I am grateful that there are always enough people who are willing to serve in our committee. Our readers can contribute by getting involved in a Committee level, as a co-opt committee member or simply on an ad-hoc basis.

They can also contribute feedback through this newsletter or PAMSC website on issues and problems that they face in their practice. We have representation in LAM as well as regular dialogue sessions with Ministry of Housing and KASKA - so if members feel that we need to speak to a particular authority - inform us.

The better they inform us; the better we can serve our members.



GET TOGETHER **REMINISCING BANGKOK** ON THE 18TH JULY 2011 @ JUNK RESTAURANT



It was a nostalgic night for all attending an evening of food and reminiscing Bangkok.

Ar. Ng Chee Wee emcee'd for the evening and shared with all the experience they had in Bangkok.

The Bangkok study trip was held from 19th to 24th May 2011.

PAMSC met up with our counterpart Association of Siamese Architects and the Architect Council of Thailand, in between their trips to new buildings in Bangkok. Featuring quite prominently are the various stops at restaurants and eateries - which was shown in a slide show prepared by Chee Wee with photo-sharing by the others. George and Roslyn from The Junk accompanied PAMSC members on the trip and were able to replicate their culinary experience in the evening's dinner. The evening was so successful that even those who did not go felt as though they did.



PAMSC STUDY TRIP 2012 - there are proposals to visit Taipei or Seoul next year as well as Colombo and Vientiane. Members with suggestions for potential destinations for next year's trip are requested to email their suggestions to pamswk@streamyx.comtrip.



UPCOMING CPD SEMINARS

1. 8th October 2011

Title : Security Glass and Framing System, Fire rated Glass sponsor by SECUGLASS SDN BHD

Speaker : Secuglass representatives
CPD points : 2 points

2. 29th October 2011

Title : Fire Safety

Speaker : Ar. Chong Lee Siong
CPD points : 4 points

3. 12th November 2011

Organized by Kansai Paints
Speaker : Kansai Representatives
CPD points : 4

4. 24th Nov 2011

Speaker : Makoto Tanijiri from Suppose Design office in Japan.
CPD points : 2 points

5. 17th Dec 2011

Title : IBS

Speaker : Ar. Abu Zarim
CPD points : 4

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

INTER-PROFESSIONAL GAMES 2011 : BADMINTON, BOWLING, DARTS, FUTSAL & GOLF

Day	Date	1st Week	Date	2nd Week	Date	3rd Week	Date	4th Week	Date	5th Week
Sat	1		8	Futsal	15	Darts	22		29	
Sun	2	Badminton	9	Badminton	16	Badminton	23	Bowling	30	Golf

Games	Badminton		Futsal		Darts		Bowling		Golf
Proposed Time	9 am - 4 pm		9 am - 4pm		10 am - 6 pm		10 am - 6 pm		7:30 am - 6 pm
Venue	Arena Sukan					Riverside Superbowl subject to final		Sarawak Club (Samarahan)	
Organiser	PAM		IEM		MIP/SPS/SVA		AAS		ISM
Games	Badminton		Futsal		Darts		Bowling		Golf
Gender	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Minimum	12	1	5	-	4	1	1	1	8
Allowed					1	2	Any Composition of 2		4
Reserved (optional)			5	-	1	1	-	-	-
Total Max. Persons	No Limit		10		10		4		12
Format	5 Matches		Team Point		5 Sets		Team Point		Team Point
Men's Single	-		based on league system 2 games of 10 minutes each		1		3 games per person		lowest nett score of 8 players
Ladies' Single	-				1				
Men's Doubles	3				1				
Ladies' Doubles	-				-				
Mix Doubles	1				2				
Veteran Doubles	1				-				

Those interested to take part in any of these games, please contact Mr. Lee Chai Guan via PAMSC centre. The more the merrier !!



The handing over of duties.

PAM Annual General Meeting 2011

PAMSC held their 36th Annual General Meeting on the 30th July 2011; during which a new PAMSC Chairman was elected. Ar. Peter Wong takes over the reins from Ar. Desmond Kueh.

About 40 members attended the AGM to hear reports from the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and various Sub-Committees. Key points discussed include the up-coming events of the new term, the present financial standings of the Chapter, plans to purchase a new premises for the Chapter's headquarters, graduate membership drive and the possibility of conducting a series of exhibitions to the public to promote the role of an Architect.

Minutes of the AGM will be sent to members via email soon.

Newly elected PAMSC Chairman, Ar Peter Wong King Lai.



Chee Wee conducting the election.



PAMSC committee 2010-11 going through the minutes.



About forty members attended the Saturday morning meeting.



Si Yong, Kiat Soon, K.C. and Steven Liew.



Tea break - Hulbert shares a laugh with Chee Wee and Peh Swee.



Ar. Ken Chan makes a point; as Ar. Dominic Chuo (L) listens on.

PAM TRIP 2012

PAMSC is conducting a survey on possible destinations for next year's trip and have short listed four for a readers' survey. The trip typically takes place in the middle of the year and is open to all members; readers are requested to e-mail their preference to pamsc@streamyx.com



Taipei 101



Taiwanese sausages



street food



Lunuganga



Hoppers for breakfast

Taipei (台北 or 臺北; Táibei) as everyone knows is the national capital of Taiwan – a city of about 2.5 million inhabitants characterized by its friendly people and safe streets. Major attractions include night markets, shopping for books and art, hiking and visits to the hot springs. Flight time from KL is 4 hours and 40 minutes. Common greetings in Taipei are “Ni Hao” (How are you?) or “Chiah Pa Bei” (Have you eaten?)

Colombo's obvious attractions to architects are the Bawa buildings and Lunuganga; there are geographical sites that are worth visiting such as the hill counties of Kandy and Sigiriya. Books and clothing are very cheap in Colombo as are high quality teas. Flying time from KL to Colombo is 3 hours and 35 minutes. Traditional greeting in Sinhalese is “ayubowan.” (may you be blessed with a long life)



Seoul

Seoul is one of East Asia's financial and cultural epicentres – modern buildings sit cheek by jowl with no fewer than 5 major palaces, and some are definitely worth a visit. Korea's cuisine is known the world over for being healthy and spicy. Flight time from KL is 6 hours and 35 minutes.

“An-nyung-ha-se-yo” is commonly used and means ‘hello’

Vientiane Compared to the hectic, bustling capitals in other Southeast Asia countries, Vientiane's deliciously relaxing atmosphere makes it feel like the small town it is. Recommended for a favourable exchange rate and opportunities for photography and sketching. Flight time is 2 hours.

Greet the locals with a “nop” and say “sa-bai-dee”



Lao with sticky rice



Ban Nongbone at Vientiane, Laos

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LOCAL ARCHITECTS EXCEL AT PAM AWARDS 2011

Sarawakian architects have featured in the PAM Awards in the past six years, this year is no different as six local buildings were shortlisted in June 2011 for awards in their respective categories – they are :

- 1 **HH Paint Centre** at Jalan Chawan by AR. Simon Woon in collaboration with IntoDesign Lab
- 2 **Borneo Convention Centre Kuching** by Arkitek KDI
- 3 **1-Malaysia Integrated Bus Terminal & Food Court** in Bintulu by Jurubina Unireka
- 4 **Islamic Information Centre** at Jalan Ong Tiang Swee by NBL Architects S/B
- 5 **ROCK Showroom** along Jalan Rock by Design Network Architects S/B (DNA)
- 6 **Sibu Heritage Centre (the former SMC)** by Design Network Architects S/B (DNA)

Of the six shortlisted – three won prizes in the final judging on the 23rd July 2011; the **Rock Showroom** won the GOLD Medal in the showroom category while the **Sibu Heritage Centre** did the same in the Conservation category. The **Islamic Information Centre** won a Commendation in the Public and Institutional Buildings category.

Perhaps this is what prompted PAM President, Ar. Boon Chee Wee to cite examples from Sarawak in his message in the Awards publication.

To quote: “The Awards thus represent the true benchmark for architects,...where we have seen a bohemian waterfront café sharing the winner’s honour with a shimmering corporate tower ..where it is possible for a modest police station in a suburb, or even a tree house in the backyard stand out as the gem of the year’s awards”

Intersection congratulates the winners and encourages more local architects to participate in this annual event.

ROCK ROAD SHOWROOM - jury citation “opportunistic gesture with sensitive detailing that differentiates it from other showrooms”.

SIBU HERITAGE CENTRE - jury citation “exquisite effort in conserving a heritage building while enhancing cultural amenities and public space”.



Sibu Heritage Centre (the former SMC) by Design Network Architects S/B (DNA).



ROCK showroom along Jalan Rock by Design Network Architects S/B (DNA).



Borneo Convention Centre Kuching by Arkitek KDI.



HH Paint Centre at Jalan Chawan by AR. Simon Woon in collaboration with IntoDesign Lab.

1-Malaysia Integrated Bus Terminal & Food Court in Bintulu by Jurubina Unireka.



Islamic Information Centre at Jalan Ong Tiang Swee by NBL Architects S/B.



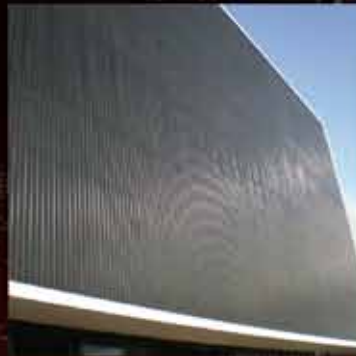


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• Strip Fascade •



• Sun Louvres •



• Ventilation Louvres •



• Box Louvres •



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Interview with Ar. Phillip Chang

Architect, Councillor, PAMSC Chairman, Lecturer and Bon Vivant, Ar. Phillip Chang takes time off his busy schedule to catch up with Megan Chalmers and share some of his reminiscences and thoughts about a life in architecture and public service, amongst other things. Here is an excerpt of their conversation:

1. Tell us about your childhood; schooling, hobbies – did you know then that you wanted to be an architect?

I was born in Singapore in 1952. I attended St. Thomas's school from Primary 1 (1957) to Upper Six (1969). My hobbies in school were generally like most students: stamps, reading, swimming, badminton, hockey etc. I was quite good in Chess, even playing for the School Team in Sydney Boy's High. In 1970, I went to Australia where I matriculated at Sydney Boy's High. I knew I had talent with art and sketching having won various Art competitions and Awards at school, so Architecture was my first choice. However, I was first offered Economics and Commerce at ANU, I was not keen because the weather in Canberra was too cold. Two weeks later, I was offered a place at Sydney University for Architecture. I was pleased because Sydney was considered one of the top Universities in those days.

2. Do you consider your time at Sydney University your formative years? What did you learn from the Australian experience?

The Australian life and culture was a great influence on me. Sydney University, in 1971-72, was at the forefront of student unrest; against the Vietnam War and fighting for Aboriginal Land Rights. I witnessed riots just outside the University with burning cars and chaos! I was very active in student organizations especially those with Socialist leanings and helped to campaign for the Labor Party and Gough Whitlam in 1972, by distributing pamphlets. The Labor Party was promising free education for all, including foreign students! So why not?! Those who knew me then know how active and radical I was. I spent 10 years in Australia, doing the Architecture course and working (besides being politically active.) I first joined Planning Workshop Pty., a Master Planning and Architectural firm under Darrel Conybeare, Bill Morrison and Peter Armstrong (who was also my lecturer in Japanese Architecture at Sydney University.) Later I worked for Granada Homes, a Builder and supplier of Kit Homes. I spent a year as a builder on construction sites. I was very assimilated in the Australian environment; like a fish to water!

I experienced many wild days and nights, living in Redfern, Ultimo and various Eastern Suburbs. When I started work, my first car was a HR Holden which I bought for \$250! I used to load up the car with my camping gear and a slab of beer, and head off outside the city for the weekend. I was responsible for educating many a Malaysian student on Aussie culture and environment by touring the outskirts of town! Ask Ar. Roland Tan.

3. You were at university with some fairly influential Australian Architects – any interesting stories to tell?

Two remarkable lecturers, Marr Grounds (son of the renowned Australian Architect Roy Grounds) and Prof. Peter Johnson, Dean of the School of Architecture and Partner in MSJ, McConnel, Smith and Johnson, made the greatest impression on my Architectural Studies.

Professor Johnson was a personal tutor to one of my major Design Studies course. It was a most fulfilling teacher/student experience one can have; I learnt first hand why it is so important to look at things from "First Principles".

Marr Grounds was always at odds with the "Scientific/Engineering" half of the School, and this led to some very interesting "debates" among the Faculty at that time. In 1972, the Architecture students boycotted one of the exams because they were fed up with the system, where you had to pass all of your 14 subjects. If you failed just one, you had to repeat the whole year. Due to this protest, the Faculty revamped the Architecture course to include compulsory core subjects and chosen elective subjects. This affected the whole of Architecture Education in Australia, and Sydney University became renowned for leading the change in Australia.

I took the Art elective, and had Lloyd Rees as a teacher. He was a giant of the Australian Art world at that time. He was about 80 years old then and he was still teaching and telling us stories about life. Guest artists would come into our classes and perform "happenings" in the classroom. Tim Johnson, an artist came into our classroom one lecture an "Art Happening" which was really "Far Out" for the 1970's especially for a boy from Sarawak.



Ar. Phillip Chang



Singapore, 1952, with cousin, George.

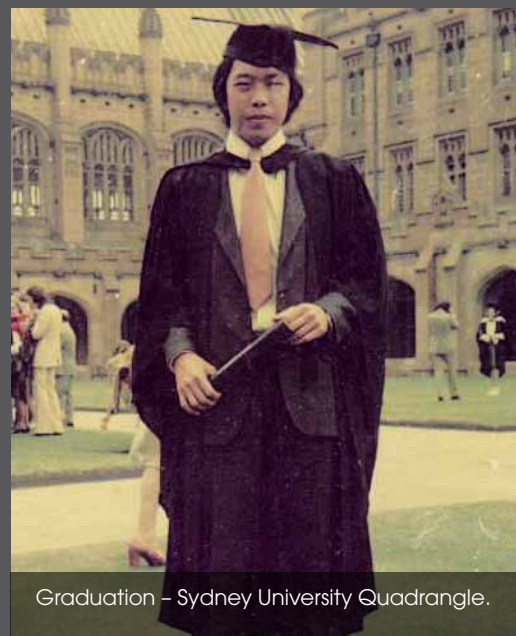
Johnny Sim and me, 1964.



Semeriang Batu, December 1969, Far Left; Mayor James Chan.



Visit of Tan Sri William Tan, ex speaker of DUN, to Australia in 1971.



Graduation – Sydney University Quadrangle.

Canberra, 1973.



Phillip promotes Australian - Sarawakian relations.



PAM dinner 1981.



JKR, 1981 with Suharto, Draughtsman.



Senior Architect, John Chuah and me, JKR days.

PAM committee, 1982.



4. After you returned to Sarawak and entered the “workforce”: what was the architectural scene like at that time?

The Architecture scene, when I returned to Sarawak, revolved around JKR. Architects had to work in JKR upon returning, before being allowed to sit for their PAM-LAM Part 3 exams. At that time, Architects were not held in as high esteem as Engineers and at one time the head of the JKR Building Branch was an Engineer! So a few of us decided to make changes there.

I had great colleagues, Johnny Sim, Vincent Jong, Sim Eng Miang, Sim Teck Hian, Chin Kim Yu were my contemporaries. Simon Woon, Chew Chung Yee, Jon Ngui, Roland Tan, Stanley Chai and others came later. We re-organised the Building Branch to function like a team. This was the one good thing that came from working for JKR; the camaraderie between Architects helped immensely when we came out into private practice. I believe that this is a key “something” which is missing among the younger practitioners and firms today.

In 1985, a group of us worked to reinvent PAM and to increase its profile. We encouraged the old guard to move on, and persuaded John Lau to be Chairman to help to improve PAM’s image. We also lobbied with PAM (KL) to change the policy about compulsory working in JKR, before sitting for the Professional exams. In retrospect, this might be a mistake but JKR also could not cope with so many returning graduates.

5. When and how did you decide to start your own practice?

Eventually, I began to realize that I would go mad if I continued longer in JKR and that it was time to move on. So, I resigned in 1982 to join with Wee Han Wen and 3 other Engineers to set up United Consultants a Multidisciplinary firm. We opened two branches; the one in Miri started first in 1981, and Kuching a year later.

There were quite a few multidisciplinary firms (combining Architecture and Engineering) at that time. They were good because during the low of the building cycle, we had infrastructure works to keep the company running and vice versa. There are also some cost savings to clients, when the architecture and engineering are carried out in the same firm.

We have now grown to 40 staff, in both offices and do projects all over Sarawak. Over the years many young Architects had their training and exposure through their stints in UC; I can think of six Architects who worked with me and are now Partners in their own practices.

Simon Woon, me, Jon Ngui and Johnny Wee, JKR days.



6. Tell us about your most memorable projects?

Kuching Waterfront would be at the top on the list. It was completed in 1993 in collaboration with Conybear Morrison and Partners, a Sydney based Architect and Landscape Design firm. The project included approximately 1 km of Promenade, with parks, facilities spread along its length. The project encompassed a number of existing historical buildings which were readapted for reuse. The Square Tower became an interactive Museum about Sarawak; the Sarawak Steamship Building was redeveloped as a restaurant and craft retail centre and the Chinese Chamber of Commerce (originally the Chinese Court House) was renovated as a Chinese History Museum. The old warehouses were removed as their structural life were gone and this helped to open up the riverscape. Artworks and sculptures were based on the different ethnic groups which make up Sarawak's diverse culture. There were many "firsts" when the Project was completed: extensive use of granite cobbles setts as walkway, cast aluminium railings and benches, use of copper as a roofing material, Teflon membrane roof, landscape design, urban artwork (including work by local artists) and many more which we take for granted these days.

Curtin University in Miri would be the next biggest achievement and it was the first University to be designed by our office. It was undertaken in collaboration with JCY Architects in Perth.

This project really tested the firm's strength as the deadline was brought forward by 12 months. The construction period was very rushed and stressful. Another difficulty was due to the number of people involved; the investors, Curtin administrators as well as the lecturers and end users, all had their own agendas. Specialist items from overseas had to be coordinated with the local Contractors. The peat soil on site was of no help to the challenge presented to us.

We also used fair-faced bricks to match the Curtin Perth Campus, which is not commonly used in Sarawak and had to be specially imported from KL.

Friendship Park in Jalan Song was another challenge to get off the ground as the Council had no budget to start off for the Malaysian elements of the works. The Municipality of Kunming in Yunnan Province, China contributed the Chinese elements of the park. They designed and built the Entrance Arch, (without nails) the Pavillions and the Bronze statue of Admiral Zheng He. Thirty workers were brought in from China. It was amazing to watch the artisan's carving the relief and text directly in the stone and painting intricate patterns on the Gate Posts on the spot. I don't know how MBKS will repaint the gate!

7. You have spent some considerable years as a Councilor for MBKS. What have you gained from the experience? Would you recommend other Architects to follow your footsteps?

For a start, I was never YB material so I am not a Politician as we understand the word.

I was a Councilor for 17 years, in MBKS. I initially went into it so I could participate in changing the Rules and procedures. I saw that there was a weakness in the system and wanted to act as a conduit between Architects and the Council. Before I went in policies were being set by people who did not know much about architecture and building. (there were even a couple of Housewives cum Councilors!)

I believe that all Architects are basically politicians: what we do has an effect on society at large. We have a responsibility because our designs have an impact on the community and whatever rules and procedures there are will have an impact on our work. Instead of complaining about the Council, it was more meaningful to get into Council and give an Architects point of view at the Council Meetings. Young architects should consider joining the Council either as salaried Architects or as Councilors in order to affect and improve the policies and rules.

We should avoid complaining from the side lines if the present system allows young graduates to easily enter the playing field. At the height of our impact there were 4 Architects in MBKS serving concurrently but the other 3 did not have my crazy stamina.



The Square Tower became an interactive Museum about Sarawak.



The Sarawak Steamship Building was redeveloped as a restaurant and craft retail center.



The Chinese Chamber of Commerce (originally the Chinese Court House) was renovated as a Chinese History Museum.



Curtin University's Administration and Library Building.



Friendship Park's Beijing Pavillion.



Main Entrance to Friendship Park.

PAM dinner, 2001 – second term as PAMSC Chairman.



PAM dinner, 1990 with Chief Minister.



On MBKS Councilor duty.

Sketch done in 1974. Planning workshop for a project in Blacktown, New South Wales.



10 seconds sketches with LKW students.



Kuching Waterfront's Hornbill Fountain - Designed by Conybear Morrison, this fountain represents, "Birds in Flight". Constructed of riveted stainless steel sheets supported by structural stainless steel pipes, which also carry water.



8. We understand you have been doing some teaching at Lim Kok Wing? What are you teaching? How do you enjoy that?

I was approached by Dato Prof.W.Y Chin (an ex-PAM President) to help in LICT (LimKokWing Institute of Creative Technology), just when I was finished with Councillorship.

I have been teaching senior students Working drawings and Architecture Drawing for the last three years, and I wished that had tried teaching earlier as I find it a really inspiring and fulfilling experience.

I was able to develop a bond with the students. This year, 9 of my former students received a 2 year exemption entering Deakin University, which means they will only have to complete 1 year of study in Australia to gain their 1st Degree. Immense costs / time savings!

Unfortunately, I have to resign now due to work and traveling commitments.

However, I have enticed two excellent colleagues to come in to help: Ar. Wee Hii Min and Ar. Wong Kiong. The students are now in better hands.

9. Any thoughts on the future of Architecture and architects in Sarawak? As a senior practitioner, do you have any pertinent advice for the younger generation of architects.

Students should work overseas in the field as consultants or builders, before returning to Sarawak. Working overseas provides a greater understanding about how things should be done professionally. In most cases, they gain from close working situations with a Senior or Principal; over here they are often "thrown to the wolves" or locked up in the Drafting Room with no gainful exposure. I feel that a good work ethic is missing in many of the young architects today.

I am also concerned about how many young Graduate Architects do not want to sit for the LAM Part 3 Professional Exam to become a Registered Architect. I don't think that it is healthy for the profession. The graduates prefer to stay as a salaried architects for monetary reasons rather than to excel as a Practitioner in the Profession. I believe that they should make a commitment to the profession by taking on the responsibility that comes with "signing of the drawings".

For those younger firms, I advise that they find ways to merge into groups that are at least 40 strong (of Architects) to prepare for the onslaught that will come when Malaysia opens her Trade Doors to foreign architects and firms. This will be in the next 3 to 5 years' time.

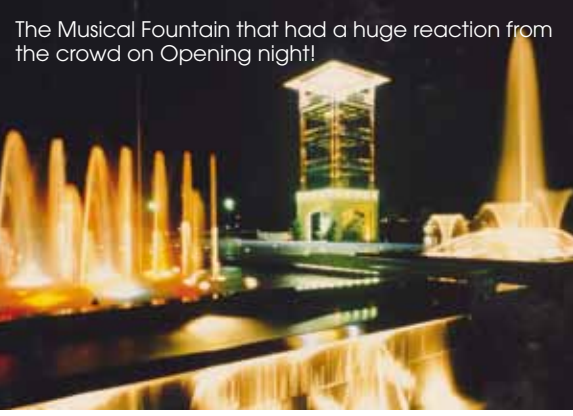
Lastly, I find many young Graduates not appreciating their roles as Captain of the ship - they rely too much on their Sub-Consultants (especially the QS) to advise them. As Architects, we have to know many things about many fields (that's why we are paid higher fee quantum) - and once we lose this respect we will lose our role as Ship Captain. The Finance Ministry is already getting us to "quote and tender" our fees for Federal Projects. We lost the ball somewhere along the line didn't we? Should we blame the Government?

10. Any thoughts on retirement?

Yes, I have thought about retiring but we still have active projects on hand. I am in the process of expanding my business overseas, so the future could be very exciting.

If I were to retire, I would probably go back to my painting and other creative artsfull circle to where it all started.

END



The Musical Fountain that had a huge reaction from the crowd on Opening night!

KUCHING WATERFRONT RETROSPECTIVE 18 years on

by Megan Chalmers

As a fresh graduate only two years out of University, I was fortunate to be involved with the Kuching Waterfront Project when I first arrived in Sarawak.

Designed by Conybeare Morrison and Partners in collaboration with United Consultants; I worked closely with three experienced Australian architects - Graeme Goodsell, Jon and Tanya Crothers as well as Landscape Architect, Kerry Colquhoun. They came to Kuching for several months to help us at United Consultants with the documentation and construction phase of the Waterfront.

The Waterfront was one of the most important urban design projects in Kuching at the time; aimed at reintroducing the Sarawak River to Kuching while providing a public park for the local population. As a new resident of Kuching, I was fascinated by the local culture and history, especially the "White Rajah" era - the quest for a Sarawakian identity in the design of the Waterfront was therefore of keen interest to me.

After Kerry left, I was thrown in the deep end and had to quickly learn the scientific names and growth habits of the proposed plants for the project. Through this experience, I discovered that I have an affinity and skill for designing and building landscape - I have gone on to design a variety of Landscape Projects throughout Sarawak.

Helping Tanya, who is also an artist and author with the Artworks was another interesting aspect of the project. Many of the 30 artworks commissioned from various artists in Malaysia, Australia and ASEAN countries; a national competition was organised for 4 of the major sculptures. Judges were flown in from Kuala Lumpur and Australia; 3 winners were chosen to further develop their designs. Only one was commissioned however, Ramlan Abdulla' interpretation of the Bidayuh Headhouse stands at one of the entry points. Through Tanya, I learnt a great deal about Art and working with Artists while developing a love for Sarawak's Native Art and Crafts. All of the mosaics and granite sett designs were based on Sarawakian ethnic patterns.

Towards the end of the project, the pressure level came to a head when the Client brought forward the opening date by 3 months to coincide with the 30th Anniversary of Malaysia's Independence. It was all worth it at the end; hearing the collective gasp of delight and the cheers that followed when the musical fountain burst into life on Opening Night.

In February this year, Jon and Tanya Crothers came back to Kuching after 18 years. They felt that the Waterfront has matured as the heart of Kuching; interwoven snugly into the city fabric.

As far as projects go, one cannot ask for more.



Concrete story wall - Designed by Conybeare Morrison and "carved" in concrete by Hasbee from Kalimantan. It depicts a popular Malay Folk tale about a mouse deer and a crocodile.

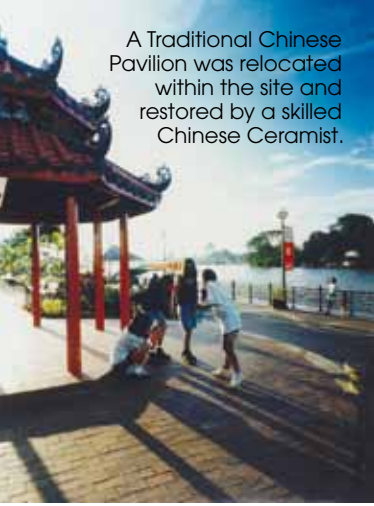
Malay Pattern - Throughout the site, various mats have been created in Italy from marble and granite mosaics. They were based on the patterns of various ethnic groups.



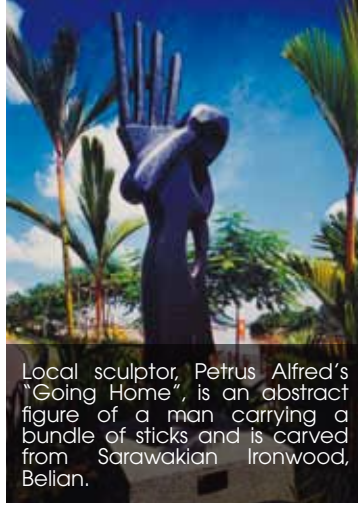
Mock up of the Water Fountain by Chan Chaw Chuan. The Water Fountain was made from terrazzo, with a carved granite turtle. The Turtle was stolen within the first week of the Waterfront opening.



Chan Chaw Chuan, Nolan Chan, Megan Chalmers, Jon Crothers, Tanya Crothers, Philip Chang and Byron Chang at Flavours Restaurant.



A Traditional Chinese Pavilion was relocated within the site and restored by a skilled Chinese Ceramist.



Local sculptor, Petrus Alfred's "Going Home", is an abstract figure of a man carrying a bundle of sticks and is carved from Sarawakian Ironwood, Belian.



Mr. Bong of Bau, with one of the steel framed animals for the topiary garden.



The Waterfront Team - left to right Back row: Phillip Chang, Chin Chia Chau, Graeme Goodsell, Bill Morrison, Douglas Sumner, Ooi Chong, Site Staff, Site Staff, Tanya Crothers, David, Jon Crothers, Darrel Conybeare, Terry Hong. Front Row: Site Staff, Lee S.V., Megan Chalmers, Ms. Taylor, Miss Bong and other site staff.

Megan Chalmers : After obtaining her B.Arch at the University of Newcastle, Megan Chalmers worked for two years in Sydney before 'migrating' to Kuching with husband, Ar. Chan Chaw Chuan in 1992. She worked with United Consultants on the Kuching Waterfront project where she developed an interest in Landscaping and a love for the indigenous Arts and Culture. Megan pursued a Masters degree which culminated in a thesis on the Iban Longhouse and its possible modern prototype based on Nanga Sumpah in Batang Ai. She is actively involved in the local performing arts scene; designing stage sets and costumes for amateur theatre and is a deft hand in the kitchen as well.

Nowadays, Megan divides her busy days between tending to her design interests at CCChan Architect and cultivating Rhiana, Imogen and Nolan.



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Sarawak is fast booming for oil palm cultivation as land has become scarce in Peninsular Malaysia. Currently the land covered by oil palm cultivation is almost one million hectares and the government is targeting two million hectares in the near future. Many of these palm oil plantations are located in remote and peat swamp land, which are low-lying coastal plains with a high water table reaching inland along the lower reaches of major river systems. Due to the soil condition and accessibility, it becomes a challenge for many of plantation companies to build comfortable, durable and affordable quarters for the plantation workers. Most of these companies build these quarters either in timber or conventional brick and mortar. However, timber buildings, while easy to build, are susceptible to termites and have durability issues. Quarters built in conventional bricks and mortars, on the other hand, while durable, have other issues like transportation of raw materials such as sand, cement and bricks to site and lack of quality control. Concrete building is also very heavy, and very uncomfortable during hot weather and costly on the foundation especially in peat swamp lands.

KTS, a leading local company in palm oil plantation, had a joint collaboration with **BlueScope Lysaght (Sarawak)** to develop prefabricated buildings to suit their needs to provide their plantation workers with more durable comfortable homes in the and within budget. Using TRUECORE™ steel as choice material due to its high corrosion resistance (AZ150) and light weight with superior strength to weight ratio (G550), **Lysaght® SMARTFRAME™** building system was selected.

The system is CIDB accredited as Industrialized Building System or better known as IBS. The collaboration involved rigorous discussions on design layouts, practical site experience inputs, design optimization and finish detailing to ensure water tightness and better aesthetics in building these quarters and within budget.

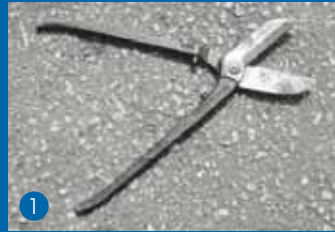
Lysaght® SMARTFRAME™ building system uses SUPRACADD as a purpose built wall design software package. It is fully engineered and certified, light weight steel load bearing wall framing system that caters for most building shapes. All components are supplied prefabricated, thereby ensuring faster and cleaner on site construction with minimal material wastages and also reduced up onsite labour.





Project Team:
 Client: KTS Holdings Sdn Bhd
 Project Manager: KTSH Projects Department
 Architect: Integrated Design consultant
 Structural Design: BlueScope Lysaght (Sarawak) Sdn Bhd

Tools Required



1



2



3



4



5

1. Tin Snips
2. Metal Cutting Saw
3. Angle Grinder
4. Screw Gun
5. Handheld metal cutting saw

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Recently, the system was constructed in one of the sites owned by KTS Group of Companies. From ground, the erection took merely 20 days to complete the whole structure. This ease and speed of construction provided the choice for the company to replicate the system throughout their plantations effectively to ensure that their workers enjoy a comfortable home.

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STUDENT SECTION

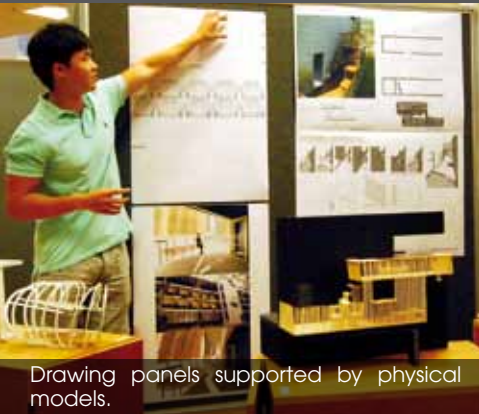
In August this year, Ar. Wee Hii Min of Design Network Architects was invited to lead the Tropical Architecture Workshop in NUS (National University of Singapore). He took up the challenge of leading this annual event which is the first project for 150 Year 3 Students. Here, he shares with us.....



Priscilla makes her case.



Day 6 - Ashley presenting his village to the tutors.



Drawing panels supported by physical models.



Syaz putting on the finishing touches.



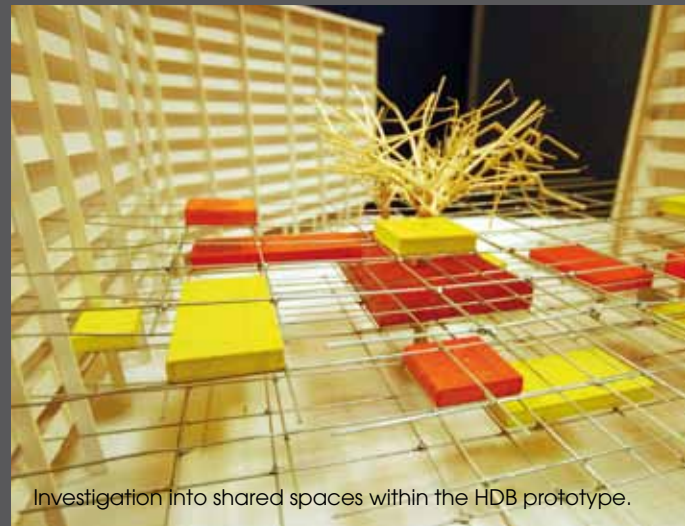
RETAIL PODS ON SKY BRIDGE



Day 6 (9:00 a.m.) - getting ready for final crit by tutors.



private sleeping pods.



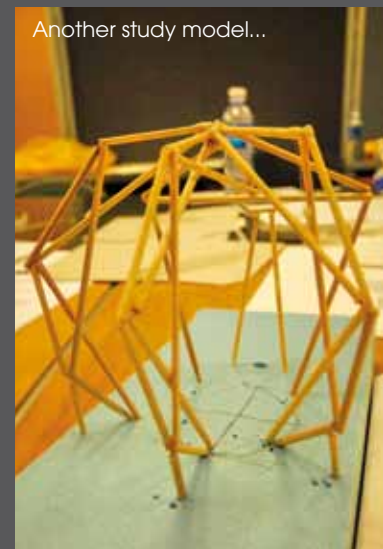
Investigation into shared spaces within the HDB prototype.



Day 5 - ideas take shape



This shower prototype has a enclosure which opened as water collected underneath; letting steam out.



Another study model...

NUS TROPICAL ARCHITECTURE WORKSHOP

My theme was based on the design of a tropical 'village' where students have to analyze the simple activities of eating/cooking, sleeping/resting and washing with consideration of the interspatial relationship, the usage of passive cooling devices and development of prototypes.

This is a pictorial documentary of the 7-day workshop, which chooses to focus on the activities that took place and relationship made rather than the products of the workshop. This is because I believe that the real lessons learnt during the 7 days do not always show themselves in the final panels. These are lessons in teamwork, discourse and disagreements followed by decision and delegation of work, often ending in an articulate presentation of their ideas. Much of which was done in seriousness and skill that belie their mere two years in Architecture School; resulting in a body of work that explored social issues, urban planning, ecology, industrial design and energy renewal. The most enjoyable (and impressive) aspect of this workshop was the students' ability to explain (and argue) their ideas at a moment's notice, and without much sleep one might add.

For me, these are the rewards: to work with smart motivated young people that point towards the future of our profession.

Min (DNA)



Day 1 - first briefing for the Tropical Architecture Workshop.



Day 2 - Design concepts with Rafaella Cinni - tutor from Rome.

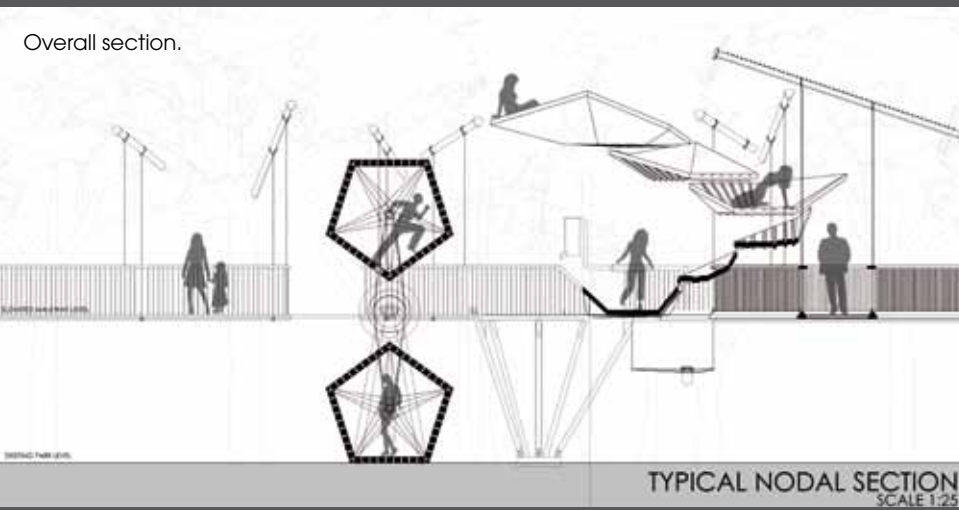


Day 6 - summing up after the final presentation.



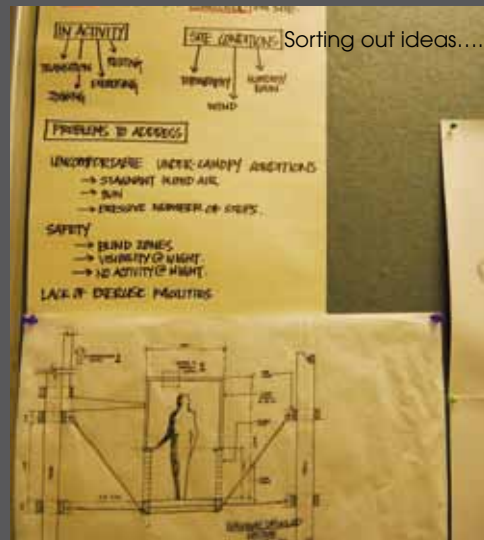
Day 3 - students are divided into 'villages' of 10-12 to work out their ideas.

Overall section.



Another 'village'.

Many study models were made...



Day 4 - doing shift work.

Hedley Bull Centre



POSTCARD FROM THE EDGE **NICHOLAS LING**

Interior of Hedley Bull Centre



Born in Sibiu, Nicholas spent most of his life prior to relocating to Melbourne in Kuching - he still calls it home. His interest in design and architecture began as far back as primary school. He remembers sketching under his desk in class, being reprimanded and losing quite a few sketch pads to teachers over the years. He singles out his dad as his biggest fan and greatest supporter of his creations during his formative years. After completing high school at Kuching High, Nicholas trained and graduated from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in 2007 with First Class Honours.

He is currently an associate with Lyons, a Melbourne based architectural and urban design practice where he currently leads the design team on the Queensland Childrens Hospital in Brisbane Australia. The \$1.4 Billion quaternary paediatric facility brings together acute and sub acute services for children into a 11 storey, 110,000sqm building on an inner city site. Nicholas considers the project as an experiment into his interest - the tension between public and private spaces. The project challenges the traditional harsh, highly utilitarian environment of a hospital by introducing a network of generous public spaces throughout the facility - allowing patients access to views, connections to the outside, natural light and activity from wherever they are in the building, de-mystifying the patient journey and making the experience of child being in a hospital less scary, if not a safe and intriguing experience.

Interior of Lyons House Museum



Nicholas is passionate about the public role of buildings, the way they contribute to the urban fabric and their obligation as place makers and cultural totems. He questions and contests traditional types - hospitals, houses, university buildings - how the notion of 'public' and 'community' can be introduced into what have been commonly accepted as utilitarian and private models which are naturally resistant to ideas of accessibility, permeability and dialogue with the greater needs of the community.

Interior of Lyons House Museum



Lyons House Museum



Interior of Lyons House Museum



Queensland Childrens Hospital



Queensland Childrens Hospital



Interior view of Queensland Childrens Hospital

Apart from practicing, Nicholas also tutors and contributes to the undergraduate program at RMIT. He is also part of a mentoring program for young students who are looking to enter the profession.

He believes that the profession needs to confront the changing of times which bring with it new thinking, new technologies, new agendas, a new audience and new ways of making - architects have to be relevant, buildings have to be accessible - physically, socially, culturally, economically, politically, historically.

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