



Temporary Building Permit

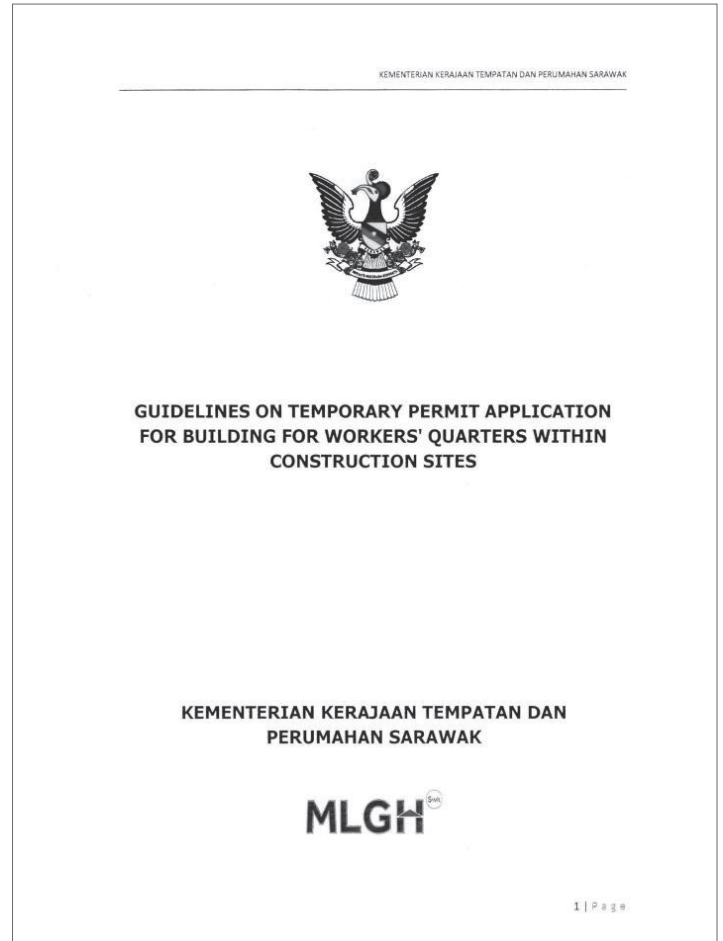
Reported by Ar. Chai Si Yong

A guideline on Temporary Permit application for Building of workers' quarters within construction sites was issued by the Ministry of Local Government & Housing Sarawak (MLGH) to all local councils and professional institutions on 15th April 2021. (Download full guidelines here)

These guidelines were initiated by MLGH to improve the new SOP for temporary permits at construction sites during the post-Covid 19 periods. It also standardises all the requirements and approval processes for temporary building permits across all the local councils in Sarawak.

PAMSC Practice & Government Liaison (PGL) Sub-Committee reviewed the guidelines and wrote back to MLGH emphasising post Covid-19 challenges faced by the building industry and shared responsibilities between both the contractor and the landowner/developer. These are some of the salient points suggested for MLGH consideration:

- Application should be made by the contractor/landowner
- Only sketch drawings are required, no need for QP's endorsement
- BOMBA submission is not required
- The process of application and approval shall be simplified
- Allow the construction of the temporary building to run concurrently with the submission of the application.



LAM Renewal 2022

Reported by Ar. Chai Si Yong

YES! We are aware that MUDeNR has sent out the notice for renewal of Qualified Person (QP). To do that, we need to renew our LAM Membership for 2022. Some of you may also realise that LAM online renewal system is not activated and your CPD points has not been updated yet.

On this, PAMSC has written to LAM President and highlighted this issue, **again**. President Ar. Zairul

is well aware of the senario faced by members in Sarawak (and Sabah). They will announce on the CPD requirements for renewal, update all the CPD points and activate the online renewal system as soon as possible.

Let's give them some time.

Thanks.

Relaxation on Acreage Requirement for Highrise Residential Development

Reported by Ar. Chai Si Yong

SPA Circular No. 4/2021 dated 16th August 2021 has confirmed the relaxation of acreage requirement for highrise residential development in town/city areas.


Download the circular [here](#).

COWs & IOWs to be registered with LAM


Reported by Ar. Chai Si Yong

We would like to draw your attention to the announcement by LAM on April 2021. Please be advised that all Clerk-of-Works (COWs) and Inspector-of-Works (IOWs) are required to be registered with LAM in order for them to provide their services as required under the Architect Act 1967 (Amendment 2015).

Download the circular [here](#).



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Our Ref : 20/MUDENR.P/100-1/1 Date: 16/8/2021
Your Ref :

Please refer to distribution list

Datu/Sir/Madam,


SPA CIRCULAR NO.4/2021 : REVISED ACREAGE REQUIREMENT FOR HIGH RISE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

The above subject refers:


- Please be informed that the above subject has been deliberated during the State Planning Authority meeting. The Authority has decided to relax the acreage requirement for high rise residential development in town/ city areas where three (3) acres and below are now allowed for such development.
- However, the development shall comply the following conditions:
 - The height control of 1/3 height rule with a minimum of 6-meter setback all around.
 - The density proposed for such development shall be based on the current standards i.e., Affordable flat, PUTERA House, Normal Apartment and Town House.
 - Parking provisions are based on SPA Development Control Standard.
 - The proposed building is encouraged to be constructed with smart building technology concept.
 - All the capital divisions i.e., 12 divisions within town/city boundaries.
- This circular is to take immediate effect from the date of this letter.

Thank you.

" BERSATU BERUSAHA BERBAKTI "
" AN HONOUR TO SERVE "


(Datu Sr Zaidi Bin Haji Mahdi)
Secretary State Planning Authority / Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Urban Development & Natural Resources

*A World Class Organisation In
Spearheading Sustainable Natural Resources and Built Environment*



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ANNOUNCEMENT

To All IOWs, ACPs and Project Owners,

The Board is concerned that many IOWs, Architectural Consultancy Practices and Project Owner are not aware of the requirements that all IOWs must be registered with LAM in order to work and implement their services as required under section 27M and 27N of the Architects Act 1967 (amendment 2015).

All existing COWs or IOWs are entitled to be registered with the Board by completing the application form and log book detailing their supervision experience and responsibilities duly endorsed by an Architect. For further information, please refer to LAM's website at www.lam.gov.my.

The dateline to register as an IOW has been extended to **31 December 2021**.

**Board of Architects Malaysia
April 2021**

Review of DCS

Reported by Ar. Chai Si Yong

After almost a year from the Development Control Standard (DCS) Review Workshop at Hotel Pullman Kuching, the Ministry of Urban Development & Natural Resources (MUDeNR) informed that the 2nd session of the scheduled workshop cannot be conducted due to the pandemic.

MUDeNR took the initiative to seek feedback from all the stakeholders on the topics discussed and draft guidelines from the previous workshop for their further compilation.

These topics are:

- Public amenities
- Utility lines
- Open space
- Road standards & cross-sections
- Parking standards & requirement
- The Land Code (Development and Subdivision of Land) (Fees) Rules, 1998

PAMSC submitted feedback to MUDeNR on these topics on 14th September 2021.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

by Ar. Wee Hii Min

Last month, a few architects and their friends completed a roof structure project at the SJK Chung Hua Batu Kitang (峇都吉东中华公学). The design of the roof was completed before the first MCO, and its development into the construction stage proceeded slowly through red tape and lock downs without ever stopping. Until last month when the roofing structure is completed, providing shade and a play area over an existing basketball court for 300 grateful primary school children. The principal can now conduct the school assembly from the first floor verandah, and the children get an all-weather extension of their classrooms.

The project was headed by Ar Wong Siew Ling and Ar Chai Si Yong with the primary aim of engagement with the local community; this is the second pro-bono project they have completed. The first was a pre-fabricated toilet structure for a community kindergarten at Kampong Kudei.

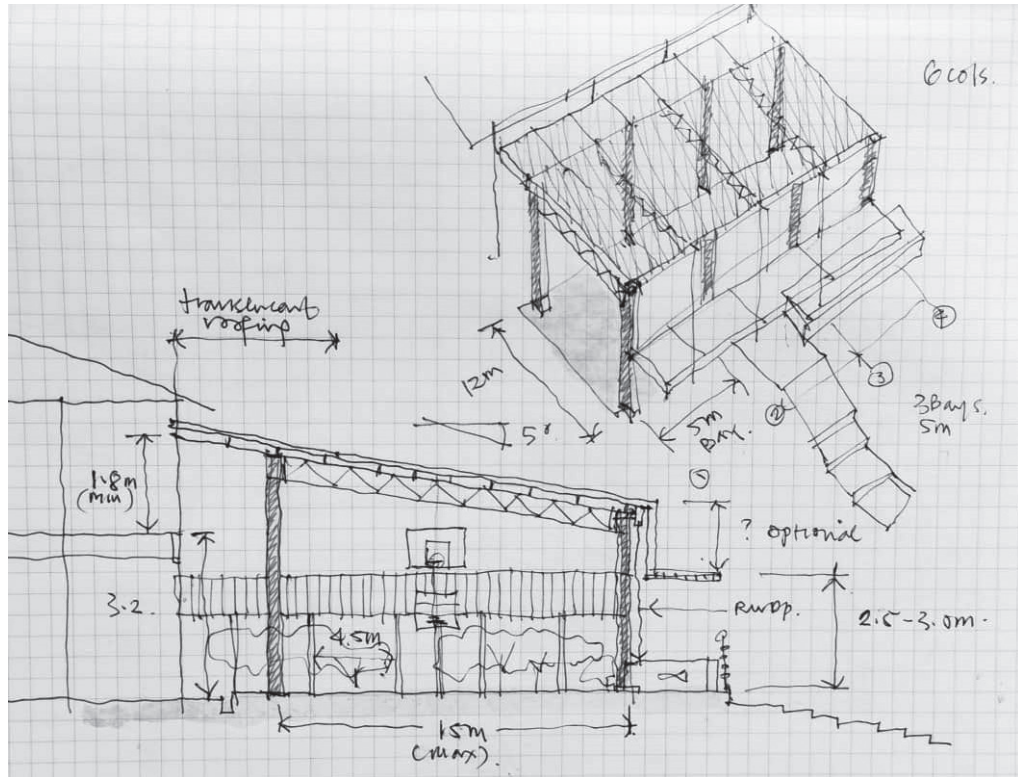
The main aim of these projects is **community engagement** - to put different groups of people together towards a productive result; the school board benefited from a local roofing supplier, who provided the material while the school paid for the labour while the architects orchestrating the budget, work programme and work-force. Local volunteers get to experience building with their own hands in the company of professional builders and architects; part of the build will be completed by volunteers on weekends and holidays.

(they are casting concrete benches this Saturday)

And we all benefit as architects as this act of gentle activism lifted our profession in the eyes of the general public; quietly achieving without fanfare. This is our way of thanking them and their champion roofer, Nelson Yeo - by telling everyone in our community about their good work.

END

Special thanks to United Galvanised Industries (UGI) & Eco Steel for their support.



MENTORING by PAMSC

by Ar. Ng Chee Wee and Ar. Wee Hii Min

This is a continuation of the interview questions and answers from the mentoring session; one of the interview questions on architectural styles has been expanded into an article by Ar. Ng Chee Wee.

CW: Chee Wee , M: Min

1. How does one obtain professional registration? It comes with the title 'AR' - why is it so important in Malaysia, when it is not so in other countries?

CW: In Malaysia an architectural graduate with a recognized degree needs to go through a 2 year practical training period under the supervision of a registered architect. After that you can apply to sit for the Oral Exam. If you pass the Oral Exam - then you sit for the Part 3 Written Exam which is in 2 parts. If you pass these exams - then you can apply to be registered as a Registered Architect.

The AR prefix denotes that an architect has been registered with LAM as a Professional Architect - having passed the Part 3 Exam. It is not a title meant to bestow any superior status, but rather to make it easy to distinguish between a registered and non-registered architect.

It is common for a registered professional to have some form of legal standing - otherwise what is the point? There are many examples e.g. doctors have their Dr, engineers have their IR, accountants have their CPA, etc. In some countries - even the use of the title "Architect" is reserved for registered architects only.

The legal status for legislated professionals also come with legal responsibilities. So it is very important that a registered professional know what they are doing and practice their profession with due care - or they can get into a lot of trouble.

M: In countries where the Architect is not recognised to have legal standing, it means that you do not need an architect to submit for plans for construction of some buildings. I used to submit plans for house renovations as a Yr 5 student in Geelong. So decide whether legal standing as a professional is important to you or not - no one is forcing you.

2. I got my graduate architect membership after my postgraduate and went to Singapore for less than a year. Could these short period of working experiences be included in the practical experiences required for the part 3 exam?

M: Yes, I think the time spent out-of-the-country can be accumulated as practical experience required for Part 3 exams PROVIDED it is for longer than one year. Get details from the LAM webiste and circulars.

3. Architecture schools typically promote a culture of stress through tight deadlines and a competitive environment, what is your opinion about this?

CW: I personally do not think so. Certainly not where I studied. I think the real problem is architecture students tend to procrastinate. Maybe given too much time to do the work - so many tend to leave it to the last minute. It is important to learn to manage your time effectively - so you don't need to burn the midnight oil. I know in reality this is easier said than done.

I had a uni-mate who used to finish his projects 1 or 2 days early and then come round to my place to gloat. But he was doing the right thing! So manage your time well, and you can relief a lot of the stress associated with an architecture course.

M: I agree with CW, some of us worked part time jobs in restaurants and offices and despite having less time for course work, it forced us to focus our attention on getting assignments done ahead on time, because we had other responsibilities such as earning money to pay rent.

4. How does the CPD system work and how does it affect the graduate and the practitioner?

CW: CPD is Continuous Professional Development - so the name explains itself. It is a system designed to ensure that practicing professionals continue to keep themselves abreast with new developments and knowledge in their field. Professional Architects need to get 10 points a year to maintain their registration, and graduates need 5 points.

Most CPD events give around 1 to 2 points - some like Datum KL has a total of 6 to 8 points if you attend all the events. So it is not difficult to get the points.

M: Our local chapter has numerous CPD events ranging from technical talks to the annual PDF PAMSC Design Festival which carries up to 6 CPD points, joining as committee member greets you 4 points annually.

END

Architectural history is defined by various periods and styles, what is the current style?

by Ar. Ng Chee Wee
September 2021

This is a difficult question and it can't be answered with one sentence. It's a complicated subject but I will attempt to give some of my own thoughts.

After the WW1, what emerged was the International Style and later widely known as Modernist Architecture. The 1st and 2nd World Wars devastated much of Europe - especially France, Germany and UK. There was a need to build back quickly and in the most cost-effective way. Architects looked toward new design strategies, new materials and methods of construction to fulfil this need. So in this sense Functionalism grew out of a real world need for fast and cheap construction, but it also evolved into a new way of looking at architecture.

For the Modernist architects, they saw Modernism as an opportunity to break from the past - to use new technologies and design languages to forge a brave new future. This International Style wanted to be Global, and shunned any linkage to specificity, any decorations or design features that may anchor it to a local culture or history. Ornamentation was considered almost a sin - as it had no justification under utilitarian considerations.

After some time many people especially the general public

felt Modernist Architecture was un-relatable, inhuman and lacked meaning - it was devoid of decoration, and the forms tend to be functional and boxy - not so pleasing to the eyes. The public began to view Modernist architecture as drab and even eyesores. Some of the biggest offenders were the many public housing blocks built throughout Europe, and even America. The most famous of this was the Pruitt-Igoe Housing Project, consisting of 33 blocks of 11-storey residential towers. Due to uninspired design and lack of funding for maintenance, the project became an urban slum. The whole project was demolished with explosives in 1972, an event that was widely televised and shook the architectural world.

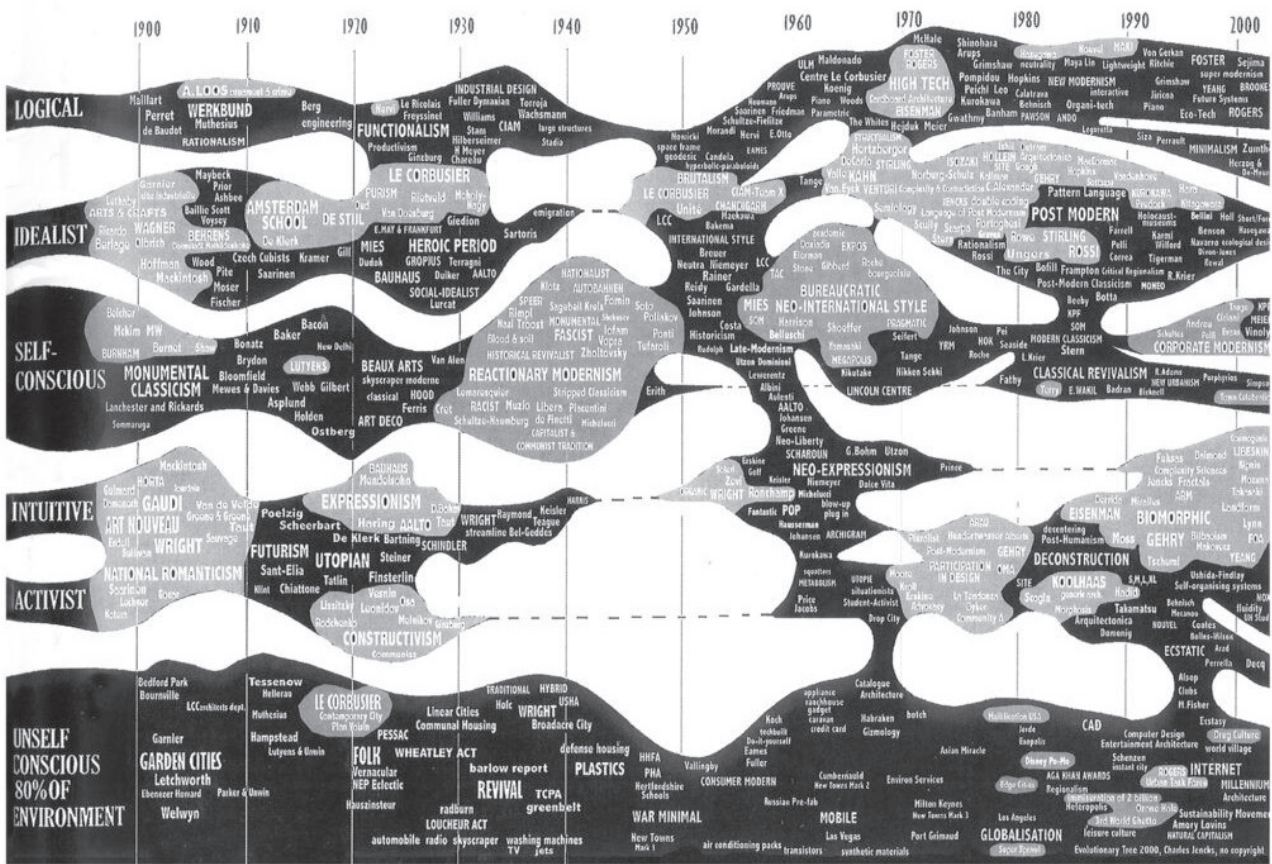
After that architects went through a phase of Post-Modernism - a search for meaning. You may remember the famous book by Robert Venturi - "Learning From Las Vegas", where he extolled the virtue of popular culture, advertising and mass communication imageries as legitimate inspirations for architectural design. Architecture was categorized into the "decorated shed" or the "duck". The former uses imagery and signs to convey its program, whereas the latter express its program and meaning in its form. Learning from Las Vegas was a very influential book, and

many young architects were caught up with its ethos at the time. But Post-Modernism's reign proved fleeting as it carried its own problems - it was borrowed meaning, in some ways fake meaning.

After that we went through many different isms - Expressionism, Minimalism, Constructivism, Metabolism, etc. Basically most architects were doing their own things, and different isms were dominant in different parts of the world at different times.

In 2000 Charles Jencks - eminent American architectural scholar and historian, was invited by Architectural Review to write an essay on 20th Century Architecture (Published on July 2000). What emerged was his "Theory of Evolution of 20th Century Architecture" - and his famous map showing the linkages of different architectural movements and theories of the 20th Century. (Pic A)

The map is necessarily complex and not so easy to decipher. It also highlighted the difficulty of trying to put architecture into different pigeonholes. Unless you are somebody who has studied architectural history and theory full time - it is a mammoth task.



Pic A - Evolution of 20th Century Architecture by Charles Jencks - Architectural Review, July 2000.



Pic B - Architectural Political Compass, Alejandro Zaera-Polo and Guillermo Fernandez Abascal, El Croquis, 2016.

In 2016 in an article for El Croquis entitled "Well Into the 21st Century", Architectural academics Alejandro Zaera-Polo and Guillermo Fernandez Abascal proposed a map that attempted to define and categorize the various new forms of practice in architecture that has become popular globally. They came up with 7 broad categories based on their political positions. This is yet another complex map that requires a lot of time and intellect to fully comprehend. (Pic B)

I think among the latest trends there are 2 dominant ones - Bioclimatic Architecture, and Activist Architecture. Bioclimatic Architects try to create buildings which work with the environment and nature - in a way to heal the harm that we have done to the earth. Vertical planting, sky gardens, green architecture, sustainable materials and construction methods, renewable energy - these are all components of bioclimatic architecture. Some even go as far as making use of patterns and forms from nature to try and create buildings that better

connect nature and the manmade. I hope this movement has strong legs as it is one of the ways architects can contribute positively to the future world.

The other dominant trend - Activist Architecture - is where architects try to play a more active role in engaging with the many social and environmental problems faced by many cities and communities. Climate change, flooding, poverty, housing, urban green spaces. We see many architects taking up these issues and incorporating them into their work - trying to create positive change through either their own projects, or through engaging the local community in collaborative endeavours. Some go even further by rejecting architecture's traditional dependence on market forces, by operating outside the market - through non-conventional funding strategies and non-governmental organizations.

In the end we often do not really know what era we are living through. It is only in hindsight that we

start to see the patterns. So architectural movements are usually defined by architectural historians after the fact.

My advice is if you are an architect - don't focus too much on the ism. Don't think you need to fit yourself into any of the boxes. Develop your own design sensibilities, your own style, horn those design language until they become your unique vision of what architecture can be. Make the world a little bit better through your designs and sustainable strategies. Let the historians worry about the isms.

END



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