

Empowering the Next Generation in Participatory Urban Design



Young Architects Dialogue

Abstract

Come join us for a roundtable panel discussion where professional architects meet together and share their perspectives on starting and running a successful practice. Each panellist will share their journey through an open discussion, which will be guided by the moderator's main questions. Thus, what are you waiting for? dont miss this one in a lifetime opportunity to gain this valuable insight!

Date
18 Oct 2024 (Friday)

Time
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Venue
Theater Hotel, Kuching, Sarawak

Keynote Speakers

Round-table Dialogue

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Dato' Ar. (Dr) Haji Hajeedar Abdul Majid
PAM Gold Medalist



Ar. Tan Bee Eu
Award Winning Architect

Ar. Zuraini Morni
Director, Seniformasi Sdn Bhd



Michael Koo Han Ming
Associate Director, Aki Media



Ar. Gary Shahrull Irwan
Director, GDA Architects Sdn Bhd



X10 QUESTIONS



Ar. Mervyn Wong
Associate, Design Network Architects Sdn Bhd



Ar. Freddie Lo HR
Principal, HR Lo Architect



Ar. Jonathan Lee
Principal, JL Architect



MODERATOR

Ar. Esmonde Yap
PAM Promotion of Profession Committee (POP) Chairman
ARCASIA Committee on Young Architects (ACYA) Malaysian Observer



MODERATOR

Ar. Qhawarizmi Norhisham
PAM Emerging Architects Committee (EAC) Chairman
ARCASIA Committee on Young Architects (ACYA) Malaysian Official Representative

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Keynote Speakers



Dato' Ar. (Dr) Haji Hajeedar Abdul Majid
PAM Gold Medalist

Born in Kuala Lumpur 27 th July 1945. Architecture Graduate majoring in Urban Studies and Conservation, Portsmouth Polytechnic-UK 1972. Worked in U.K, served Urban Development Authority (UDA) 1973-78, Private practice Hajeedar and Associates Sdn. since 1978.

Past PAM President (1985-87), Advisory Board Member in DBKL, Past Chairman of Council for National Heritage, Past Adjunct Professor Faculty of Architecture UPM, 7 th Recipient of PAM Gold Medal Award 2012, Past President ICOMOS Malaysia (2013-20).

Conferred Darjah Kebesaran Sharafuddin Idris Shah (DSIS) 2009, Darjah Setia Tuanku Muhriz Yang Amat Gemilang (DSTM) 2016, LAM President Medal 2017, Honorary Doctorate Alam Bina from UGM and USIM 2022 and BIM Professional Excellence Award - Engineering, Construction and Property 2023.

Philosophy of Works reflected in FORM, FUNCTION and CONTEXT, based on valued assessment of clients' intentions and brief, budget, site potential, viability and sustainability with creative dynamism in Architecture as a challenge for introducing humane sensitivities to urban environment.

Projects achievements include more than 100 individual homes, masjids, hotels, conservation, commercial and institutional buildings. Notable are Bank Pembangunan, MNI Twins, Celcom Tower, PNB Darby Park, Dataran Maybank, Masjid Bangsar, National Mosque of Republic of Maldives, Masjid UIA, Masjid SAAS, Industrial Courts, Infokraft, Carcosa Sri Negara, Kidzania and several Concept and Master Plans.

Currently active in professional practice, online seminars, writings and production of Historic Architectural Posters.



Ar. Tan Bee Eu
Award Winning Architect

Bee Eu Tan, the founder of BETA (BEu Tan Architect) recognised for her work in restoring heritage buildings in her native Penang and beyond. Her maiden project in Alor Setar, the Kedah Digital Library, won gold at the PAM (Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia) Awards 2022. At the recent REKA AWARDS 2022, she won Gold (Kedah Digital Library) and SILVER (Penang Harmony Centre) for Adaptive Reuse Category. In the last 4 years, her work garnered nine design awards and third gold at the PAM Awards.

Bee Eu's remarkable trajectory had its humble start in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur where she built a diverse portfolio of both local and international projects in Maldives, Dubai, Jakarta, and Shanghai. Upon returning to Penang, she spent 8 years as the Head of Design for a local Design & Build Developer, specialising in luxury high-rise developments in Penang and KLCC.

She established her own boutique practice focusing on honest architecture and back to basics design. Her first project, restoring the Penang Institute's colonial Annex Bungalow, brought her into the path of adaptive reuse, breathing new life to old, dilapidated buildings in Penang.

In 2019, Bee Eu's design of Penang Digital Library (Phase 2) opened to overwhelming public's response, as it became the first paperless library in the nation. The project was awarded the Alteration and Addition Category gold medal at the PAM 2019, making her company, BETA, the youngest practice to win a top prize. BETA would take home another PAM gold medal two years later, in the Adaptive Reuse Category, for the redesign of Harmony Centre - Penang's first interfaith communal building.

More heritage buildings would benefit from Bee Eu's sensitive treatment, including the elegant George Town World Heritage Incorporated (GTWHI) office building, the art deco-style Penang Hill Gallery @Edgecliff and the restoration of the Private Bungalow of Eythrope. She continues to share her vision for preserving built heritage as the organiser of Pechakucha Penang, a global networking event that originated in Tokyo where architects, designers and artists share ideas. With a strong commitment to groom the future generations of Architect, Bee Eu also teaches at her alma mater, Universiti Sains Malaysia. Bee Eu is an honouree of Tatler Asia's Most Influential 2021 and 2022; the definitive list of people shaping Asia.

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Held concurrently with



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PANELIST 1

Ar. Zuriani Morni

Zuriani's architectural journey began in 2009 at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) Johor. Upon graduation, Zuriani joined a Kuching-based architectural consultancy practice in January 2015. In June 2017, Zuriani took a decision to join Arkitek Seniformasi Sdn Bhd as a design and project architect.

Zuriani successfully passed her Part 3 professional exam in January 2024 and is registered as an Architect with LAM. Her performance led to her appointment as Director of Arkitek Seniformasi Sdn Bhd in February 2024.

Arkitek Seniformasi Sdn Bhd, founded in 2002 has a rich history of delivering exceptional architectural, planning, landscaping and interior design services. The vision of Arkitek Seniformasi Sdn Bhd is to create environments that enrich lives through thoughtful and impactful design. The firm strives to enhance the built environment in meaningful ways by focusing on quality, safety, cost effectiveness and social responsibility.



PANELIST 2

Michael Koo Han Ming

Michael oversees the company's client relationship, branding, and marketing. He leads an award-winning studio, mentors and develops designers with their skills while crafting brand identities for Aki Media.

His brand initiative includes creating brand narratives, visual brand identity designs, story packaging designs, visual communication, and experiential graphic systems. His marketing plan and strategy focuses on media publicity and creating new business opportunities. Michael's role as an architectural designer mainly focuses on conceptual design proposals and project leads in mix-used transportation and commercial projects.

His previous portfolio ranges from small-scale firms to the internationally renowned firm Woods Bagot, Perth Studio, where he was involved in numerous large-scale projects for both the Dubai and Australian markets. He was appointed as a Sessional Academic by Curtin University, Perth, to assist the teaching team in workshops for visual design.



PANELIST 3

Ar. Gary Shahrull Irwan

Born and raised in Kuching, Sarawak. Graduating from Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) with a Bachelor of Science in Architecture in 2009 and a Bachelor of Architecture (Hons.) in 2013. Obtained my Green Building Index Facilitator Certification in 2019 and LAM Part III in 2022. Member of both the Lembaga Arkitek Malaysia (LAM) and the Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia (PAM).

GDA Architects Sdn Bhd takes a collaborative approach by working closely with clients to understand their unique needs and aspirations. Our design practice inherently integrates passive green design elements as the basis for all our proposals. Through green and innovative design methodologies, we develop tailored solutions to achieve a balance between functionality, practicality and architectural aesthetics.

Our dedication to sustainability guides every decision, from material selection to energy-efficient systems, ensuring that our projects are both aesthetically pleasing and responsible.



PANELIST 4

Ar. Mervyn Wong

Ar. Mervyn Wong began his career at Design Network Architects (DNA) after graduating from Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) with a Bachelor of Science in Housing, Building, and Planning (HBP) and a Bachelor of Architecture.

As his career progressed, Ar. Mervyn became known for his ability to blend innovation with practicality. His designs were characterised by a seamless integration of sustainable practices, cutting-edge technology, and an unwavering commitment to creating spaces that harmonise with their surroundings. Ar. Mervyn has accomplished a large number of residential and commercial architecture projects during the previous decade. He believes that architecture should be a reflection of the people it serves and that every structure should tell a story.

His approach is deeply rooted in understanding the needs and aspirations of the clients, allowing him to create bespoke designs that are functional, aesthetically pleasing, and emotionally resonant.



PANELIST 5

Ar. Freddie Lo HR

Freddie, originally from Kuching, began his architectural journey on Penang Island at Universiti Sains Malaysia, where he pursued his studies in architecture. After graduating, he started his early career at Design Network Architects Sdn. Bhd. an award-winning firm recognized for its projects that earned notable PAM Awards.

A significant milestone in Freddie's career was his work on one of Malaysia's largest strata developments, Country Garden Forest City & Country Garden Danga Bay in Johor Bahru. In this role, he oversaw the development of over ten thousand strata-titled residential units, tackling and resolving complex strata title issues, which solidified his expertise in large-scale architectural projects.

Post-COVID era, Freddie returned to Kuching and founded HR Lo Architect. Beyond his professional projects, Freddie involved in shaping the local architectural landscape through his involvement with the PAMSC Committee (2020-2024).



PANELIST 6

Ar. Jonathan Lee

Ar. Jonathan Lee began his architectural journey in 2006 at LimkokWing, where he earned a Diploma in Architecture. He furthered his education with a Bachelor of Science at Taylor's University and a Master of Architecture from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology.

With valuable experience at Perunding Dayacipta and PDC Design Group, he developed expertise across a diverse range of projects. In 2023, after successfully passing the Part III exam, Jonathan founded JL Architect.

As a new consultancy, JLA collaborates with various firms to enhance project delivery, underscoring the importance of teamwork.

Today, JLA's portfolio includes residential, housing developments, commercial, industrial, and public buildings, reflecting a dynamic and versatile approach to architecture that meets the unique needs of each client.