

VERITAS e-news is a monthly on-line publication of features, news and events at VERITAS, a premier architecture and design firm based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. VERITAS e-news has a subscriber base of 3000 readers.

November 2012

In this month's e-news, we are delighted to feature an in-depth exposure of one of our first and latest completed theme park project which has been recently receiving a lot of media attention: the "Legoland" in Iskandar, Johor.

We shall also feature other interesting happenings here at VERITAS such as our participation in the Architectural World's Day Conference organised by PAM, VERITAS' winning the "Best Multi-Disciplinary Design Practice" Award and other noteworthy news.

We hope you enjoy the new look and feel of VERITAS e-news! And please don't hesitate to contact us if you would like to know more about any of the stories featured here.

WHAT'S NEW in VERITAS?

LEGOLAND, Nusajaya • Lego' is a brand of popular children's toys, comprising in colorful interlocking plastic bricks which can be assembled and connected in immense variation to construct many objects.



The Legoland Theme park is a 76 acre life-scaled experience of this brand within the concept of a theme park targeting families with children between the ages of 2 to 12 years old. Within the local context, this project also has a specific role in furthering the tourism agenda of the Nusajaya masterplan by becoming the anchor initiative that attracts tourists from the surrounding region.



At the bold entrance the visitor is ushered into a vast playground of theme park rides and recreational zones divided thematically to provide a story and focus to each ride's experience. Families will be immersed in a unique range of 'kid-powered' rides, building challenges, spectacular Lego models, interactive attractions, family-friendly roller-coasters and shows that interact with audiences. This adds up to an mammoth tally of 40 interactive rides, shows and attractions.



One such signature zone is, "Miniland" which is the heart of the theme park, a tortuous garden designed with human-scaled iconic structures from all around the world.



The Xtreme zone defines the boundary of gravity-defying yet family friendly rollercoaster rides. The Mindstorm Zone is a comprise endless high tech IT fun in Animatronics and Robotics toys. All components of this masterplan are modeled after long established branches of Legoland from Europe and America, adapted to the local climate culture and building methods. Legoland@ Malaysia is the sixth Legoland to be built in the world and its first in Asia.

Is there anything HAPPENING?

Editor's Choice Award - "Best Multi-Disciplinary Design Practice" • VERITAS was recently awarded "Best Multi-Disciplinary Design Practice" by the Malaysian Reserve Editor's Choice Award 2012. The inaugural award presentation was held at the Sunway Resort Hotel & Spa on 23 November 2012, and was received by VERITAS Group President David Mizan Hashim.



This further confirms our current status in the design industry in Malaysia and we are looking forward to greater success in the coming years.

Architectural Worlds Day Conference • The Architectural Worlds Day Conference was held on 23 October 2012 and was organised by the PAM Southern Chapter. Our Principal Shah Jaafar was invited to give a presentation on "The Making of Legoland, Iskandar Malaysia". He spoke intensely on our recently completed project; the Legoland Theme Park in Johor. He further elaborated on the importance of Legoland as a unique development catalyst and strategy for an integrated property development that provides a mix of commercial, recreational and business operations ensuring successful and vibrant communities for the region.



Johor CSR Project - "25 Special Children for 25 Years" • VERITAS Johor office recently treated 25 children from Sekolah Pendidikan Khas Kanak-Kanak Spastik (School for the Special Needs and Spastic) to a free one day pass to Legoland, Iskandar Malaysia in conjunction with VERITAS' 25th anniversary celebrations - "25 special children for 25 years".



Held on the 1st of November at Legoland Theme park, the event saw staff of VERITAS Johor accompanying the special needs children on rides and walks throughout the theme park. VERITAS Johor Principal, Shah Jaafar highlighted the importance of investing in the welfare and development of Special-Needs children through their spastic association, and he described the efforts as a positive move. VERITAS Johor is currently working on 2 special school projects, namely the Tanjong Tokong, Penang and Merbok, Kedah schools.

so WHO are the NEWCOMERS at VERITAS?

Welcome on board new VERITASians: Architect Ghazal Sabetnia from Iran and assistant Mohamad Saad Ler Wei Zeng, Mohd Nasrun bin Muhd Nor and Mohamad Sadeeq bin Mohamad Lucid

for VERITAS Architects Kuala Lumpur, 3D designer Hairun Ahmad for VERITAS Architects Johor, interior designer Sebaga Bosa Motlabane from Botswana and admin assistant Nora Ain binti Mat Radzi for VERITAS Interior.

We hope that they all have an exhilarating and rewarding career with VERITAS.

Who's celebrating their BIRTHDAY this Month?

For November 2012, we would like to wish a warm Happy Birthday to:-

Scorpios (24 October - 22 November) ~ Nurfaizina Ruffah, Zawika bt. Hj. Ab. Kadir, Syed Salem Syed Abu Bakar, Azalina Shafini Shaari, Nursuhaila Abdullah, Caroline Chui Yee Kwan & Zulkiflee Lubes bin Amir

Sagittarians (23 November- 21 December) ~ Nurul Ain Ishak, Mohd. Norazizan Ariffin, Jenny Lum Lai Wan, Suhaimi Yunus, Norhadidzah Hashim, Noor Khatijah Binti Khairun & Jacqueline Klassen.



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HOME

CONTACT



WHERE are we FEATURED?

Menara Binjai Does Malaysia Proud by Winning Cityscape Awards in Dubai
大馬建築揚威國際
Binjai大廈奪城市景觀獎

Competing against the best sustainable developments in emerging markets, Menara Binjai, a 35-storey Green office tower located right next to Ampang LRT station, came out winner in the Cityscape Awards for Emerging Markets 2012 for the Best Sustainable Development Award (Build), becoming the first Malaysian building to gain this honour.

Designed by award-winning Malaysian firm VERITAS Architects, Menara Binjai clinched the top spot in this coveted Sustainability category beating 2 other prestigious finalists, the award-winning UAE Pavilion in Abu Dhabi and Masdar Institute of Science and Technology (M.I.S.T.).

Cityscape Awards reward excellence and celebrate outstanding performance in real estate and architectural design across emerging markets globally. Regions and countries considered emerging markets are Asia Pacific (excluding Japan, New Zealand and Australia), Middle East, Turkey, Russia, Africa and Latin America.

位于吉隆坡安邦路街Binjai大厦脱颖而出，成为大马自标获得2012年发展中国家城市景观奖最佳建筑奖（已建成）的建筑物。

由Veritas工程设计部Menara Binjai成功打败其他候选大楼，包括UAE Pavilion和Masdar科学和科技机构(MIST)，成为本组大奖得主。"最佳"建筑奖项得主。



Reno & Decor Magazine - November issue Page 146 • "Menara Binjai Does Malaysia Proud by Winning Cityscape Awards in Dubai"



The Malaysian Reserve - Real Reserve Friday, November 23, 2012 • VERITAS wins "Best Multi-Disciplinary Design Practice" Award



Harian Metro, Saturday 3 November • "Pelajar OKU ke Legoland"



Berita Harian • "VDG Rai Murid Pendidikan Khas"

STAFF OF THE MONTH



Nuwizar Jezi is commonly known as "Jezi" among staff and friends. He was born on 24th July 1975 and has been working with the VERITAS Architects Johor office since November 2009 as a Design Architect. He is married to Dr. Shazlina Shirin and they are blessed with a very cute little boy name Muhammad Danish Jezi.

Komathi Ramakrishna (KR) gets in-depth info about Nuwizar Jezi bin Ibrahim (NJ)

KR: Where did you graduate from, and when?
NJ: The University Of Tasmania, Australia in 2004.

KR: Why did you decide to become an architect?
NJ: I was practically misled by my cousin sister and my parents. haha...LOL My advice to all "Good Good, Study Study Architecture". I was confused at the beginning but here I am now. Feeling really great about this!!

KR: What is your favorite building and why?
NJ: My favorite building is the Central Beheer, Apeldoorn & Montessori School, Delf in Netherlands by Herman Hertzberger, because of its creative spaces that encourages human social activity.

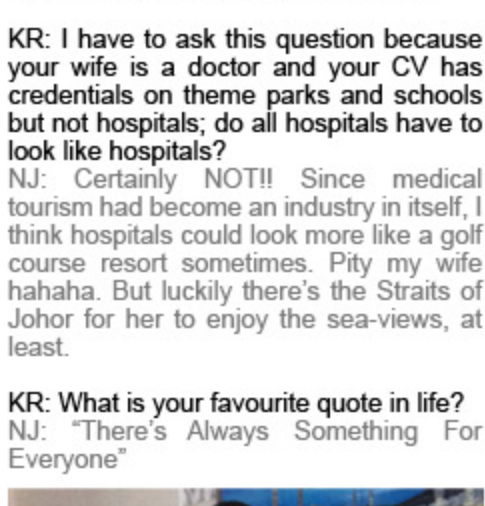
KR: What is your hobby?
NJ: Watching Movies, because that's what I missed most since my baby boy arrived. He occupies 90% of my free time now...hahaha!!

KR: How would you describe VERITAS in less than 10 words?
NJ: VERITAS is actively positioning its presence both locally and internationally.

KR: Which projects are you currently involved in?
NJ: I have just completed the LEGOLAND Malaysia and I am currently working on the University of READING Malaysia campus at Nusajaya, Johor.

KR: I have to ask this question because your wife is a doctor and your CV has credentials on theme parks and schools but not hospitals; do all hospitals have to look like hospitals?
NJ: Certainly NOT!! Since medical tourism had become an industry in itself, I think hospitals could look more like a golf course resort sometimes. Pity my wife hahaha. But luckily there's the Straits of Johor for her to enjoy the sea-views, at least.

KR: What is your favourite quote in life?
NJ: "There's Always Something For Everyone"



KR interviews his office colleague, Rami B. Ahmad

KR: Can you describe a little about Jezi?
Rami: Jezi is a very friendly and dedicated person. In times he can be witty too!!

QUOTE OF THE MONTH



~ Tadao Ando