

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.

December 2012

Ho Ho Ho!!! Season's Greetings, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers!

In this month's e-news, the last for 2012, we are pleased to present an "A - Z" taxonomy of VERITAS vocabulary of events for the year. The recent 2nd VERITAS Management Retreat for 2012 and many other interesting "happenings" at VERITAS will also be featured.

The A to Z of VERITAS Design Group

From A to Z, 2012 year has been a very eventful year for us. Here is an alphabetic walk-through of some of the activities, events, people, most memorable moments and characters of VERITAS.

A is for Anniversary



VERITAS celebrated its 25th anniversary event on 27th September 2012. The gala anniversary celebration was held at the Grand Ballroom of the Hilton Hotel Kuala Lumpur, and was graced by the Minister of Trade and Industry, Dato Sri Mustapa Mohamed as the guest of honor.

B is for BHAG (big hairy audacious goal)

"To be a premier architecture and design firm worldwide". This is the VERITAS dream, and what we strive towards every day.

C is for Company Dinners



VERITAS had 2 annual company dinners this year; the start of the year party was held on 7th January at the Cinta Restolounge in Kuala Lumpur. The theme of the evening was "Superstar Fabulosity". And the end of year party was held on 20th October at the 30th Level of Menara Binjai in Kuala Lumpur. Coinciding with the annual dinners, the 10-Year and 20-Year Service awards were presented to long serving colleagues.

D is for Design (one of our core values)

At VERITAS, design excellence pervades all our work. Every project big or small receives the highest attention to detail.

E is for Environment



Veritas Environment Sdn. Bhd. (VESB) offers green building consultancy services to building owners, developers and design consultant teams in a process integrating engineering with architecture. VESB's goal is to economically and efficiently assist in the creation of high performance sustainable buildings with cutting-edge design.

In 2012, CK Tang, joined the group as Principal of VERITAS Environment Sdn. Bhd.

F is for Fund (vFe) VERITAS Fund for Excellence



The VERITAS Fund for Excellence or VFE is a fund which was founded in 2004 by the VERITAS Design Group to further our core values of Integrity, Design, Environment, Audacity and Service. This year the VFE conducted a tree planting programme in conjunction with VERITAS' 25th anniversary celebrations - '25 trees for 25 years'. The event saw staff of VERITAS planting 25 trees in Metropolitan Park of Kuala Lumpur, while DBKL supported the move by planting another 25 trees. VERITAS' Clients contributed RM1000 for each of the 25 trees and VERITAS matched that RM 25,000 with an equal amount to raise a total sum of RM 50,000, which went towards the Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) and the Malaysia Independent Animal Rescue (MIAR).

G is for Great Innovative Design

Great innovative design is not just what looks good. It is also about performance, functionality and cost. This is one of our brand promises.

H is for Hong Kong

On September 14, about 60 architects and designers from VERITAS enjoyed a study trip to Hong Kong.

The program was filled with visits to public buildings, as well as commercial and residential projects.



I is for Integrity (one of our core values)

Upholding Integrity at work; this is critical in the business environment, where trustworthy actions set the foundation for successful business relationships.

J is for J Tower



In mid-2012, VERITAS won the design competition for what will be the tallest building in Johor Baru.

The J Tower will be a 30-storey corporate office tower set in the heart of Johor Baru City Center --- for Johor Land Berhad.

The project is expected to be completed in June 2015.

K is for Kedah



VERITAS Johor is working on a vocational school for handicapped students located at Kuala Muda, Kedah. The Sekolah Menengah Pendidikan Khas Merbok is under construction and is expected to be completed by mid of 2013.

L is for Lecture Series



The VERITAS Lecture Series or VLS is an annual event, the main objective of which is to present useful information and unique learning experiences to our Clients about subjects of relevance to the design and property development industry. This year's VERITAS Lecture Series was entitled "Branding for Developers & Consultants" and it was held on 26th June at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.

M is for Monographs

The VERITAS "Client Monograph" and "Coffee Book Table" are two publications of our work, which showcase the many projects we have undertaken over the past 25 years, from 1987-2012. The work of VERITAS strives to connect the confluences of the social, cultural and economic context of the times in artistic discourse. Both Monographs exhibit the evolution of architecture, interior, landscape, planning and environmental consulting projects as the result of talented designers collaborating as equals with similarly strong-willed Clients and stake-holders.

The monographs will be soon be available at local and international bookstores. For any enquires on the books, please drop us an email at arch@veritas.com.my



N is for New Offices

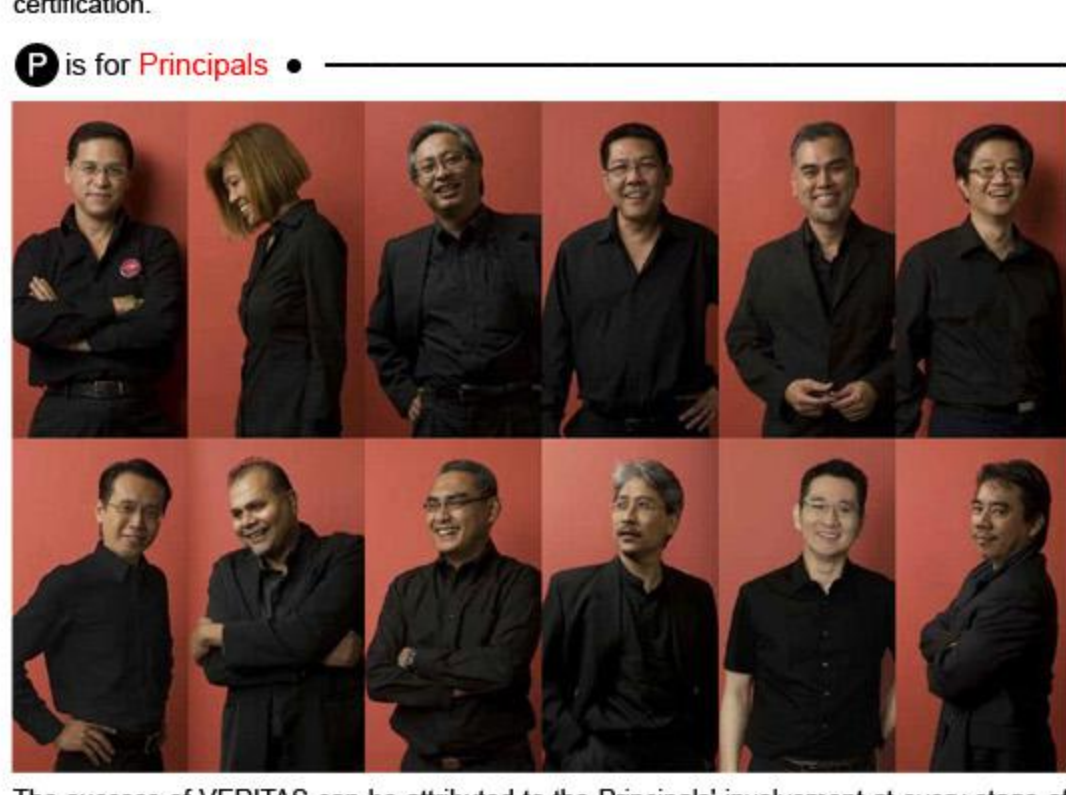


Although historically most of our work has been in Malaysia, VERITAS has been undertaking an increasing amount of work worldwide. In 2012 VERITAS opened its fifth international office in Portland, USA to complement its India, Australia, Vietnam and Middle-east offices

O is for OHSAS

VERITAS has embarked on various initiatives to ensure it provides a safe and conducive work environment for all it's staff. In that respect, VERITAS will soon obtain the OHSAS 18001:2007; an international occupational health and safety management system certification.

P is for Principals



The success of VERITAS can be attributed to the Principals' involvement at every stage of each project and to the dedication of the VERITAS support team. In 2012, VERITAS announced 3 new Principals; Zainal F. Abdul Aziz who is in charge of organizing the Professional Career Development program at Veritas; Richard Woodling who serves as Principal of the Portland office in the US and CK Tang who is highly-regarded in South East Asia as one of the foremost specialists in energy efficiency who has joined to lead VERITAS Environment Sdn Bhd.

Q is for Quarterly Meetings



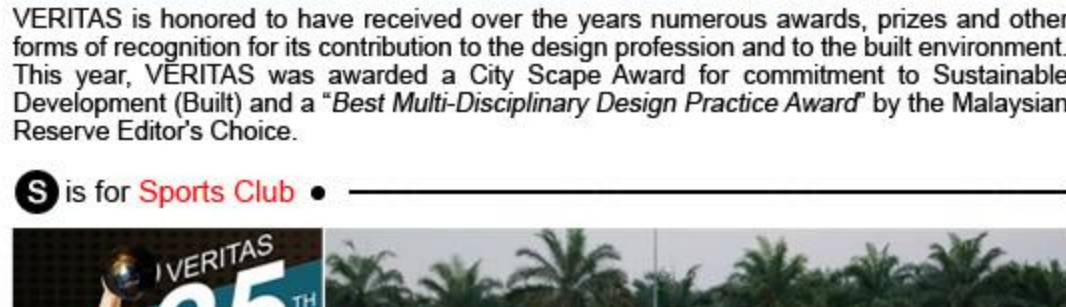
VERITAS quarterly staff meetings occur at every three-month intervals. At these meetings, updates on design, ideas and latest works are shared among Principals and staff. During 2012, the four Quarterly meetings occurred on schedule and were well attended.

R is for Recognition



VERITAS is honored to have received over the years numerous awards, prizes and other forms of recognition for its contribution to the design profession and to the built environment. This year, VERITAS was awarded a City Scape Award for commitment to Sustainable Development (Built) and a "Best Multi-Disciplinary Design Practice Award" by the Malaysian Reserve Editor's Choice.

S is for Sports Club



VERITAS Sports Club had numerous activities which filled the 2012 year including a go-kart championship, a movie night "The Avengers" and a bowling tournament.

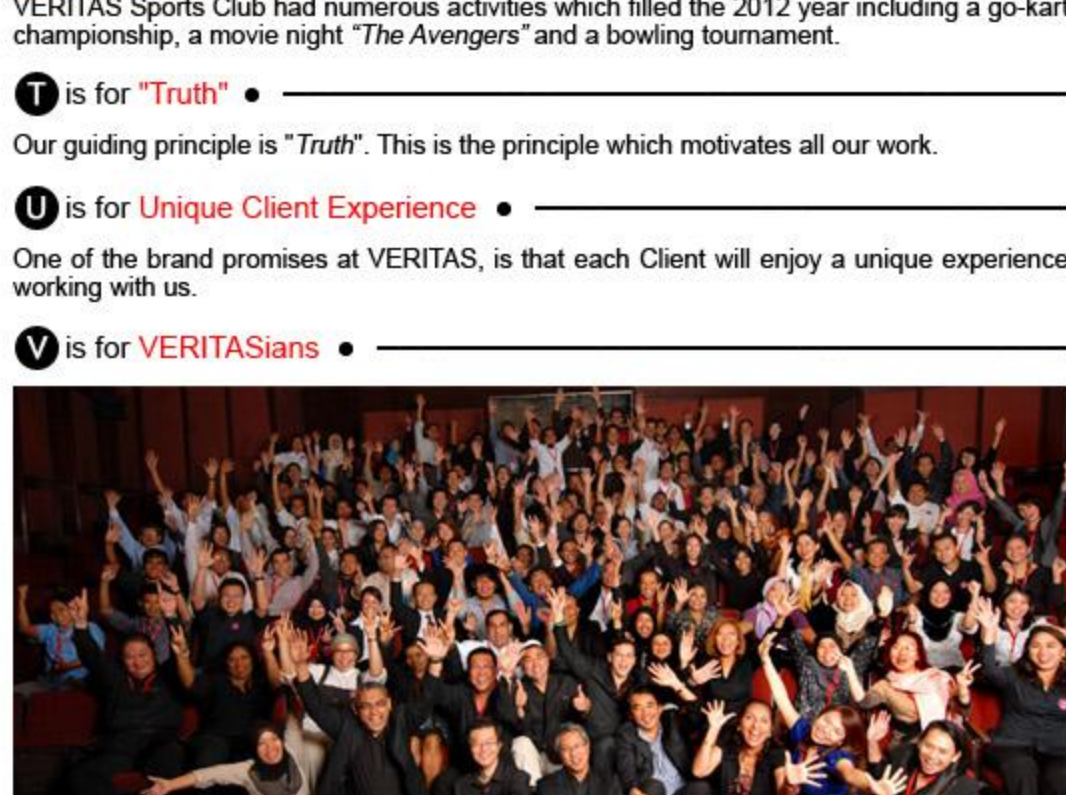
T is for "Truth"

Our guiding principle is "Truth". This is the principle which motivates all our work.

U is for Unique Client Experience

One of the brand promises at VERITAS, is that each Client will enjoy a unique experience working with us.

V is for VERITASians



This is what we call ourselves. We are a group of like-minded individuals who together have built an amazing tribe.

W is for Work

Work + Play = VERITASians know how to work hard and have fun as well.

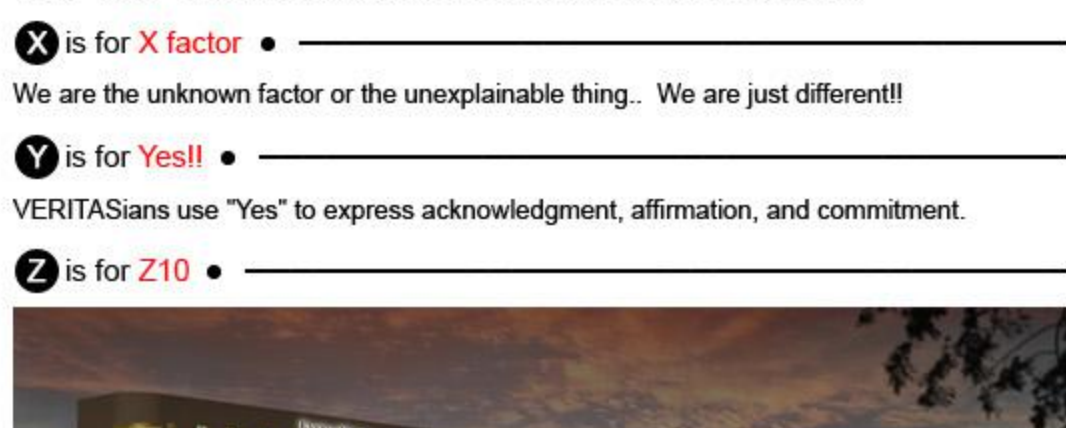
X is for X factor

We are the unknown factor or the unexplainable thing.. We are just different!!

Y is for Yes!!

VERITASians use "Yes" to express acknowledgment, affirmation, and commitment.

Z is for Z10



The Z10 Hotel and Office project is a crescent-shaped complex confronting the sweeping panoramic vista of the Putrajaya Wetlands' waterfront which is under construction. This project is expected to complete by March 2013.

HOME

CONTACT

VERITAS design group

ideas world

Is there anything HAPPENING?



2nd Management Retreat ● On 15th & 16th December 2012, the VERITAS Exco held their 2nd 2012 Management Retreat at the Thistle Hotel & Spa, Port Dickson. The purpose of the bi-annual 2-day retreat was to prepare a rigorous management strategy and plan for the 2013 year.



STAFF OF THE MONTH



Hairul Nizar Pardi is commonly known as "Wak" among staff and friends. He was born in 1970 and has been working with the VERITAS Architects Kuala Lumpur office since 1995 as an architectural graphic designer. He is married to Intan Nursuzila and they are blessed with 3 kids, Dania Fariesha (8 years old), Muhammad Ikmal (6 years old), and Faiqa Lestary (2 years old).

Komathi Ramakrishna (KR) gets in-depth info about Hairul Nizar Pardi (HP)

KR: Wak, where did you graduate from, and when?

HP: WOW.... that was a long time ago. I graduated from IKM (Institute Kemahiran Mara) in 1990 with a certificate in architectural studies and a Diploma in Information Technology in 1997.



KR: What has made you stay with VERITAS for all these years? Tell us your story

HP: I have made a lot of friends in VERITAS. Some have left but I have stayed. There are so many passionate and emotional memories that I don't know which one stands out most. But there is one that I will not forget; when my late wife passed away I felt the profound emptiness that her passing had left in my life.

VERITAS CEO said to me "Wak, I know how it feels to lose someone important in your life, so take your time and settle your kids and only when you are ready then come back to work." This made me stay. Thanks to him and may Allah give him Hidayah (guidance).



KR: Of all the designs that you have worked on, which is your favourite and why?

HP: Ini soalan susah (this is a tough question) But it has to be the Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment Headquarters, Putrajaya. It took 4 years of my life working on this project, I slept and dreamt about this project 24/7, 365 x 4 years.... ha ha ha!!!



KR: How would you describe VERITAS in less than 10 words?

HP: A happening place, environmentally friendly, kerja yang tak pernah habis (work that never ends!)

KR: Which projects are you currently involved in?

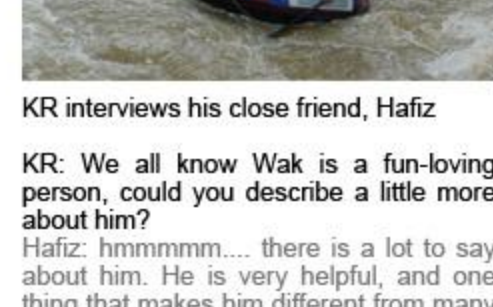
HP: The VERITAS Monograph, I have been working on this since 2010.....hmmmmmm... But yes, finally it will be out soon in early 2013...insyallah!

KR: Lately, I have noticed you have started working-out. Why suddenly?

HP: He he he..... I am starting a new portfolio..... I'm planning to join the "Mr Universe" competition!!!

KR: What is your favourite quote in life?

HP: I shall work as HARD as I can, for as LONG as I can, and the BEST that I can. ALWAYS!



KR interviews his close friend, Hafiz

KR: We all know Wak is a fun-loving person, could you describe a little more about him?

Hafiz: hmmm.... there is a lot to say about him. He is very helpful, and one thing that makes him different from many of us is that he values his friendships, and he has many loyal friends in VERITAS.

so WHO are the NEWCOMERS at VERITAS?

Welcome on board new VERITASians: assistant architect Mohd Armaan for VERITAS Architects Kuala Lumpur.

who's celebrating their BIRTHDAY this Month?

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

Sagittarians (22 - 20 December) Edward Chew, Ahmad Rizal Ahmad Rodzi, Mohamad Fauzi Mohamad, Md Shah Jaffer, Husman bin Setta, Helmi Mohd Nor, Syarifah Nadirah, Zainab Rauf, Ainazura Zuber, Tan Ai Lin, Shamsuddin Wahap, & Shakthee Kumar.

Capricorns (21 December - 20 January) Mohd Fauzee Yusof, Tong Siew Chee, Noraffi Izuani Nordin, Maria Keuchkerian, Mohd Zar Omar, Mohd Faizal Azrin Mohamed Eid, Norazizah Mohd Salehuddin, Kamarulzaman Mohd & Musripah Amakaromi.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Make New Year's goals. Dig within, and discover what you would like to have happen in your life this year. This helps you do your part. It is an affirmation that you're interested in fully living life in the year to come. Goals give us direction. They put a powerful force into play on a universal, conscious, and subconscious level. Goals give our life direction"

~ Anonymous



We hope you enjoy this month's 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.

All of these highlights would not have been possible without the efforts of our Clients, co-consultants and partners and we now look forward to taking these projects and ideas from the design board to the construction site. please consider VERITAS when looking to partner for opportunities in 2013!

We would like to thank you for an incredible 2012. . . . and we look forward to working together in 2013!