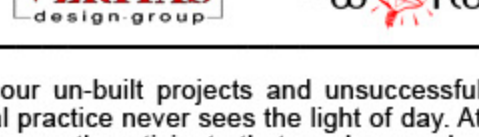


VERITAS e-news is a monthly on-line publication of features, news and events at VERITAS, a premier architecture and design firm based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. VERITAS e-news has a subscriber base of 3000 readers.



In this month's e-news, we are delighted to feature an in-depth exposé into some of our un-built projects and unsuccessful competition entries. It is a depressing fact that much of what is designed in an architectural practice never sees the light of day. At VERITAS, despite these setbacks we are proud of every un-built project undertaken, and secretly anticipate that maybe one day they will eventually get built!

We shall also feature other interesting happenings here at VERITAS such as the lion dance that was held in conjunction with the Chinese New Year Celebrations.

PLATINUM TOWER Kuala Lumpur International Financial District



The Platinum Tower is projected to become the heart of the new Kuala Lumpur International Financial District, recently rebranded as the Tun Razak Exchange (TRX). This project is in collaboration with Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP (SOM), New York City. The competition brief called for an 80 storey tower that houses comprehensive programs ranging from offices, a hotel, serviced apartment, conference centre, retail components and other public amenities.

At 380-meters high, the elegant bullet-shaped tower is shaped by program, climate and views; this elliptical floor plan improves energy performance by reducing the surface area to volume ratio and reducing wind loads. It has no 'hot face', reducing energy use by more than 4%, whilst producing 84% efficiency floor plans. The mechanical and structural engineering of the tower is optimized to allow maximum light penetration into the building.

The office work spaces are designed around multiple atria spaces, with changing diurnal and seasonal light as the sun moves across the sky. Peripheral atria act as light canyons, drawing daylight in and directing it into the centre atrium.

Each light canyon is staggered along the building periphery and face different orientations every 12 floors to deliver a balance of direct and diffused daylight throughout the day. The central atrium extends through 24 floors incorporating light chandeliers to redirect light throughout the interior spaces.

The peripheral atria incorporates a phytoremediation wall system, or a green wall to filter and improve air quality of the return air as it passes through roots of the plants. The floors of these atria incorporate a living machine treatment system to pre-treat rain water captured from the building facade before being circulated for reuse.

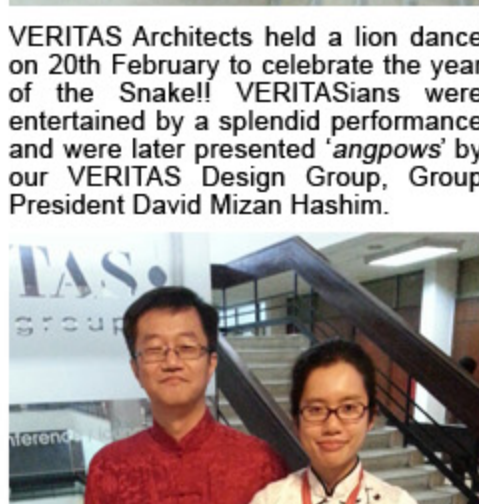
This tower is a model of fine-tuned efficiency that can be constructed rapidly, with significantly reduced materials and will operate at LEED or GBI Platinum efficiency.

Is there anything HAPPENING?

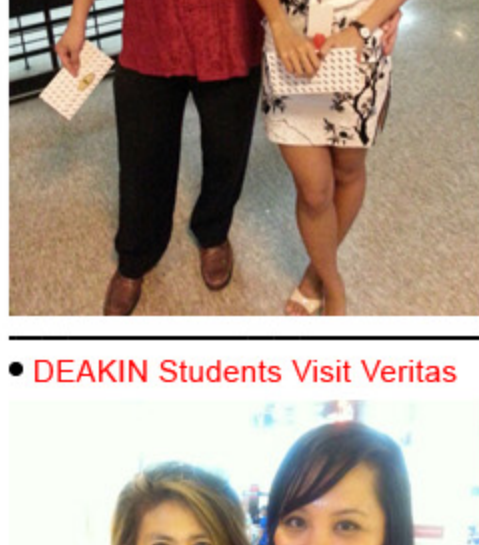


EVERLY HOTEL (Z10) Site Visit The Everly Hotel for Putrajaya Holding Sdn Bhd has recently been completed. A site visit to the Z10 project in Putrajaya was held on 23rd of March at Putrajaya. It was conducted by VERITAS Principal Lillian Tay and she presented a detailed overview of the project. A group of 30 VERITASians attended this very successful event.

LION DANCE



VERITAS Architects held a lion dance on 20th February to celebrate the year of the Snake! VERITASians were entertained by a splendid performance and were later presented 'angpows' by our VERITAS Design Group President David Mizan Hashim.



DEAKIN Students Visit Veritas

A total of 9 students and their lecturer Susan Ang from the School of Architecture and Building Design at Deakin University organized an Architecture Study Trip to our office VERITAS HQ, Kuala Lumpur on 13th February 2013. They spent 2 hours of the morning at VERITAS, touring the studios and learning about the work being done.

David Mizan Hashim, Lillian Tay and Zainal Aziz, Principals of VERITAS Design Group, gave a talk and shared with the students their experiences as architects and described the challenges and opportunities in the architecture field.

so WHO'S the STAFF OF THE MONTH?

Hafiz has been with VERITAS for over 3 years now. We decided to get to know him better since he is staff of the month! He has been working with VERITAS Architects Kuala Lumpur since December 2010 as a 3D Visualizer and is much sought after for his 3D rendering skills and speed of delivery.



Komathi Ramakrishna (KR) gets in-depth info about Mohd Hafiz (MH)

KR: What made you decide to take up an architectural degree?

MH: I always had passion for architecture and design. I believe that if we work on what we are passionate about, we can be truly successful in our careers.

KR: Tell me a little about the project that you are working on right now.

MH: Currently I'm working on D'Hilir Residences at Persiaran Richie off Jalan Ampang Hill. This is a 15 storey condominium with a 3 storey carpark podium comprising exclusive units. I am also working on the Plaza Crystalville project. It is a low rise shop-office development located in Cyberjaya's flagship zone. This well-conceived project is targeted for completion by December 2015.

KR: What is your favourite building and why?

MH: The Burj Khalifa, Dubai UAE. This significant building was designed by Adrian Smith from SOM and is the tallest man-made structure in the world, at 829.8 m.

KR: What does your family think about your career choice?

MH: They are fine with my career. As long as it does not affect my health and as long as I'm happy with the choice that I have made... LOL

KR: What are your interests/hobbies?

MH: I love travelling and exploring new places; but I only have 17 days annual leave a year!!!

KR: Describe VERITAS in 10 words?

MH: Experience the valuable opportunities here. Not just in Architecture and Design..... Work + Play + Fun + Work Again = VERITAS



KR: Can you describe a little about Hairul?

HNP: hmmmhmmmmmm Let me see; well he is the famous one at MDC (I'm already jealous!). Hafiz is a very cooperative and accommodating person.

so WHO are the NEWCOMERS at VERITAS?

Welcome on board new VERITASians: assistant architects Ong Boon Keong, Jonathan Low, Yazid Omar and Niu Yien Hsiu for VERITAS Architects Kuala Lumpur and architect Aida Elyana Jamil for VERITAS Environment.

BIRTHDAY GREETING

For February 2013, we would like to wish a Happy Birthday to:-

RoseLinda Binti Razak, Nordiana Mohd Ali, Rafiuddin Jasman, Iskandar Razak, Felicia Leong Bee Shim, Fitrisia Armina, Kathy Kanniah, Hafisa Sulaiman, Hasrulzaimy Ismail, Arman Abd Hamid & Nor Hashim Mohd Nor.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Success always comes when preparation meets opportunity" ~ Henry Hartman

OSK TOWER Jalan Ampang, Kuala Lumpur

Located near a major traffic intersection on Jalan Ampang, the brief for the OSK Tower called for a mixed program that comprises office, retail and a hotel space. The purpose of the project is manifold: to encourage public connectivity at every level, seamless integration with the existing Seang Park development whilst responding to the local tropical climate and complementing the Kuala Lumpur city skyline.

The new design sought to embrace the old building by retaining the tower and demolishing the protruding banking hall. In its place rises a rectangular tower that rotates to address the open plaza and maximizing views towards the KLCC twin towers. The form of the tower is sculpted to shift, taper and transform to form a variety of floor plates in response to the varying functions of the towers' interiors. The top of the tower is chamfered, a bold gesture towards the Kuala Lumpur skyline. This form is given further refinement via a curtain wall facade with vertical striations. A pedestrian bridge along the length of the building is designed as a multi-angled urban sculpture that refracts light and assists in pedestrian way-finding. The plaza and drop-off entrance activates pedestrian movement along Jalan Ampang.



The building design integrates energy-saving concepts to reduce maintenance cost and is slated to achieve GBI Gold rating. The vehicular circulation plan considers the impact of traffic circulation with regard to direct linkages to the surrounding highways.

SAPURA CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS Kuala Lumpur City Centre



Located within the prominent ring of buildings around KLCC Park, the building form takes inspiration from a tied 'sarong' or wrap-around skirt. The building skin is folded like a fabric, suggesting movement and texture. Strong diagonal motifs from traditional local textiles inform the design of sun-shading fins which wrap around the building, giving the façade the intent of an intricate pattern. This scheme was VERITAS entry in a limited design competition, which was unfortunately, not selected by the Jury.



This became the point of the departure of the design. The proposal considers the site from a pedestrian's point-of-view, re-establishing the link to the state monument along a designated pedestrian route. It creates a new axial connection that cuts across the compartmentalized zones of the existing assemblage of administrative buildings of the site.

Across the sloping natural topography of the site which led to a fragmentary relationship between each building, this move boldly reasserts a visual connection that affords the casual pedestrian a grand public plaza of processional proportions from 2 different approaches.

The proposed new secretariat building intensifies this new relationship by becoming a gateway. At the intersection between tower and podium, the ground floor is raised to allow people to pass under as they would a bridge. The building's L-shaped plan encloses the stepped terraces of the plaza and is scaled to the dimensions of this sloping public thoroughfare. Programmatic considerations are resolved by identifying the public-ness of the program; offices are divided between tower and podium, bridged by the socially activated spaces of the banquet hall and auditorium spaces, facilitating the natural pedestrian flow each space requires.

The form of the building is a multi-faceted shard refined by environmental demands. The angled roof becomes a broad receiving surface for rainwater harvesting and windows are angled to reduce the surface area exposed to the sun to minimize solar heat gain. At strategic junctions the form of the building is cut back to create breezeways, facilitating airflow.

This was a competition entry which VERITAS received the 3rd prize award.

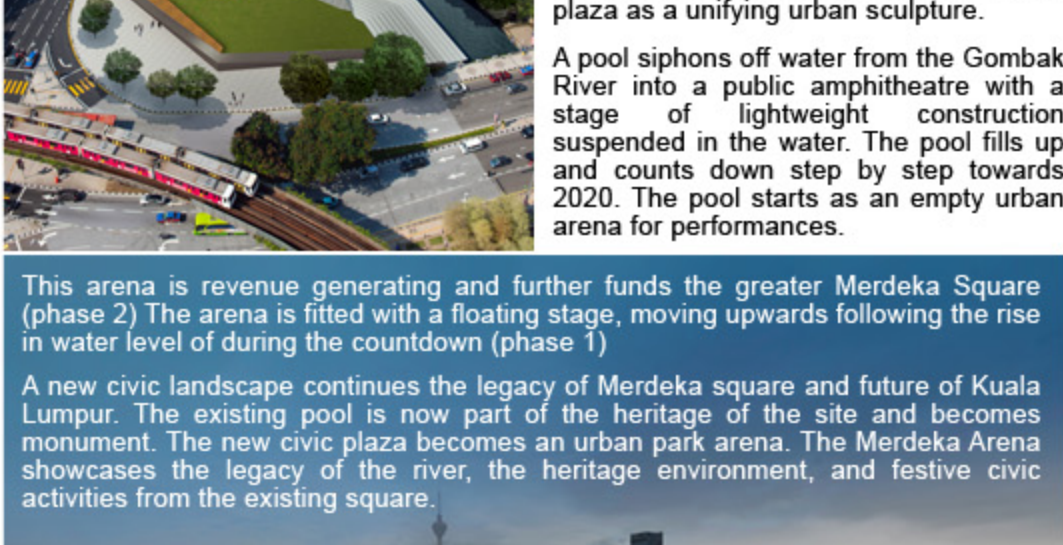
2020 COUNTDOWN ARENA Dataran Merdeka, Kuala Lumpur

This was a competition to design an architecturally significant public sculpture, monument or urban intervention that would double as a clock to counting down to the day Malaysia is targeted to achieve 'Vision 2020' whereby the country achieves the status of a fully developed nation by year 2020. One of the requirements was also for the site to maintain its use, post-2020. The site is the historically significant Dataran Merdeka (Independence Square), where the Merdeka procession was held after the country was declared independent from colonial governance in 1957.

The design proposes to extend the ceremonial public realm of the Merdeka Square across to the Gombak River. This is done in the form of a plaza made up of gradually climbing steps that traverses Jalan Raja and the Gombak River to connect with a public park currently isolated from the pedestrian thoroughfare by the Jalan Raja and Jalan Tun Perak network.

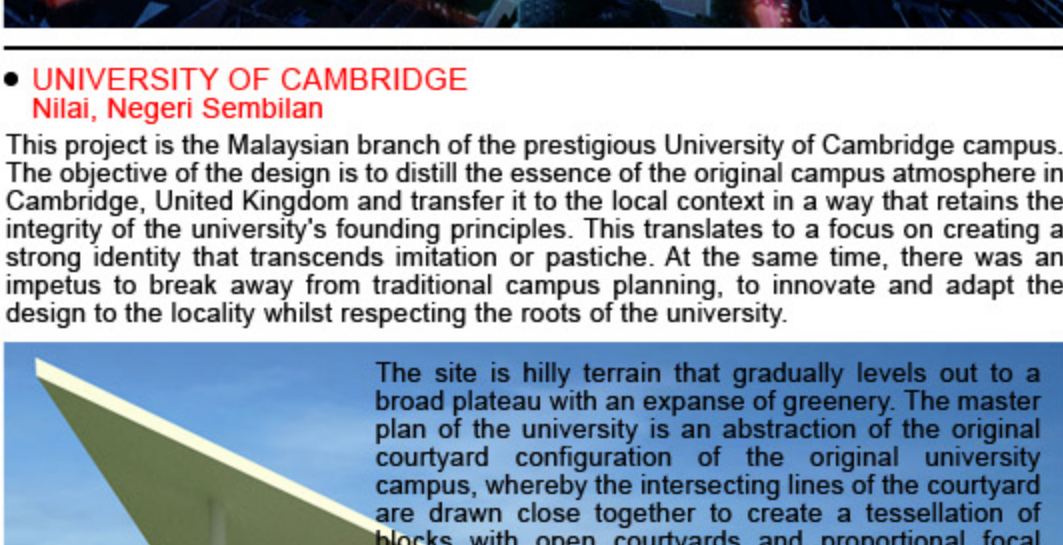
This emphasizes the importance of the river in the legacy of the historic site to create a unique urban public space in Kuala Lumpur that will bring people closer to the river in the form of a new pedestrian plaza as a unifying urban sculpture.

A pool siphons off water from the Gombak River into a public amphitheatre with a stage of lightweight construction suspended in the water. The pool fills up and counts down step by step towards 2020. The pool starts as an empty urban arena for performances.



This arena is revenue generating and further funds the greater Merdeka Square (phase 2) The arena is fitted with a floating stage, moving upwards following the rise in water level of during the countdown (phase 1)

A new civic landscape continues the legacy of Merdeka square and future of Kuala Lumpur. The existing pool is now part of the heritage of the site and becomes monument. The new civic plaza becomes an urban park arena. The Merdeka Arena showcases the legacy of the river, the heritage environment, and festive civic activities from the existing square.



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE Nilai, Negeri Sembilan

This project is the Malaysian branch of the prestigious University of Cambridge campus. The objective of the design is to distill the essence of the original campus atmosphere in Cambridge, United Kingdom and transfer it to the local context in a way that retains the integrity of the university's founding principles. This translates to a focus on creating a strong identity that transcends imitation or pastiche. At the same time, there was an impetus to break away from traditional campus planning, to innovate and adapt the design to the locality whilst respecting the roots of the university.

The site is hilly terrain that gradually levels out to a broad plateau with an expanse of greenery. The master plan of the university is an abstraction of the original courtyard configuration of the original university campus, whereby the intersecting lines of the courtyard are drawn close together to create a tessellation of blocks with open courtyards and proportional focal green areas.

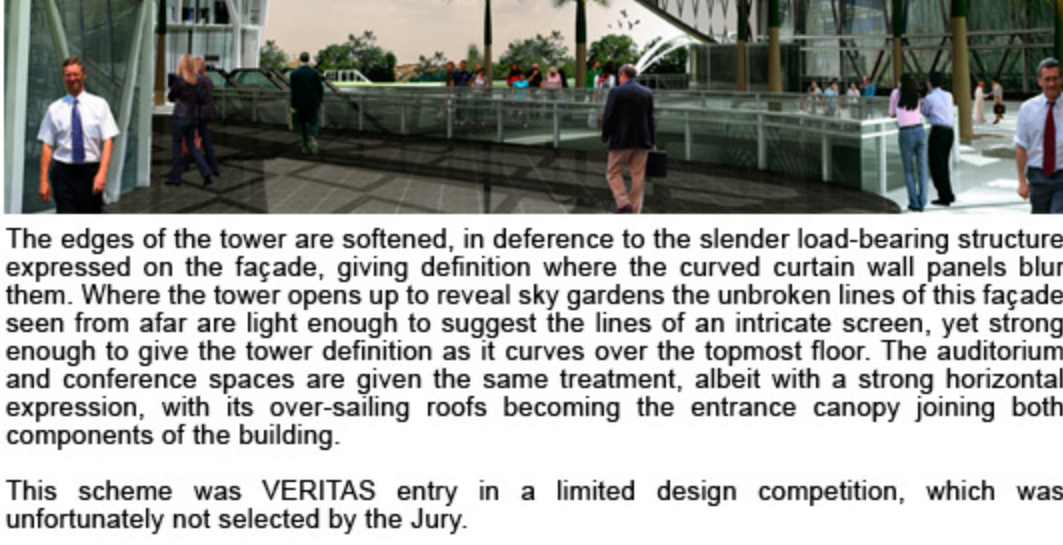
The forms of the blocks morph according to the contours of the slope into 8 discrete elements which expand wider to accommodate the required program.

Shifting around to create a hierarchical sequence of courtyard spaces with a clear route across the site, these blocks are further deconstructed to modulate the orientation and sightlines of each program in relation to one another.



MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY (MITI) Jalan Dutra, Kuala Lumpur

With a landscaped site given wide berth by surrounding developments, the MITI building is sited on a rise on the grounds and is divided almost in equal measure into vertical and horizontal volumes.



The edges of the tower are softened, in deference to the slender load-bearing structures expressed on the facade, giving definition where the curved curtain wall panels blur them. Where the tower opens up to reveal sky gardens the unbroken lines of the facade seen from afar are light enough to suggest the lines of an intricate screen, yet strong enough to give the tower definition as it curves over the topmost floor. The auditorium and conference spaces are given the same treatment, albeit with a strong horizontal expression, with its over-sailing roofs becoming the entrance canopy joining both components of the building.

This scheme was VERITAS entry in a limited design competition, which was unfortunately not selected by the Jury.

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.

