



"Some people feel good about helping others, and they do so often. They do not realize that their good deeds have a second agenda. They want to be appreciated!" - Gary Zukav

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Greetings, Happy International Women's Day and Happy Earth Hour to all our readers!

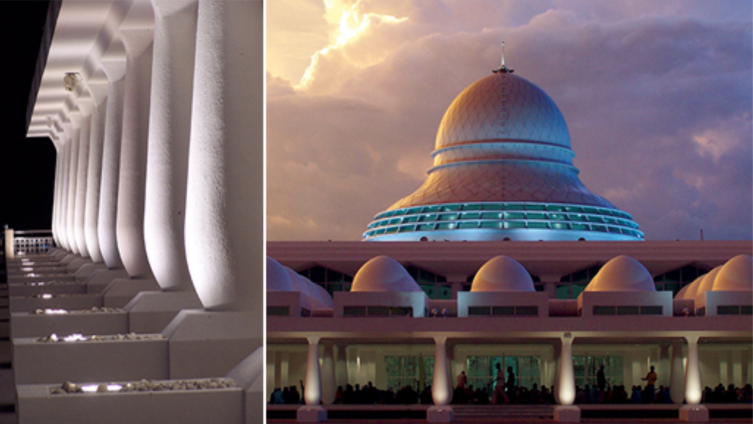
In this month's e-news, we are delighted to feature some places of worship designed by VERITAS. These projects build on a long tradition of the design of "religious institutions" to which VERITAS has contributed since the early-90's. We are also pleased to feature our success in the SME Best Brands Award, the BrandLaureate Award our Women's International Day celebration and other interesting happenings here at VERITAS. 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/features here.

PLACES OF WORSHIP

A place of worship is a specially designed structure or consecrated space where individuals or a group of people such as a congregation come to perform acts of devotion, veneration, or religious study. A building constructed or used for this purpose is sometimes called a house of worship. Temples, churches, and mosques are examples of structures created for worship. A monastery, particularly for Buddhists, may serve both to house those belonging to religious orders and as a place of worship for visitors.

UTP MOSQUE, PERAK

The Universiti Teknologi Petronas mosque at Tronoh, Perak serves a 4,000 congregation of mostly students.



The former mining lake site gave impetus to the idea of a mosque floating on the water. The mosque seeks to be a conscious transposition of Islam in a society that has embraced modernity and progress; architecture reverent to the Islamic doctrine yet cognizant of the advent of globalization.



The building sits on a floating pedestal, rising to 80 small domes and culminating in a bell-shaped khutbah covering the main prayer hall. The result is that the mosque appears to float on cascading water, while being reflected on the lake's serene surface. The project was completed in 2006.

FRIARY, CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI, CHERAS, SELANGOR

The St. Francis of Assisi friary is a Capuchin order center of prayer, contemplation, accommodation and fraternity, located adjacent to the church of St. Francis on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur.



The complex comprises of a prayer hall, 12 suites and a common living room/dining area surrounding an internal courtyard garden. The project was undertaken by VERITAS under our corporate social responsibility efforts and was completed in 2011.

BELL TOWER, ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, KUALA LUMPUR

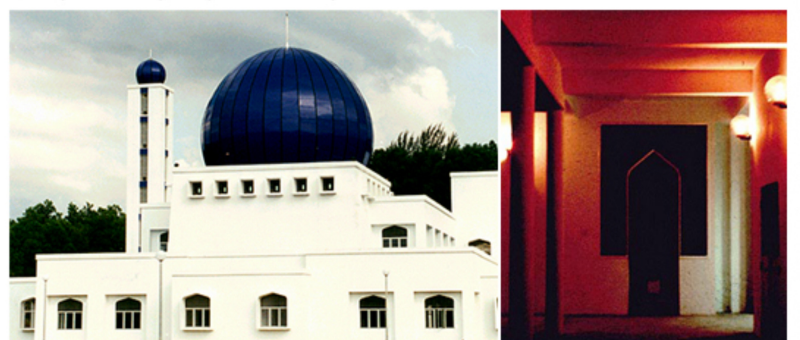
This 20-meter high bell tower will be set within the grounds of this 100-year old church building on Jalan Raja Laut.



The tower will be built to mark the church's 2nd jubilee and to celebrate the hopes and victories that the church has given to the congregation and neighborhood community. In recognition of this 100 year anniversary, the tower shall feature 100 stripes carved out of concrete. This project will be completed in the fourth quarter of 2017.

MASJID BUKIT PADANG, SABAH

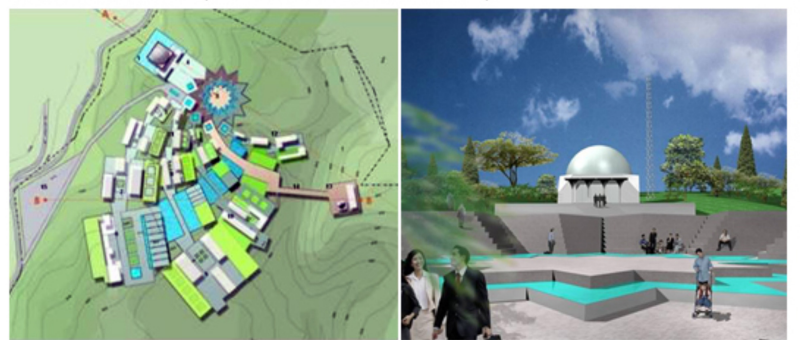
The Masjid Bukit Padang is a 60,000 sq. ft. double-storey congregational mosque for 2,000 persons capacity with ancillary facilities.



Although the complex features a traditional symmetrical layout with a courtyard and garden, it expresses modern influence in its architectural detailing. The building is located in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah and was completed in 1996.

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC UNDERSTANDING, SAN JOSE, USA

The International Centre for Islamic Understanding is intended to promote appreciation for Islam and to enhance the continuing growth of Islam's cultural and intellectual history in the international community.



The site in San Jose, California, was selected to meet the patrons' objective to build an inspiring symbol of a progressive Islam to bridge the divide between the Islamic and non-Islamic worlds. VERITAS developed the masterplan brief with the Malaysian Institute of Islamic Understanding or IKIM. Comprising a museum and gardens, resource center, institute of research, scholars' accommodation, mosque and an observatory, the plan layout is derived from an intricate play of interlocking geometry that spirals down the dramatic hill-top site. The architecture and landscape design shall showcase Islamic craft traditions and building techniques. The project was proposed in 2003.

NILAI MEMORIAL PARK, NEGERI SEMBILAN

The Nilai Memorial Park is a 120-hectare landscape which has been master planned to provide an attractive framework for a modern burial memorial park which comprehensively meets the needs of Buddhist, Taoist and Christian traditions.



Themed Chinese gardens, contemporary tropical landscape and naturalistic design solutions have been adopted in response to the needs of particular buildings (temples, shrines, columbaria) and facilities (admin, sales, maintenance) interment areas and tomb sites. Avenues of rain trees provide order and shade to the network of roads and existing lakes have been reshaped to enhance their aesthetic effect. This project was completed in 1998.



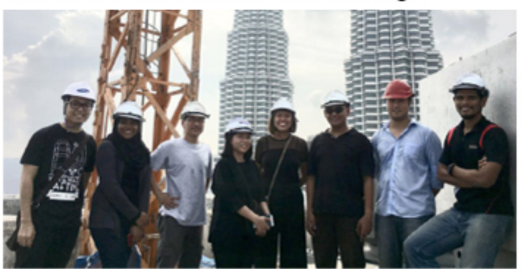
GRAND OPENING OF DAMANSARA AVENUE SALES GALLERY BY TA GROUP

Damansara Avenue Sales Gallery by TA Group officiate the opening of the gallery on 24th March by TA Global Non-Independent Non-Executive Director, Datin Tan Kuay Fong and CEO Mr Tiah Joo Kim and Mr Tiah also shared TA's vision for this exciting new phase of the Damansara Avenue Masterplan. VERITAS Design Group was represented by Group President David Hashim, Principal-in-charge Ng Yie Seng and Head of Corporate Communications Komathi Ramakrishna. David gave an arousing talk on VERITAS' mixed development's design.

DAMANSARA AVENUE is a mixed-development super-hub-catering to the needs of a sophisticated and urban community. This expansive 48-acre master plan is designed by VERITAS Design Group and features six complementary components: residential, retail, office towers, lush green landscapes, a dedicated sports complex and a performing arts centre.



VERITAS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY - VERITAS Design Group celebrated International Women's Day on March 8 at the VERITAS HQ, simultaneously with VERITAS Penang and VERITAS Johor Bharu in their respective offices. International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. VERITAS' women were each given a rose and a delicious buffet spread of local delicacies awaited us all. #BeBoldForChange



W HOTEL KUALA LUMPUR: SITE VISIT

VERITAS Design Group principal Lillian Tay, Zainal F. Abdul Aziz and senior architects conducted a site visit of VERITAS project W hotel Kuala Lumpur at Jalan Ampang on 18 March. This is part of VERITAS training purposes. W hotel is expected to be completed by end of 2017.

so WHO's the STAFF OF THE MONTH? MK PHANG (MK)

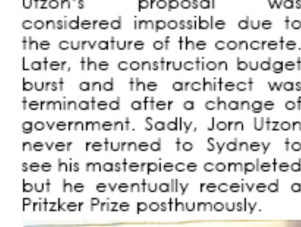


Kate Ker (KK) gets in-depth info about MK PHANG (MK) KK: What inspired you to join VERITAS?

MK: Instead of a what, it was a who. In my third year of working in a much smaller practice, I decided that it was time to expand my network and meet more interesting people. I signed-up for a PAM committee position, and joined VERITAS Principal Lillian Tay's Media and Public Relations group. Lillian brain-washed me on the perks of working in VERITAS, and here I am!

KK: Which is your favourite project and why?

MK: If there's one building that I really love, it is the Sydney Opera House. It has a great story - that the architect's one-page sketch for the competition was thrown into a bin because it wasn't properly rendered, but then one judge picked it up and decided that it should be the winning entry. At that time, building Jorn Utzon's proposal was considered impossible due to the curvature of the concrete. Later, the construction budget burst and the architect was terminated after a change of government. Sadly, Jorn Utzon never returned to Sydney to see his masterpiece completed but he eventually received a Pritzker Prize posthumously.



KK: Describe VERITAS in your own few words?

MK: VERITAS is an aircraft carrier, sailing steadily in the rough ocean with a strong arsenal (us) on board. It is big, powerful, influential, and will certainly continue to triumph in many competitions it encounters in the years to come.

Phang Mun Kien was born in 1988 and was raised in Kuala Lumpur. He studied architecture in Kuala Lumpur and completed his Masters degree at the University of Tasmania. His father is a contractor and often brought Phang to construction sites when he was young which almost certainly inspired his career choice.

Phang accidentally entered the world of architecture due to an open-day in a local college when the lecturer challenged the participants to 'design' a shelter for a bar of chocolate which would be exposed to the sun. By employing some simple principles, Phang's design saved the chocolate from melting and this victory further committed him to a career in design. After graduation in 2012, Phang was involved in the design of numerous resort projects including a prestigious villa for a Sultan. And three years later Phang decided to join VERITAS to widen his horizons.

KK: How do you manage to balance family and work?

MK: Despite the heavy workload, I often leave the office before 6pm. I am not a night-crawler so I don't work till midnight but I can start work, as early as 4am in the morning. So to balance between family and work, I spend quality time with my family constantly, and work in the early mornings whenever necessarily.

KK: What are your interests/hobbies?

MK: There are two - flying and photography. I've been very serious about photography for more than a decade, having taken a sizable collection of beautiful photos around the world. During my free time, I fly - either on a flight simulator or with a drone around my house. I am passionate about aviation and once got to fly a small Cessna plane in New Zealand. I have a few hours of flight time under my belt and I intend to get my Private Pilot license when financially viable.



KK: Where did you go on your latest vacation?

MK: I have just spent 10 days in Osaka and Kyoto in Japan and it was really amazing! Incredible culture, well-preserved history, the juxtaposition of the present and past, and the citizen's mentality awe me until today. Discipline is top notch and I have never seen streets as clean as in Japan. I notice pride in everything a Japanese person does. The public transportation is so punctual that the average delay time for trains is a mere 54 seconds - and that was due to natural disaster! Japan is a truly beautiful and pleasant country despite the extremely stressful work environment and high cost of living. A small 800 sqft house in Osaka costs a whopping RM 1.2 to RM 1.5 million! Nevertheless, there is so much to be learned from the Japanese.



Wong Ka Yee, Nurul, Ami, Syahir, Yvonne

So WHO are the NEWCOMERS at VERITAS?

Wong Ka Yee Architect, Nurul Izzati Bt Saiful Rijal and Aimi Natasya Bt Zahani Assistant Architect, Ahmad Syahir B Ahmad Jamaluddin 3D Modeler for VERITAS Architects Kuala Lumpur, Yvonne Chew Yun Yi Architect for VERITAS Architects Johor Bahru

BUNDLES OF JOY



Congratulations to VERITAS Johor Bahru Hairun bin Ahmad and his wife Wan Zarin Ashiqin Bt Wan Zulkifli on the arrival of their cute baby girl Zyan Binti Hairun born on 25 Jan 2017!

And congratulations also to VERITAS Johor Bharu Suhaimi bin Sa'at and his wife Norhidayah binti Norman on the arrival of their adorable baby girl Nur Adaeena Bte Suhaimi born on 26 Feb 2017!

WHO'S celebrating their BIRTHDAY - March?

PISCES: 20th Feb - 20th March: 1st: Zulhelmy B Shahib 3rd: MD Noor Faizal Hassan 6th: Norazmira Bt Tajudin and Nur Adelinawati Binti Abdullah 7th: Mohd Zahamizal Othman 8th: Mohd Azrul B Mohamed Nasir and Mohamad Hasbullah Yunus @ Hassan 9th: Mohd Faizal B Abul Rahman, Triguasdevi A/P Sivashanmugam and Adam Faiz B Azzudin 12th: Nuruliyana Binti Ramli and Yvonne Chew Yun Yi 14th: Abrami A/P Anandarajah 15th: Sukri Bin Md Jali and Amirah Bee Binti Abdul Aziz 18th: Miguel Angel Robles Cardona 19th: Sam Ying Jie. ARIES: 21st MAR - 20th APR: 24th: Syed Azmi Bin Syed Mustafa 25th: Lion Kiam Lek 25th: Isey Chong Yeh She 30th: Poo Sah Young and Aditiyaja Azmi 31st: Samsudin B Zainal Abidin @ Mohamed.

WHERE are we FEATURED?



Millennials main target of developers

Millennials are the main target of developers, according to a survey conducted by a leading real estate agency. The survey found that millennials are more likely to buy property in urban areas and are more interested in modern amenities and technology. Developers are responding to these preferences by building more modern, tech-enabled properties in city centers.



FOCUS MALAYSIA NEWSPAPER - VERITAS' project the Liberty Arc at Ampang Ukay and its project Principal Zainal Aziz were featured in the Focus Malaysia Newspaper on 18th -24th March.

The International Centre for Islamic Understanding is intended to promote appreciation for Islam and to enhance the continuing growth of Islam's cultural and intellectual history in the international community.

OTHER HAPPENINGS



6TH ANNUAL VERTICAL CITIES 2017 - VERITAS Design Group President David M. Hashim gave a talk at the 6th Annual Vertical Cities Conference 2017 on 7th March 2017 at the Conrad Hotel, Dubai.

David spoke on the subject of Skyscrapers: Creating Mixed-use Urban Spaces in the Vertical City. His case studies comprised of several of our high-rise residential projects. Also present for this talk were Dato' Seth Yap and Datin Lea of M101 San Bhd and 5 executives from UEM Sunrise. VERITAS also hosted a site visit to the Burj Khalifa observation tower and dinner over looking the Business Bay lake.



BRANDLAUREATE AWARD - BRAND DISTINCTION FOR ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN SOLUTIONS AND "MASTER BUILDER OF THE YEAR"

VERITAS was recently awarded "Brand Distinction for Architecture & Design Solutions" and "Master Builder of the Year" by the BrandLaureate Award program for 2017. The award presentation was held at the Majestic Hotel in Kuala Lumpur on 1 March 2017, and was received by VERITAS Design 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.