

GREETINGS, HAPPY HINDU NEW YEAR, HAPPY VAISAKHI and SALAM SATU VERITAS to all our readers!!
 In this month's e-news we are delighted to feature 2 of our projects that have been shortlisted for the Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM) Awards 2015; The Menara Binjai in Kuala Lumpur and the Sinkeh Hotel in Penang.
 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.

The Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM)
 The Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM) Awards is the premier award programme for architectural excellence in Malaysia, recognizing the work of architects in terms of design quality and contribution to the built environment.
 In recognizing that the PAM Awards needed to improve and achieve greater public recognition, higher standards and benchmarks were required. Hence, the format of the Aga Khan Award model was adopted together with the introduction of the five juror system, both locally and internationally selected and headed by the convenor of the award team. There are also technical reviewers who will answer any pertinent queries required by the jurors.
 Reflecting on the awards bestowed since the 1990s, and with the recently restructured format of the PAM Awards program in 2000, the design standards of the awarded projects have shown significant improvement in maturity and thought in their overall concept. This can be attested by some of the more prominent projects in Malaysia which have recently revived PAM awards.

The SINKEH Hotel, Georgetown Penang
 The Sinkeh is a multi-functional arts space and hotel converted from a late 19th century shop house. The design brings together the past and present by inserting a new 3-storey steel pavilion into the rear of a 33m long shop house site.



BEFORE - Used before as a warehouse, the back of the house was deteriorated, justifying a complete rebuilding. The timber joists from the demolished back section were salvaged and recycled to replace worn-down timber structures at the front section.



CONNECTING OLD & NEW - Sinkeh means "newcomer" in Hokkien - a commonly used Chinese dialect in Penang. Thus inspired by the idea of "newcomer", a steel pavilion was inserted into the rear of the old shophouse. The courtyard is where the past and present meet, culminating in the main living-social area facing the decades-old party wall, which is retained and bared to conjure an ambience of the past engaging with the new; a contemporary spatial experience that evokes history.

MENARA BINJAI
 Renewing for the next generation - Originally the site of a private family home, Menara Binjai is an office tower development conceived to maintain the viability of keeping the plot of land within the family. Timber from the trees in the garden of the old 1920's colonial bungalow was harvested and recycled in the new building as a gesture to commemorate the history of the building.



The Urban Window - The "urban window" concept, defined as the building facade facing a view point of the city, is employed in the design of Menara Binjai. The building is crowned by a glass-box "lantern", providing views towards the Petronas Twin Towers.



Innovation: Permeable Curtain Wall - A permeable glass screen creates "a breathable skin" in the curtain wall, allowing prevailing northwesterly breezes to infiltrate the sky gardens, whilst buffering the terrace space from winds and heavy monsoon rain. This "urban verandah" allows building users to experience the tropical setting, a contrast to the typical contained office environment.

Where are we FEATURED?
The Edge Magazine - A Winner Despite A Slow Primary Market

Three of our exciting new projects; The Oxley Towers, The Star Residences and The Angsana Spa & Resort were featured in the 27th April 2015 issue of The Edge Magazine. Also featured was our Group President David Hashim who expressed his views on the real estate development market and about how to create exciting projects that people want to invest in.

A winner despite a slow primary market

After a year of slow growth in the primary market, the real estate industry is beginning to see signs of recovery. This is largely due to the introduction of new projects that offer unique features and amenities. One such project is the Oxley Towers, which has been featured in The Edge Magazine. The project is a prime example of how to create exciting projects that people want to invest in.

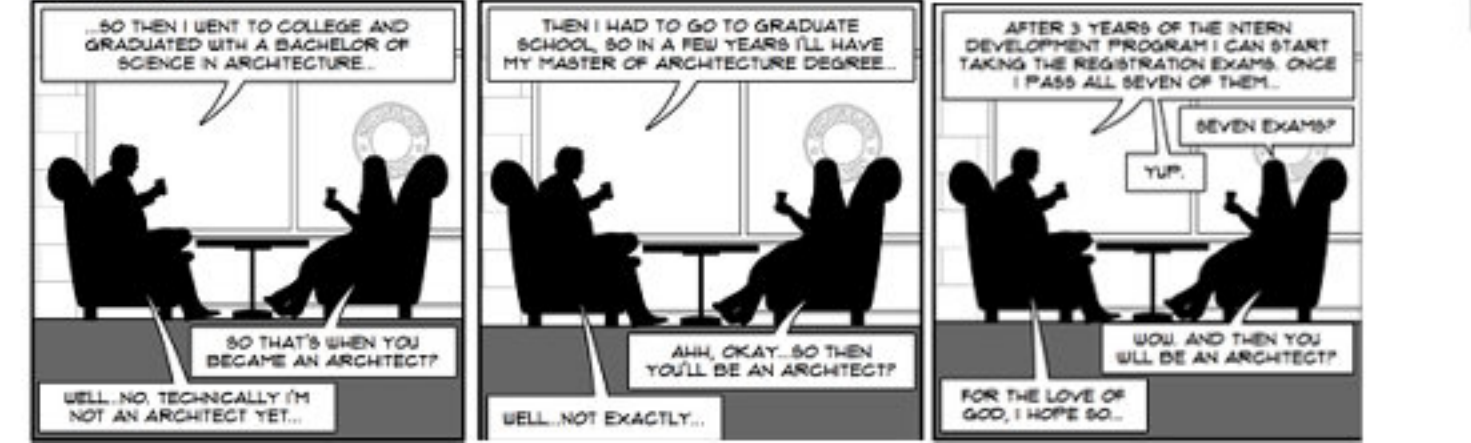
David Hashim
 Group President, VERITAS Design Group



2nd STAFF QUARTERLY MEETING

VERITAS held its second staff quarterly meeting for 2015 on 11th April, at the Menara Lembaga Getah Asli Auditorium. Our Group President David Hashim had a 'Jom!!! Sembang' dialog session with all VERITASians. Afterwards, the Principals of Penang (Eric), Johor Bahru (Shah), VERITAS Planning (Ng), VERITAS Environment (CK), VERITAS Landscape (Khalifah), VERITAS Interiors (Sham), and VERITAS Contracts (Richard) updated the audience on their respective projects.

SKETCHES & SCRIBBLES ARCHITECTS



Coinciding with the Staff Quarterly meeting, the core value awards were presented by David. Zakiyah bt. Subadar from VAKL received the Integrity award, Sukri bin Md. Jali from VERITAS Johor received for Design, Mohd Idris from VERITAS Landscape received for Environment, Nik Hasnini our Group GM received for Audacity, and Mohammad Fauzi from VAKL received for Service. Congratulations to all the awardees for their excellence performance!



METCONX BOOTCAMP - FREE TRIAL

The VERITAS Sports and Social Club (VSSC) organized this long-anticipated fitness/sporting event; "MetconX". The programme is based on combat sports fitness training, modified or adjusted for each individual and their respective fitness levels. This free trial was held on Thursday 16th April 2015, for a one-hour of workout and was attended by 15 VERITASians including Principal Azif Md. Nasaruddin. Well done Azif!! He managed to complete 300 skips, 30 ball tosses, 20 burpees, 20 sit-ups, 20 push-ups and a 1km run.



VERITAS Architects JB "Makan-Makan"

This fun activity was organized by VSSC Johor and was held at Restoran Bakar Bakar at Bandar Baru UDA in Johor Bahru. The staff of VAJB were joined by their family members and everyone had a fun time eating and mingling around. There was also a surprise celebration for their staff Nurulelyana, whose birthday fell on the same date.



WHO'S celebrating their BIRTHDAY this Month?

Nik Hasnini, Omar Zani B T Zainal Abidin, Nor Razaley Bin Nordin, Azlan Mohd Yusof, Lee Suk Cheng (Tammy), Afiq Dinie, Chuah Shang Rong, Hamizah Binti Jaafar, Mohd Azizi Felani Bin Abu Hassan, Anizah Binti Md Ariffen, Yong Chew Wah, Nur Hidayah Yezid, Peter Hubinsky, Yusri Yahya, Winston Ong, Mohamad Salleh

So WHO are the NEWCOMERS at VERITAS?
 Assistant Architect Yap Kean Siang for VERITAS Architect Johor
 Account Assistant Suat May Goh for VERITAS Architect Penang
 Intern Bronia Olorato Gaitsiwe for VERITAS Interiors



Yap Kean Siang Suat May Goh Bronia Olorato

We would like to congratulate our Principal Ms Lillian Tay who was recently elected by Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia (PAM) as its Deputy President for 2015/2016. Lillian and her team will serve as a platform not just for the betterment of the architects' profession, but for our cities and the quality of lives for those who live there; which is the ultimate responsibility and passion of every architect. We wish her all the best!!



VERITAS Sports and Social Club (VSSC) 2015/2016

At the recent Quarterly Meeting, the 2014/2015 VSSC committee led by President Megat Arzuan handed the reigns to the new 2015/2016 team. The new President for the VSSC in 2015/2016 is Hafiz Shah and the Executive President is Alif Arif Iskandar. Vice President and Admin Nina, Games & Charity Exco (Dawindar/Haroon / Syarikin), Admin Exco (Sarah Kamal), Social & Entertainment Exco (Nurul Ain/ Mohd Neezam), Media Exco (Hilman/ Faiz), Sports Exco (Firdaus Ahmat/ Mohd Norazizan/ Ayzad), Logistics Exco (Zaimi Kamdan/ Kamarul). We would like to thank the previous committee members for their awesome energy and commitment!!

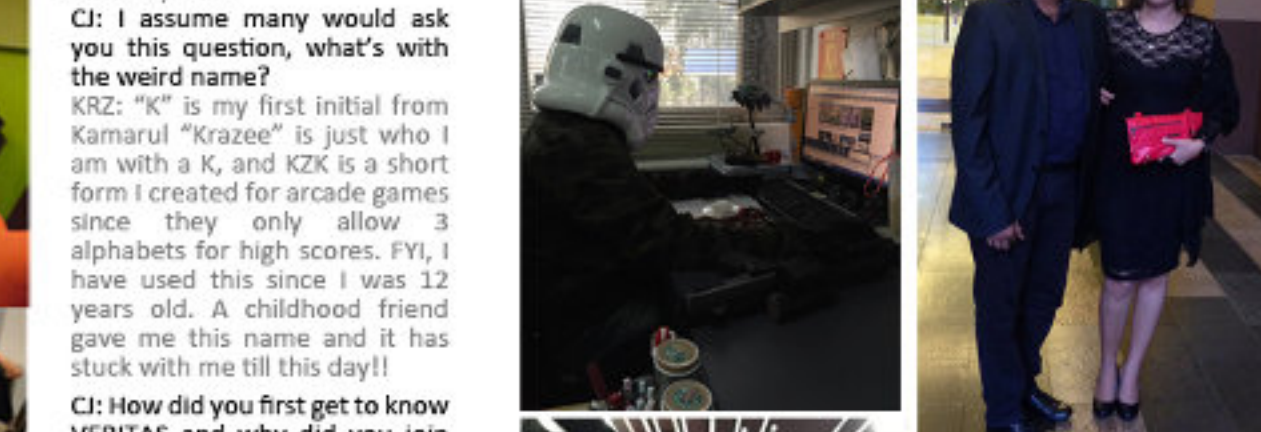


VERITAS Sports and Social Club (VSSC) Family Trip

The VERITAS Sports and Social Club (VSSC) held a short overnight getaway for all VERITASians and their families to the Primaland theme park and resort in Port Dickson on 4th April 2015. Everyone enjoyed the water park, especially the Pirate Ship and they had a wonderful buffet dinner during that evening. We will definitely come back again!!



So WHO is the STAFF OF THE MONTH?
 Our staff of the month for April is Kamarulnizam Ibrahim (KZK), commonly known as just "KraZee_K" among his colleagues and friends. He was a VERITASian from 2004 till 2009 and he rejoined us back in May 2013.



CJ: I assume many would ask you this question, what's with the weird name?
 KRZ: "K" is my first initial from Kamarul "KraZee" is just who I am with a K, and KZK is a short form I created for arcade games since they only allow 3 alphabets for high scores. FYI, I have used this since I was 12 years old. A childhood friend gave me this name and it has stuck with me till this day!!

CJ: How did you first get to know VERITAS and why did you join us?
 KRZ: Let's just say fate brought us together...

CJ: What made you decide to take up a degree in architecture?
 KRZ: I just love to sketch things. Architecture seemed like the right medium to translate ideas into reality for everyone to see, experience and enjoy almost forever. Call it a natural progression... If I wasn't into architecture I'd be happily building the robots I sketch all the time. Wait a minute, I still am capable of it.

CJ: Tell me a little about the projects you are working on right now.
 KRZ: Currently I'm working on a few things, including the Ativo Annex at Sri Damansara. I'm kind of touch-n-go guy and I'll always be available if there's a fire that needs putting out.

CJ: What was your proudest moment working with VERITAS?
 KRZ: The best moment are working together with people of all ages and ethnicity to achieve maximum results while having fun (even though work can be tough sometimes). I'd make a list, but it would be too long. You all know what they are.

CJ: What is your favourite building and why?
 KRZ: The traditional Malay Kampong house, because it always reminds me of the importance of hierarchy, space and response to nature. I love technology, but nothing beats old school stuff.

CJ: Describe VERITAS in your own words?
 KRZ: A place where you can do weird things with some weird people....

CJ: What are your future plans with VERITAS?
 KRZ: Frankly, I just plan to have a good time enjoying working with my friends in this creative business. There is no fate but that which we make for ourselves, but I'll chill since good things come to those who wait...