

- architecture
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- environment

VERITAS

design group

May 2018 newsletter

Hey Everyone! Wishing all a very happy Ramadhan Iftar.

In this month's E-news, we are delighted to present some of VERITAS' recent projects in the Maldives. We are also pleased to feature many exciting events at VERITAS such as our **second quarterly meeting** for 2018 and other interesting activities.

We hope you will 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.

Nala Nala Island Resort



The Nala Nala Resort is one of our **more exciting and original hospitality projects in the Maldives**. The island is small at 6 hectares only but consists of all the idealistic elements of a beach resort.

The project comprises of 56 suites varying between 330-450 sqft and will have amenities such as children play area, spa lounge, pool bar, diving centre and other water sports activities. The centric focus for the **'Slice of Paradise'** concept emanates from the guest room point of reference from the bed to be exact.

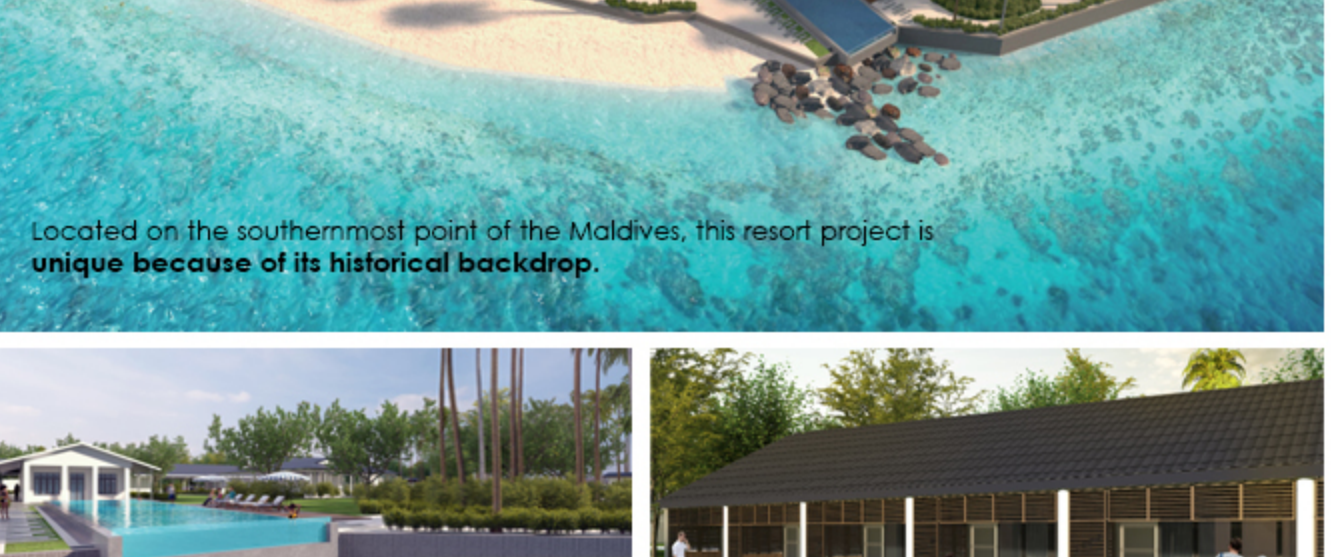


The view toward the beach and sea will be focused by the architectural elements, such as the extruded flanking walls of the rooms. This will create a sense of unity with paradise by spatial extension. Also, the openness of the bath, which is out on the balcony, exudes a metaphorical sense of **'nakedness'** and being at one with nature.

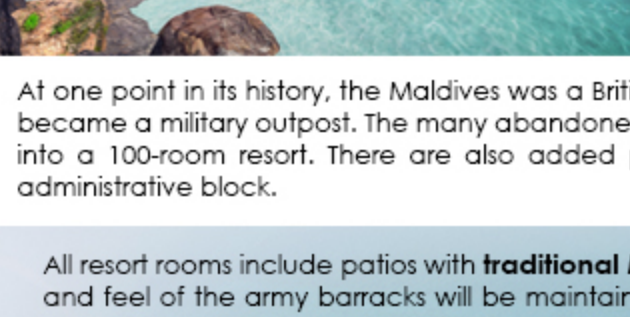


Status: In Progress

Gan Island Resort



Located on the southern point of the Maldives, this resort project is **unique because of its historical backdrop**.



At one point in its history, the Maldives was a British Colony and due to its strategic location, Gan Island became a military resort. The many abandoned barracks are now being **refurbished and converted** into a 100-room resort. There are also added public amenities such as a new swimming pool and administrative block.

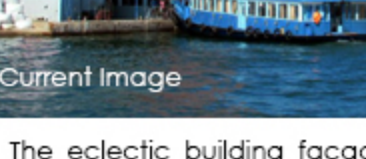
All resort rooms include patios with **traditional Maldivian swing beds** next to the garden. The spirit and feel of the army barracks will be maintained while adapting it to a more conventional resort setting, **targeted to attract both international and local travelers alike while amplifying the historical significance** of what Gan Island once was.



Status: In Progress

Villingili Ferry Terminal, Maldives

Sitting on a 0.9-acre site along the waterfront of Male, the new Villingili ferry terminal building and its mixed-use development of retail and office towers, are designed to replace the existing decrepit ferry station.



Current Image

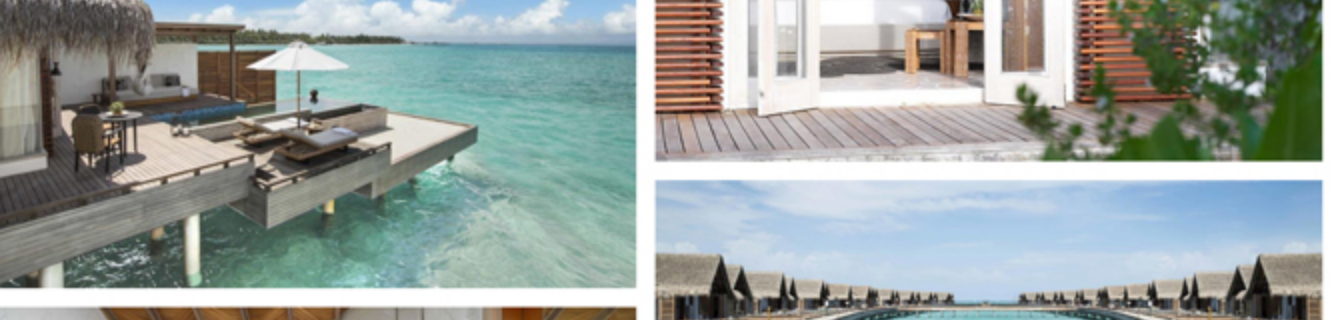
The development with an estimated GFA of 105,000sqft will be built in two phases with the **first phase being the terminal, office tower and partial retail**, and the **second phase accommodating the hotel, F&B and car park**. Whilst the first phase is being constructed, the existing services will be relocated to another venue, and upon completion of the said phase it will be returned.



Status: In Progress

The Fairmount Siru Fen Fushi, Gaakshibee Island, Maldives

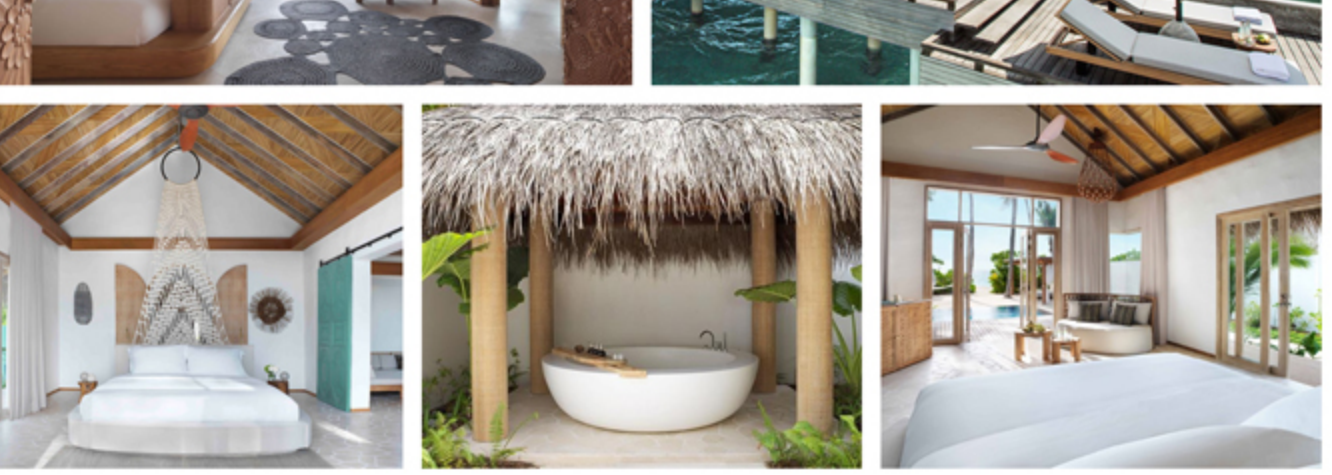
Gaakshibee Island is a tropical paradise fringed by pristine beaches and dense tropical vegetation, surrounded by a rich and varied marine life. Set in the backdrop of tropical splendor, the project is a **5-star resort comprising over-the-water villas and beach villas**, a fully integrated spa, diving and water sports centres and several dining and entertainment outlets.



Status: Completed 2011



That there are only 100 rooms to this 18-hectare island attests to the sanctuary to glorify this resort achieves. **The design of the retreat seeks not to conquer the landscape but to clarify the harmony of the parts** which make up the whole of the realm of Gaakshibee. The various parts seek not to be objects within a landscape but to be a continuity of an unfolding paradise.



The architecture of the resort **embraces the ocean; structures float on the water on stilts**, with nothing standing between the visitor and the ocean. The design is **distinctly tropical modern without being rustic** - the lines are clean, minimalist, uncomplicated. In plan, the island traces the shape of a crescent on the azure Indian Ocean.

OTHER HAPPENINGS

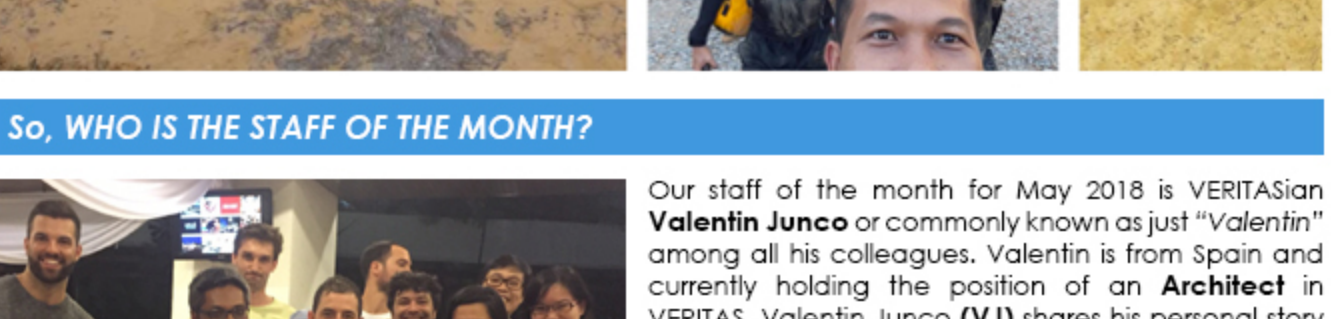
Squid Jigging

On 28th April 2018, VERITAS Johor Social and Sports Club (VJSSC) held a Squid Jigging (fishing) activity off the coast of Pulau Duyung, Terengganu. Seven VERITASians drove up to Terengganu and departed by boat for a one and half hour's journey to a perfect location for squid jigging. Although the rough waves induced seasickness, the team were later contented with the impressive squid haul and memories of the sea adventure.



Medini VIPER Challenge 2018

On 5th May 2018, VERITAS Johor Social and Sports Club (VJSSC) took part in the VIPER Challenge at Medini Iskandar. Nine staff from VERITAS Johor took part in the 12KM course covered by 15 obstacles. They managed to overcome the challenges and reached the finishing line covered in mud but with great satisfaction in completing the race.



So, WHO IS THE STAFF OF THE MONTH?

Our staff of the month for May 2018 is **Valentin Valentin Junco** or commonly known as just "Valentin" among all his colleagues. Valentin is from Spain and currently holding the position of an **Architect** in VERITAS. Valentin Junco (VJ) shares his personal story with Venuthan Ganasan (VG).

(VG): How would describe working in VERITAS in a Movie Title? and Why?
(VJ): "From Dusk Till Dawn". Some days things can suddenly become frantic and occasionally work will not be over until dawn. But no matter how tough it is I enjoy doing what I do. It is very refreshing.

(VG): What's your passion or hobby?
(VJ): My passion is definitely travelling and discovering new places and experiencing them with someone special. My friends are of course included in this category. My hobbies are, among others, breathing clean air outside of a busy city; reading (but not necessarily books), listening to music (especially instrumental and classical) and football (playing or watching), though I am sadly retired from that sport.

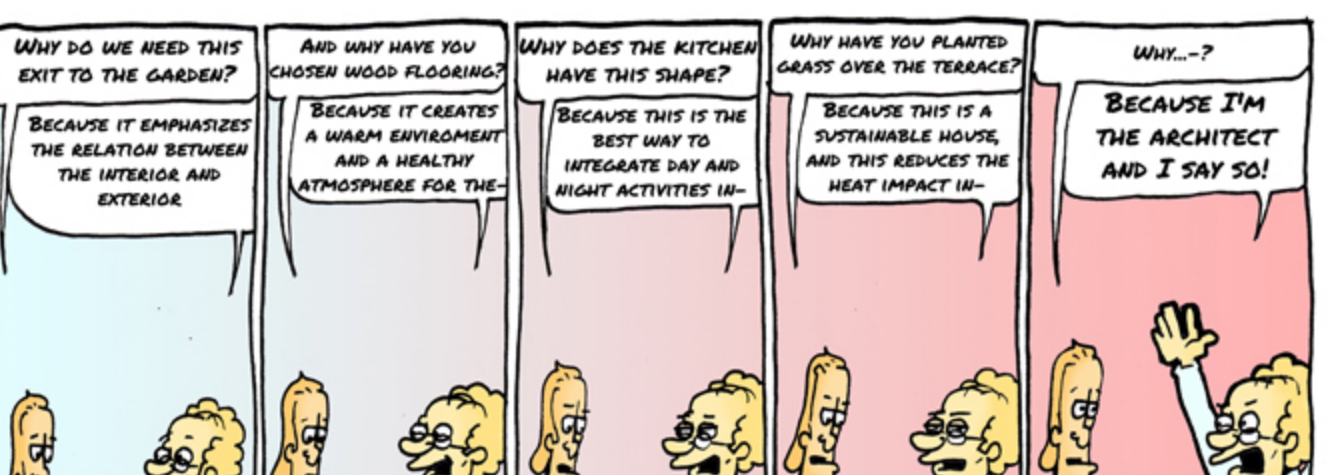
(VG): What inspired you to become an Architect?
(VJ): My grandfather was an architect, my father as well, so I guess I did not have much of a choice. Haha! I grew up playing around at my dad's office, stealing the pencils from the draftsman and destroying the mock-ups models. However, I have always been truly concerned about the poor environmental condition of many areas / districts, therefore enhancing communities' environment and regenerating spaces, in all senses, is a must for as an architect. If I have the opportunity, I would design Social Housing, schools, hospitals and transportation for the rest of my life. We shall see...

(VG): Do you like the working culture in VERITAS? How do you think we can improve our working culture?
(VJ): I am genuinely happy working in VERITAS. This teamwork culture helps me to learn something new every day from my colleagues. I can share my design and technical skills as well as my experience to help VERITAS to reach its objectives and grow together. I prefer getting straight to the point on issues. I believe good decisions do not need a long to be made. All we need is a careful reflection and a committed team.

(VG): Where do you see yourself in another 5 years?
(VJ): When you look far beyond, one day you may realize you were too busy pursuing something and missed living during the sailing. To me the essential point is to walk the journey more than reaching the hill. Professionally, to offer the best possible design and solutions to everyone fills up my expectations and when that is achieved the position I am holding does not worry me too much. It is like in a football match: winning makes you happy but playing brilliant and having fun while doing it is even better. I could accept a draw at the end.

(VG): Which Malaysian scenic building you would want to introduce Spanish architectural features and why?
(VJ): I love Petronas Twin Towers. I will not touch a single piece of it to be changed. To me, Malaysia has remarkable buildings and the architectural influence such as the Malay house and the variations is simply

amazing. I see it as the outcome of a specific location, culture and natural conditions. I believe very strong traditional roots are always tied to the land and the community. Like any other good traditional architecture influence it is logical, respectful with perfect with the environment. Many modern buildings can fit to any city while the traditional architecture is very specific. My aim will be to design beautiful and useful modern buildings but somehow with the influence of local culture.



WHERE ARE WE FEATURED

Has digital rendering improved architecture?
By Farouq...
Digital rendering has revolutionized the way architects present their ideas. It allows for more detailed and realistic visualizations of buildings and landscapes, helping clients and stakeholders better understand the design process. This technology has also enabled architects to experiment with different materials and colors, leading to more innovative and visually appealing designs. However, some argue that digital rendering can be overused, leading to a loss of the tactile and experiential qualities of physical models and drawings. The key is to find a balance between digital and traditional design methods.

WHAT'S HAPPENING @ VERITAS?



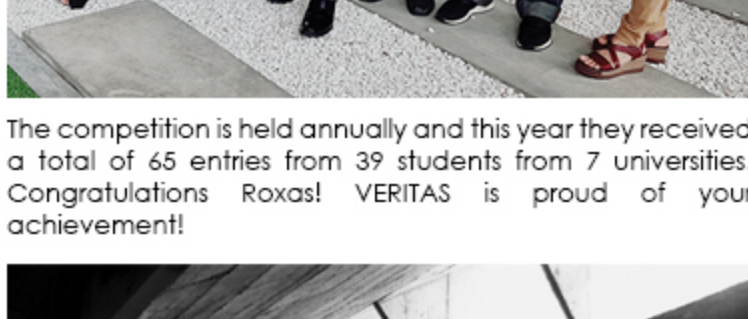
JLand Wins Property Guru Awards

On 26th April 2018, VERITAS' project Menara JLand won two Property Guru Awards. Menara JLand was the winner of the **Best Office Development Award** and was **Highly Commended for the Best Green Development Award**. The awards event was held at the Intercontinental Hotel, KL and was attended by VERITAS Group President David Hashim, VERITAS JB Principal Shah Jaafar and Project Architect Mohamed Nadzeem Abdullah. Congratulations to VERITAS JB for this achievement!



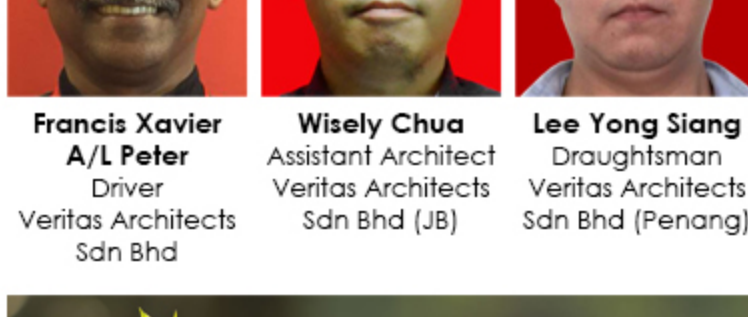
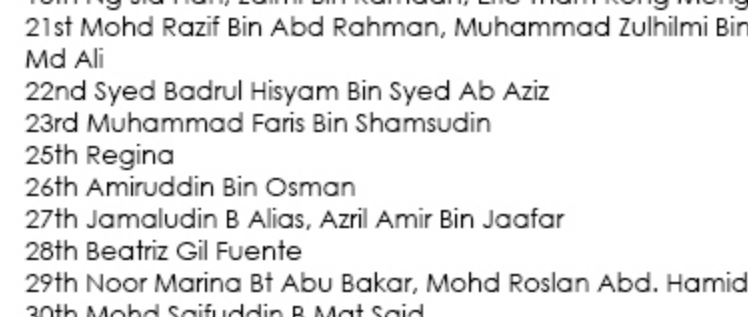
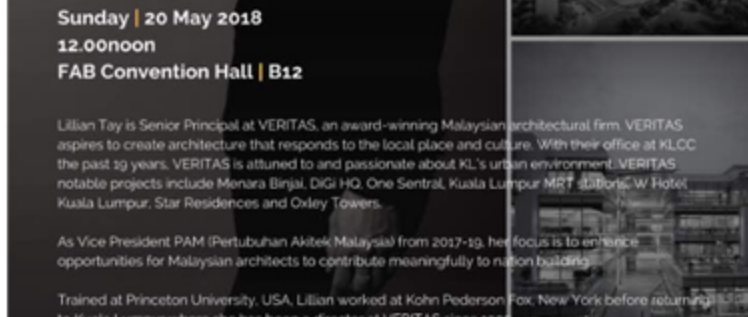
Annual PAM-ZSR Architectural Design Competition

VERITAS Architect's, Roxas Yong Song Zhe, was selected as one of the winners of part 1 category of a design competition held by PAM in collaboration with Z&SR Ventures Sdn Bhd. Roxas designed a **Library Café** which was initiated by the demand of Guest House by the Client, along Jalan Pudu Lama at KL. On 3rd May 2018, Roxas and VERITAS Principal Lillian Tay attended the prize giving ceremony held in Z&SR Ventures new office at Melawati Corporate Centre.



Taylor's Double Lecture Series

As part of the Strategic Alliance between VERITAS Design Group and Taylor's University School of Architecture and Building Designs (SABD), semester 4 students will be participating in a design competition sponsored by the VERITAS Fund for Excellence (VFE). While VERITAS will be providing senior architects and designers to provide advice and input throughout the design process, contestants will compete for cash prizes and a 1-year contract as an Assistant Architect. The design brief will be developed together by both parties and will focus on the importance of a sustainable thinking.



Later, the new VERITAS Sports and Social Club (VSSC) committee were introduced and a short presentation of activities planned for 2018/2019 was described by the new President, Meqat Ariffin. Next up were more project updates from VERITAS Interiors, Planning, Contracts and Landscape. The meeting ended at 12:30pm with a mouth-watering Indian cuisine luncheon.

ARCHITECTS & ARCHITECTURE

Community & Country

Ar. Lillian Tay
Veritas Architects Sdn Bhd

Why Malaysia?
Dr. Miguel Angel Robles-Cardona

Sunday | 30 May 2018
12.00noon
FAB Convention Hall | B2

Lillian Tay is Senior Principal at VERITAS, an award-winning Malaysian architecture firm. VERITAS is known for creating architecture that responds to the local place and culture. Her projects include KLCC, 16th Floor Azlina Binti Mohd Ismail, 17th St. Jemaah BT Mansor, 16th Ng Jia Han, Zamini Bin Kamdan, Eric Tham Kong Meng, 21st Mohd Razif Bin Abd Rahman, Muhammad Zulhimi Bin Md Ali, 22nd Syed Badrul Hisyam Bin Syed Ab Aziz, 23rd Muhammad Faris Bin Shamsudin, 25th Regina, 26th Amiruddin Bin Osman, 27th Jamaluddin B Alias, Azil Amir Bin Jaafar, 28th Beatriz Gil Fuentetaja, 29th Noor Marina BT Abu Bakar, Mohd Roslan Abd. Hamid, 30th Mohd Sofianudin B Maf Sid, 31st AdhiraAdnan Adnan, David Mizan Hashim

WHO'S CELEBRATING THEIR BIRTHDAY ~ May

2nd Zalfri Bin Shahriman
4th Muhammad Radhi B Rosnan
5th Wong Yuet Lin (Josephine)
12th Valentin Junco Hernaiz
13th Zaharudin Mohd Yunus
16th Noor Azlina Binti Mohd Ismail
17th St. Jemaah BT Mansor
16th Ng Jia Han, Zamini Bin Kamdan, Eric Tham Kong Meng
21st Mohd Razif Bin Abd Rahman, Muhammad Zulhimi Bin Md Ali
22nd Syed Badrul Hisyam Bin Syed Ab Aziz
23rd Muhammad Faris Bin Shamsudin
25th Regina
26th Amiruddin Bin Osman
27th Jamaluddin B Alias, Azil Amir Bin Jaafar
28th Beatriz Gil Fuentetaja
29th Noor Marina BT Abu Bakar, Mohd Roslan Abd. Hamid
30th Mohd Sofianudin B Maf Sid
31st AdhiraAdnan Adnan, David Mizan Hashim

So, WHO ARE THE NEWCOMERS @ VERITAS?

Francis Xavier A/L Peter
Driver
Veritas Architects Sdn Bhd

Wisely Chua
Assistant Architect
Veritas Architects Sdn Bhd (JB)

Lee Yong Siang
Draftsman
Veritas Architects Sdn Bhd (Penang)

"You cannot hope to build a better world without improving the individuals. To that end, each of us must work for our own improvement."

- Maria Curie

