

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.

July 2012

In this month's e-news, we are delighted to feature an in-depth expose into some of our un-built projects and competition entries. It is a sad truth that much of what is designed in an architectural practice never sees the light of day. Either the project is a losing competition entry or for many other reasons it fails to take off. At VERITAS, despite these set-backs we are proud of every un-built project undertaken, and secretly anticipate that maybe one day, some of them will be "resurrected"!!

We shall also feature other interesting happenings here at VERITAS such as our recent Design Review, 3rd Quarterly meeting and other activities/events.

WHAT'S NEW in VERITAS?

Menara Mulpha, Jalan Sultan Ismail, Kuala Lumpur



In collaboration with Kohn Pederson Fox Associates, United States of America, Menara Mulpha is a 30-storey high office tower located in the shadow of the Kuala Lumpur Twin Towers, within the high-rise zone of the Kuala Lumpur city centre.



Located on a square site, Menara Mulpha's floor plan is a truncated ellipse with its tapered point orientated towards the streetfront.

At street level, this tapered point folds upwards to become the canopy of the drop-off area on the ground floor and subsequently transforms with every floor, gradually widening and narrowing to create interest on the facade. The glass curtain wall of the facade are bound by an alucobond edge that nearly completely enfolds the tapered tip of the elevation.

The glass and metal spandrel panels along the facade of the building give it a strong sense of scale.

The project obtained approved from city hall in 2008 but the land was sold and the new owner has unfortunately decided to construct a residential tower instead.

Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), Jalan Duta, 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 structure expressed on the façade, giving definition where the curved curtain wall panels blur them.

Where the tower opens up to reveal sky gardens the unbroken lines of this façade seen from a far 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.



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RHB Corporate Headquarters, Jalan Tun Razak, Kuala Lumpur



An assemblage of different volumes giving expression to the different components of the RHB group, the headquarters begin on the ground floor with a united street front, evolving into disparate volumes of different height, texture and character.

Louvers are the single architectural feature that unites them all. The tallest tower is a simple rectangular box with a screen of metal louvers of changing density and proportion, supported by vertical load bearing structures on the face of the building. A free-form geometric box is suspended between 2 towers, its faceted panels alternating between full height glass and louvred screens. Sky gardens are designed with a trellis of repetitive portals alluding to enlarged louvers.

This scheme was VERITAS entry in a limited design competition, the result of which have yet to be announced.

Sapura Corporate Headquarters, Kuala Lumpur City Centre

Located within the tyoned ring of buildings around KLCC Park, the building form takes inspiration from a tyed sarong. 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 interest of an intricate pattern. This scheme was VERITAS entry in a limited design competition, which was unfortunately, not selected by the Jury.

Is there anything HAPPENING?

VERITAS Project Review: AIR ASIA HOUSE



Date: 12 July 2012 / Thursday
Time: 1-2pm
Location: Conference Room VERITAS HQ

This internal project review featured guest speaker, Robert Powell, who is a renowned architect, planner, artist and writer whose books include various monographs and publications such as Monument (Aus) and Dialogue (Twn).

The project being reviewed was the AirAsia House, the corporate headquarters of Malaysia's premier airline.

The review was a lively affair with debates and opinions strongly presented and defended.

In summary, it was a successful event which also resulted in many positive suggestions for improvement.

VERITAS 3RD QUARTERLY MEETING



We held our 3rd staff quarterly meeting for 2012 on 14 July. The meeting kick-started with a warm welcome to all the new staff who recently joined the VERITAS family. VERITAS Group CEO David Hashim presented our latest Planning Pyramid and explained in detail the meaning of one of our key Brand Promises – "unique client experience". The challenge of this promise is to create new, refreshing, and valuable client interactions which become part of the total package of our value-added professional service.

There was a special guest appearance by Datuk A.K. Nathan, Managing Director of Eversendai Berhad, who enlightened us on "Change". He spoke extensively about "change to make a difference" and covered issues such as self realisation and the importance of positive personal development.

A birthday bash for VERITASians was held during lunch followed by the traditional cutting of birthday cakes.

so WHO's the STAFF OF THE MONTH?

Su Vin has been with the company for over a year now. We decided to get to know her better since she is staff of the month! She has been working with VERITAS Architects Kuala Lumpur since December 2011 as an assistant architect and writer of our forth-coming monograph.



Komathi Ramakrishna (KR) gets in-depth info about Lau Su Vin (LSV)

KR: What made you decide to take up an architectural degree?
LSV: It was based on misguided advice from a few well-meaning uncles ("architects earn a lot of money"), a process of elimination based on subjects I hated in the Pure Science stream of Secondary School, and the faith of a teacher who singled me out because I 'have what it takes'.

KR: Tell me a little about the project that you are working on:
LSV: The VERITAS monograph is a compilation of all our significant projects framed within the context of local practice and international aspirations. It's a big book, 368 pages and counting and we are working to get it out in time for the company's 25th birthday :-)

KR: What was your proudest moment working in VERITAS?
LSV: The moment I held the first copy of the 1st VERITAS Monograph, which I also helped write.

KR: What is your favourite building and why?
LSV: In KL, it's the one right across our office, with the park, bookstore, art gallery, and resident complex, and I like it because it has all that. ~ KLCC tower!!

KR: What do your family think about your career choice?
LSV: They had no idea what they were getting me into. Suffice to say there won't be any other future architects in the brood of my extended family.

KR: What are your interests/hobbies?
LSV: Reading, sketching, painting, swimming, running, yoga, eating. Working in architecture has made me appreciate sleeping a lot more too.

KR interviews her close friend Hairul Nizar Pardi (HNP)
HNP: Su Vin is very friendly, dedicated and a perfectionist. And she's really wacky at times!!

HOME

CONTACT



WHAT'S NEW elsewhere?

Explosive ideas - A group of Malaysians will showcase their ideas at the Venice's premier architectural showcase in World's next month.



But how can torn palm leaves, bent rattan and a Rubik's cube inspire ideas for cutting-edge building designs?

For more information on the 13th Venice Biennale for Architecture, which runs from August 29 to November 25, go to labiennale.org/en/architecture

WHERE are we FEATURED?

Menara Binjai - The Star, Friday 13 2012



Power towers: Menara Binjai off Jalan Ampang in Kuala Lumpur.

British to move mission

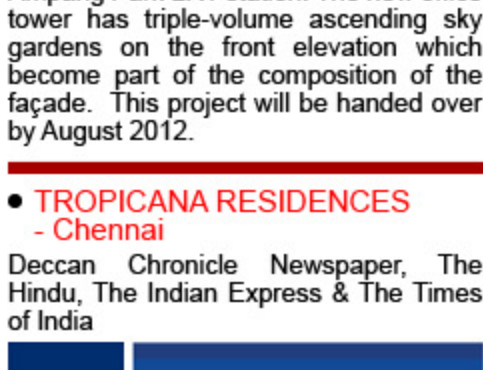
High Commission to be on 27th floor of Menara Binjai next year

The British High Commission of Malaysia is relocating to the brand new Menara Binjai, Kuala Lumpur designed by VERITAS. Menara Binjai will accommodate all the high commission staff on a single floor within a modern, efficiently designed and predominantly open office plan. Coincidentally, VERITAS has also been appointed by the U.K. Foreign office to design this new High Commission!

Menara Binjai is constructed on the site of the Clients' family home. Part of the lot is reclaimed by public amenities such as the Ampang Park LRT station. The new office tower has triple-volume ascending sky gardens on the front elevation which become part of the composition of the facade. This project will be handed over by August 2012.

TROPICANA RESIDENCES - Chennai

Deccan Chronicle Newspaper, The Hindu, The Indian Express & The Times of India



One of our exciting new residential gated-community projects; the "Tropicana Residence" was officially launched on the 27th June 2012 in Chennai, India. The Tropicana Residences in Chennai is a unique and exclusive residential address inspired by the elements of nature and the quiet tranquility of its surrounding landscape.

New launches



The Tropicana Residences will represent a new benchmark in luxury gated communities in South India. Vastu Veda, the traditional Hindu system of design based on directional alignments is used as a guide for this design.

Fifteen luxurious bungalows are intricately woven into a fabric of pedestrian walkways, lush vegetation, water features, street furniture and parks to achieve an environment of perfect harmony.

The Tropicana Residences for Rajeswari Foundation Pte Ltd is currently under construction and is expected to be completed by mid of 2013. This project was featured at the Deccan Chronicle Newspaper, The Hindu, The Indian Express & The Times of India.

With an international touch



VERITAS RAMADHAN BUKA PUASA



On the 26th July 2012, the management of VERITAS organized the annual "Buka Pusa" or "breaking of fast" at the Seri Melayu Restaurant on Jalan Conlay. A delicious buffet spread of local delicacies and western cuisine was prepared, and a large attendance of VERITASians ensured that the event was a big success!

so WHO are the NEWCOMERS at VERITAS?

Welcome on board new VERITASians: trainee students from Spain for VERITAS Architects Kuala Lumpur Pablo David Devera & Joaquin Moneo Tirapu ; for VERITAS Johor Guillermo Arza Ortao & Georgina Guiu Morros and for VERITAS Penang Antonio Robles & Pablo De Orueta.

BIRTHDAY GREETING

For July 2012, we would like to wish a Happy Birthday to:-

Ung Eng Kheng, Cham Sew Choo, Ahmad Kamaruzaman bin Muhammad, Adibah binti Abdullah, Gurdish Kaur Shingara Singh, Aziz bin Md Nasaruddin, Azizi bin Mohamad, Ng Yiek Seng, Ta Kok Chang, Nozaima bin Mahadi, Raja Azriq Azwan bin Raja Hussin, Yeong Mun Yee, Muhd Hafiz bin Zainal Abidin, Nurul Atiqah Ahmad Fauzi, Muhammad Nasoha bin Jobshi, Alif Abrar bin Mohamed Rosli, Nuwizar Jezi bin Ibrahim, Suhaimi bin Saat & Tin Mei Mei.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH



"Battles in life are never won. Life is a continuous business and so is success, and requires continuous effort."

~ Margaret Thatcher, British former Prime Minister

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.