

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.

• August 2012

Eid Mubarak! Selamat Hari Raya and a warm Merdeka greeting to all our readers!!

In this month's e-news, in conjunction with the celebration of Eid (Hari Raya), we are delighted to feature some of our projects in Malaysia and overseas which are inspired by the ideals of Islam and Islamic culture. As a Malaysian design practice, especially one which is active in the Middle-East, we have evolved to be highly cognizant of the principals of Islamic art and architecture.

Veritas founder and current Group President David Mizan Hashim, is a recipient of the prestigious Aga Khan travel fellowship, and his insight into Islamic principles of design has influenced all the projects featured here.

ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE



Islamic architecture encompasses a wide range of both secular and religious styles from the foundation of Islam to the present day, influencing the design and construction of buildings and structures in Islamic culture.

The principal Islamic architectural types are: the Mosque, the Tomb, the Palace and the Fort. A specifically recognisable Islamic architectural style emerged soon after Muhammad S.A.W time, developing from localized adaptations of Egyptian, Byzantine, and Persian/Sassanid models.

Distinguishing motifs of Islamic architecture have always been ordered repetition, radiating structures, and rhythmic, metric patterns. In this respect, fractal geometry has been a key utility, especially for mosques and palaces.

Other significant features employed as motifs include columns, piers and arches, organized and interwoven with alternating sequences of niches and colonnettes.

• UTP (Universiti Teknologi Petronas) Mosque, Tronoh, Perak



The Universiti Teknologi Petronas mosque at Tronoh, Perak has a capacity of 4000 congregation to serve the students and public. 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 of the Islamic doctrine yet cognizant of the advent globalization.



Beginning from a floating pedestal, the bulbous base to underside of each of the 80 small domes, culminating in a bell-shaped kutbah under which the soaring main prayer hall rises. The result is that part of the pedestal of the mosque appears to float on cascading water, whilst the rest of the mosque simple reflected on the lake's serene surface. The project was completed in 2006.

• WIEF (World Islamic Economic Forum), Kuala Lumpur

The WIEF office in Kuala Lumpur is the regional headquarters for the OIC (Organization of the Islamic Conference) business network. Despite its Islamic background, the offices of the WIEF portray a universal and global business nature.



The material choices were mainly of fine timber finishes that exude confidence and tradition. Refined silk curtains and plush carpets add to the luxurious feel that these offices suggest.

Islamic motifs are suffused within the general international look thus achieving a character that is reflective and singular.

A modern and minimalist character within the cabinetry, fit-out and fittings of the interior gives a sense of comfort and familiarity to these corporate offices.

The project was completed in 2008.

• Dubai Islamic Bank, Dubai

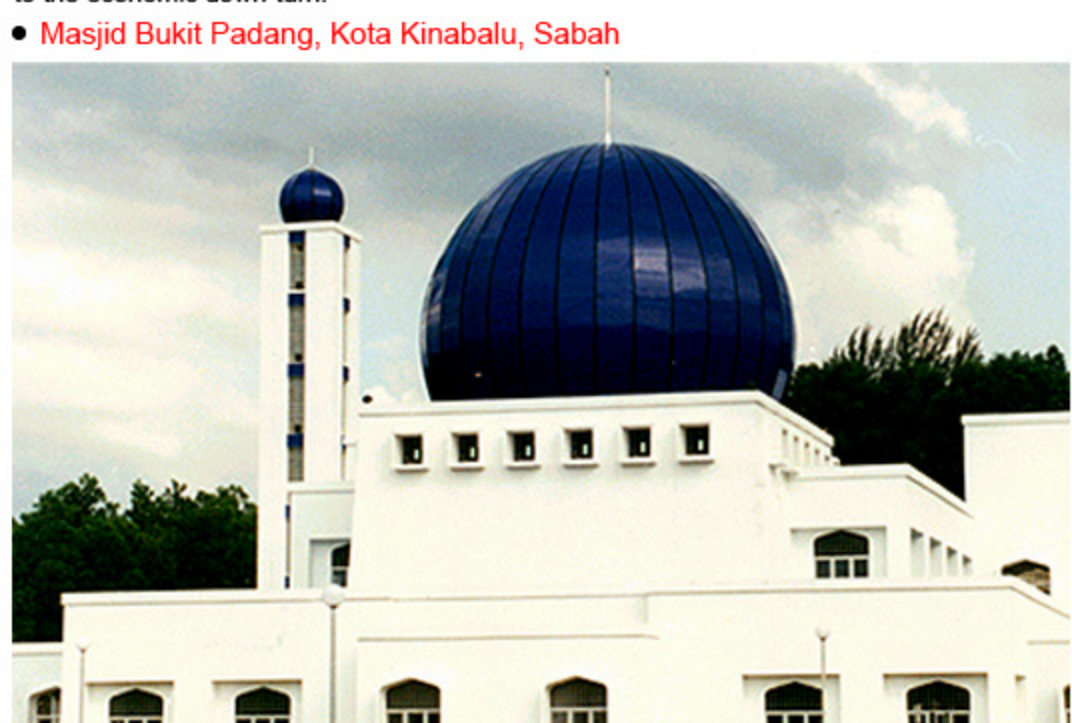


The Dubai Islamic Bank Headquarters; a 42-storey building will be located on Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Road in the prestigious Central Business District of Dubai.

The building embodies a rotating transformation. A series of sun-shaded and landscaped sky gardens rise in step with the ascending shards each connected to the next by a flight of stairs.

The high-tech louvered glazing of the shards brings in the maximum amount of sunlight while omitting thermal transmission, further enhancing the sectional visibility between the shards and giving occupants a sense of height and placement. The result is an iconic structure which also sets a new environmental standard for Dubai. Construction was suspended in 2008 due to the economic down-turn.

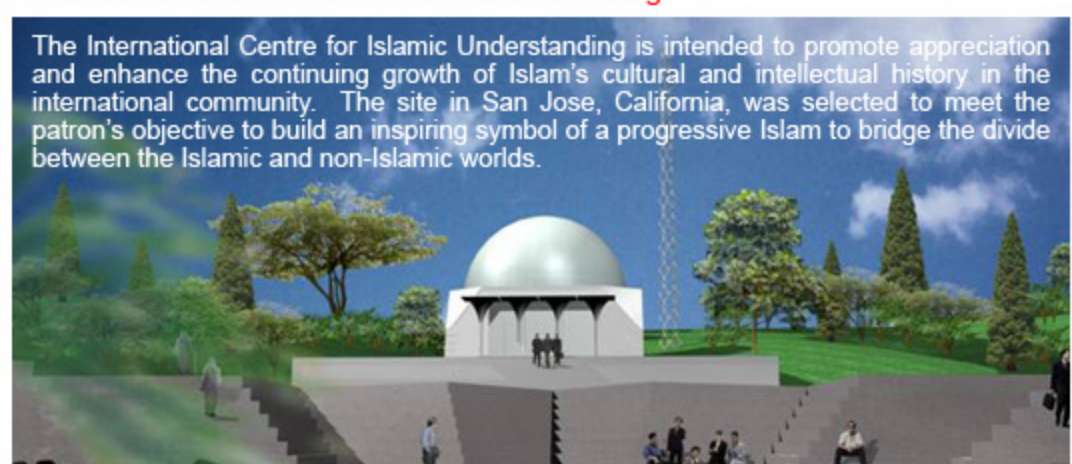
• Masjid Bukit Padang, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah



The Masjid Bukit Padang is a 60,000 sq. ft. double-storey congregational mosque for 2000 persons capacity with ancillary facilities, designed in a traditional symmetrical layout with a courtyard and garden while retaining a modern influence in its architectural detailing for Jabatan Pembangunan Persekutuan Sabah. The building is located in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. This project was completed in 1996.

• International Center For Islamic Understanding

The International Centre for Islamic Understanding is intended to promote appreciation and 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 patron's objective to build an inspiring symbol of a progressive Islam to bridge the divide between the Islamic and non-Islamic worlds.



VERITAS developed the master plan with the Malaysian Institute of Islamic Understanding or IKIM. Including 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.

HOME

CONTACT



• ANNOUNCEMENT



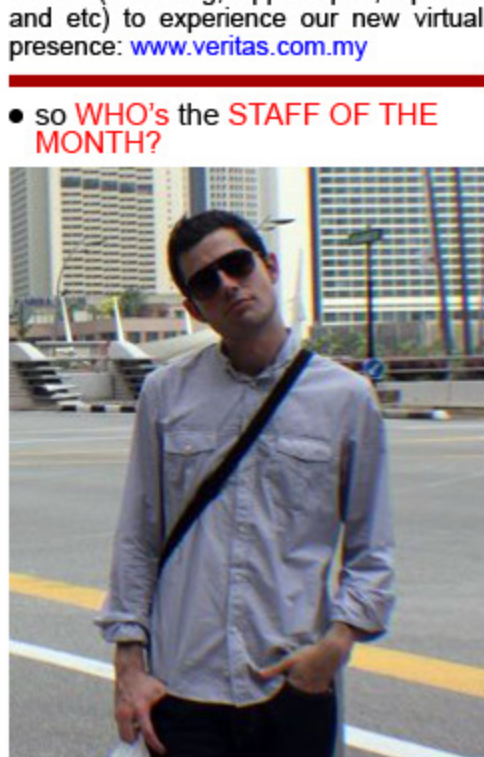
Merdeka Celebration - We would like to inform our Clients and business associates that our office will be closed for business on the 31st of August for the Merdeka Celebration. We will resume business on the 3rd of September.

We take this opportunity again to wish a Happy Independence Day to all our readers.

• WEBSITE

In recognition of the ever-changing tide of trends and Client interests, VERITAS is introducing an exciting new look and feel of our corporate mobile site. Please click on the following link using any Android device (Samsung, Apple I-pad, I-phone and etc) to experience our new virtual presence: www.veritas.com.my

• so WHO's the STAFF OF THE MONTH?



Latha Ramasamy (LR) gets in-depth info about Juan Jesus (JJ)

LR : Where did you graduate from, and when?

JJ : I graduated from Spain's Granada's University in early 2011

LR : Why did you decide to become an architect?

JJ : Because of my father. He's actually a primary school teacher, but he decided to start studying quantity surveying as a hobby. My interest in buildings grew from my curiosity about his "hobby!"



LR : Which building inspired you the most at the first look, and why?

JJ : The pantheon in Rome. Just thinking about how many centuries ago it was built and how we keep on using many of the principles they were using then. It's so inspiring.

LR : Where are you from, and how did you end-up in Malaysia?

JJ : Ahh.... Spain!! I knew one of your architects Sara Franco in Madrid and we kept in touch and she persuaded me to join VERITAS.



LR : How would you describe VERITAS in less than 10 words?

JJ : A vital learning experience on many levels.

LR : Which projects are you currently involved in?

JJ : Right now I'm working on a proposal for NAZA TTDI in Cyberjaya and also the Little India Project Brickfields for MRCB



LR : What is your favorite quote in life?

JJ : Whatever you give to life, it gives you back.

• so WHO are the NEWCOMERS at VERITAS?

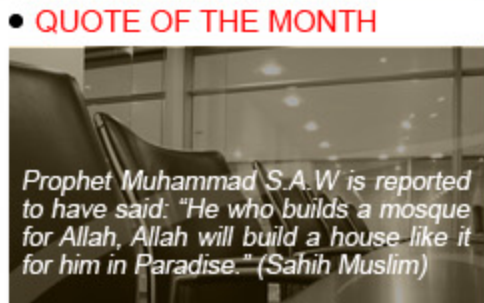
Welcome on board new VERITASians: project architect Chris Yeo Hoa Chiang, assistant architect Chuah Shang Rong and Wan Mohd Nizam for VERITAS Architects Kuala Lumpur. Practical Trainee Syed Kamil Nafis B. Syed Yusof & Brian Adam Pratama for Veritas Interiors.

• BIRTHDAY GREETING

We would like to wish a very Happy Birthday to:-

Che Amaludin Bin Che Harun, David Eric Woshinsky, Dawindar Singh Resham Singh, Hairulnizar B. Pardi, Hamed Tabatabaei, Jimmy Othman, Latha Ramasamy, Liew Chee Thung @ Thomas Liew, Mohd Arif B.Mohd Yaakob, Mohd Ashfaq Sofian Bin Mohd Rashid, Noorhisham Bin Mokhtar, Nor Hasrina Binti Jaafar, Nurulhuda Binti Mohd Non, Saniah Binti Ibrahim, Teng Kuang Joo & Wan Zalelawati Binti Wan Mohamed

• QUOTE OF THE MONTH



We hope you enjoy this month's VERITAS e-news!

And would you not hesitate to contact us if you please don't know more about any of the stories featured here.

