

# VERITAS

## design group

September 2017 Enewsletter

theveritasdesigngroup.com

- architecture
- planning
- interior design
- landscape design
- quantity surveying
- environment

### Good Day to all our VERITAS readers!

In this month's E-news, we are excited to feature VERITAS' 30th Anniversary Celebration, which was held at the Hilton Hotel Kuala Lumpur on 24th August 2017. We were also pleased to feature the CITYSCAPE Global Awards 2017 in which VERITAS won two prestigious prizes.

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.

### VERITAS' 30th ANNIVERSARY

We celebrated our 30th anniversary event on 24th August 2017 in a big way. The gala anniversary celebration was held at the Grand Ballroom of the Hilton Hotel Kuala Lumpur, and was graced by the Minister of Federal Territories, YB Datuk Seri Utama Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor as guest of honor.



Also attending were 400 senior representatives of major development companies, ambassadors, Kuala Lumpur's social elite, associates and friends of VERITAS Principals.

With the ballroom draped in black, guests were treated to a special video presentation, which illustrated the company's multicultural team and the past three decades of hard work and accomplishments.

In conjunction with the 30-year jubilee, the Minister officially launched the latest VERITAS "Monograph", which showcases the many projects completed by the firm over the last 30 years. The monograph will soon be available in bookstores worldwide.

Adding drama to the event, VERITAS presented a donation of RM30,000 to the Malaysian Nature Society (MNS). The cheque was presented by VERITAS Group President David Hashim to IR Shanmugraj Subramaniam, Executive Director of MNS.



### THE VERITAS MONOGRAPH

The VERITAS "Monograph" is a publication of our works, showcasing the many significant projects we have undertaken between 1987 and 2017. The work of VERITAS strives to connect the confluences of the social, cultural and economic context of the times in artistic discourse.

The Monograph represents the evolution of VERITAS in the fields of architecture, interior design, landscape design, planning, quantity surveying, project management and environmental consulting over the last 30 years.

The monograph will soon be available at local and international bookstores. For any enquiries on the book, please contact us at [arch@theveritasdesigngroup.com](mailto:arch@theveritasdesigngroup.com)

### WHAT'S HAPPENING @ VERITAS?



### CITYSCAPE AWARDS

VERITAS Design Group is the winner of two First Prizes at the CITYSCAPE Global Awards 2017 in the "Low-rise Commercial" and "Sustainability" categories, both for the PKNS HQ in Shah Alam, Malaysia.

The award was presented to VERITAS Design Group Principal Azril Amir Jaafar at a gala award ceremony held on 11th September 2017, at the Conrad Hotel Dubai, UAE. The PKNS HQ also earlier received the Malaysian Institute of Architects (PAM) Gold Award 2017 (Low-rise Commercial) and awards from CNBC Property and Property Insight.

The PKNS HQ also achieved both Malaysia's Green Building Index (GBI) Platinum rating and LEED Platinum rating from the US Green Building Council.

### THE AWARD WINNING PROJECT

Located in the heart of the Shah Alam's administrative centre, the Selangor State Development Corporation Headquarters is sited at the edge of a man-made lake. The building is an array of office blocks varying in breadth between 10 to 15 meters in length sheltered by an ascending green roof.



The space between the blocks and courtyard are lit from above by louvered skylights cut into the green roof. These alternating public zones negate the connection between lake and the urban streetscape of Shah Alam becoming a series of naturally lit and ventilated visual corridors.

The edge of the oversailing roof extends over the street intersection, addressing the double-frontage of the street corner in a direct and elegant gesture. The green roof also serves as an eco-friendly form of insulation for the roof cover.

Programmatically, retail areas are planned along the streetscape's front to create a natural funnel for pedestrian flow by way of engaging the street. The building's facade is a bar code reminiscent of VERITAS signature lines.

### "Malaysian TOD Journey, the Way Forward"



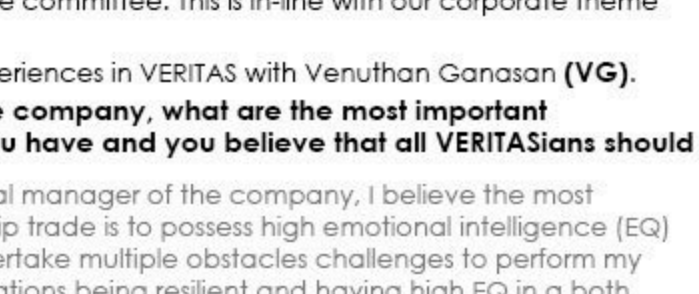
On 14th September 2017, VERITAS Principal Ng Yiek Seng presented his thoughts on TOD (Transit-Oriented Development) and what makes it successful, using case-study projects that VERITAS is currently undertaking.

The Transit Oriented Development Seminar: "Sharing the UK Experience" was held at Hilton Hotel KL Sentral. Ng's presentation was entitled "Malaysian TOD Journey, The Way Forward". Ng also further elaborated on MRT stations that were designed by VERITAS.

### Celebration of World Rivers Day



On 24th September 2017, VERITAS Group President David Hashim, Principal Zainal Abdul Aziz and Project Coordinator Harman Shafiq attended the celebration of World Rivers Day which was partially sponsored by EXSIM, the developer of the Expressionz Residences by VERITAS, which is located on the bank of Sungai Bunus in KL. Datuk Mahadi and Datuk Najib from DBKL joined in the occasion.

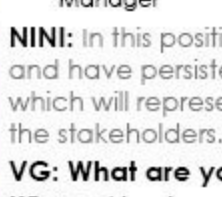


### So WHO IS THE TEAM OF THE MONTH?

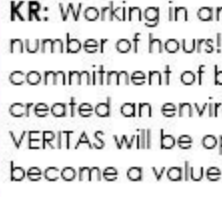
VERITAS is administrated and managed by a six member of Executive Committee (ExCo) of equal standing. The Executive Committee exists to "give an opinion" to the Chief Executive and shareholders in policy-making and the administration of VERITAS Design Group. The Group president and shareholders from among the heads of departments appoint the members of the Executive committee. This is in-line with our corporate theme "IDEAS for the World".

Six VERITAS ExCo share their work experiences in VERITAS with Venuthan Ganasan (VG).

**VG: As the general manager of the company, what are the most important leadership qualities you think that you have and you believe that all VERITASians should possess?**



**NINI:** As the general manager of the company, I believe the most important leadership trade is to possess high emotional intelligence (EQ) skill in order to undertake multiple obstacles challenges to perform my duties. In these situations being resilient and having high EQ in a both organic and conventional ways to adapt and bounce back when things don't go as planned is crucial in order keep moving forward. I believe this quality is necessary for VERITASians to overcome obstacles.



**VG: How do you think you have established clear vision for the role and image of your position to all the stakeholders in the company as the role model of success?**

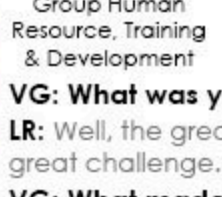
**NINI:** In this position and working with a big firm is necessary to maintain positivity, proactive and have persistent attitude. Only with such qualities, one will be able to establish a role, which will represent company as the role model of success and strength in the eyes of all the stakeholders.

**VG: What are your expectations from VERITAS?**

**KR:** Working in any company on a job is not just about working set number of hours! In fact, when VERITAS hired me back in 2008, it is the commitment of both sides to try to fulfill expectations to the hilt. VERITAS created an environment where I grew within the organization. I hope VERITAS will be open to other VERITASians' contributions so that Staff may become a valued member of the VERITAS Dream team.

**VG: What are the changes you have seen in VERITAS throughout the years you have been here?**

**KR:** Throughout these 10 years I have seen many changes: VERITAS is now an integrated multi-disciplinary design firm, with a network of 5 global offices delivering award-winning services. VERITAS has grown to 350 staff and is the largest multi-disciplinary design firm in Malaysia. VERITAS International staffs consist of 23 expats and speak over 20 languages and come from 15 countries across 6 continents.



**VG: What made you want to join VERITAS?**

**LR:** I was inspired by the key leaders of VERITAS who have been keeping up with their reputation in the market of course for 30 years now. Also the admiration of the other company initiatives (e.g. on the marketing campaign, community involvement, and training programs) for all VERITASians to enhance on their own area of professions. Of course not to forget on the company's growth throughout since it was established in 1987. Most of the entire full-filled environment with lots of events happening throughout each year and also VERITAS healthy range of staff diversity team.

**VG: What was your biggest challenge in VERITAS?**

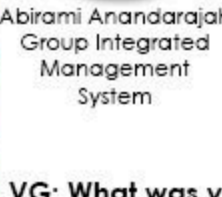
**LR:** Well, the greatest achievement or greatest accomplishment has undoubtedly been a great challenge. If not then what is there to be proud about?

**VG: What made you want to join VERITAS?**

**RF:** VERITAS has a reputation of being young and dynamic when I first took the job. To me is like the new kid on the block. There were many new things to learn and experience. I have to learn fast and address to those challenges. Work was demanding but exciting at the same time. To me they were never a dull moment.

**VG: What was your biggest challenge in VERITAS?**

**RF:** All new project are challenging, if all depends on how you manage it. My biggest challenge is always keeping the company to comply with good business practice. This is a big organization. Managing my clients' expectation and keeping them happy are tough. At the same time, we do have to take into account of what the firm can afford, and purchasing the correct tools to do the job is no easy task. Technology evolves every second of the day. How do we strike the balance? That is the challenge for an IT manager!



**VG: What are your expectations from VERITAS?**

**AA:** My expectation from VERITAS is to continue to grow in my professional my career path and contribute to VERITAS back by working towards its goal and targets.

**VG: What are the changes you have seen in VERITAS throughout the years you have been here?**

**AA:** Throughout the years, VERITAS has seen many changes. The group has grown in size and evolved on technological advancement. On the other hand, more activities are being organized for staffs to be healthy and fit and more opportunities has been given to all staff in their respective career field to grow. VERITAS has grown in many ways and it continues nurturing the VERITASians to reach the height of success.

**VG: What was your biggest challenge in VERITAS?**

**CC:** AS the Group Finance Manager, challenge is part of everyday job. It is difficult to differentiate challenges; however, these challenges are the reasons that make me work harder every day.

**VG: What made you want to join VERITAS?**

**CC:** VERITAS is very successful and extraordinary company with qualities and working culture that attracted me to join here. It has been one of the best decisions as well.



Komathi Ramakrishna  
Group Corporate  
Communications

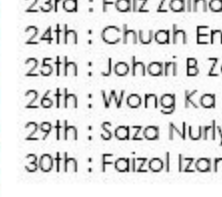


Ricky Foo  
Group Information  
Technology



Caroline Chui  
Group Finance

- ### WHO'S celebrating their BIRTHDAY • September
- 1st : Herme Bin Mansur, Mohamed Nadzeem Bin Abdullah
  - 2nd : Aida Elyana, Mohd Zamri Bin Abd Lateh
  - 5th : Zanna Binti Bachok Bedumi
  - 6th : Mohd Azmin Bin Yacob @ Ibrahim, Mohd Fadzi Bin Mohamad Yunos
  - 9th : Hendry Rajkumar
  - 10th : Tih Xue Kai
  - 13th : Siti Nabihah Bt Zaini
  - 14th : Y. Vijaya Kumar , Mohd Zulhelimie Bin Zakaria
  - 18th : Mohd Azrul
  - 19th : Mohd Zaidi Bin Abd Ghani, Abu Hazreiq Bin Abu Hassan
  - 21st : Alif Arif Iskandar Bin Abd Wahab
  - 22nd : Komathi A/P Ramakrishna
  - 23rd : Faiz Zainal Anif
  - 24th : Chuah Eng Kerig
  - 25th : Johari B Zainal Abidin, Fazelyna Abdul Rashid
  - 26th : Wong Ka Yee
  - 29th : Saza Nuryana Binti Sabarudin, Noor Zaidi Bin Nordin
  - 30th : Faizul Izzan B Morat



**BUNDLE OF JOY**  
Congratulations to Veritasian Siti Jemaah Bt Mansor and her spouse Muhamad Faez Bin Muhamad Fuad on the arrival of their baby boy, Uvais Iskandar Bin Muhamad Faez on 20th September 2017.



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
We are happy to announce that VERITASian Noor Saiful bin Safie and Nur Mizatul Mira bt Zulkable got hitched on 3rd September 2017 at Permatang Pak Maras Penang, Butterworth Pulau Pinang. Congratulations to the newly weds!

### WHERE ARE WE FEATURED?

## Veritas celebrates its 30th Anniversary

BY WONG KING WAI  
[city.country@edge.com](http://city.country@edge.com)

Veritas founder and president David Mizan Hashim said in his opening address: "It is a proud moment for Veritas to have come this far and to have received so many accolades during our 30-year journey. We have achieved this because of the support of our clients and the dedicated leadership and teamwork within Veritas. It is in this spirit that we strive to succeed both locally and abroad."

The guest of honour was Minister for Federal Territories Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor, who commended Veritas on its longevity and contribution to the Malaysian design landscape.

"They have contributed extensively and positively to the development of the nation through their award-winning projects throughout the country. And in exporting their design services overseas, they are helping Malaysia project our brand beyond our shores and not just being a jajah kampung (village champion)," said Adnan.

Veritas, which means "truth" in Latin, was set up in 1987 with David and his late partner and friend Heah Hock Heng. Its first design office was located above a motorcycle workshop in Kampong Baru, Kuala Lumpur, David recalled. From that first office, the design group expanded to Penang and Johor Baru, before venturing further afield. Today, 18 principals run six subsidiary companies with two local branches and five international offices – in Mumbai, India; Melbourne, Australia; Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; Portland, US; and its latest office in London, UK.

In 2016, Veritas won an award at the Cityscape Awards in Dubai, for Sineh Hotel in Penang, in the built Leisure & Hospitality Project category. This year, its Perbadanan Kemajuan Negeri Selangor headquarters project has been shortlisted in two categories – Commercial Built and Sustainable Design – at these awards.



Adnan and Hashim with Veritas principals & Lillian Tay (far left) and Azril Neazudin

### The Edge: VERITAS celebrates its 30th Anniversary

On 4th September 2017, VERITAS' 30th anniversary celebration was featured in The Edge newspaper. The event was held on the 24th of August 2017 at the Hilton Kuala Lumpur grand ballroom among VERITASians and their Clients. VERITAS launched its third monograph, showcasing selected projects over the past 30 years. It was indeed a proud moment for VERITASians as well as a fine evening for all.



### The Edge: Riding High on Hope

On 4th August 2017, The Edge newspaper featured an interview of VERITAS Principal Lillian Tay on her childhood memory of Merdeka celebrations and the evolution of the real estate sector in Malaysia. Lillian fondly recounted her school days and the celebration of Merdeka during the 70s while expressing her vision for a better Malaysia in the future.

Trinity Group plans to acquire more land, anticipates 50% sales of Trinity Lemanja



### The Edge : Trinity Group and the LeManja Project

On 4th September 2017, VERITAS project the LeManja Residences was featured in The Edge newspaper. The Lemanja project is expected to have 50% sales in the first phase of launch. The developer, Trinity Group is planning to acquire more land in the Klang Valley in the near future in response to the anticipated successful sales of the project.

### Architecture Malaysia: THE MODERN CATHEDRAL : THE SAGRADA FAMILIA VS PETRONAS TWIN TOWERS

On 5th September 2017, DR. Miguel Angel Robles of VERITAS Architects published an article entitled "The Modern Cathedral : The Sagrada Familia vs Petronas Twin Towers" in the Architecture Malaysia Magazine. The article highlights two highly recognisable architectural icons: the Sagrada familia (Barcelona, 1882-present), by Antoni Gaudi and the Petronas Twin Towers (Kuala Lumpur, 1992-1998) by César Pelli. They are two of the most visited and photographed buildings in the world, and are symbols of their respective cities and nations.



### To Bali, by design

On 6th September 2017, the New Straits Times featured an article by the two students from Taylor's University School of Architecture, Building and Design who joined the recent VERITAS study trip to Bali. The two final year students, Tan Ling Rong and Lim Joe Onn, joined VERITAS for the annual trip as part of the strategic alliance established between the school and VERITAS last year. The visit to an award-winning tropical villa called SVARGA was the highlight of the trip as this building is an architectural icon, which features traditional Balinese style with modern features.

### New Strait Times: To Bali, by Design

On 6th September 2017, the New Straits Times featured an article by the two students from Taylor's University School of Architecture, Building and Design who joined the recent VERITAS study trip to Bali. The two final year students, Tan Ling Rong and Lim Joe Onn, joined VERITAS for the annual trip as part of the strategic alliance established between the school and VERITAS last year. The visit to an award-winning tropical villa called SVARGA was the highlight of the trip as this building is an architectural icon, which features traditional Balinese style with modern features.

### Life Inspired: Celebrating IDEAS

On 10th September 2017, Life Inspired magazine featured an article on VERITAS' 30th anniversary celebration. The article focused on VERITAS' core values "IDEAS", which are Integrity, Design, Environment, Audacity and Service. These are the values VERITAS practices in all its activities.

### StarMetro: Connecting Kids with Nature

On 13th September 2017, StarMetro featured an article about the presentation of a RM30,000 contribution to the Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) by Group President David Mizan Hashim. The funds were presented during VERITAS' 30th anniversary celebration at the Hilton Kuala Lumpur on the 24th of August 2017. The money will be used to organize day trips for students to take part in educational activities at the Kuala Selangor Nature Park.

### NEWCOMERS at VERITAS



Mohd Alif Azmi  
Assistant Architect  
VERITAS ARCHITECTS  
SDN BHD

Christine Guan Shu Mei  
Assistant Architect  
VERITAS ARCHITECTS  
SDN BHD



Noor Misbah Zulkefly  
Secretary  
VERITAS ARCHITECTS  
SDN BHD

Chong Voon Chuen  
Architect  
VERITAS ARCHITECTS  
SDN BHD (PENANG)

**QUOTE**  
"Obstacles don't have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it or work around it!"  
Michael Jordan