

# VERITAS DESIGN GROUP

- architecture
- interior design
- landscape design
- environmental consulting
- quantity surveying
- planning

### GREETINGS and SALAM SATU VERITAS to all our readers!!

In this month's e-news we are delighted to present some new and exciting projects being undertaken by one of the most dynamic and successful special business units within the VERITAS Design Group: the VERITAS Johor office!!

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.

**VERITAS Johor** was established in February 2007. The Johor team is undertaking numerous exciting projects of various types and sizes throughout the Southern region of Malaysia. With over 40 personnel, VERITAS Johor has evolved into Johor's leading architectural practice under the very capable leadership of Principal Shah Jaffar and Associates Ramlil Ahmad and Sofian Rashid.



Located in the commercial and residential district of Danga Bay, the design of Tropez Residences combines the concern of dealing with a large built-up volume and the consequent problems with massing, the need for a diverse range of unit typologies to cater to a larger residential market cross-section and quality shared spaces.

### UNIVERSITY OF READING MALAYSIA CAMPUS (UoRMC), ISKANDAR, JOHOR



The Project is part of Educicity@Iskandar in Nusajaya, Johor. The project consists of 2-blocks with a central courtyard that allows students, staff and visitors to experience the blurring edges of formal and informal teaching. The classrooms and laboratories are connected with pedestrian link bridges and a unique ETFE roofing brings natural light into this 4-storey volume. The university offers courses in Law, Business and the Built Environment, Chemistry and Pharmacy to approximately 2,000 students supported by 400 teaching and support staff. The University of Reading Malaysia Campus is under construction and will be completed in March 2015.

Being the tallest building in the vicinity, the project's 600 units are distributed into 3 towers of 40-storey each atop a 5 storey podium and orientated to capture panoramic views of the Straits of Johor, Sungai Skudai, Istana Bukit Serene, and the Royal Johor Golf Club. A wide range of landscape and water features and public amenities are located on the podium. The Tropez will be completed in March 2015.

### MENARA JOHOR LAND, JOHOR BAHRU



Menara Johor Land is a 30+ storey corporate office tower set in the heart of Johor Bahru City Centre (JBCC), Johor. Located on top of the Aria Shopping Mall (previously known as Plaza Komtar), Menara Johor Land is designed to be an iconic gateway to the CBD. Its floor plates taper towards the observatory deck at the top-most floor to create a maximum aerial view of Singapore and Johor Bahru itself.



Menara Johor Land is targeted to be an award-winning corporate office tower with Classic and GBI Gold Rated Certification. The tower is under construction and is expected to be completed by the early of 2016.

### LGM RUBBER RESEARCH LABORATORY AND PRODUCTION COMPLEX, KOTA TINGGI JOHOR



Designed to be a Gold Rated Green Building, this complex is one of many components in a rubber-research related business park of 45 acres, located in Kota Tinggi, Johor.

### SPECIAL EDUCATION SECONDARY SCHOOL, MERBOK, KEDAH



The school caters for a population of 800 disabled vocational students with full barrier-free facilities such as workshops, hostels, staff quarters and sport facilities.



The building's layout is inspired by the shape of fingers. It consists of a three-storey academic block and workshop with a spine that ties together all the blocks to the administration building. This spine is a three-level horizontal linkage that will provide an efficient promenade for the disabled students to move about. At the end of the spine is the student co-curriculum activity centre and multipurpose canteen hall which also connects the library and surau. The Special Education Secondary School Merbok is under construction and is expected to be completed by mid of 2015.

### Is there anything HAPPENING? VERITAS FLOOD CAMPAIGN



It was a very unlucky rainy season for Malaysia in 2014. Floods in Malaysia are regular natural disasters which happen nearly every year during the monsoon season. However in the recent late December/early January period we battled some of the worst floods seen in decades along our East coast, with more than 100,000 people forced from their homes.

A VERITAS Flood Assistance Campaign consisting of 20 active members was set-up and led by Mohd Norazizan Ariffin (Tommy) as Chairman. Tommy explained that because there is no electricity in the affected areas, there was no water either. "The shops have all closed down so the victims also cannot get food" he added.

### 1ST STAFF QUARTERLY MEETING



VERITAS held its first staff quarterly meeting for 2015 on the 17th January, at the Menara Lembaga Getah Asli Auditorium. Our Group President David Mizan Hashim gave a short but rousing introductory speech encouraging all VERITASians to adopt a positive attitude for 2015. Following this introduction, guest speaker and fashion guru Fairuz Ramdan presented useful tips on professional grooming and styling. He spoke intensively on how to dress for your body shape, coloring, and personal identity!



The committee managed to collect in total RM30,000 in cash, food and necessities from VERITASians, family and friends for the flood relief. The team then made an eight-hour drive to Manik Urai in Kelantan followed by another 3 hours to Kg Kuala Temiang to personally hand over the aid to the flood victims. Altogether they spent 3 nights assisting the affected communities.

### UNAIAZH SIGNING CEREMONY



On 19th January 2015, VERITAS, together with its partner in Saudi Arabia MAB Engineering Consult signed and exchanged contract documents for our appointment on a new resort development in Unaiah (UIC) Qassim Province for the Unaiah Investment Company (UIC). VERITAS was represented by our Principal Azril Amir Jaafar while MAB by its Managing Director Abdurrahman M. Albassam and the UIC by its Chairman Dr Ghassan Ahmed Al Sulaiman. The ceremony was witnessed by the mayor of Unaiah City.

### VERITAS ANNUAL DINNER



The VERITAS Annual Dinner was held on 17th January at the Maya Hotel, Jalan Ampang in Kuala Lumpur. The theme of the evening was "Fight Night" party. Over 200 staff from the various VERITAS offices in Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Johor Bharu attended this gala event which went on till the early morning.

Staff were treated with an actual boxing ring as our main stage for the competition and were entertained by various performances, nights and lucky draws. The best-dressed prize for ladies went to Rosalinda Razak who dressed up as Maleficent from the story Sleeping Beauty and for the gentlemen it went to Hafiz Shah who wore a Ghost Rider costume. Congratulations to all the winners!!

### so WHO'S the STAFF OF THE MONTH?



Our staff of the month for January is Nurulhuda Ms Jhd. Non, commonly known as just "Huda" among colleagues and friends. She has been an important member of the VERITAS dream team since March 2010, first as an Assistant Architect and now a Design Architect.

**KR: What made you decide to take up a degree in architecture?**  
Very cliché reason; I was propelled by my late father's unfulfilled ambition, which later became mine.

**KR: Tell me a little about the projects you are working on right now.**  
I'm currently working on the University of Reading Malaysia with our Associate Ramlil Ahmad. This RM123mil. project, which is a 4-storey education building in 15-acre site at Educity Nusajaya in Johor, will complete early this year. I get to work with glass floors, ETFE roofs and other innovative materials.

### BCI-ASIA TOP 10 ARCHITECTS 2015 AWARD



VERITAS makes it to the top ten again!

We are proud to announce that VERITAS Architects Sdn Bhd was chosen again to be among the "top ten" architects in Malaysia. This further confirms our current status in the design industry in South-east Asia and we are looking forward to greater success in the coming years.

The BCI Asia Top 10 Awards have become an institution for architectural communities of Southeast Asia, China, Hong Kong and Taiwan. Being a BCI Asia Top 10 laureate is a coveted prize among architectural firms, symbolizing the extent of their contribution to the built environment.

### WHO ARE WE FEATURED? THE STAR NEWSPAPER



The VERITAS Annual Dinner held recently was featured in the Streets section of The Star newspaper on Saturday 24th January.

### so WHO are the NEWCOMERS at VERITAS?



Welcome on board new VERITASians:

Corporate Communication Executive Chiranjev Chandrasegar, Assistant Architect Ahmad Syazril Hafiz B Othman, Nor Anim Syamimi Bt Dato' Norhaidi, Adi Ashraf B Azhar and Syuqran Naim B Shamsuddin; Draughtsperson Mohd Izzat Bin Saidi and Siti Norhajarina Misran; Receptionist Sidney Low Hwei Yng; Intern Surayyn Selvan, Rania Al-Mouakeh from Saudi and Ruta Kniukstaite from Lietuvas Republic for VERITAS Architect Kuala Lumpur

### WHO'S celebrating their BIRTHDAY this Month?

For January 2015 we would like to wish a warm Happy Birthday to:- Abdul Malek Bin Kanchil, Suhaime Baba, Zaniman Sulong, A S Harman Bin Bayuding @ Shafii, Afiq Afify, Muslim Mohammad, Rosaini Kamarudin, Shahrol Mohamad, Mohd. Redzuan Ramli, Seong Chen Soon, Hasan M Abdul Hasan Al-Khafaji, Low Chun Ket, Zainal Fitri Abdul Aziz, Nurlaila Izyan, Atiqah Nur Yuhda, Idris Marhai M. Mulyadi, Ramlil Ahmad, Mohd Aizzuddin Idris, Ehsanuddin Shah Azhar, Fadzilah Omar, Mohammad Zamani Ibrahim and Nor Baizura Sogi.

### BUNDLE OF JOY



### KR: What was your proudest moment working with VERITAS?

It received the VERITAS Core Value Award in mid 2013 for SERVICE. And I dedicated it to the team of colleagues who worked with me to achieve intense deadlines.

### KR: What is your favorite building and why?

It is the Spijkennisse's Book Mountain by MVRDV. The library is very unconventional because the books are actually the centre of attention and all the books are visible from the façade.

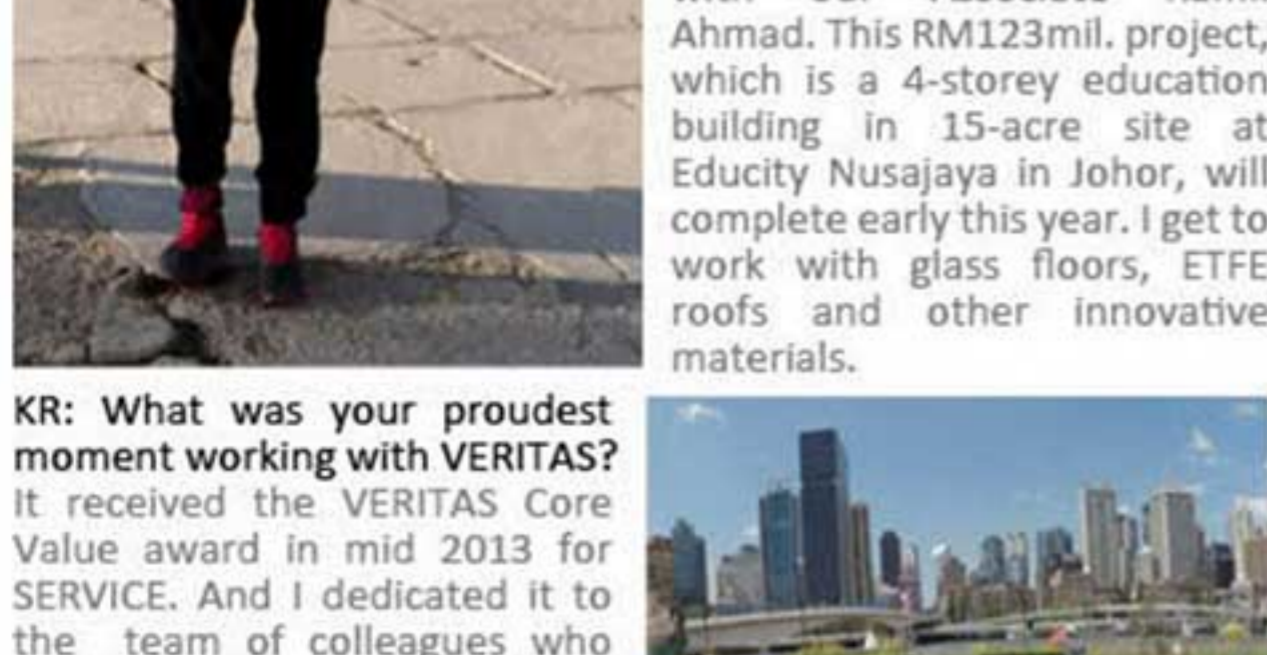
### KR: I hear that you are involved in many community service activities, please share with us your latest project.

I registered with Mercy Malaysia in 2004 and been actively involved ever since in their Technical Team and Local based programs ever since. Last year I was involved with the Kuantan Flood Relief, 10KM Larian Palestine-Syria, Mercy Charity Golf Competition (Southern Chapter), 10KM Kayuhan Gaza-Mercy. Also throughout the year, I volunteer for the Disaster Risk Reduction Program; where we raise disaster awareness, reduce impact/damage, post-disaster redevelopment and promoting disaster preparedness in schools all over Malaysia.

### KR: Describe VERITAS in your own words?

It's like being on a Quest. You build strong relationships but rather than discovering some "treasure", you become more of an asset to yourself each day.

### SKETCHES & SCRIBBLES ARCHITEXTS



Did you know? The world's largest art gallery is the Winter Palace and Hermitage in St. Petersburg, Russia. Visitors would have to walk 15 miles to see the 322 galleries which house nearly 3 million works of art.

### QUOTE

"I think it probably a personal pride in my administration... that we were going to do the right thing, even if short-term it was unpopular. And I'm sure anybody who's occupied this office has to remember that success is determined by an intersection in policy and politics and that you can't be neglecting of marketing and P.R. and public opinion".

Barack Obama