Architecture · Planning · Interior Design · Landscape Design · Quantity Surveying & Project Management · Environment

VERITAS

JULY 2020, E-NEWSLETTER

THEVERITASDESIGNGROUP.COM

HELLO EVERYONE! SELAMAT HARI RAYA AIDIL ADHA !

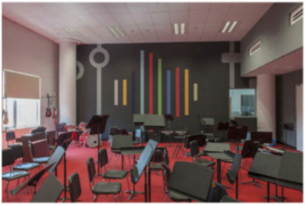
In this month's E-news, we are pleased to focus on our **EDUCATION** portfolio and to feature five unique projects; two completed ones; the **International School of Kuala Lumpur (ISKL)** and **St. Joseph's Institution International School** and three upcoming projects; **Petronas Leadership Centre (PLC)**, **Stonyhurst College** and **King's College**.

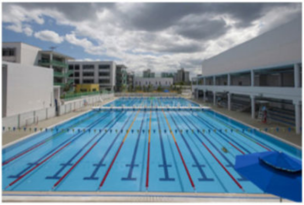
This E-news will also cover many other interesting happenings in VERITAS. We hope you enjoy this month's VERITAS E-news! And please don't hesitate to contact us if you would like to know more about any of the stories featured here.

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF KUALA LUMPUR (ISKL)

JALAN AMPANG HILIR, KUALA LUMPUR

The new ISKL campus sits on a massive 25.7-acre site along Jalan Ampang Hilir. In a collaboration between VERITAS and HOK Architects of London, the school was designed to create an advanced/innovative learning environment, featuring world-class academic and athletic resources.

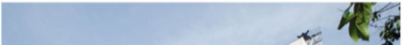




It has approximately 900,000 sf of built-up area and accommodates about 2,000 students. The school has obtained GBI Platinum certification and was officially opened in February 2019.

ST. JOSEPH'S INSTITUTION INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL (SJII)
PETALING JAYA, SELANGOR

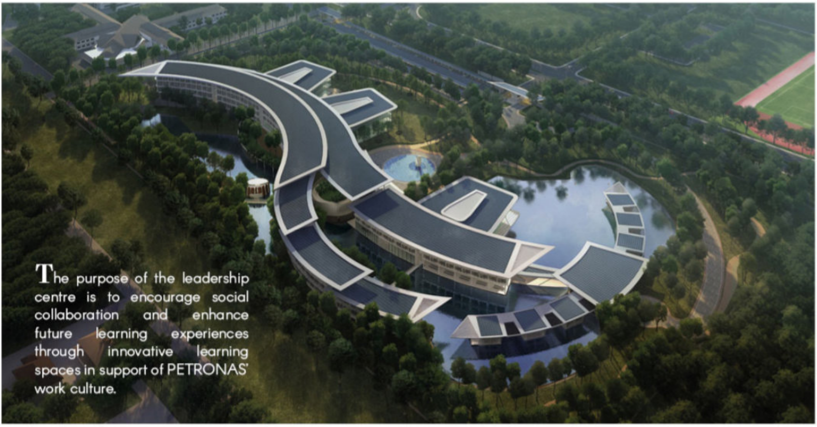
The 6-acre site of SJII is relatively flat with a slight depression towards the rear. With a total built-up area of about 300,000 sq.ft. the school is able to cater to approximately 1,800 students for the full educational term with a teacher to student ratio of one to fifteen.



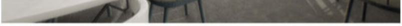
Status: Completed 2016

The architectural approach is inspired by the institution's core values which focus on people and their inter-relationships. This spirit of interaction is expressed in the open-air design of the link-ways and corridors that permit natural ventilation and connect all blocks at every floor, thus encouraging students to communicate and socialize. The building adopts sustainable design concepts and obtained Green Building Index (GBI) certification.

PETRONAS LEADERSHIP CENTRE
BANGI, SELANGOR



The purpose of the leadership centre is to encourage social collaboration and enhance future learning experiences through innovative learning spaces in support of PETRONAS' work culture.



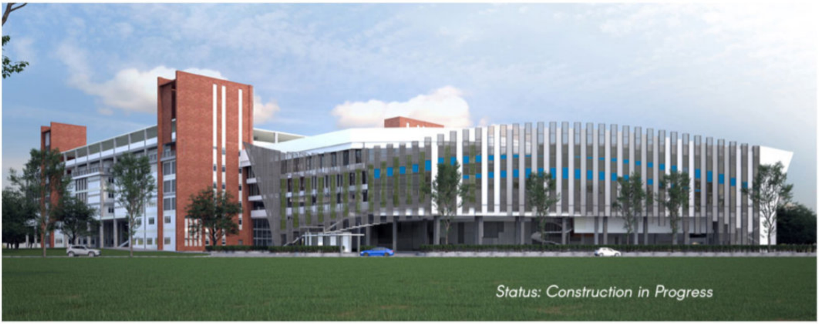
The form of the campus is a curved central pedestrian spine which becomes the main circulation focus and links all building components, where classes and accommodation blocks are interconnected closely to create spacial cohesion.

The spaces are further connected via crossing pedestrian bridges, adjoining classrooms, guest rooms and public spaces. The Petronas Leadership Centre was designed in collaboration with VERITAS UK, and has a target of platinum rating for both GBI and LEED.

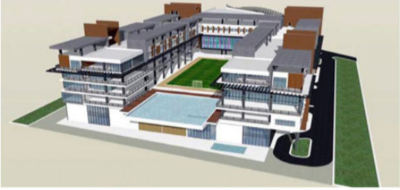
Status: Construction in Progress.

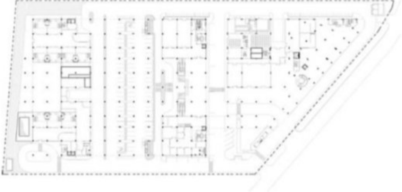
STONYHURST COLLEGE
TANJONG TOKONG, PENANG

Stonyhurst College is another international branch of an established British independent school from Lancashire, UK. This co-ed school is located on the Tanjong Tokong waterfront and will eventually accomodate 1200 students aged 3 to 18 following the British curriculum with Jesuit principles and values at its core.



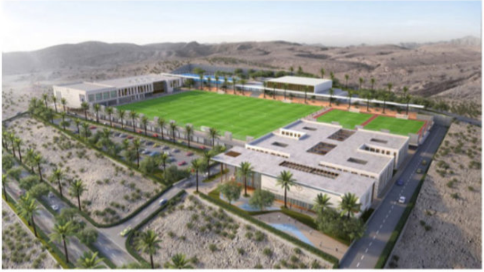
Status: Construction in Progress

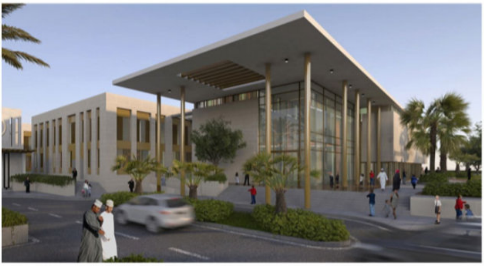


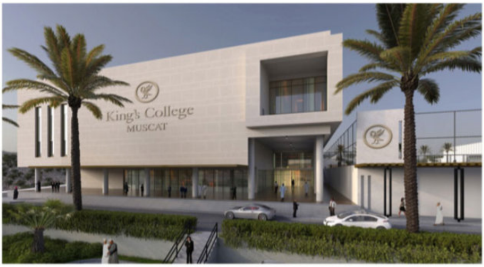


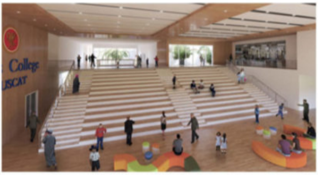
KING'S COLLEGE
MUSCAT, OMAN

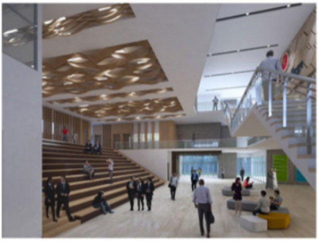
The challenge of this unique project was to maintain the historic essence of the King's College identity while engaging the building with its contrasting context; the deserts and mountains of Oman. The requirements for this K-12 program for up to 2,000 students resulted in a gross floor area of almost 100,000sf, distributed across a 5-acre site.

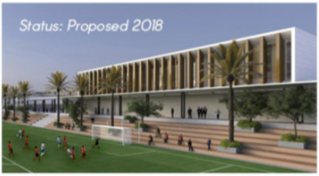












Status: Proposed 2018

Located near an existing highway on the

outskirts of Muscat, the site was planned to use the playing fields as a buffer to traffic noise. The project is still under review and may be relocated to a nearby site before proceeding.

WHERE WE ARE FEATURED?

IN TALK WITH VERITAS DESIGN GROUP

In the June 2020 issue of Building & Investment Magazine VERITAS was featured for emerging as one of the three selected planners/ architects for the Ibu Kota Negara (IKN), the new capital of Indonesia in East Kalimantan. The magazine interviewed the Project Leader Michael Tan and Principals Ng Yiek Seng and Fazylena Rashid about the overall design strategy for the masterplan of this new capital city.

ONE ON ONE

IN TALK WITH VERITAS DESIGN GROUP

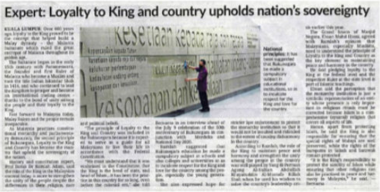
on Indonesia's New Capital City

STAR NEWSPAPER
LOYALTY TO KING AND COUNTRY UPHOLDS NATION'S SOVEREIGNTY

CONSTRUCTION + MAGAZINE
FOREWORD

On the July issue of Construction + magazine, VERITAS

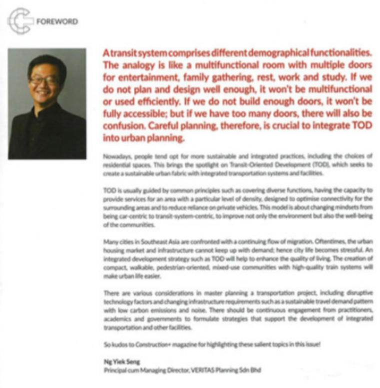
On 29th June 2020 VERITAS' iconic Merdeka MRT Station project was featured in the Star newspaper. The article highlighted the The Rukunegara feature wall in the MRT station. The article emphasized the importance of understanding the five Rukunegara principles as the foundation of our nation's constitution.



Expert: Loyalty to King and country upholds nation's sovereignty

i·d·e·a·s for the world

Principal Ng Yiek Seng was featured in the foreword section of the publications. Ng emphasized the importance of Transit Oriented Development (TOD) and good urban planning to enhance the quality of city living. Apart from being a specialist in TOD, Ng is also a Director of VERITAS Planning and in charge of VERITAS' education and transportation portfolios.



FOREWORD

A transit system comprises different demographical functionalities. The analogy is like a multifunctional room with multiple doors for entertainment, family gathering, rest, work and study. If we do not plan and design well enough, it won't be multifunctional or used efficiently. If we do not build enough doors, it won't be fully accessible; but if we have too many doors, there will also be confusion. Careful planning, therefore, is crucial to integrate TOD into urban planning.

Nowadays, people tend opt for more sustainable and integrated practices, including the choices of residential spaces. This brings the spotlight on Transit-Oriented Development (TOD), which seeks to create a sustainable urban fabric with integrated transportation systems and facilities.

TOD is usually guided by common principles such as covering diverse functions, having the capacity to provide services for an area with a particular level of density, designed to optimise connectivity for the surrounding areas and to reduce reliance on private vehicles. This model is about changing mindsets from being car-centric to transit-system-centric, to improve not only the environment but also the well-being of the communities.

Many cities in Southeast Asia are confronted with a continuing flow of migration. Oftentimes, the urban housing market and infrastructure cannot keep up with demand; hence city life becomes stressful. An integrated development strategy such as TOD will help to enhance the quality of living. The creation of compact, walkable, pedestrian-oriented, mixed-use communities with high-quality train systems will make urban life easier.

There are various considerations in master planning a transportation project, including disruptive technology factors and changing infrastructure requirements such as a sustainable travel demand pattern with low carbon emissions and noise. There should be continuous engagement from practitioners, academics and governments to formulate strategies that support the development of integrated transportation and other facilities.

So kudos to Construction+ magazine for highlighting these salient topics in this issue!

Ng Yiek Seng
Principal cum Managing Director, VERITAS Planning Sdn Bhd

WHAT'S HAPPENING

VERITAS, MCKINSEY AND MATRADE MID-TIER COMPANY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

VERITAS is proud to have been selected for MATRADE's Mid-Tier Company Development Programme which kick-started on 2nd June 2020 over ZOOM. McKinsey will be focusing their attention and expertise to identify ways in which VERITAS could expand its export of professional services, especially to the UK and Australia. McKinsey is a MATRADE program delivery partner and VERITAS will be interacting with them through workshops and various other webinar programmes throughout the year 2020.

Leadership is not about titles, positions or flowcharts. It is about one life influencing another.
John C. Maxwell

NEW STAFF
VERITAS ARCHITECTS SDN BHD

MID-TIER COMPANIES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (MTCDP)

Veritas Architects Sdn Bhd

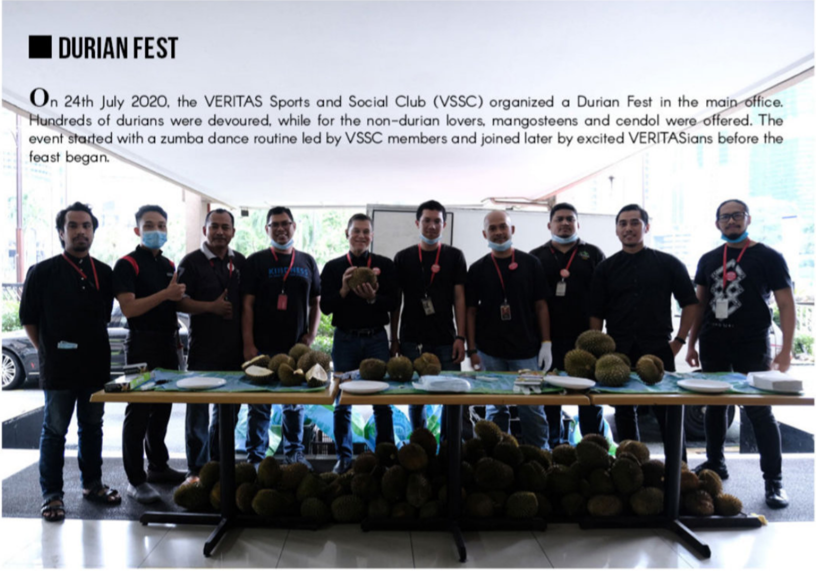
Zawawi Bin Mansur @ Inspector Of Worker

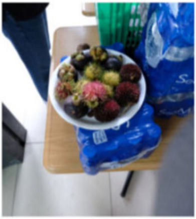
Chin Cheng Ming, Wenly @ Secretary

Sheikh Ahmad Tajuddin @ Assistant Architect

DURIAN FEST

On 24th July 2020, the VERITAS Sports and Social Club (VSSC) organized a Durian Fest in the main office. Hundreds of durians were devoured, while for the non-durian lovers, mangosteens and cendol were offered. The event started with a zumba dance routine led by VSSC members and joined later by excited VERITASians before the feast began.





STAFF OF MONTH

Our staff of the month for July is **VERITASian Ayzad Fauzi**, commonly known as just "*Ayzad*" among his colleagues and friends. Ayzadis currently holding the position of **Architect** and has been with the firm for almost 3 years. Ayzad shares his personal story with **Venuthan Ganasan (VG)**:

VG: How would you describe working at VERITAS in a Movie Title? and Why?
Ayzad: *"Training Day" starred by Denzel Washington. VERITAS have quite a number of experienced staff. As a rookie you need a partner or for my case a mentor(s). I have learnt a lot from the Principals and senior staff through easy and hard way but it was always a good learning curve for me.*

VG: What advice would you like to give to your new successor at VSSC?
Ayzad: *With the pandemic COVID-19 and the current economy situation which affected the morale for many of us, VSSC 20/21 need to find a way to lift back VERITASians morale and bring some joy to them which what we all need right now. No pressure! Ha-ha!*

VG: What's your passion or hobby? Is that what inspired you to become an Architect?
Ayzad: *I love rock climbing. I started climbing 7 years ago, mostly indoor climb but I do occasional outdoor climb as well. Rock climbing is not just using your physical strength it also requires you to think on how to climb without draining your energy. Which part to hold and to put your feet on and balance yourself. I can certainly relate that to architecture especially when it comes to problem solving. It is all about working smart than work hard.*

VG: Tell us about your experience being the past President of VERITAS Sports and Social Club (VSSC)?
Ayzad: *It was overwhelming at first, I was elected as VSSC President few months after I joined VERITAS. In that time, I was still trying to adapt myself as Junior Architect and at the same time I have to organize events for VERITASians. Luckily, I had a very energetic and dynamic committee members. I have to give all the credits to them as they were very cooperative and hands on in every event. They gave their 100% effort to bring joy to all VERITASians. Unfortunately, we could not end our term with a bang as the unprecedented COVID-19 cut our term short.*

VG: In your opinion how can we achieve work-life balance?
Ayzad: *Work is a never-ending process but what is the most important is that you have to prioritize time. Start your day with daily goals on what you can achieve on that day. You cannot be doing too many things at one time so you have to be realistic in your daily goal. Besides that, make sure you have enough time for yourself. ALWAYS make time for something you love other than work. This will energize and refresh you which directly affects your productivity at work.*

WHO'S CELEBRATING THEIR BIRTHDAY-JULY

5th Tin Mei Mei
8th Pailiyah, Ruzian
9th Raja Azriq
11th Mohd Azwan,
Nurliyana
12th Azizi
13th Ng Yiek Seng
15th Adibah
16th Zamirul
17th Muhammad Ikhwan
18th Hairun, Suhaimi Sa'at
19th Al-Haziq Abd Sallam
22nd Khalifah Jamaluddin
23rd Khairul Azwan,
Muhamad Firdaus
Mahadi Katang
24th Nurul Ameera
25th Noorazman
30th Mohd Hafiz
31st Mohd Sahar

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MANGROVES CONSERVATION

52 SHADES OF GREEN

1 year | 52 initiatives | weekly | 2020

INDIA GREEN
ISSUE 13
VOL.3
JULY 27

Mangroves is a shrub or small, tropical, salt-tolerant tree species that grows in coastal saline or brackish water. They contain a complex salt filtration system and complex root system to cope with salt water immersion and wave action.

Mangroves also act as a form of natural coastal defense against storm surges, tsunamis, rising sea levels and erosion.

Yet mangroves are disappearing 3 to 5 times faster than overall global forest losses, with serious ecological and socio-economic impacts. The main drivers of mangrove loss are clearing for aquaculture, and deforestation.

UNESCO is developing the conservation of mangroves awareness by introducing: World Heritage Sites, Biosphere Reserves and UNESCO Global Geoparks.

The International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem, adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 2015 and celebrated each year on 26 July.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE MANGROVE ECOSYSTEM

26 JULY

Aims to raise awareness of the importance of mangrove ecosystems as "a unique, special & vulnerable ecosystem".

GUARDIANS OF THE COAST

MANGROVE TREES IN THE CARIBBEAN SEA, PANAMA, CENTRAL AMERICA.
PHOTO CREDIT : © KONTINENTALIST.COM

for more info , check out :
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BKnsoFfEiYc
https://news.ucsc.edu/2020/03/mangroves.html
https://onetreeplanted.org/blogs/stories/mangrove-fast-facts
https://kontinentalist.com/stories/forests-by-the-sea-mangroves-and-why-they-are-threatened
https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/02/5-reasons-to-protect-mangrove-forests-for-the-future/

THE IMPACT OF STORM SURGE ON COASTAL INFRASTRUCTURE + COMMUNITIES WITH AND WITHOUT MANGROVE FOREST

OFFSHORE DYNAMICS | NEARSHORE DYNAMICS | HABITAT | IMPACTS | CONSEQUENCES

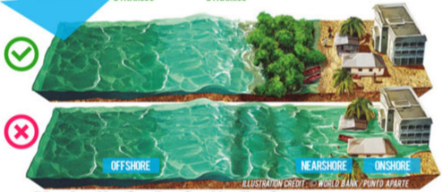


ILLUSTRATION CREDIT : © WORLD BANK / PUNTO APARTE

MANGROVES

"ARE DIVIDED INTO 3 TYPES + ZONING
RED - COASTAL
BLACK - MIDDLE
WHITE - INLAND"

"ALSO KNOWN AS BLUE CARBON
* CARBON THAT STORED IN THE OCEAN OR COASTAL ECOSYSTEM"

"ONLY GROW IN THE TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL LATITUDE"

"THERE ARE 80 SPECIES OF MANGROVES"

ECO FACTS

1 PLANET, 1 CHANCE. GREEN IT LIKE YOU MEAN IT

www.theveritasdesigngroup.com

"ASIA IS THE WORLD'S MOST BIODIVERSE MANGROVE REGION, AND IS THE HOME TO 42% OF THE WORLD'S MANGROVES."

"MANGROVE FORESTS ARE AMONG THE MOST THREATENED HABITATS IN THE WORLD, AND MANGROVE LOSS IS RAMPANT ACROSS THE GLOBE."

"MANGROVE FOREST STORES UP TO 4 TIMES AS MUCH AS CARBON PER HECTARE THAN TERRESTRIAL FOREST"

DID YOU KNOW?

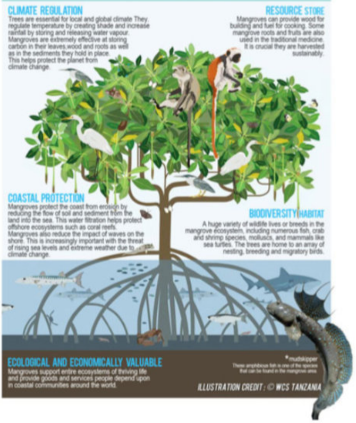
"MANY MANGROVE SPECIES SURVIVE BY FILTERING OUT AS MUCH AS 90% OF THE SALT FOUND IN SEAWATER AS IT ENTERS THEIR ROOTS TO ALLOW FRESHWATER TO FLOW INTO THE RIVER."

MANGROVE TREES IN MATANG MANGROVE FOREST RESERVE, PERAK, MALAYSIA

IS KNOWN TO BE ONE OF THE BEST MANAGED MANGROVE FOREST ECOSYSTEM IN THE WORLD.

PHOTO CREDIT : © TRIPADVISOR.COM.MY

MANGROVES SUPPORT BIODOVERSITY AND FISH NURSERIES, REDUCE EROSION, PROTECT COASTS, REGULATE THE CLIMATE AND PROVIDE RESOURCES.



CLIMATE REGULATION

Trees are essential for local and global climate They. regulate temperature by creating shade and increase rainfall by storing and releasing water vapour. Mangroves are extremely effective at storing carbon in their leaves,wood and roots as well as in the sediments they hold in place. This helps protect the planet from climate change.

RESOURCE STORE

Mangroves can provide wood for building and fuel for cooking. Some mangrove roots and fruits are also used in the traditional medicine. It is crucial they are harvested sustainably.

COASTAL PROTECTION

Mangroves protect the coast from erosion by reducing the flow of soil and sediment from the land into the sea. This water filtration helps protect offshore ecosystems such as coral reefs. Mangroves also reduce the impact of waves on the shore. This is increasingly important with the threat of rising sea levels and extreme weather due to climate change.

BIODIVERSITY HABITAT

A huge variety of wildlife lives or breeds in the mangrove ecosystem, including numerous fish, crab and shrimp species, molluscs, and mammals like sea turtles. The trees are home to an array of nesting, breeding and migratory birds.

ECOLOGICAL AND ECONOMICALLY VALUABLE

Mangroves support entire ecosystems of thriving life and provide goods and services people depend upon in coastal communities around the world.

*mudskipper
These amphibious fish is one of the species that can be found in the mangrove area.

ILLUSTRATION CREDIT : © WCS TANZANIA