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

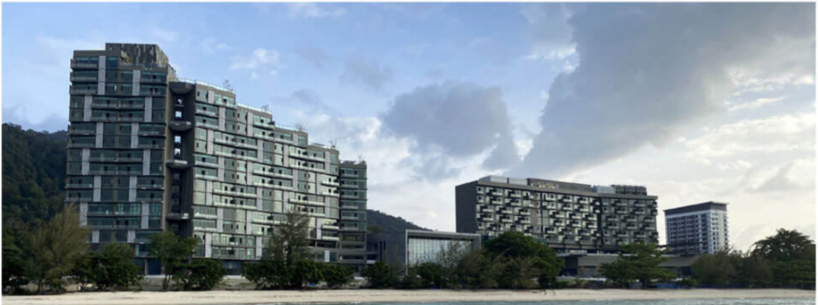
VERITAS
SEPTEMBER 2020, E-NEWSLETTER
THEVERITASDESIGNGROUP.COM

HELLO EVERYONE!

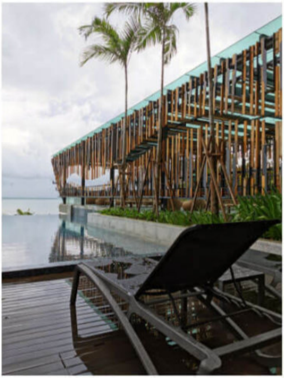
In this month's E-news, we are pleased to feature one of our recently completed projects; ***The Angsana by Banyan Tree on Penang Island***! This exclusive 5-star resort and hotel apartments includes a Wellness Centre for Rejuvenation and Cosmetic Surgery, a Holistic Spa and Yoga Centre, an exclusive clubbing and fine dining complex, one-stop duty-free shopping area and a wide range of guest F& B facilities and services.

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.

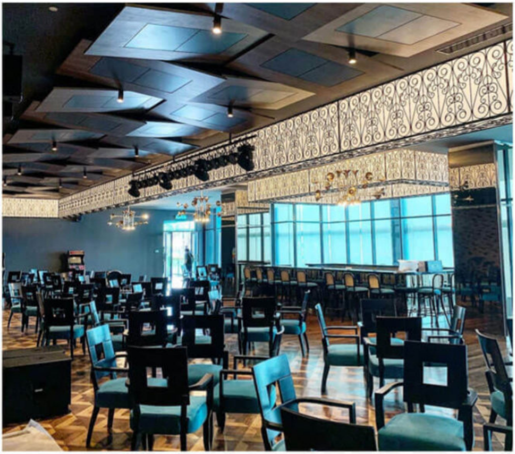
THE ANGSANA RESORT, SPA AND APARTMENTS, TELUK BAHANG, PENANG

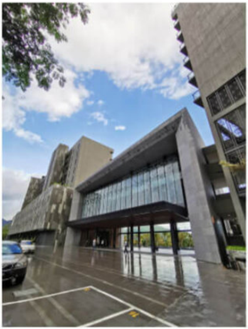


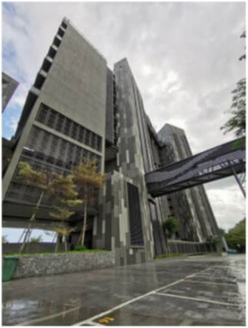
Located on the prime beach of Teluk Bahang on the north western corner of Penang Island, the Angsana is an ***integrated resort development*** comprised of three blocks of five, nine and sixteen storeys of medical tourism, hotel and serviced residences respectively. The project's design aspiration was to build a new class of resort that takes a contemporary approach ***to create a bold landmark*** while celebrating its unique site, bringing together the azure sea and the tropical forest.

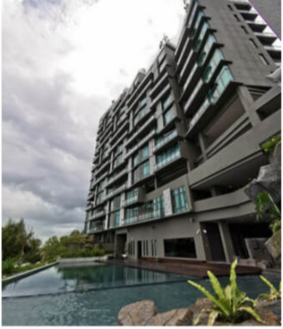
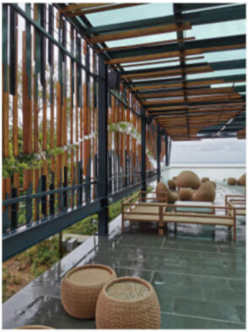
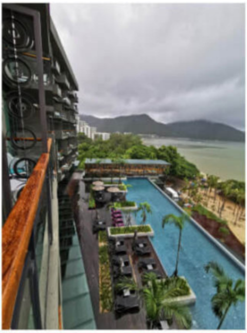


Upon arrival, visitors are welcomed through the framed portal strategically placed to offer ***magnificent views of the ocean***. Key views from the sky lobby decks and individual units are framed to capture the beauty of the surrounding landscape.

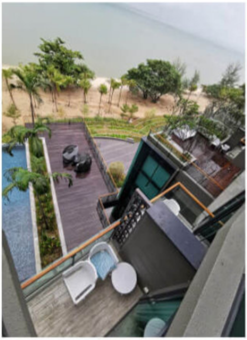


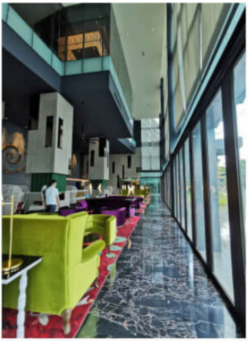




Designed for ***Earthcheck green rating***, the architectural features are created by weaving the building with horizontal and vertical elements of the forest while the landscape mimics the waves of the sea. Inspired by the Peranakan traditional card game called '*Cherki*', façade screens with intricate motifs are incorporated as external layers to create a play of light and shadow. The resort consists of 250 contemporary rooms and suites with modern amenities and 83 units of service apartments.





The Angsana Teluk Bahang has won ***Asia's Best Resort Residences 2015 award***.
Status: Completed in September 2020

WHERE WE ARE FEATURED?

CONSTRUCTION+ BANGUNAN GETAH ASLI: A HERITAGE TO BE

On September 2020 an article by ***VERITAS Associate Dr. Miguel Robles*** was published in the Construction+ magazine. Miguel wrote about the heritage aspect of Bangunan Getah Asli, located opposite of Petronas the Twin Towers on Jalan Ampang and which happens to be the head office of VERITAS. Miguel emphasized the importance of preserving this important building which is from the brief modernist architecture period of the late 50's in the country.

CONSTRUCTION+
archify
Archify is product
HOME
NEWS
ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN
IN THE SPOTLIGHT
COMMENTARY
MAGAZINE
PRODUCTS
ADVERTISE
Bringing The Building And Design Industry To You
archify
FIND OUT MORE
FUTURARC
ECOPUNCTURE: Transforming Architecture and

COMMENTARY • ONLINE EXCLUSIVE

Bangunan Getah Asli: A Heritage to Be

More than 40,000 product options for your next projects, all on www.archify.com

CONSTRUCTION+ THE NEED FOR A RESILIENCY FRAMEWORK AND ACCREDITATION OF BUILDINGS IN MALAYSIA

On September 2020 an article by ***VERITAS Group President David Hashim*** was published in Construction+ magazine. The article entitled "*The Need for a Resiliency Framework and Accreditation of Buildings in Malaysia*" explained the importance of an urban planning and architectural approach that emphasizes resiliency. The recent Covid-19 pandemic has raised questions on how architectural design can be more responsive and resilient to environment and man-made crisis.

The need for a resiliency framework and accreditation of buildings in Malaysia

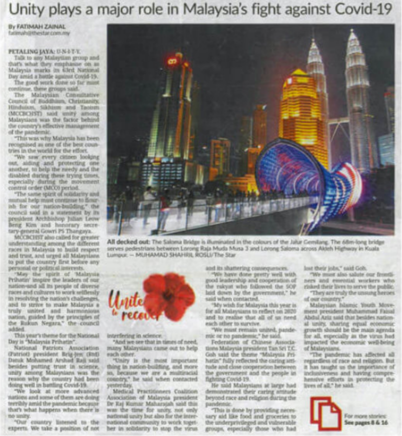
---

THE STAR: KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK

Keep up the good work

On 31st August 2020 VERITAS' recently completed project, the ***Saloma Bridge*** was featured in The Star newspaper. The article illustrated the special lighting of the Malaysian flag or "*Jalur Gemilang*" in conjunction with Malaysia's 63rd Merdeka celebration. The 68m-long bridge serves pedestrians between Kampong Baru and KLCC across the AKLEH Highway and the Klang River in Kuala Lumpur.

i·d·e·a·s for the world



Unity plays a major role in Malaysia's fight against Covid-19

By FATIMAH ZAINAL
fatimah@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: U-N-I-T-Y.

Talk to any Malaysian group and that's what they emphasise on as Malaysia marks its 63rd National Day amid a battle against Covid-19.

The good work done so far must continue, these groups said.

The Malaysian Consultative Council of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism and Taoism (MCCBCHST) said unity among Malaysians was the factor behind the country's effective management of the pandemic.

"This was why Malaysia has been recognised as one of the best countries in the world for the effort.

"We saw every citizen looking out, aiding and protecting one another, to help the needy and the disabled during these trying times, especially during the movement control order (MCO) period.

"The same spirit of solidarity and mutual help must continue to flourish for our nation-building," the council said in a statement by its president Archbishop Julian Leow Beng Kim and honorary secretary-general Gowri PS Thangaya.

MCCBCHST also called for greater understanding among the different races in Malaysia to build respect and trust, and urged all Malaysians to put the country first before any personal or political interests.

"May the spirit of 'Malaysia Prihatin' inspire the leaders of our nation-and all its people of diverse races and cultures to work selflessly in resolving the nation's challenges, and to strive to make Malaysia a truly united and harmonious nation, guided by the principles of the Rukun Negara," the council added.

This year's theme for the National Day is "Malaysia Prihatin".

National Patriots Association (Patriot) president Brig-Jen (Rtd) Datuk Mohamed Arshad Raji said besides putting trust in science, unity among Malaysians was the reason why the country had been doing well in battling Covid-19.

"We look at more advanced nations and some of them are doing terribly amid the pandemic because that's what happens when there is no unity.

"Our country listened to the experts. We take a position of not interfering in science.

"And we see that in times of need, many Malaysians came out to help each other.

"Unity is the most important thing in nation-building, and more so, because we are a multiracial country," he said when contacted yesterday.

Medical Practitioners Coalition Association of Malaysia president Dr Raj Kumar Maharajah said this was the time for unity, not only national unity but also for the international community to work together in solidarity to stop the virus and its shattering consequences.

"We have done pretty well with good leadership and cooperation of the rakyat who followed the SOP laid down by the government," he said when contacted.

"My wish for Malaysia this year is for all Malaysians to reflect on 2020 and to realise that all of us need each other to survive.

"We must remain united, pandemic or no pandemic," he said.

Federation of Chinese Associations Malaysia president Tan Sri T.C. Goh said the theme "Malaysia Prihatin" fully reflected the caring attitude and close cooperation between the government and the people in fighting Covid-19.

He said Malaysians at large had demonstrated their caring attitude beyond race and religion during the pandemic.

"This is done by providing necessary aid like food and groceries to the underprivileged and vulnerable groups, especially those who had lost their jobs," said Goh.

"We must also salute our frontliners and essential workers who risked their lives to serve the public.

"They are truly the unsung heroes of our country."

Malaysian Islamic Youth Movement president Muhammad Faisal Abdul Aziz said that besides national unity, sharing equal economic growth should be the main agenda for all, especially as the virus had impacted the economic well-being of Malaysians.

"The pandemic has affected all regardless of race and religion. But it has taught us the importance of inclusiveness and having comprehensive efforts in protecting the lives of all," he said.

All decked out: The Saloma Bridge is illuminated in the colours of the Jalur Gemilang. The 68m-long bridge serves pedestrians between Lorong Raja Muda Musa 3 and Lorong Saloma across Akleh Highway in Kuala Lumpur. – MUHAMAD SHAHRIL ROSLI/The Star

For more stories:
See pages 8 & 16

WHAT'S HAPPENING

■ VERITAS GO-KART

On 5th September 2020 ***VERITAS Sports and Social Club (VSSC)*** organized a staff go-kart race. The event was held at the City Karting center in Shah Alam. VERITASians were split into their 5 tribes and each tribe chose 10 highly skilled members to compete in the race. Congratulations to Tribe A for emerging as winners of VERITAS Go-Kart 2020!

EXPERIENCE THE EXHILARATION OF GO-KARTING!
DRIVE AT YOUR OWN RISK
GET YOUR APP

SHAH ALAM INTERNATIONAL KART CIRCUIT

RECENT ACTIVITIES OF THE VERITAS FUND FOR EXCELLENCE (VFE)

The ***VERITAS Fund for Excellence or VFE*** is the VERITAS unit which leads the Corporate Social Responsibility activities of the group, and one of its 3 focus areas is the ENVIRONMENT. In the months of August and September 2020, the VFE funded and participated in two exciting projects in the jungles of Malaysia.

RIMAU-MENRAQ

The first, held between 19th and 21st August was the RIMAU-Menraq project in the Belum Royal Park, Perak. To protect the natural environment of the highly endangered Malayan Tiger, the VFE contributed to an NGO called RIMAU, which arranged for a 2-night visit to an orang asli village deep in the jungle. The purpose of the visit was to confirm the "*graduation*" of 14 anti-tiger poaching rangers from among the Jahai orang asli community there.

KAMPUNGKU 3.0

On the 12th and 13th of September 2020, a group of 3 VERITASians, 3 employees of Haskell and members of the NGO EcoMy formed an expedition to Taman Negara for Project Kampungku 3.0, a renewable energy initiative aimed at bringing artificial lighting to orang asli villages across rural Malaysia. In addition to VERITAS and Haskell, EcoMys partner for the third year was Lewis & Clarke College of USA.

To celebrate this auspicious occasion, many activities were organized with the Jahai children by the RIMAU volunteers, and ***VERITAS President David Hashim*** was honoured by giving away food packages to the Jahai leaders.

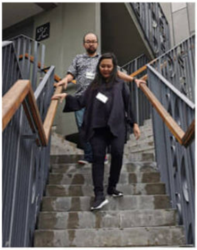
Think big and don't listen to people who tell you it can't be done. Life's too short to think small.

Tim Ferriss
www.geckoandfly.com

The VERITASians, led by ***Venuthan Ganasan***, worked with the indigenous tribes of Kampung Atok to educate the tribal communities on correct usage of photovoltaic panels to provide artificial lighting. The team also brought grocery supplies for the 23-family village.

SITE VISIT ANGSANA BY BANYAN TREE

On 12th September 2020, a group of VERITASians visited our recently completed project; the Angsana by Banyan Tree. The site of this exclusive wellness resort is located at Teluk Bahang, Penang. VERITASians from both the Kuala Lumpur and Penang offices attended this informative/educational trip to learn more about the ***design approach*** and ***uniqueness*** of this hospitality project.



VERITAS WINS ALIGA20!

Congratulations to VERITASians for winning the ALIGA20 football tournament! The final match of the tournament was held was held on Sunday 6th September 2020 at the Padang B, Radia Arena Bukit Jelutong.

VERITASians competed against UEM Sunrise in the final match and ***won*** with a score of 4-0. This was a meaningful victory for VERITAS as we were only runners-up in the 2019 tournament.

docasa
ALIGA
HAM

LIGA
CHAMPION

docasa
CHAMPION

docasa
LIGA 20
CHAMPION

docasa
LIGA 20
CHAMPION

LIGA 20
CHAMPION

TRIP TO GUNUNG PELEPAH

On 19th September 2020, ***VERITAS JB Sports and Social Club*** organized a hiking trip to Gunung Pelepah near Kota Tinggi, Johor. 9 VERITASians and their family members took part in this day trip. They started the hike around 8.00 am and enjoyed the beauty of the nature. Few of the staffs managed to completed the hike to the peak of the mountain which is about 835 feet high.

STAFF OF MONTH

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

VG: How would you describe working at VERITAS in a movie title? And why?
***Allen**: Cinderella. Everyone's waiting for the fairy that's going to change our lives whilst scrubbing the floors. But nobody ever stops to think that maybe it's more efficient to collide with the abusers and make off with the Prince. You choose the time. Too much drama and too little confrontation in waiting. It's a great movie and it's all about hard work to the limit for getting the maximum result.*

VG: What's your passion or hobby? Is that what inspired you to become an Architect?
***Allen**: I didn't choose the game; the game chose me. Architecture is more than just brick and mortar. It's an instrument. From the time man drew a circle in the ground and claimed it as his, that is human's expression of built architecture in the basest form.*

It's like a super power, will you use it for good and provide refuge to the pedestrians from the heat on the streets? Or would you wield it for malice and be the instrument of oppression to the dictators in extending their sovereignty and influence?

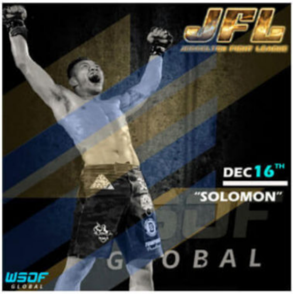
People see in black or in white, I prefer to explore the grey. It's in experimentation that leads to discovery. There are risks in being avant garde, but the Kurgan said: "It's better to burn up than to fade away".

"Any moment might be our last. Everything is more beautiful because we're doomed. You will never be lovelier than you are now. We will never be here again" ~ Achilles
CREW
#TeamAl
MARKSMEN

VG: Being an MMA fighter, how do you balance your passion, work and family?
***Allen**: You are the architect of your life, and it's up to you to craft the palette of experience you wish to savor. Time is the currency and courage is the gate keeper. No two days are the same, thus no two schedules should be identical. You can't live life trapped in the bars of regimentation. Always allow for ebb and flow in programs. Some days you ignite, some days you recover, but never the same.*

VG: Where do you see yourself in 5 years?
***Allen**: Mai Tais on the beach whilst checking up on my peons are turning up for work on time. From my mobile. I'm here for a good time, not a long time.*

VG: If you are given a chance to be the CEO of VERITAS, what will be your first action?
***Allen**: Since we're on the ephemeral, I will make it compulsory to wear tights and pink tutus on Fridays of all the labour force (pink is scientifically proven to lower incidence of aggression and violence among inmates). Peace out from your friendly neighbourhood OrangUtan!*



NEWLY WED

NEW STAFF

Pinky Tan Jun Inn @ Architect

Nicole Hernandez @ Architect

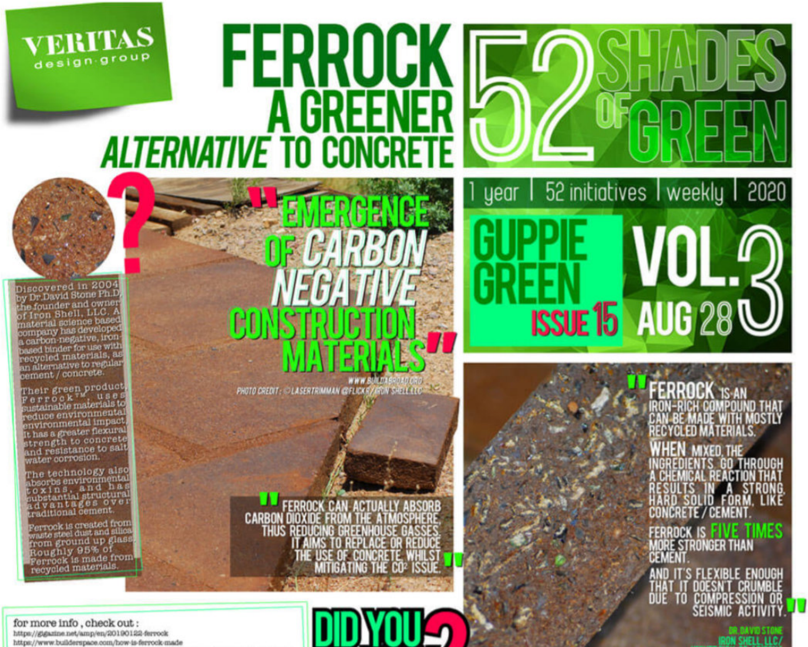
Mohd Hafidz Hazri @ Intern

Shuzana Shaari @ Admin Assistant

Congratulations to ***VERITASian Norsyafiqah Abdul Kadir*** for tying the knot with Aznil Zuhil on 12th September 2020 at the Kuala Kurau, Perak!

WHO'S CELEBRATING THEIR BIRTHDAY - SEPTEMBER

1st Meor Herme, Mohamed Nadzeem Abdullah
2nd Yuslan, Mohd Zamri Bin Abd Lateh, Aida Elyana
4th Aliaa Zawani
6th Mohd Azmin, Mohd Fadzil Mohamad Yunos
12th Wan Mohd Nizam
13th Siti Nabiha
14th Liyana 'Aqilah, Mohd Zulhelmie Zakaria, Vijaya Kumar Yoganathan
18th Mohd Azrul
19th Abu Hazreiq
20th Noor Lydia
21st Alif Arif Iskandar
22nd Komathi
24th Ivan Lee Kok Jong
25th Johari, Fazelyna Abdul Rashid
26th Ka Yee
27th Gabriel Seong Ming Huei
29th Saza Nurlyana
30th Faizol



VERITAS
design group

FERROCK A GREENER ALTERNATIVE TO CONCRETE

52 SHADES OF GREEN

1 year | 52 initiatives | weekly | 2020

GUPPIE GREEN ISSUE 15

VOL.3 AUG 28

"EMERGENCE OF CARBON NEGATIVE CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS"

WWW.BUILDABROAD.ORG
PHOTO CREDIT : ©LASERTRIMMAN @FLICKR / IRON SHELL LLC

Discovered in 2004 by Dr.David Stone Ph.D, the founder and owner of Iron Shell, LLC. A material science based company has developed a carbon-negative, iron-based binder for use with recycled materials, as an alternative to regular cement / concrete.

Their green product, Ferrock™, uses sustainable materials to reduce environmental environmental impact. It has a greater flexural strength to concrete and resistance to salt water corrosion.

The technology also absorbs environmental toxins, and has substantial structural advantages over traditional cement.

Ferrock is created from waste steel dust and silica from ground up glass. Roughly 95% of Ferrock is made from recycled materials.

"FERROCK CAN ACTUALLY ABSORB CARBON DIOXIDE FROM THE ATMOSPHERE, THUS REDUCING GREENHOUSE GASSES. IT AIMS TO REPLACE OR REDUCE THE USE OF CONCRETE WHILST MITIGATING THE CO^2 ISSUE."

"FERROCK IS AN IRON-RICH COMPOUND THAT CAN BE MADE WITH MOSTLY RECYCLED MATERIALS.

WHEN MIXED, THE INGREDIENTS GO THROUGH A CHEMICAL REACTION THAT RESULTS IN A STRONG, HARD SOLID FORM, LIKE CONCRETE / CEMENT.

FERROCK IS FIVE TIMES MORE STRONGER THAN CEMENT.

AND IT'S FLEXIBLE ENOUGH THAT IT DOESN'T CRUMBLE DUE TO COMPRESSION OR SEISMIC ACTIVITY."

DR. DAVID STONE
IRON SHELL, LLC/

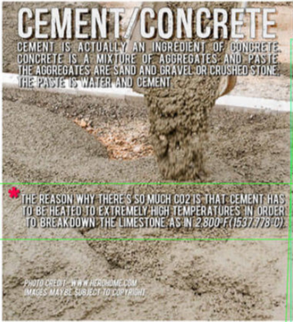
for more info , check out :
https://gigazine.net/amp/en/20190122-ferrock
https://www.builderspace.com/how-is-ferrock-made

DID YOU

https://www.certifiedenergy.com.au/emerging-materials/emerging-materials-ferrock
https://www.99acres.com/articles/ferrock-a-stronger-and-greener-alternative-to-cement
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uaYZzdYnlzg

KNOW?

POLLUTING FACTS



CEMENT/CONCRETE

CEMENT IS ACTUALLY AN INGREDIENT OF CONCRETE. CONCRETE IS A MIXTURE OF AGGREGATES AND PASTE. THE AGGREGATES ARE SAND AND GRAVEL OR CRUSHED STONE. THE PASTE IS WATER AND CEMENT.

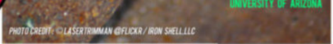
* THE REASON WHY THERE'S SO MUCH CO2 IS THAT CEMENT HAS TO BE HEATED TO EXTREMELY HIGH TEMPERATURES IN ORDER TO BREAKDOWN THE LIMESTONE AS IN 2,800°F(1537.778°C).

PHOTO CREDIT - WWW.HEROHOME.COM
IMAGES MAYBE SUBJECT TO COPYRIGHT

CONCRETE IS CREATED FROM UNSUSTAINABLE RAW MATERIALS. CURRENTLY AROUND 4 BILLION TONS OF CONCRETE IS PRODUCED EACH YEAR WORLDWIDE, A HALF-TON FOR EVERY PERSON ON EARTH.

THIS CONTRIBUTES TO 7% OF THE WORLD'S CO^2 EMMISION. *

FOR EVERY 1 TON OF CEMENT PRODUCED, APPROXIMATELY 0.8 TON OF CO^2 IS RELEASED.



UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

PHOTO CREDIT : © LASERTRIMMAN @FLICKR / IRON SHELL.LLC

"FERROCK ACTS AS A TYPE OF CARBON SPONGE - FERROCK ONLY HARDENS WHEN IT IS EXPOSED TO HIGH AMOUNTS OF CO^2, WHICH IS DIFFUSED INTO THE WET MIXTURE AND REACTS WITH IRON TO CREATE IRON CARBONATE."

PHOTO CREDIT : © BUILDABROAD.ORG

"THE TECHNOLOGY STANDS TO IMPACT THE WORLD IN A VARIETY OF WAYS, INCLUDING BOTH REDUCTION OF CARBON DIOXIDE PRODUCTION AND SEQUESTRATION OF OTHER CARBON DIOXIDE PRODUCTION, AS WELL AS RECYCLING OF WASTE PRODUCTS SUCH AS STEEL WASTE AND IN SOME CASES, RECYCLED GLASS."

PHOTO CREDIT : © BUILDABROAD.ORG

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

www.theveritasdesigngroup.com