

VERITAS

may 2021 e-newsletter

Hello everyone!

In this month's E-news, we present the inaugural review of significant projects from our past. As such we are delighted to feature VERITAS' first high-rise project: the Crown Regency Hotel and Apartments in Kuala Lumpur, which was completed in 1996.

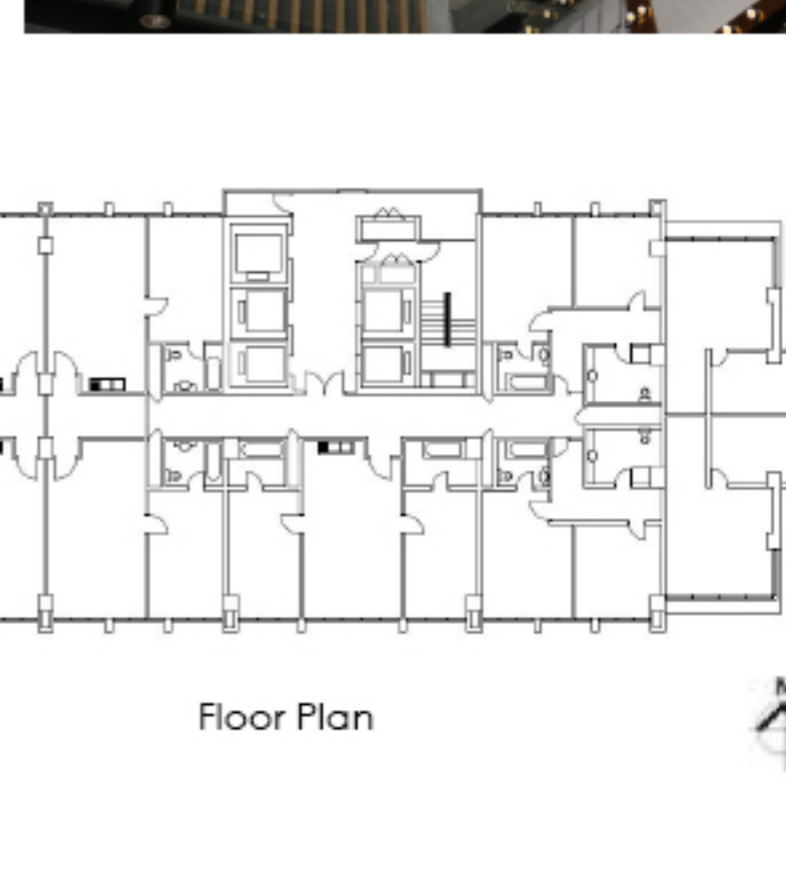
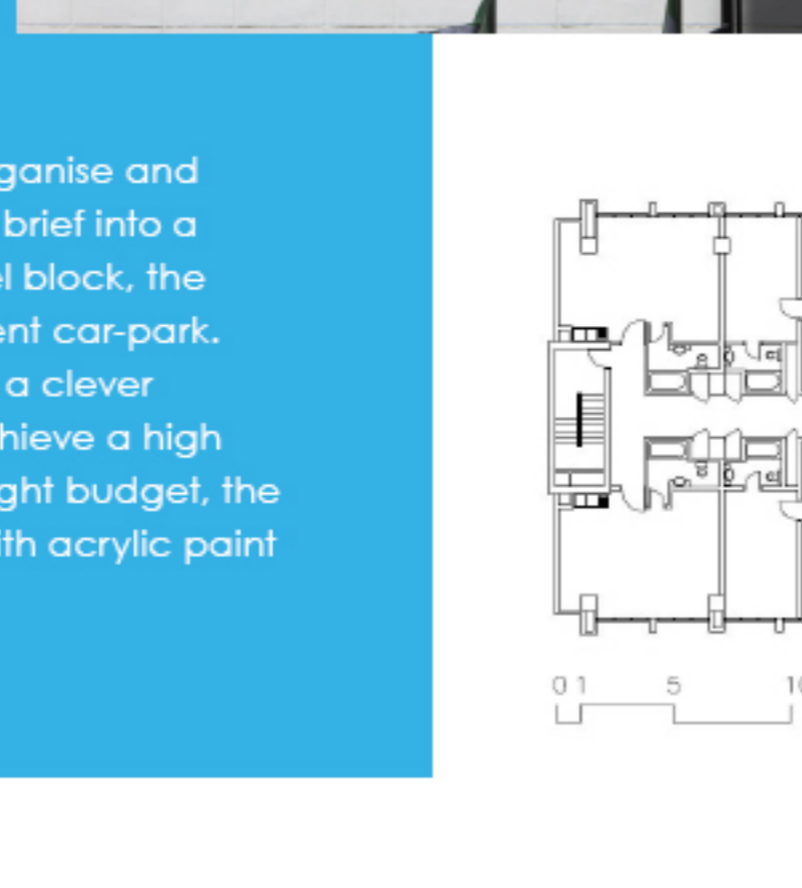
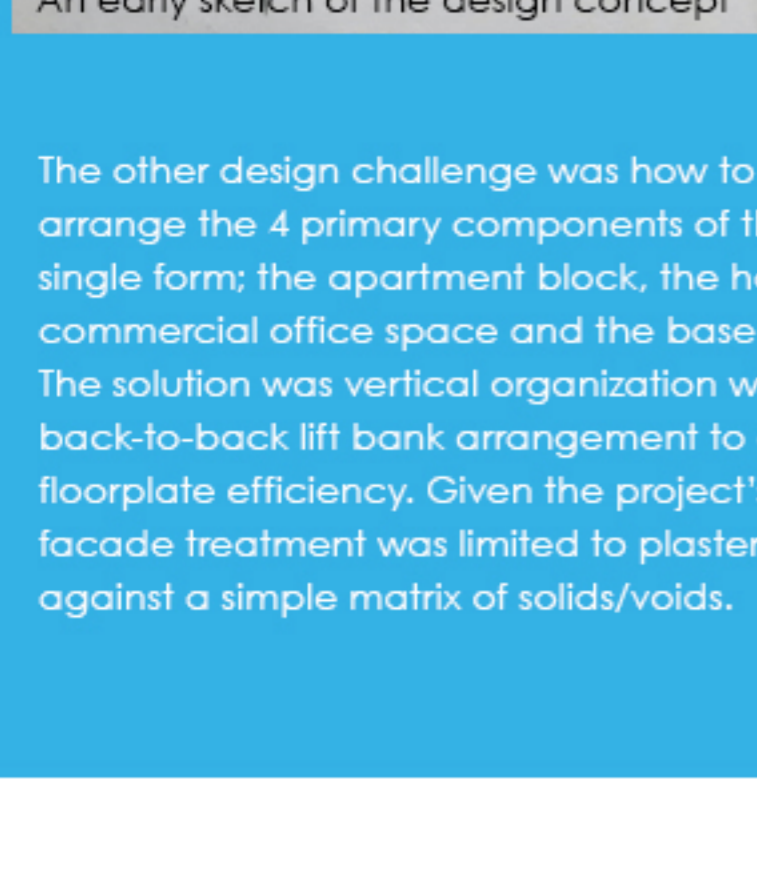
This E-news will also cover many other interesting happenings in VERITAS. We hope you enjoy this month's VERITAS E-news! And please don't hesitate to contact us if you would like to know more about any of the stories featured here.

The Crown Regency is a 31-storey hotel and co-branded serviced residence located along Jalan P. Ramlee in the heart of Kuala Lumpur, which became the first project of its type within Malaysia.

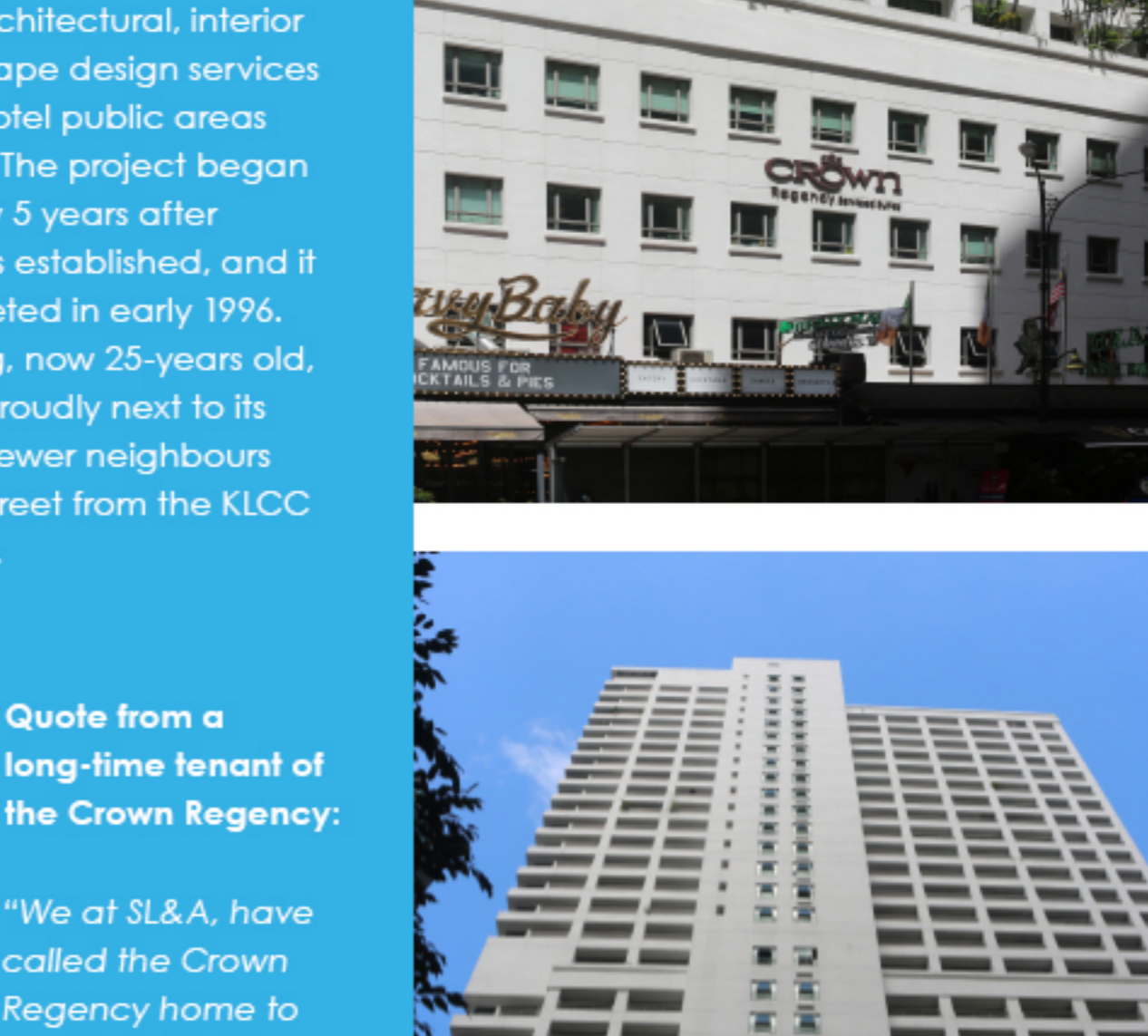
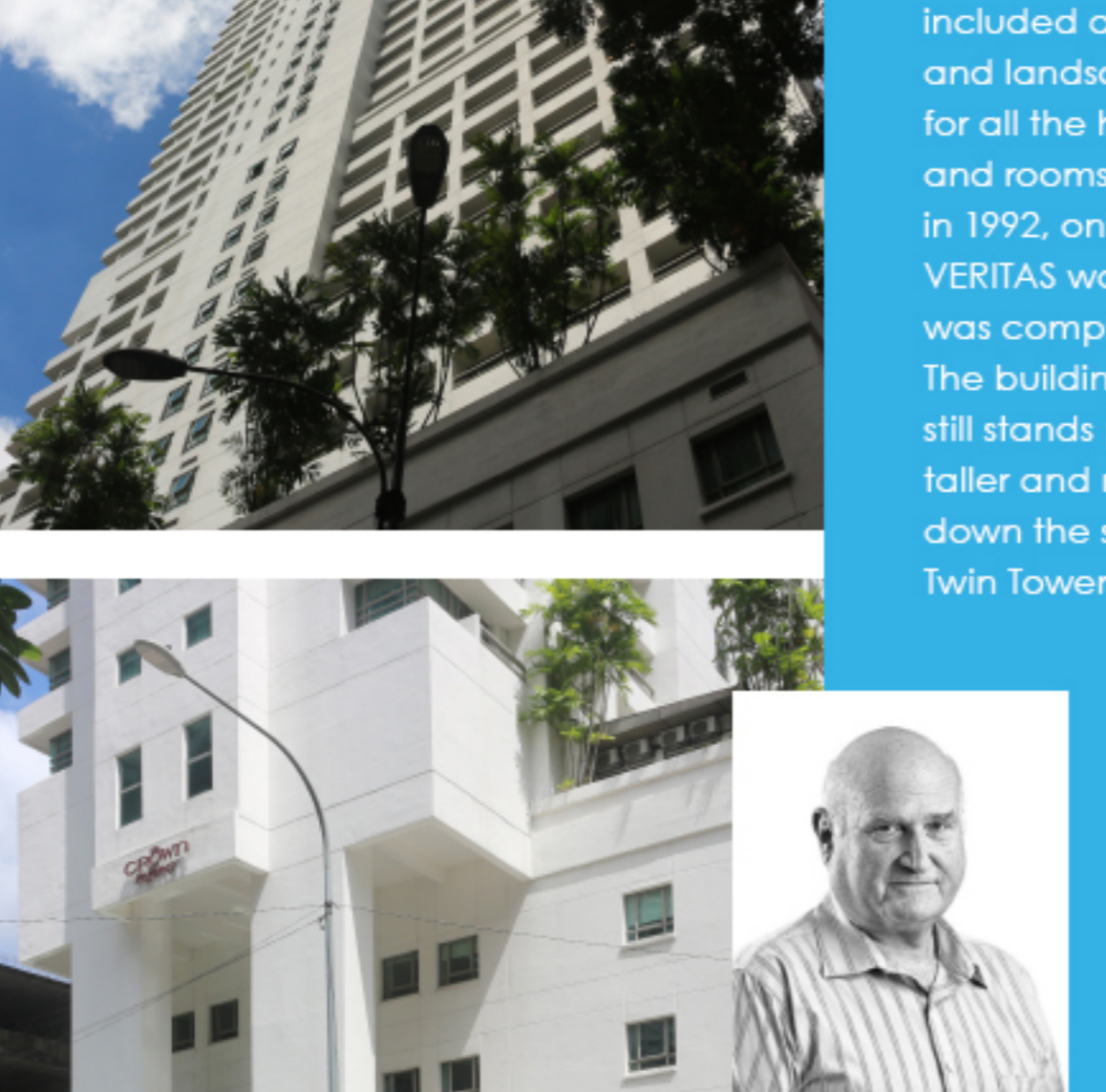


THE CROWN REGENCY

The narrowness of the site presented quite a challenge to the planning of the building, especially for the 3 basement levels.



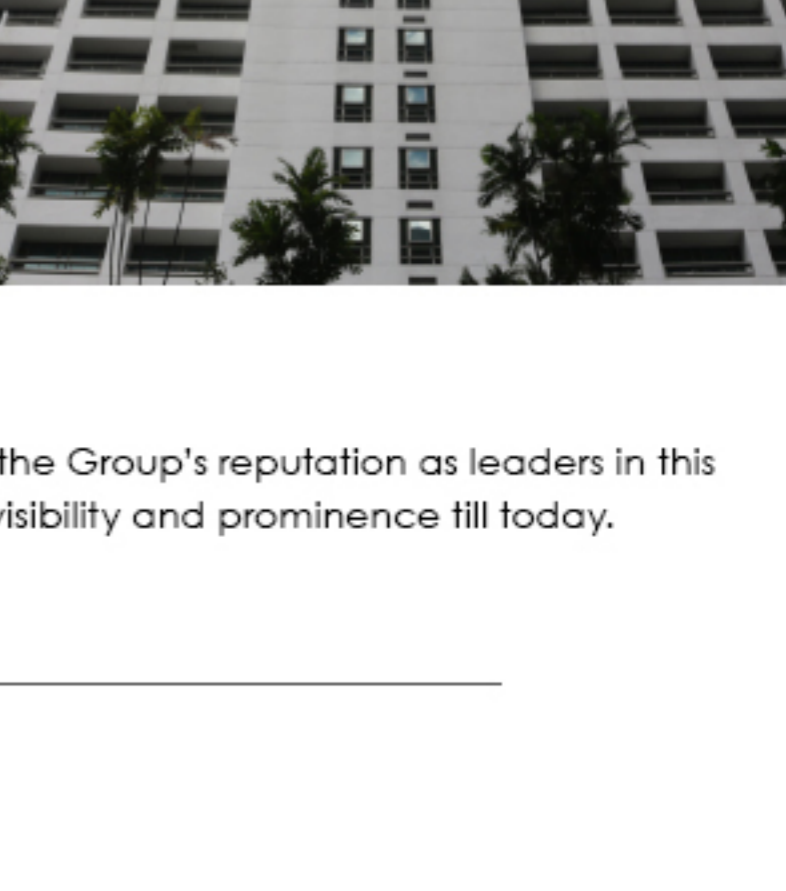
The other design challenge was how to organise and arrange the 4 primary components of the brief into a single form: the apartment block, the hotel block, the commercial office space and the basement car-park. The solution was vertical organization with a clever back-to-back lift bank arrangement to achieve a high floorplate efficiency. Given the project's tight budget, the facade treatment was limited to plaster with acrylic paint against a simple matrix of solids/voids.



VERITAS' responsibilities included architectural, interior and landscape design services for all the hotel public areas and rooms. The project began in 1992, only 5 years after VERITAS was established, and it was completed in early 1996. The building, now 25-years old, still stands proudly next to its taller and newer neighbours down the street from the KLCC Twin Towers.



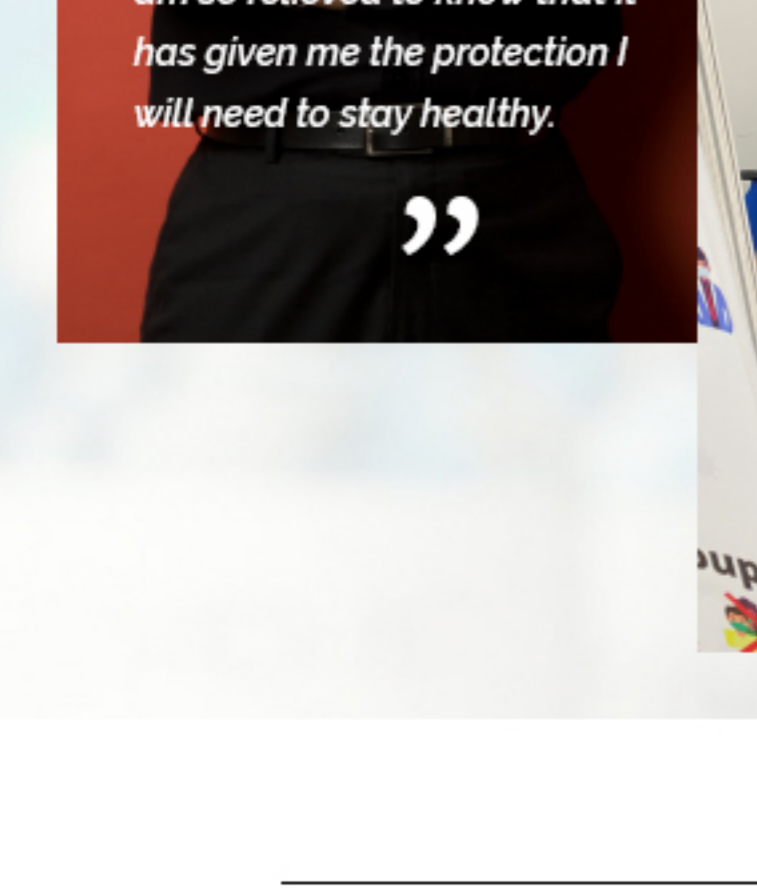
Quote from a long-time tenant of the Crown Regency:
 "We at S&A, have called the Crown Regency home to our studio for the past 20 years. It's quiet grace and fine proportion has given us the sense of place needed to help us grow and prosper."



The Crown Regency was the first high-rise tower completed by VERITAS, and it established the Group's reputation as leaders in this building typology. Its high-profile location in Kuala Lumpur's "Golden Triangle" ensured its visibility and prominence till today.

THE ON-GOING PANDEMIC (AND GETTING VACCINATED)

A special message from VERITAS Design Group President



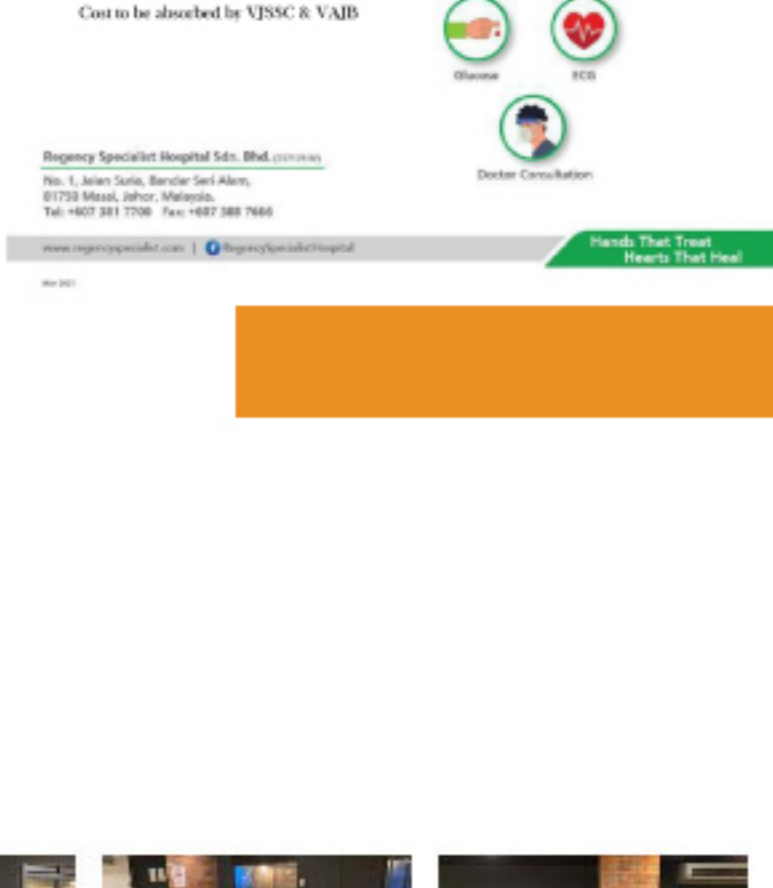
On 5th May 2021 I received my first dose of AstraZeneca in Universiti Mataya, and I am so relieved to know that it has given me the protection I will need to stay healthy.



The latest MCO 3.0 Work-From-Home regulations announced on 22nd of May 2021 by Malaysia's Prime Minister certainly places pressure on the construction industry, and by extension the design professions in the country. While the efficiency of these regulations are debatable, VERITAS shall comply strictly with all its provisions, and hopefully by 8th of June 2021 all VERITASians will be back to working from office.

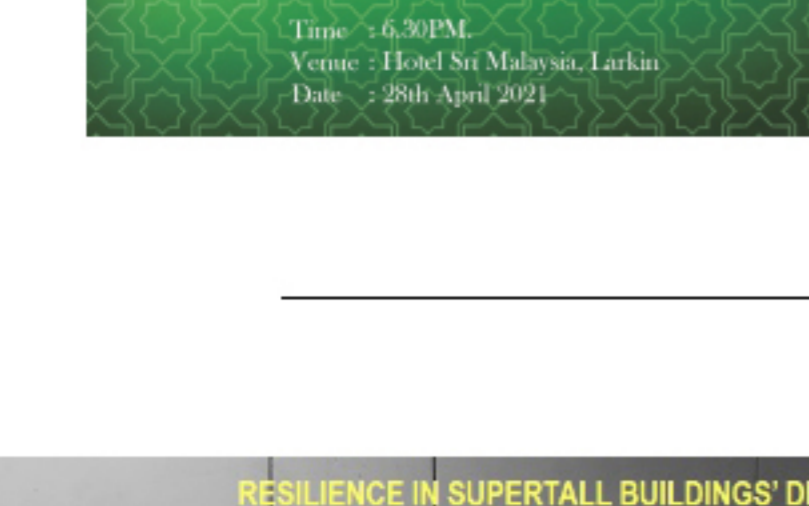
Meanwhile I strongly encourage all VERITASians to register as soon as possible for the Covid-19 vaccination. It doesn't matter which brand of vaccine is offered as they are all about the same. The important thing is to get this dose without any further delay as it will protect you, your family and your colleagues.

WHAT'S HAPPENING



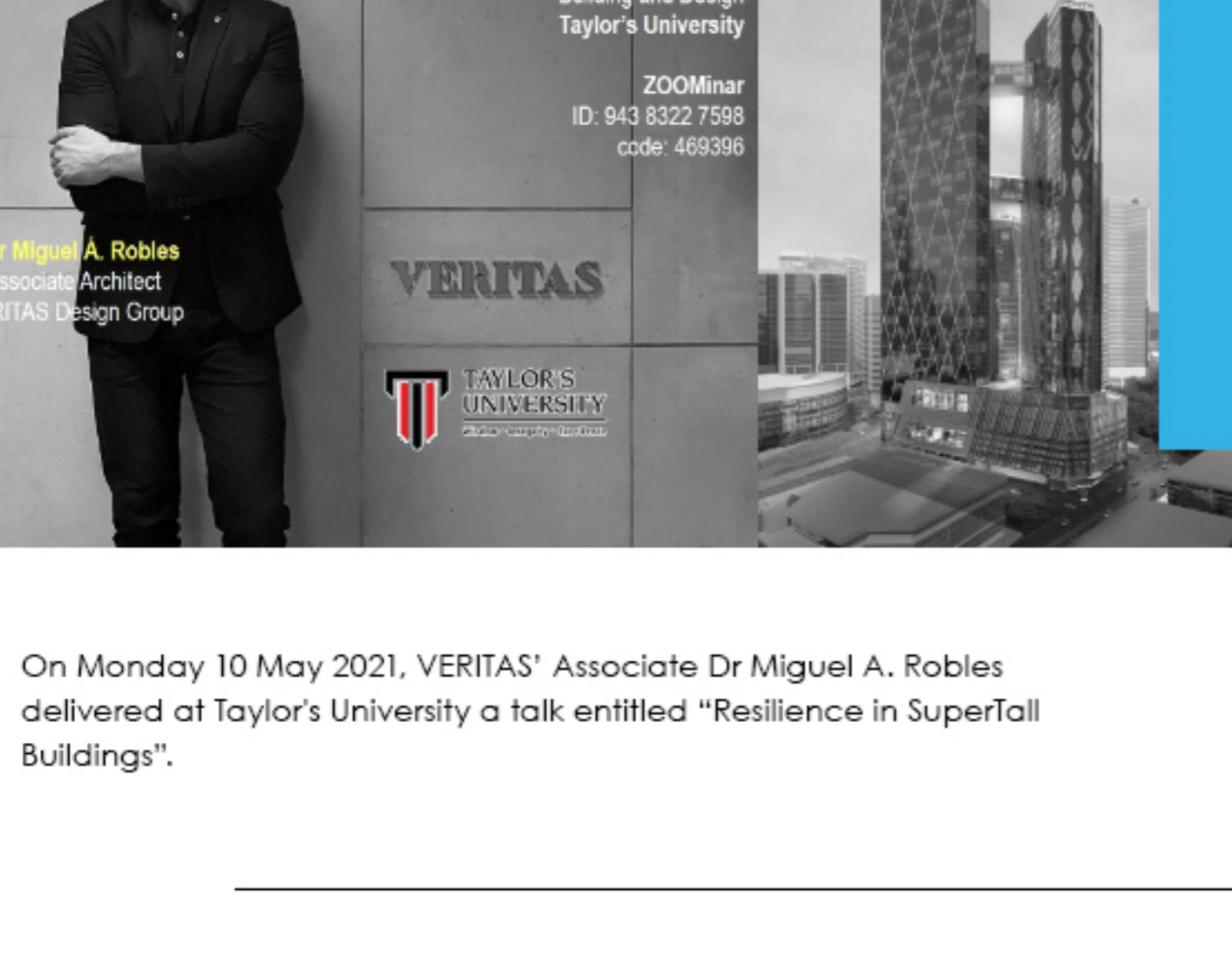
VERITAS JB Health Screening and Ramadhan Iftar

On 28th of April 2021 VERITAS Johor Sports and Social Club (VJSSC) organized rapid health screening for all the VERITAS in JB office. Medical team from Regency Specialist Hospital came to conduct a series of general tests such as BMI ratio, blood pressure reading, cholesterol level reading, glucose level reading and ECG test.



Buffet Ramadhan 2021

Following that they also organized Ramadhan Iftar at the Hotel Sri Malaysia, JB joined by all staff and family members joined for the delicious buffet.



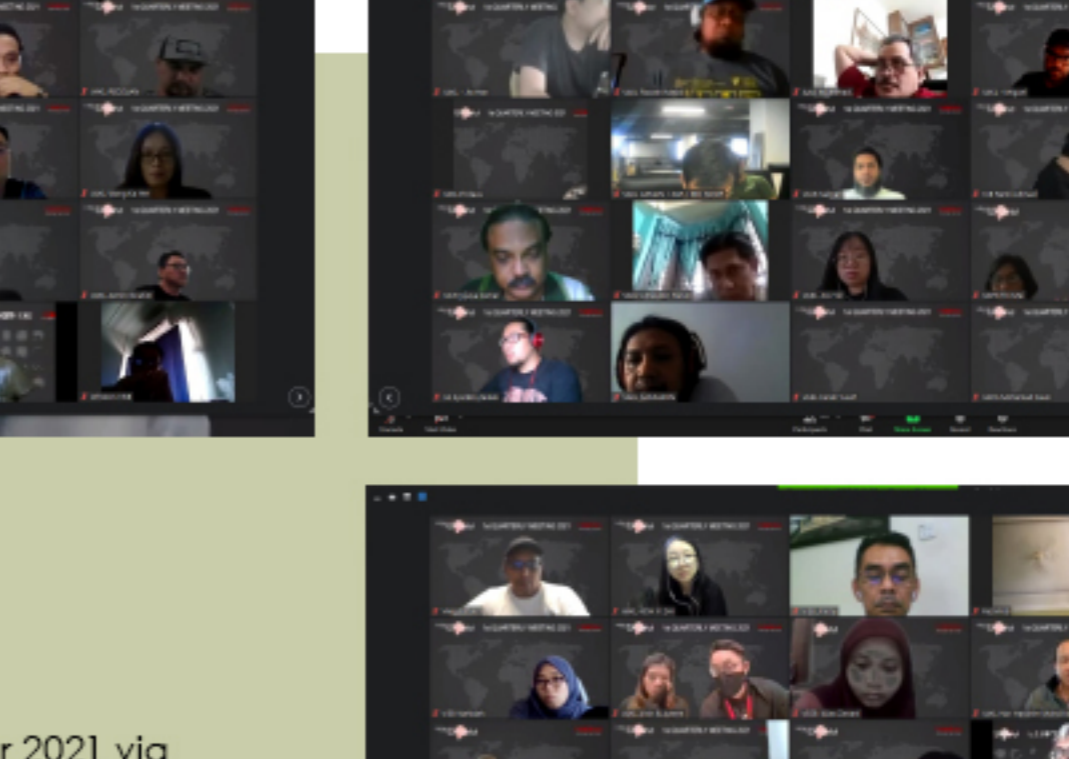
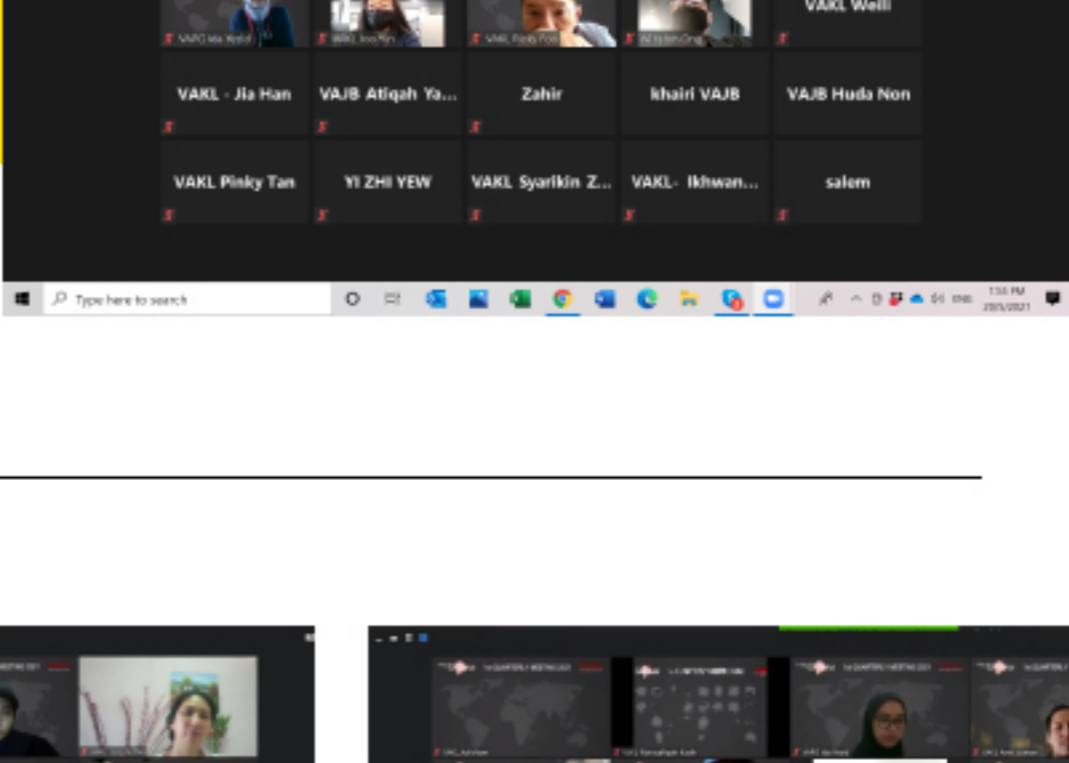
Resilience in Supertall Buildings' Design

Miguel explained to a group of 30+ students and lecturers about the key aspects of Resilient Design in Architecture, as applied to structures above 300m in height. He spoke from the perspective of VERITAS' completed projects, and elaborated on Oxley Towers: an 80-storey mixed-use development in the heart of Kuala Lumpur, which will be completed by 2023.

On Monday 10 May 2021, VERITAS' Associate Dr Miguel A. Robles delivered at Taylor's University a talk entitled "Resilience in SuperTall Buildings".

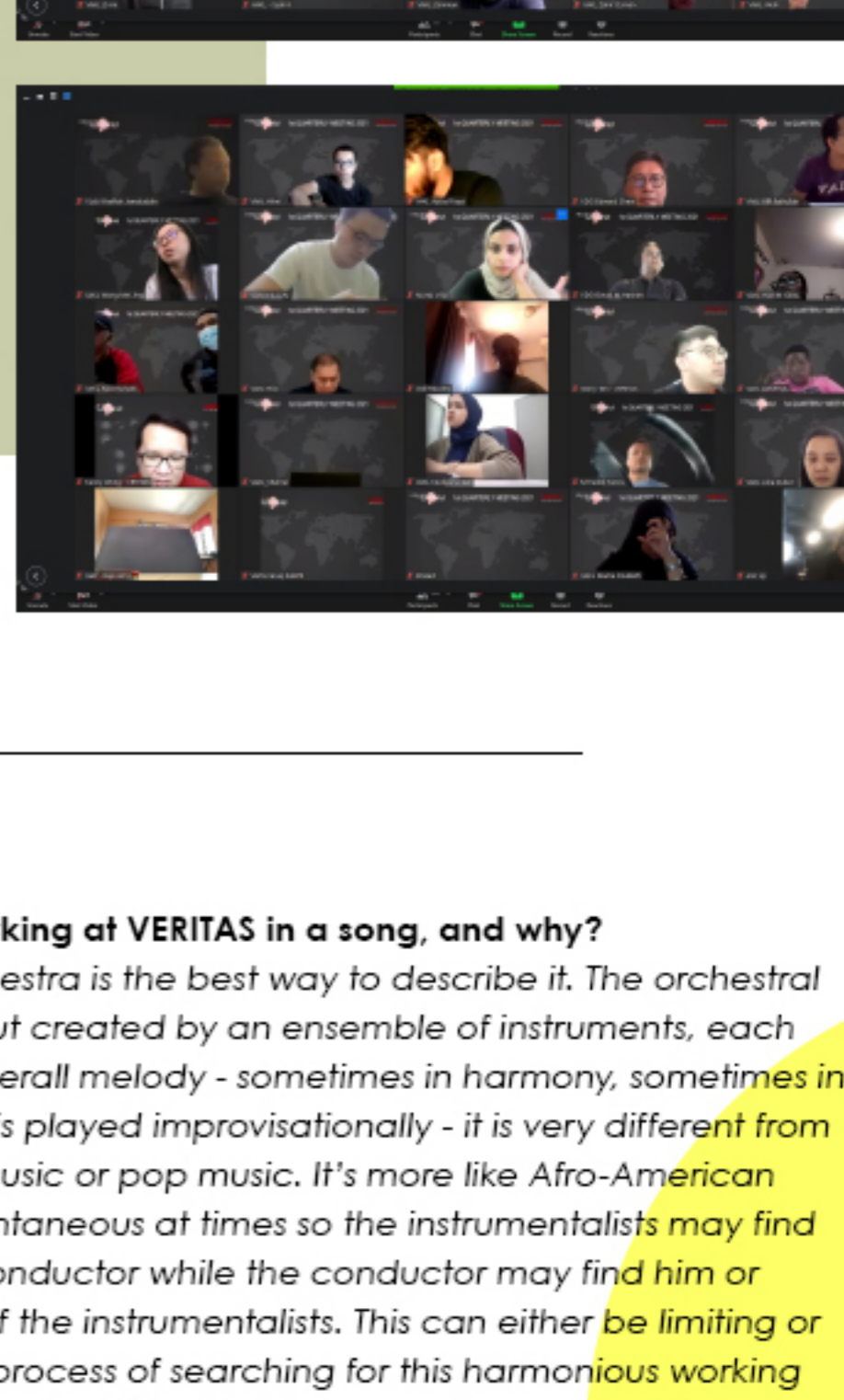
Archify Training Session with VERITAS Architects

On 20th May 2021, VERITAS Architect Michael Tan organized a training session via ZOOM joined by the Archify.com of the BCI Asia Construction magazine. The interactive training session was attended by 27 architects from VERITAS JB, Penang and KL.



Staff Quarterly Meeting

On 22nd 2021, VERITAS held its 2nd Quarterly Meeting for the year 2021 via ZOOM. Over 250 staff attended the meeting including the international offices from VERITAS Australia, VERITAS Vietnam, VERITAS Singapore and VERITAS future office Japan. VERITAS Group President David Hashim gave an inspiring speech on the company's plans, and strategies to achieve expected growth and success. VERITAS also distributed CORE Value Awards, which were received by Husman Setta for Integrity, Chu Jia Jun for Design, Shaktee Kumar for Environment, Hamzah Jaafar for Audacity and lastly Tran Thanh An for Service.



Staff of the Month

Our staff of the month for May is VERITASian Zulfur, Shafriman, commonly known as just "Ihsan" among his colleagues and friends. Ihsan is currently holding the position of Project Architect in VERITAS KL and has been with the firm for the past 3 years. Ihsan shares his personal story with Venuthan Ganasan (VG):

VG: How would you describe working at VERITAS in a song, and why?
Ihsan: A Javanese gamelan orchestra is the best way to describe it. The orchestral pieces are led by a conductor but created by an ensemble of instruments, each with an interlocking role in the overall melody - sometimes in harmony, sometimes in dissonance. Gamelan orchestra is played improvisationally - it is very different from the rigidity of Western classical music or pop music. It's more like Afro-American Jazz. The conductor may be spontaneous at times so the instrumentalists may find themselves catching up to the conductor while the conductor may find him or herself at the mercy of the skills of the instrumentalists. This can either be limiting or extremely rewarding - but in the process of searching for this harmonious working relationship, you may expect some laughs, frustrations and even friendly fires!

VG: VG: In your opinion, which building(s) in Malaysia is (are) a true work of art?
Ihsan: Is this where I say I love [one of VERITAS' many buildings]? Lol. I guess if it is a VERITAS building, it has to be the humble Putrajaya Bus and Taxi Terminal. It is a simple shed with such a sophisticated roof and perfectly scaled to the function of the building. But my current favourite now is the Durian House by WHBC - it's a visually striking concrete house with great ideas and details - but like durian, you either like it or you don't.

VG: What is your passion or hobby? Is that what inspired you to choose a career in architecture?
Ihsan: I love knowledge, and art. I guess architecture was sort of a way for me to express my love for reading and learning. As a six-year-old, I drew all these beautiful buildings and I realized that I too would like a life dedicated to beauty. Today I live by the motto "Indah, Maka Benar", rewarding - but in the process of searching for this harmonious working relationship, you may expect some laughs, frustrations and even friendly fires!

VG: What is your biggest challenge now in VERITAS?
Ihsan: My biggest challenge in VERITAS is taking on the role of project architect while trying to juggle other roles such as design and research. In many instances, I could manage it well but there are times that I may fall or fall short of the tasks ahead of me. Staying positive as one embraces criticism (with a stride!) and asking for help from your colleagues and bosses are two very important things to do - speaking of which I should also sign up for Muay Thai or a meditation class!

VG: What resources do you think would be helpful to boost maximum efficiency among VERITASians?
Ihsan: There is no single panacea for this. It's an age-old question that I cannot satisfactorily answer. But I guess we can make things easier and improve efficiency with a well-crafted library of construction details and architectural specifications, mini Work Programmes for each project delivery objectives, and definitely more powerful machines to hasten our drawings and visualizations.

VG: One last question; have you had any stressful experiences in VERITAS, and if so how did you handle it?
Ihsan: Anybody who have tried and given their best for their work had definitely reached a point where they feel really stressed out. Sometimes, for me, it may overspill and cause days of burn-out rage and eventually helplessness. In fact, it just happened to me as recent as few weeks ago. I have been extremely fortunate to have supportive Principals who would lend an ear and allow me to recover. Getting back on my feet, I sought help also from my Project Team members who have been my pillar of strength. Emotional support from colleagues are extremely important in allowing me to get back on form and deliver the work I believe worthy of the responsibility and respect given to me. At the end of the day, nothing gives me more pleasure than delivering good work and making beautiful things. It's just that sometimes I may find it hard or I may even fail, but every time I reached out, there is always a kind hand extended to me in VERITAS. I just want to thank everybody who have supported each other in times of stress and adrenaline. You guys are the wonder of the world.

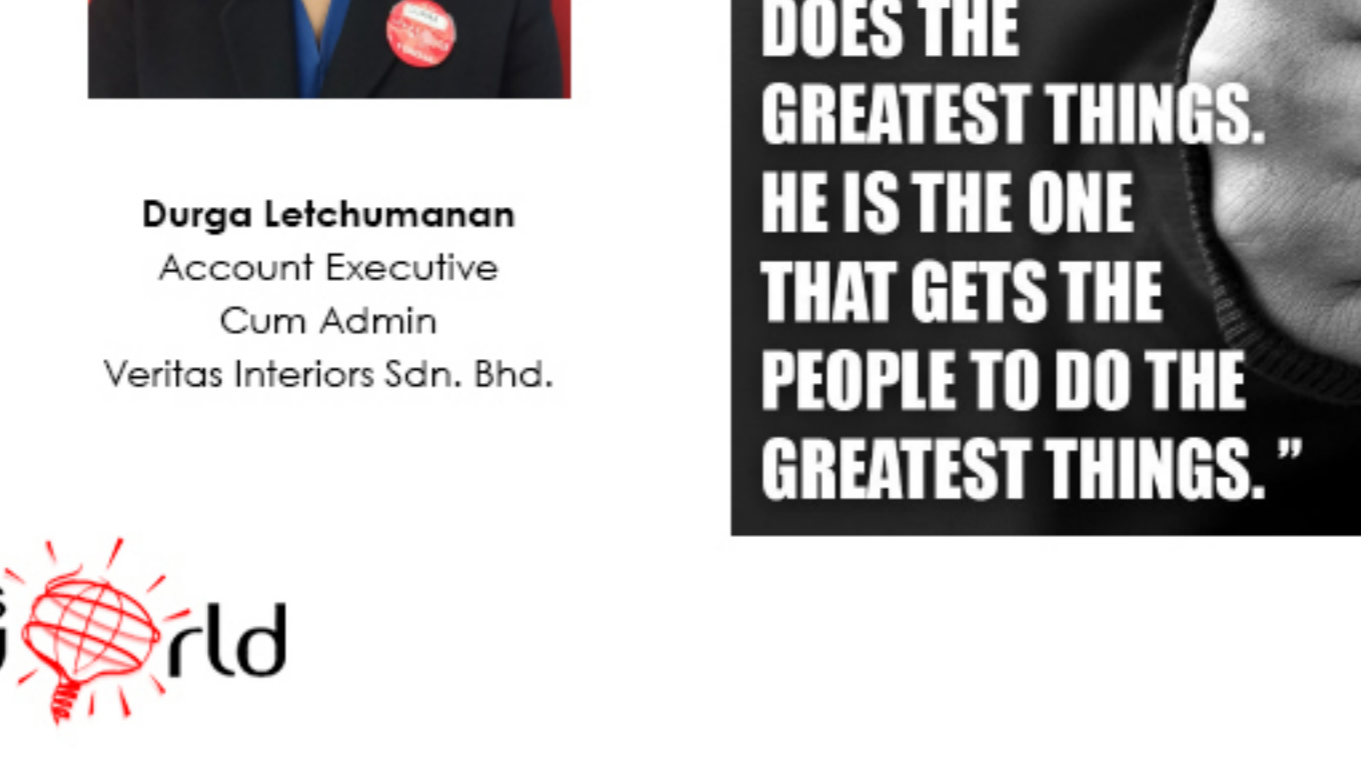
WHO'S celebrating their BIRTHDAY - May

- 2nd Zaffrul Shahrman
- 5th Shuzano Shaari
- 10th Jacintha Dilip Patel
- 14th Bianca Purkis
- 15th Pinky Tan Jun Inn
- 16th Noor Azlina Mohd Ismail
- 18th Ng Jia Han, Zaimi Kamdan, Eric Tham Kong Meng
- 21st Mohd Razif Abd Rahman
- Muhammad Zulhilmi Md Ali

- 22nd Syed Badrul Hisyam Syed Ab Aziz
- 25th Arumugam T Ellapan
- 26th Regina Thangam
- 27th Azril Amir Jaafar
- 28th Amiruddin Osman, Chu Jia Jun
- 29th Mohd Roslan Abdul Hamid
- 30th Mohd Salludin Mat Saad
- 31st David Mizan Hashim, Adniflahd Adnan

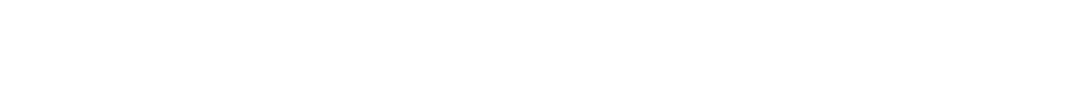
Congratulations

to VERITASian Zulfur, Shafriman and his spouse Nik Aminah Nadia Nik Lockman on the arrival of their new baby boy Rais Danial Bin Zaffrul on 9th April 2021.



Also, congratulations to VERITASian Ezrid Nur Riezam Zamri and his spouse Siti Nur Fathihah Rosle on the arrival of their new baby girl Sarah Eman Binti Ezrid Nur Riezam on the 22nd of April 2021.

New Staff



Nur Fathiah
 Secretary
 Veritas Architects Sdn. Bhd. (Kuala Lumpur)

Durga Letchumanan
 Account Executive
 Cum Admin
 Veritas Interiors Sdn. Bhd.

