VERITAS
design·group

JANUARY
2023

A VERITAS DESIGN GROUP PUBLICATION

Greetings to all our readers!

integrity
VERITAS

environment

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  DAMANSARA, KUALA LUMPUR

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for the
planet

04. OTHER NEWS

- Birthday
- New Hire

2023 is here! Out with the old, and in with the new. A Very Happy New Year to all our readers!

In this month's E-news, we are delighted to feature a small but unique project by VERITAS; The 5@KPD in Damansara Heights.

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.

THE 5 @ KPD

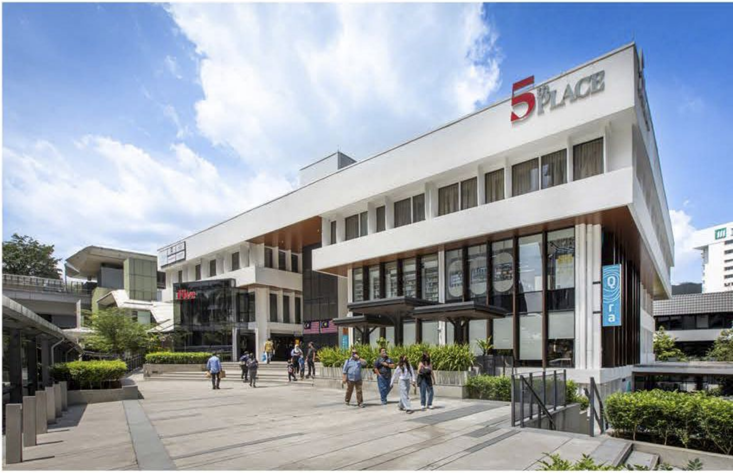
DAMANSARA, KUALA LUMPUR

https://theveritasdesigngroup.com/projects/?id=11674

Kompleks Pejabat Damansara (KPD) Block A has been repurposed as an exquisite 3,700 sm boutique retail block. It presents itself to the main street before an ample esplanade of raw concrete with some inserts of granite and timber. The building and its new plaza, slightly

raised from the adjacent Jalan Dungun, reveal a now difficult-to-miss urban space that activates the complex's frontage and funnels people inside. The site's gentle slope creates two accesses to the building: one at the ground plane, open to the plaza; and another rear access, from the lower ground, more connected and convenient to the rest of the buildings within the complex.

> *"The building is performing beyond our initial expectations"*
> – SPB Group.



Minimal, surgical interventions were rationalised over a streamlined budget. A double-storey glass box creates interest at the new frontage. Some double-storey curtain wall elements convey the new retail use of the building, making it more open and appealing to wanderers. Some new terraces and canopies are extended from the original 4-storey white cubic volume, creating alfresco opportunities and a convenient drop-off. The "umbrella" deck doubles as a sculpture-like art installation at the plaza. The original façade is tidied up, some of the concrete fins and ledges are removed to bring more light in and to allow the new activities to be seen from outside; and the roof parapet is simplified, bringing a fresh, cleaner contemporary edge to the building.

YELLOW BRICK ROAD

Inside, a well-crafted atrium is cut within the lower floors, revealing a new sense of openness, and encouraging guests to transit across the building and to visit the upper floors without disturbing the original utilitarian office block vertical circulations. The interiors are kept simple – a combination of terrazzo on the floor and exposed services and concrete slabs. The colour accents are only left to the wayfinding and to the 15 tenants – an array of cosy, boutique and business outlets with some convenient services at the disposal of the surrounding office crowd.

The project was developed by the SPB Group and completed in 2022.

Project Principal Syah Kamaruddin **(SK)** shares with Ainani **(Nani)** the inspiration behind the design.

Nani: What inspired you in the design for The 5@KPD?
SK: The new architectural intervention has little to outdo the existing building, so the focus was to conserve as much of this building while modernising the infrastructure that fits the new and improved function of The 5@KPD. However, selected architectural intervention, such as the glass box facing the main road, adds a fresh façade to the complex, incorporating more rentable retail areas and a few outdoor terraces to support the specialty F&B typology.

Secondly, interior spaces have been carved out to create a centralised lobby to increase retail visibility and allow more natural lighting to the existing deep floor plans whilst exposing the brutal beauty of the existing structures.
The 5@KPD's location as the entrance gateway to the KPD complex is an urban intervention catalyst that sets the tone for the overall redevelopment of the complex.

Great design comes with its own challenges. VERITAS Associate Miguel Robles

(MR) shares with Ainani **(Nani)** the constraints he faced in the making of The 5@KPD.

Nani: What were the challenges and how did you and the team overcome them?
MR: One of the challenges was to address the new street frontage that the building would create once the former vent-block fence was removed. The new plaza, a now difficult-to-miss urban space that activates the complex's facade and funnels people inside, is an esplanade of raw concrete with some inserts of granite and timber. Slightly raised from the adjacent Jalan Dungun, it creates a gentle segregation from the ambulant food stalls.

The other challenge was the very tight budget and the high cost related to the upgrades, or replacement, of the mechanical and electrical services necessary to get the building ready for its new purpose. Minimal structural works also contributed to cutting approximately half of the already-skinny budget.

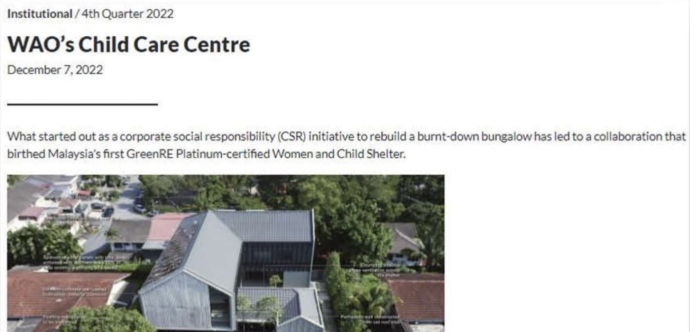
WHERE WE ARE FEATURED?

Futurarc.com; Women Aid Organisation

https://www.futurarc.com/project/waos-child-care-centre/

The Women Aid Organisation's (WAO) Child Care Centre was featured at futurarc.com on 7th December. What started out as a corporate social responsibility initiative to rebuild a burnt-down bungalow has led to a collaboration that birthed Malaysia's first GreenRE Platinum-certified Women and Child Shelter. REHDA Youth signed an MOU with the WAO back in 2016 to rebuild an old bungalow, which was their Child Refuge Centre that was destroyed by an electrical fire. The new centre is also a shelter for child victims of domestic abuse (and their mothers) and a base for specialised childcare counselling and therapy.

The project was led by VERITAS Principal Syah Kamaruddin and Associate Architect Choong Wei Li.



Institutional / 4th Quarter 2022

WAO's Child Care Centre

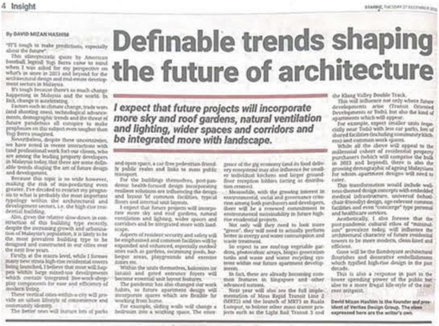
December 7, 2022

What started out as a corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative to rebuild a burnt-down bungalow has led to a collaboration that birthed Malaysia's first GreenRE Platinum-certified Women and Child Shelter.

The architectural approach focuses on passive and active cooling strategies, recycled materials and optimised use of renewable energy. *Images courtesy of REHDA Youth*

The Star; Definable Trends Shaping the Future of Architecture

https://www.thestar.com.my/business/business-news/2022/12/27/definable-trends-shaping-the-future-of-architecture



4 Insight

By DAVID MIZAN HASHIM

Definable trends shaping the future of architecture

I expect that future projects will incorporate more sky and roof gardens, natural ventilation and lighting, wider spaces and corridors and be integrated more with landscape.

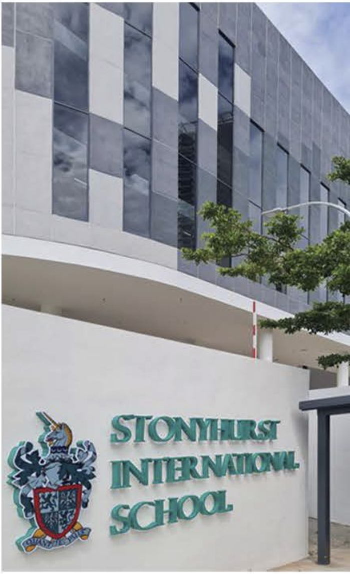
On 27th December, an article by VERITAS President, David Hashim was published on The Star business section. When asked for his perspective on what's in store for 2023, David quoted American baseball legend Yogi Berra "It's tough to make predictions, especially about the future". Among many other things, David expects that future projects will incorporate more sky and roof gardens, natural ventilation and lighting, wider spaces and corridors and be integrated more with landscape.

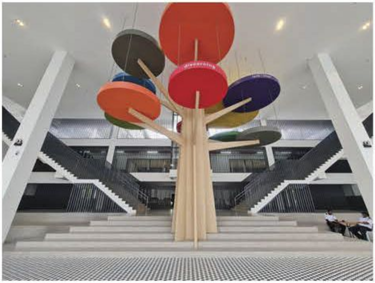
The Star; Stonyhurst International School Penang Grand Opening

https://www.thestar.com.my/metro/metro-news/2023/01/02/international-school-holds-grand-opening-do-at-campus-in-penang

On 2nd January, one of VERITAS' co-educational K-12 projects, the Stonyhurst International School Penang (SISP), was featured in The Star newspaper. Congratulations to SISP for their Grand Opening on 16th December 2022. Located on the waterfront at Tanjung Pinang, within the Straits Quay development, SISP enjoys a unique frontage on the Andaman Sea. This is in contrast to the setting of Stonyhurst's original 16th-century campus built among the idyllic hills of Lancashire, England.

The project was led by VERITAS Architects Principals Ng Yiek Seng and Eric Tham.



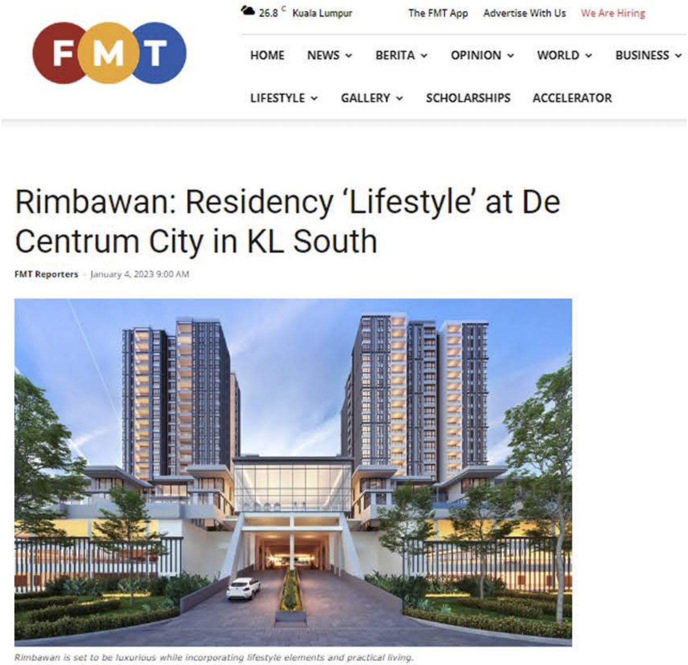


Free Malaysia Today; Rimbawan: Residency 'Lifestyle' at De Centrum City in KL South

https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/leisure/property/2023/01/04/rimbawan-residency-lifestyle-at-de-centrum-city-in-kl-south/

On 4th January, one of VERITAS' residential projects, the Rimbawan Residence was featured in the Free Malaysia Today (FMT) news platform. The project is nestled within De Centrum City, a 100-acre project consisting of matured, mixed development. Located just south of Kuala Lumpur, this luxurious condominium is built amidst tranquil and natural surroundings that incorporate contemporary lifestyle elements, including innovative design features for post pandemic living that cater to all ages.

The project is being led by VERITAS Vice President Lillian Tay and Senior Associate Azlina Ismail.



Rimbawan: Residency 'Lifestyle' at De Centrum City in KL South

FMT Reporters - January 4, 2023 9:00 AM

Rimbawan is set to be luxurious while incorporating lifestyle elements and practical living.

The Star; Affordable Option for UK Studies

On 19th January, one of VERITAS' educational projects, University of Reading Malaysia (UoRM) was featured in The Star newspaper. Studying at a prestigious university overseas is a dream come true for many and UoRM offers the same quality education at a fraction of the cost.

Completed in 2015, the UoRM campus accommodates 2,000 students and 400 teaching and support staff and was designed in collaboration with Scott Browning Architects of UK.

University of Reading MALAYSIA

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Nam Heng Glass Group Factory Visit

On 7th January, 33 VERITASians including Principals, senior associates, associates, senior architects, architects, project managers, draught persons and assistant architects attended the Nam Heng Glass Group factory visit in Senawang, Negeri Sembilan. The visit provided useful insights and learning opportunities for the attendees about the process of making architectural glazing.

Safe Spaces Podcast

Future-proofing Hospitals for The Future Generation

https://open.spotify.com/episode/00GoH5vx4Z3RLA2902kQTn?si=XZxiWOxzR9CE8RgZmF0C1A&nd=1

VERITAS
ASSA ABLOY
THE SAFE SPACES PODCAST

Episode 2 - Future-proofing Hospitals For The Future Generation
Safe Spaces by ASSA ABLOY
VERITAS Australia Principal, Anton Alers

Anton Alers, Principal of VERITAS Architects Australia was featured on the 2nd Episode of the Safe Spaces Podcast, entitled "Future-proofing Hospitals for the Future Generation" which went live on Spotify on 9th January. Building on the previous episode on hospital design, this episode explored how healthcare institutions can ensure a sustainable environment from the outset and which allow continuity for future generations.

Hosted by ASSA ABLOY, Anton Alers and Dr. Chong Su-Lin (Senior Advisor Healthcare Operations of TVM Capital Healthcare) shared their detailed insights on the design considerations, both architecturally and medically, that go into the planning of the building to reassure all stakeholders that they are in good hands.

Visit to **UEM Edgenta**

On 11th January, VERITAS Group President David Hashim and VERITAS Environment Principal Kenny Wong were invited for a meetup and information sharing session with the top management of UEM Edgenta on Smart City and Building Management. The purpose of the meeting was to explore areas of mutual opportunity and benefit.

UEM EDGENTA
A member of UEM Group
COMMAND AND CONTACT CE

ASSAR Group visit to VERITAS

On 12th January, ASSAR Group, a state-owned investment holding company from Sarawak visited the VERITAS HQ in Kuala Lumpur. ASSAR manages a well-diversified portfolio of investments in Financial Services, Agro & Resource-based, Property Development & Construction, Services & Technology, Manufacturing, Trading and others. The ASSAR Group was represented by Group Chairman Dato Sri Haji Wahab Bin Haji Dolah, CEO Dato Isaac Lugun, Datuk Christopher Adrian and Tuan Haji Sharkawi.

VERITAS Monograph in **Kinokuniya**

https://www.instagram.com/p/CnV6BSCBy3w/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

The VERITAS Monograph is a publication of our significant projects between 1987 and 2022. 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 35 years. It's now available at Kinokuniya Book Stores Malaysia from 13th January. The Monograph is also available directly from VERITAS for RM200 only. To purchase, contact: komathi.ramakrishna@theveritasdesigngroup.com .

35 years
VERITAS
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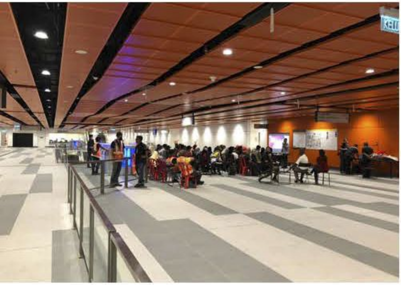
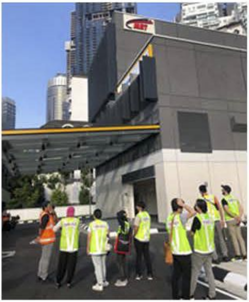
MRT2 SITE VISIT

On 14th January, 18 architects from VERITAS participated in a study visit to two underground stations of the MRT2 Line. The Conlay and Chan Sow Lin stations are both almost 10-storeys deep underground. Vice President Lillian Tay and Group Principal Edward Chew were also present during the visit guided by the MRT Project Team.





Tn Hj Khalid Abdul Samad
courtesy visit.

On 16th January, Tn Hj Khalid Abdul Samad, Former Member of the House of Representatives of Malaysia and former Minister of Federal Territories paid a courtesy visit to VERITAS HQ. Vice President Lillian Tay and Principal Azril Jaafar hosted the short afternoon visit and presented the VERITAS Monograph as a token of appreciation.

University Malaya and Deakin University Educational Visit

A total of six Deakin University students visited VERITAS HQ in Kuala Lumpur on 17th January. The educational visit was hosted by Principal Aina Zuber as one of the alumni of Deakin herself. The visit also included a sharing session by Associate Farah Yusof on the design of the Saloma Link and Architect Fatin Shaza on Oxley Towers. VERITAS Vice President Lillian Tay was also present for a brief Q&A session with the students.

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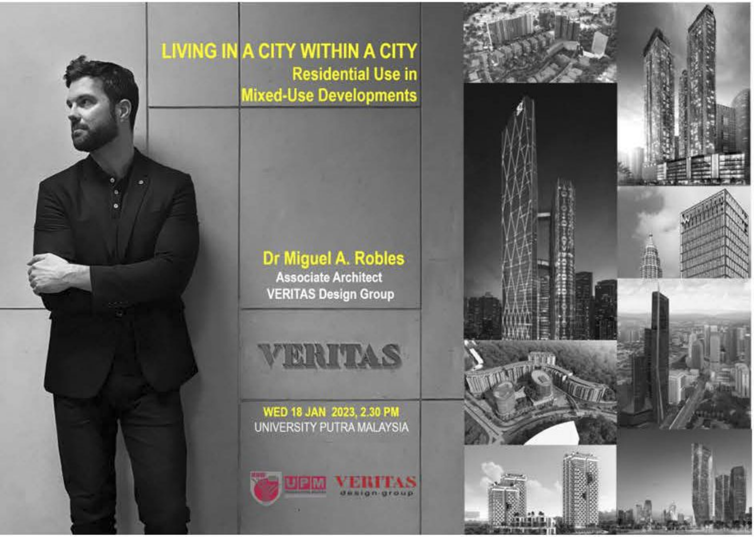
Living in a City Within a City
@ UPM


LIVING IN A CITY WITHIN A CITY
Residential Use in
Mixed-Use Developments

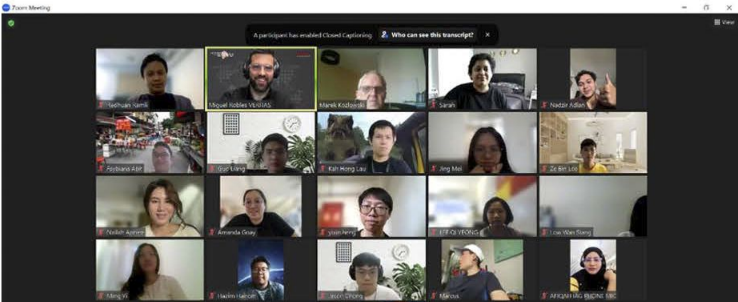
Dr Miguel A. Robles
Associate Architect
VERITAS Design Group

VERITAS

WED 18 JAN 2023, 2.30 PM
UNIVERSITY PUTRA MALAYSIA

UPM
VERITAS
design group

On 18th January, VERITAS Associate Miguel Robles presented a talk at the Living in a City within a City program organized by University Putra Malaysia (UPM). Miguel's talk was entitled "Residential Use in Mixed-use Developments" via Zoom.



Jun Ming
Mute
Stop Video
Participants
Chat
Share Screen
Record
Show Captions
Reactions
Apps
Leave
31°C Cloudy
ENG
3:52 PM
18/1/2023

BINGO Night

VERITAS Sports and Social Club organized a BINGO night on 18th January at VERITAS HQ Loft which was open to all VERITASians. The game started at 6.15pm and consisted of eight rounds of BINGO with one winner for each round. It was a hilarious fun-filled evening for all attendees!

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Ampang Great Street Forum: Halaman Our Heritage

VERITAS Vice President Lillian Tay was invited as one of the guest panelists for the Ampang Great Street Forum on 20th January. Lillian along with other panel members had a discourse session about the development of Kampung Bharu and the Saloma Link development and masterplan The forum and exhibition were organized by students from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM).

Courtesy Call on Governor of Penang

VERITAS President David Hashim and VERITAS Principal Eric Tham paid a courtesy call on the Governor of Penang Tuan Yang Terutama Tun Dato' Seri Utama Ahmad Fuzi bin Haji Abdul Razak on 21st January at the Seri Mutiara Residence in Georgetown. The VERITAS Monograph was also presented to the Governor as a token of appreciation for having approved of VERITAS' appointment as architects and designer for the recently completed rehabilitation of the heritage building.

Who's Celebrating Their Birthday - January

VERITASians

VERITAS ARCHITECTS SDN. BHD. (KUALA LUMPUR)

Zamzuri Bin Che Hussain
Suhaimi Baba
Abdul Malek Kanchil
Zaniman Sulong
Mohd Syarikin Mohd Zailani
Mohd Fauzi Bin Abd Latif
Loi Pei Yin
Chu Shi Von
Faizol Bin Mohd Suria
Foo Ming Wei Fabien
Rex Tai Zheng Heng
Shahrul Maasom Ab Halim
Mohd Redzuan B Ramli
Wan Tzay Tarng
Khairulfadzli Nasri
Muhammad Alif Fahim Ahmad Fozi

VERITAS ARCHITECTS SDN. BHD. (JOHOR BAHRU)

Atiqah Nur Yahya

VERITAS ENVIRONMENT SDN. BHD.

Kelvin Chen
Kenny Wong

VERITAS CONTRACTS SDN. BHD.

Nurul Afiqah Binti Mohd Salim,
Abdul Rahman Bin Sabuan,

NEW HIRE

VERITAS ARCHITECTS SDN. BHD. (KUALA LUMPUR)

Nurin Qistina
Architect

Fhellagia
HR Assistant

Jaron
Trainee

Phoebe
Trainee

Sabahaat
Trainee