VERITAS
design·group

december
2023

A VERITAS DESIGN GROUP PUBLICATION

Ho Ho Ho!!! Season's Greetings, Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year to all our Readers!

Welcome to the December'23 edition of the VERITAS E-news!

In this edition, we're delighted to present one of our latest pro-bono projects; a school-house pavilion at the Royal Belum Park in Perak for the local Jahai Orang Asli community.

Also, this edition of E-news covers many other exciting happenings at VERITAS. We hope you enjoy this month's VERITAS E-news! Please don't hesitate to contact us if you want to know more about any of the stories featured here.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

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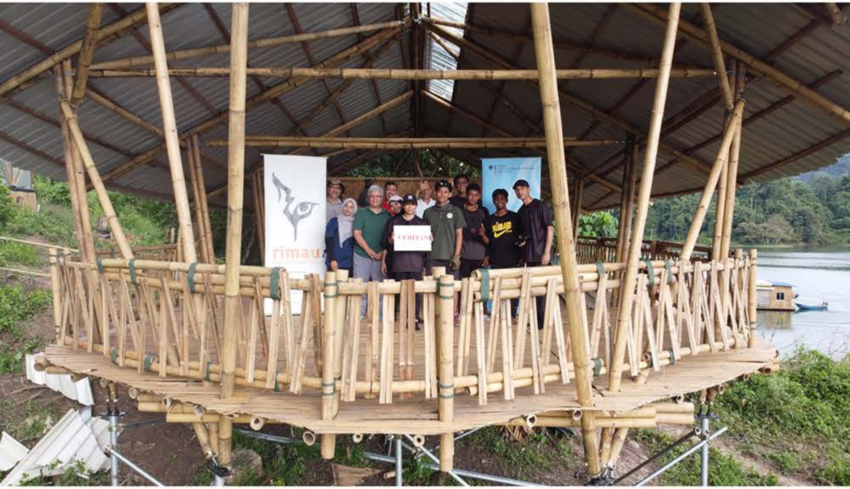
Over several weeks in November and December, VERITAS, in collaboration with RIMAU, an NGO focused on Malayan tiger conservation and SEAD, a leading bamboo specialist supplier, joined forces to construct a school pavilion for the Jahai Orang Asli community nestled deep within the pristine rainforest of the Royal Belum Park, Perak.

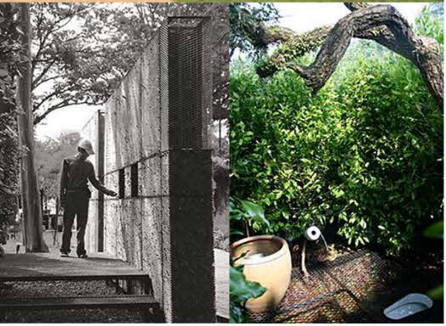
This collaborative effort not only embodies our commitment to community development but also underscores VERITAS' collective dedication to environmental sustainability and wildlife conservation. For this pro-bono project built out of bamboo, VERITAS President David M Hashim and a dedicated team of volunteers including Associate Farah Yusof, Architects Tan Yee Lyn, Daryl Law, Sharifah Amirah, Nurin Qistina, and Assistant Architects Shafiq Shahrin and Jaden Lim, spent a few days on the site assisting with construction. In the following interview, we sought insights from Daryl and Yee Lyn, two of the architects leading the project.



Interview with Daryl Law (DL)

Nani: Can you discuss the design inspiration behind the school pavilion for the Orang Asli community in Royal Belum Park? How did the collaboration with RIMAU and SEAD influence the design process?

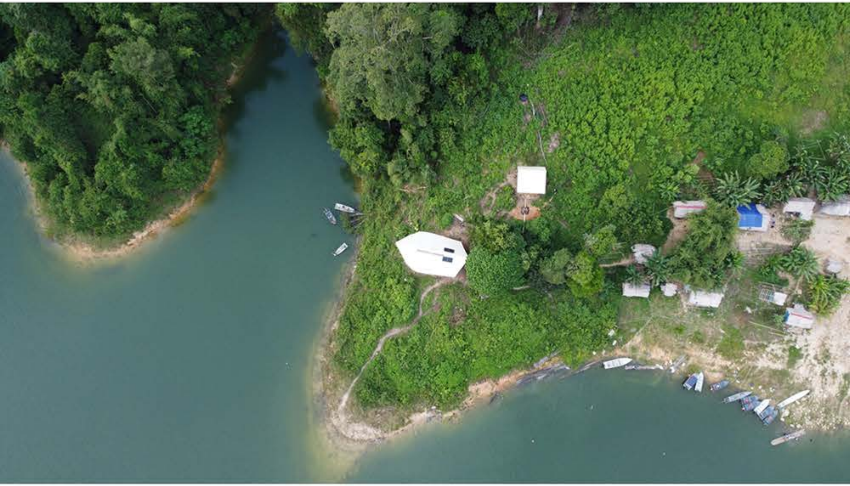
DL: The pavilion's design inspiration originated from the site selection itself, situated on a cape at the village's edge, to welcome visitors. The collaborative virtual effort with RIMAU and SEAD over a 4-week design process allowed VERITAS to lead the design concept, refining sustainable



principles and integrating SEAD's bamboo expertise. The pavilion, fully prefabricated from the start, utilized SEAD's innovative Bambolt connection system, streamlining on-site construction. The choice of Semantan bamboo showcased its unique physical qualities and high axial tensile strength in the pavilion's portal frames.

Nani: In terms of community-centric design, how did you ensure that the school pavilion addressed the specific needs and cultural context of Jahai the Orang Asli community? What considerations were taken to make it a functional and culturally sensitive space?

DL: The pavilion, envisioned by RIMAU and Perak State Park Corporation (PSPC), serves as a training space for the Jahai people in basic language and mathematic proficiency, doubling as an early education classroom for Jahai children. To minimize disruption to daily village life, the pavilion, positioned at the village edge, respects the cultural context. Careful considerations were made for the toilet facility's location, a respectful distance from the village. Preservation of nearby vegetation, a focus on the villagers' habits, and the incorporation of a squatting pan in one toilet cubicle reflect cultural sensitivity.



Toilet facility
Pavilion
Welcome gate

Community Pavilion
Welcome gate

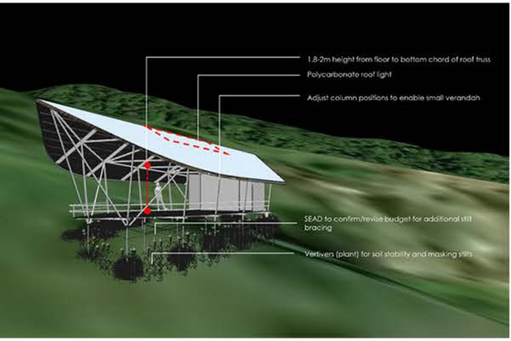
Nani: Given the emphasis on environmental sustainability, can you elaborate on the sustainable design features incorporated into the pavilion? How did VERITAS approach integrating sustainable practices in collaboration with SEAD, the bamboo specialist supplier?

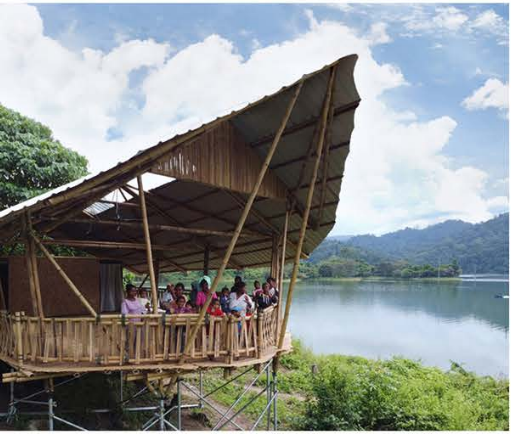
DL: Bamboo's unique cellular structure, storing more carbon than other tree species, contributes to the project's carbon-negative status. Materials sourced from a nearby nursery, up-skilling indigenous people, and utilizing multi-prong steel anchors instead of concrete footings exemplify environmental sensitivity. Prefabrication and manual loading onto boats for delivery minimize environmental impact. The pavilion's orientation, natural ventilation, and off-grid features, including solar power and water management, enhance its sustainability.

Interview with Tan Yee Lyn (TYL)

Nani: During the construction process, what were some of the challenges faced by the team, and how were they overcome? Were there any unexpected issues that required on-site problem-solving?

TYL: Project challenges were mainly on logistics for the off-grid classroom location. Detailed project planning ensured efficient material and manpower movement within limited trips. Overlooking the site situation due to its slope required extra effort. A major challenge during roof installation prompted a prioritized focus on a secure construction system, causing delays but ensuring safety and project progression.


1.8-2m height from floor to bottom chord of roof truss
Polycarbonate roof light
Adjust column positions to enable small verandah
SEAD to confirm/revise budget for additional stilt bracing
Vertivers (plant) for soil stability and masking stilts

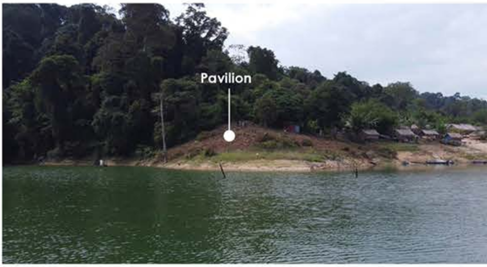


Nani: Collaboration with RIMAU and SEAD was highlighted in the project description. How did the collaboration between architects, the NGO, and the bamboo specialist supplier contribute to the success of the project? Were there any specific roles or expertise that each party brought to the table?

TYL: The collaboration involved the German Embassy in Malaysia, the Perak State Park Corporation (PSPC), RIMAU, VERITAS, and SEAD, with each playing a

distinct role. VERITAS served as the design and project coordinator, RIMAU as the main coordinating NGO, and SEAD as the bamboo specialist design and build contractor. The collaboration's success lies in the synergy of expertise and contributions from each entity, supported by sponsorships from the German Embassy, BMW as a secondary sponsor and PSPC.

Nani: Given the remote location and cultural context of the Orang Asli community, how did the design team navigate and respect cultural sensitivities in both the design and construction phases of the project?



TYL: Cultural sensitivity was maintained by preserving a spiritual tree near the pavilion. The classroom's short distance from the village, a one-minute walk, ensured a secure construction site with a separate entrance, respecting the villagers' cultural context and protecting the future use of the pavilion for the community.

The pavilion is now fully functional, awaiting the installation of the traditional attap leaf roof by the Jahai Orang Asli Community themselves.

WHERE WE ARE FEATURED?

A VERITAS DESIGN GROUP PUBLICATION
December 2023

Spotify: Revolutionizing Home Access: Modern Solutions for Improved Homeowner Experience Podcast

https://open.spotify.com/episode/6ptrPNyEunUnjJhWh5waS1?si=8MLbNzqrR1OmPLPFATC1TA

VERITAS
ASSA ABLOY
THE SAFE SPACES PODCAST
Episode 5 - Revolutionizing Home Access: Modern...
Safe Spaces by ASSA ABLOY

On 24th November, the 5th Episode of the Safe Spaces Podcast entitled "Revolutionizing Home Access: Modern Solutions for Improved Homeowner Experience" went live featuring VERITAS Principal Alif Arif.

During the episode, Alif Arif delved into the innovative approaches and contemporary solutions that are reshaping home access, ultimately enhancing the overall experience for homeowners.

The episode is now available for listening on Spotify, offering a valuable resource for anyone

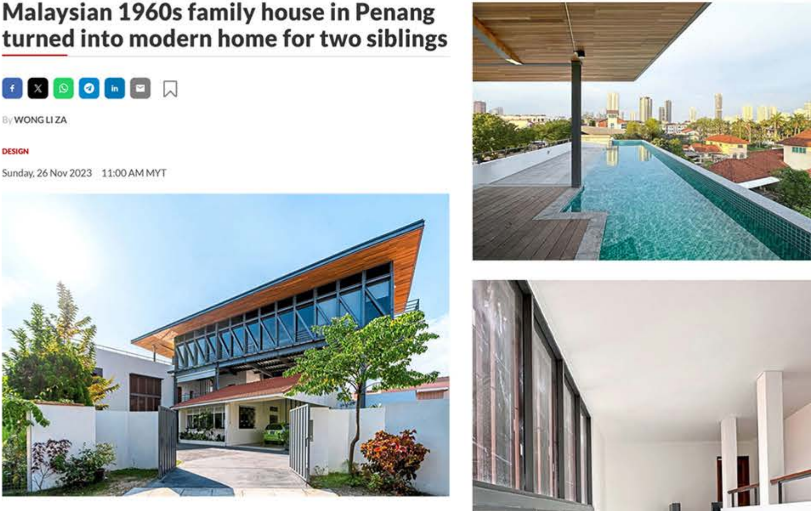
VERITAS Principal, Alif Arif

interested in cutting-edge developments for modern home access.

The Star: The Cantonment House in Penang

https://www.thestar.com.my/lifestyle/living/2023/11/26/malaysian-1960s-family-home-in-penang-transformed-into-contemporary-abode-for-two-siblings?fbclid=IwAR3NZFMaclfa8TNKkZiN3_ciQ0221kvyG25uaMEd384LX31XW5pWn7yP9dc#openShareModal

On 26th November, the Cantonment House designed by VERITAS was featured in The Star newspaper. The comprehensive coverage delved into the unique features and design philosophies that set the Cantonment House apart. The project was led by VERITAS Vice President Lillian Tay. Her vision, coupled with the expertise of the VERITAS team, has resulted in a structure that seamlessly blends functionality, aesthetics, and sustainability.



Malaysian 1960s family house in Penang turned into modern home for two siblings

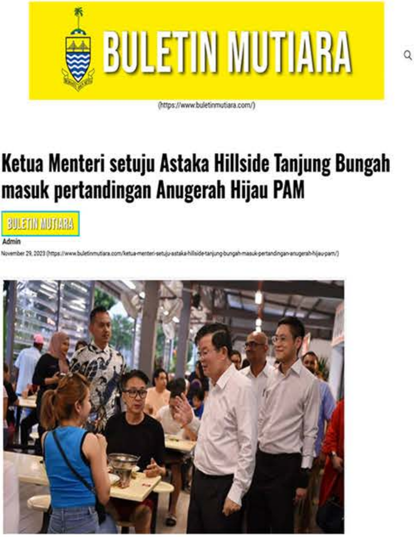
By WONG LI ZA

DESIGN

Sunday, 26 Nov 2023 11:00 AM MYT

Bulletin Mutiara:
The Chief Minister's Support of the Hillside Pavilion in Tanjung Bungah

https://www.buletinmutiara.com/ketua-menteri-setuju-astaka-hillside-tanjung-bungah-masuk-pertandingan-anugerah-hijau-pam/



(https://www.buletinmutiara.com/)

Ketua Menteri setuju Astaka Hillside Tanjung Bungah masuk pertandingan Anugerah Hijau PAM

BULETIN MUTIARA
Admin
November 29, 2023 (https://www.buletinmutiara.com/ketua-menteri-setuju-astaka-hillside-tanjung-bungah-masuk-pertandingan-anugerah-hijau-pam/)

ASTAKA HILLSIDE
MAJLIS PERASMIAN
ASTAKA HILLSIDE TANJUNG BUNGAH
YAB TUAN CHOW KON YEOW
SIN FRESH FRUITS

On 29th November, Astaka Tanjung Bungah (another pro-bono project by VERITAS) was featured in the Penang State Government monthly newsletter, Bulletin Mutiara. The article was entitled, "Ketua Menteri setuju Astaka Hillside Tanjung Bungah masuk pertandingan Anugerah Hijau PAM".

It highlights Chief Minister Tuan Chow Kon Yeow's endorsement for the project to compete in the National Green Award organized by the Malaysian Architects Association (PAM). The recognition underscores VERITAS' commitment to sustainable design.

The Edge:
Greening the Greyfields

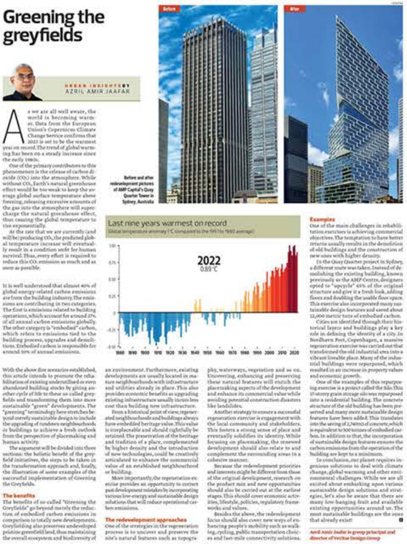
https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7138266410920689664

CC12 / CITY & COUNTRY / THE EDGE MALAYSIA

On 6th December, an article by VERITAS

Principal Azril Amir Jaafar was published in The Edge.

Titled "Greening the Greyfields," the piece delves into strategies for enhancing the sustainability of existing buildings, offering valuable insights into transforming dilapidated urban spaces for a more environmentally conscious future.



Greening the greyfields

URBAN INSIGHTS BY AZRIL AMIR JAAFAR

As we are all well aware, the world is becoming warmer. Data from the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service confirms that 2023 is set to be the warmest year on record. The trend of global warming has been on a steady increase since the early 1980s.

One of the primary contributors to this phenomenon is the release of carbon dioxide (CO_2) into the atmosphere. While without CO_2, Earth's natural greenhouse effect would be too weak to keep the average global surface temperature above freezing, releasing excessive amounts of the gas into the atmosphere will supercharge the natural greenhouse effect, thus causing the global temperature to rise exponentially.

At the rate that we are currently (and will be) producing CO_2, the predicted global temperature increase will eventually result in a condition unfit for human survival. Thus, every effort is required to reduce this CO_2 emission as much and as soon as possible.

It is well understood that almost 40% of global energy-related carbon emissions are from the building industry. The emissions are contributing in two categories. The first is emissions related to building operations, which account for around 27% of all annual carbon emissions globally. The other category is "embodied" carbon, which refers to emissions tied to the building process, upgrades and demolitions. Embodied carbon is responsible for around 10% of annual emissions.

With the above dire scenarios established, this article intends to promote the rehabilitation of existing underutilised or even abandoned building stocks by giving another cycle of life to these so-called greyfields and transforming them into more sustainable "green" developments. The "greening" terminology here stretches beyond merely sustainable design to include the upgrading of rundown neighbourhoods or buildings to achieve a fresh outlook from the perspective of placemaking and human activity.

The argument will be divided into three sections: the holistic benefit of the greyfield initiatives, the steps to be taken in the transformation approach and, finally, the illustration of some examples of the successful implementation of Greening the Greyfields.

The benefits

The benefits of so-called "Greening the Greyfields" go beyond merely the reduction of embodied carbon emissions in comparison to totally new developments. Greyfielding also preserves undeveloped pristine greenfield land, thus maintaining the overall ecosystem and biodiversity of an environment. Furthermore, existing developments are usually located in mature neighbourhoods with infrastructure and utilities already in place. This also provides economic benefits as upgrading existing infrastructure usually incurs less cost than building new infrastructure.

From a historical point of view, regenerated neighbourhoods and buildings always have embedded heritage value. This value is irreplaceable and should rightfully be retained. The preservation of the heritage and tradition of a place, complemented by higher density and the introduction of new technologies, could be creatively articulated to enhance the commercial value of an established neighbourhood or building.

More importantly, the regeneration exercise provides an opportunity to correct past development mistakes by incorporating various low-energy and sustainable design solutions that will reduce operational carbon emissions.

The redevelopment approaches

One of the strategies in the regeneration process is to uncover and preserve the site's natural features such as topography, waterways, vegetation and so on. Uncovering, enhancing and preserving these natural features will enrich the placemaking aspects of the development and enhance its commercial value while avoiding potential construction disasters like landslides.

Another strategy to ensure a successful regeneration exercise is engagement with the local community and stakeholders. This fosters a strong sense of place and eventually solidifies its identity. While focusing on placemaking, the renewed development should also relate to and complement the surrounding areas in a cohesive manner.

Because the redevelopment priorities and interests might be different from those of the original development, research on the product mix and new opportunities should also be carried out at the earliest stages. This should cover economic activities, lifestyle, policies, regulatory frameworks and values.

Besides the above, the redevelopment focus should also cover new ways of enhancing people's mobility such as walking, cycling, public transportation choices and last-mile connectivity solutions.

Examples

One of the main challenges in rehabilitation exercises is achieving commercial objectives. The temptation to have better returns usually results in the demolition of old buildings and the construction of new ones with higher density.

In the Quay Quarter project in Sydney, a different route was taken. Instead of demolishing the existing building, known previously as the AMP Centre, designers opted to "upcycle" 65% of the original structure and give it a fresh look, adding floors and doubling the usable floor space. This exercise also incorporated many sustainable design features and saved about 12,000 metric tons of embodied carbon.

Cities are identified through their historical layers and buildings play a key role in defining the identity of a city. In Nordhavn Port, Copenhagen, a massive regeneration exercise was carried out that transformed the old industrial area into a vibrant liveable place. Many of the industrial buildings were repurposed, which resulted in an increase in property values and economic growth.

One of the examples of this repurposing exercise is a project called the Silo. This 17-storey grain storage silo was repurposed into a residential building. The concrete structure of the old building has been preserved and many more sustainable design features have been added. This translates into the saving of $2,740m^3$ of concrete, which is equivalent to 500 tonnes of embodied carbon. In addition to that, the incorporation of sustainable design features ensures the carbon emissions from the operation of the building are kept to a minimum.

In conclusion, our planet requires ingenious solutions to deal with climate change, global warming and other environmental challenges. While we are all excited about embarking upon various sustainable design solutions and strategies, let's also be aware that there are many low-hanging fruit and available existing opportunities around us. The most sustainable buildings are the ones that already exist! ■

Azril Amir Jaafar is group principal and director of Veritas Design Group

Before and after redevelopment pictures of AMP Capital's Quay Quarter Tower in Sydney, Australia

Last nine years warmest on record

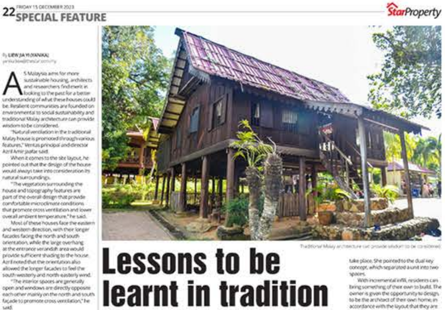
Global temperature anomaly (°C compared to the 1951 to 1980 average)

The Star Property Special Feature Edition: Lessons to be Learnt in Tradition

https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7141422994970587136

On 15th December an article featuring VERITAS Principal Azril Jaafar was published in The Star Property Special Feature Edition.

Titled "Lessons to be Learnt in Tradition", Azril eloquently discussed the ingenious natural ventilation designs inherent in traditional Malay houses, emphasizing their ability to facilitate natural cooling within the home.



22 FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER 2023

SPECIAL FEATURE

StarProperty

Lessons to be learnt in tradition

By LIEW JIA YI (YANIKA)

AS Malaysia aims for more sustainable housing, architects and researchers find merit in looking to the past for a better understanding of what these houses could be. Resilient communities are founded on environmental to social sustainability and traditional Malay architecture can provide wisdom to be considered.

"Natural ventilation in the traditional Malay house is promoted through various features," Veritas principal and director Azril Amir Jaafar said.

When it comes to the site layout, he pointed out that the design of the house would always take into consideration its natural surroundings.

"The vegetation surrounding the house and topography features are part of the overall design that provide comfortable microclimate conditions that promote cross ventilation and lower overall ambient temperature," he said.

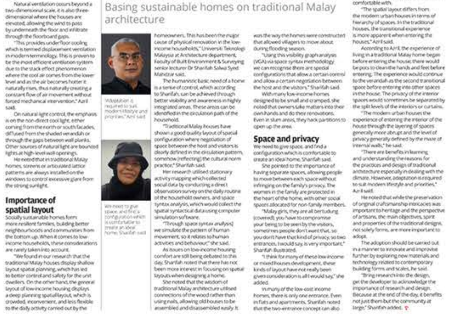
Most of these houses face the eastern and western direction, with their longer facades facing the north and south orientation, while the large overhang at the entrance verandah area would provide sufficient shading to the house. Azril noted that the orientation also allowed the longer facades to feel the south-westerly and north-easterly wind.

"The interior spaces are generally open and windows are directly opposite each other mainly on the north and south facade to promote cross ventilation," he said.

Traditional Malay architecture can provide wisdom to be considered.

take place. She pointed to the dual key concept, which separated a unit into two spaces.

With incremental infill, residents can bring something of their own to build. The owner is given the opportunity to design, to be the architect of their own home, in accordance with the layout that they are



Basing sustainable homes on traditional Malay architecture

Natural ventilation occurs beyond a two-dimensional scale, it is also three-dimensional where the houses are elevated, allowing the wind to pass by underneath the floor and infiltrate through the floorboard gaps.

"This provides underfloor cooling which is termed displacement ventilation in modern terminology. This is proven to be the most efficient ventilation system due to the stack effect phenomenon where the cool air comes from the lower level and as the air becomes hotter it naturally rises, thus naturally creating a constant flow of air movement without forced mechanical intervention," Azril said.

On natural light control, the emphasis is on the non-direct cool light, either coming from the north or south facades, diffused from the shaded verandah or through the gaps between wall planks. Other sources of natural light are bounced lights at high-level wall openings.

He noted that in traditional Malay homes, screens or articulated lattice patterns are always installed on the windows to control excessive glare from the strong sunlight.

Importance of spatial layout

Socially sustainable homes form more resilient families, building better neighbourhoods and communities from the bottom up. When it comes to low-income households, these considerations are rarely taken into account.

"We found in our research that the traditional Malay houses display shallow layout spatial planning, which has led to better control and safety for the unit dwellers. On the other hand, the general layout of low-income housing displays a deep planning spatial layout, which is crowded, inconvenient, and less flexible to the daily activity carried out by the homeowners. This has been the major cause of physical renovation in the low-income households," Universiti Teknologi Malaysia at Architecture department, Faculty of Built Environment & Surveying senior lecturer Dr Sharifah Salwa Syed Mahdzar said.

"Adaptation is required to suit modern lifestyle and priorities," Azril said.

"We need to give space, and find a configuration which is comfortable to create an ideal home," Sharifah said.

The humanistic basic need of a home is a sense of control, which according to Sharifah, can be achieved through better visibility and awareness in highly integrated areas. These areas can be identified in the circulation path of the household.

"Traditional Malay houses have shown a good quality layout of spatial configuration where negotiation of space between the host and visitors is clearly defined in the circulation pattern, somehow [reflecting] the cultural norm practice," Sharifah said.

Her research utilised stationary activity mapping which collected social data by conducting a direct observation survey on the daily routine of the household owners, and space syntax analysis, which would collect the spatial syntactical data using computer simulation software.

"Through space syntax analysis] we simulate the pattern of human movement, so it relates to human activities and behaviour," she said.

As issues on low-income housing comfort are still being debated to this day, Sharifah noted that there has not been more interest in focusing on spatial layouts when designing a home.

She noted that the wisdom of traditional Malay architecture utilised connections of the wood rather than using nails, allowing old houses to be assembled and disassembled easily. It was the way the homes were constructed that allowed villagers to move about during flooding season.

"Using this visibility graph analysis (VGA) via space syntax methodology we can recognise there are special configurations that allow a certain control and allow a certain negotiation between the host and the visitors," Sharifah said.

With many low-income homes designed to be small and cramped, she noted that owners take matters into their own hands and do their renovations. Even in slum areas, they hack partitions to open up the area.

Space and privacy

We need to give space, and find a configuration which is comfortable to create an ideal home, Sharifah said.

She pointed to the importance of having separate spaces, allowing people to move between each space without infringing on the family's privacy. The women in the family are protected in the heart of the home, with other social spaces allocated for non-family members.

"Malay girls, they are all bertudung (covered), you have to compromise your being to be seen by the visitors, sometimes people don't want that, so you don't have that kind of privacy, so two entrances, I would say, is very important," Sharifah illustrated.

"I think for many of these low-income or mixed houses development, these kinds of layout have not really been given consideration is all I would say," she added.

In many of the low-cost income homes, there is only one entrance. Even in flats and apartments, Sharifah noted that the two-entrance concept can also

comfortable with.

"The spatial layout differs from the modern urban houses in terms of hierarchy of spaces. In the traditional houses, the transitional experience is more apparent when entering the houses," Azril said.

According to Azril, the experience of living in a traditional Malay home began before entering the house; there would be pots to clean the hands and feet before entering. The experience would continue to the verandah as the second transitional space before entering into other spaces in the house. The privacy of the interior spaces would sometimes be separated by the split levels of the interiors or curtains.

"The modern urban houses the experience of entering the interior of the house through the layering of spaces generally more abrupt and the level of privacy generally defined by the mass of internal walls," he said.

"There are benefits in learning and understanding the reasons for the practices and design of traditional architecture especially in dealing with the climate. However, adaptation is required to suit modern lifestyle and priorities," Azril said.

He noted that while the preservation of original craftsmanship intricacies was important to heritage and the perspective of artisans, the main objectives, spirit and properties of the traditional designs, not solely forms, are more important to adopt.

The adoption should be carried out in a manner to innovate and improvise further by exploring new materials and technology related to contemporary building forms and scales, he said.

"Bring research into the design, get the developer to acknowledge the importance of research and design. Because at the end of the day, it benefits not just them but the community at large," Sharifah added.

Announcement of VERITAS' New Senior Associate and Associate

During VERITAS' fourth staff quarterly meeting of 2023, two important promotions were announced.

CONGRATULATIONS
VERITAS

We are pleased to announce that VERITAS Associate, Ar. Dr. Miguel A. Robles has been promoted as

VERITAS Senior Associate

With over 8 years of experience in Malaysia and with VERITAS, Miguel has been involved in more than 30 projects and proposals, including the refurbishment of The Five at KPD and Oxley Towers, an 80-st mixed-used development currently under construction in KLCC. He is also one of the only two foreigners registered as an Architect with the Malaysian Board of Architects (LAM).

Ar. Dr. Miguel A. Robles
VERITAS SENIOR ASSOCIATE

CONGRATULATIONS
VERITAS

We are pleased to announce that VERITAS Architect, Pinky Tan has been promoted as

VERITAS Associate

With seven years of experience, Pinky's works include Harmony Hill Home and currently working on Agile Bukit Bintang, Ampang SOHO (Majestic Genius) , SkyRia on The Hill, Ativo Sales Gallery, MRT and Infrastructure .

Pinky Tan
VERITAS ASSOCIATE

Congratulations to VERITAS Associate Miguel Robles for being promoted as the latest VERITAS Senior Associate! With over 8 years of experience in Malaysia and with VERITAS, Miguel has been involved in more than 30 projects and proposals, including the refurbishment of The Five at KPD

Also, congratulations to VERITAS Architect, Pinky Tan for being promoted as an Associate in VERITAS Architects! With seven years of experience, Pinky's works include Harmony Hill Homes, Agile Bukit Bintang, Ampang SHO, SkyRia on The Hill and the Ativo Sales Gallery.

and Oxley Towers, an 80-st mixed-used development currently under construction in KLCC. He is also one of the only two foreigners registered as an Architect with the Malaysian Board of Architects (LAM).

Congratulations to Miguel Robles and Pinky Tan on their promotions!

Star Residences Tour

On 5th December, VERITAS Principal Alif Arif, Khalifah Jamaludin, Yap Yuen Thye and Associate Michael Tan conducted an exclusive tour of the Star Residence for Agung Sedayu, a prominent Jakarta-based property developer with a rich history dating back to 1971. The tour offered a firsthand look at the innovative and thoughtfully crafted features of Star Residence, highlighting the collaborative efforts of VERITAS in elevating contemporary living standards.

MIPIM Asia Awards 2023

On 6th December, the Petronas Leadership Centre (PLC) by VERITAS, received two accolades at the MIPIM Asia Awards 2023 in Hong Kong. The awards were received by VERITAS Principal Azril Jaafar as the project lead and PLC's Head of Program and Campus Management Ms Masalina Ujang. The project received the Special Jury award and the Best Alternative Project (Silver) award. The two awards inspire us to further pursue our 'Ideas for the Planet' mantra.

SPECIAL JURY AWARD

Astaka Holdings Client Visit

On 6th December, VERITAS welcomed a visit from Astaka Holdings, one of its esteemed Clients. Guided by VERITAS' Principal Alif Arif and Associate Miguel Robles, the visit included an exploration of several iconic projects in the KLCC area. The tour encompassed noteworthy landmarks such as the STAR Residences, W Hotel and Residences, and the recently topped-out Oxley Towers, soaring impressively at 345 meters above the ground.

The visit provided an immersive experience, showcasing the excellence and innovation embedded in VERITAS' contributions to Kuala Lumpur's skyline.

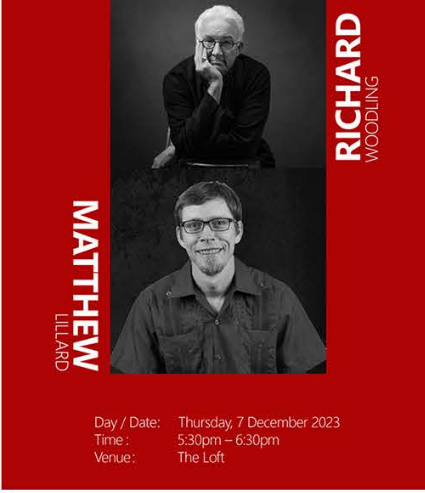
Architecture Today in the USA by Richard Woodling & Matthew Lillard

On 7th December, VERITAS USA Principal Richard Woodling alongside Matthew Lillard from Baysinger Partners Architecture, delivered an insightful presentation titled "Architecture Today

ARCHITECTURE TODAY
in the USA
VERITAS

in the USA".

The engaging talk took place at the VERITAS Loft attended by about 40 VERITASians, and provided a dynamic platform for exploring contemporary trends and practices in the field of architecture in the USA.


RICHARD WOODLING

MATTHEW LILLARD

Day / Date: Thursday, 7 December 2023
Time : 5:30pm – 6:30pm
Venue : The Loft

VERITAS Leadership Retreat

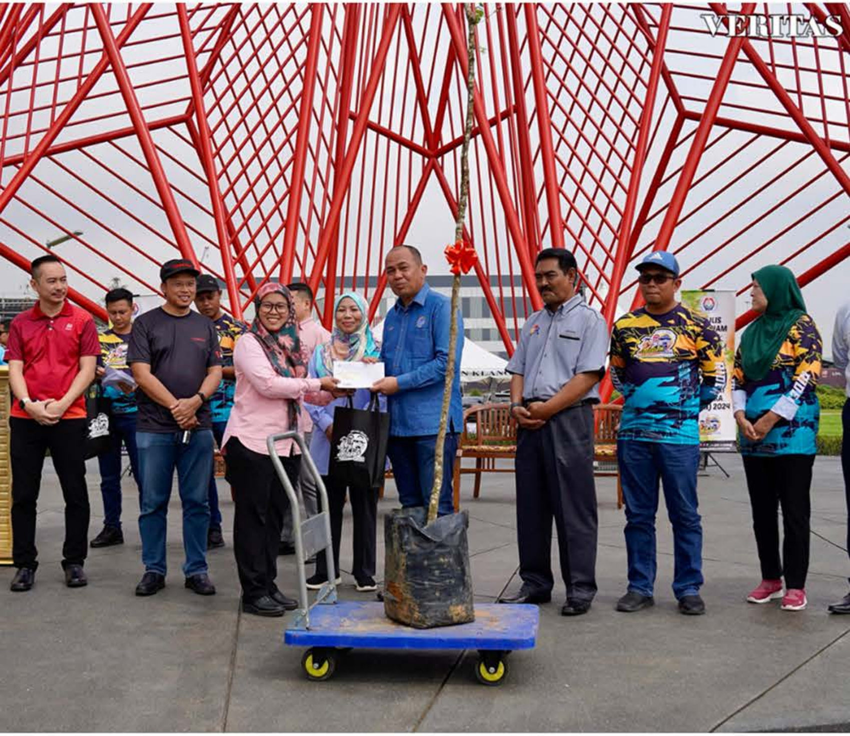
On 8-9th December 2023, the second VERITAS Leadership Retreat for 2023 was held at the Saujana Hotel, Subang. The retreat was intended to prepare for a rigorous leadership strategy and planning for 2024. Professor Sanjay Sharma President of the Asia School of Business (ASB) was the guest speaker and presented eloquently on the challenges and opportunities of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in business organizations.

The event was also well attended by VERITAS International Principals both physically and virtually. Equipped with fresh insights, renewed energy, and a shared strategic vision, our leaders are poised to drive VERITAS toward greater heights in 2024 and beyond.

Tree Planting Initiative at Dragonfly Park in Bandar Bukit Raja, Klang

On 12th December, VERITAS collaborated with Majlis Perbandaran Klang and Sime Darby Properties Berhad for a meaningful tree planting initiative at the Dragonfly Park in Bandar Bukit Raja, Klang. VERITAS Landscape Director and Principal, Khalifah Jamaluddin, delivered an impactful speech underlining the initiative's alignment with VERITAS' ESG goals. Notable attendees included Datuk Hj. Shadan bin Hj. Othman, Melaka Mayor, cum Malaysian Association of Local Authorities president (MALA), and Datin Paduka TPr. Hajah Noriani Binti Roshan, Klang Municipal Council Chairperson.

MAJLIS MENANAM
VERITAS
MAJLIS MENANAM



i·d·e·a·s
planet

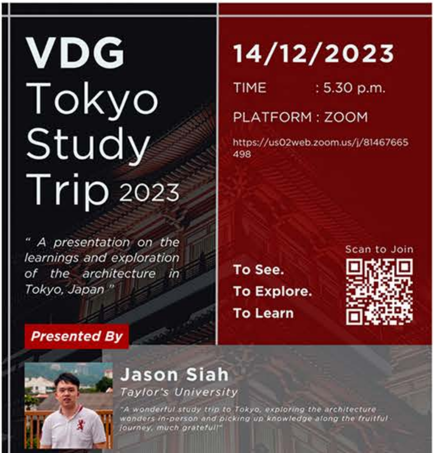
VERITAS Fund for Excellence (VFE) President, Vigneswaran Mayachandran, alongside 10 VERITASians, actively engaged in planting the 100 trees generously donated by the VFE. This initiative reflects the fund's commitment to environmental stewardship and the collaborative efforts of Vigneswaran of VFE and Adam Faiz of VERITAS CARE. Notably, the scenic landscape of Bandar Bukit Raja was crafted by VERITAS Landscape, led by Associate Mahadi Katang.

Petronas Leadership Centre (PLC) Appreciation Dinner

On 12th December, VERITAS President David M Hashim accompanied by Principal Azril Amir Jaafar and Associate Farah Yusof, had the honor of attending the PETRONAS PLC appreciation dinner. Noor Ilias Mohd Idris (Nimi), Chairman of PETRONAS Global Technical Solutions Sdn Bhd, was also present, adding an extra layer of significance to the celebration.

The occasion celebrated the well-deserved recognition of the PLC, which emerged victorious at the MIPIM Asia Awards 2023. This event not only marked an acknowledgment of excellence but also showcased VERITAS' continued commitment to delivering award-winning projects of distinction.

VERITAS Teh Tarik Talk



VDG
Tokyo
Study
Trip 2023

" A presentation on the learnings and exploration of the architecture in Tokyo, Japan "

Presented By

Jason Siah
Taylor's University
"A wonderful study trip to Tokyo, exploring the architecture wonders in-person and picking up knowledge along the fruitful journey, much grateful!"

14/12/2023

TIME : 5.30 p.m.

PLATFORM : ZOOM

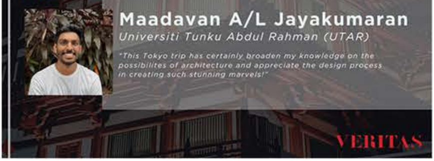
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81467665498

Scan to Join

To See.
To Explore.
To Learn

On 14th December, VERITAS Teh Tarik Talk on the recent VERITAS Study Trip to Tokyo was held at The Loft delving into insights of the 5-day excursion and educational tour that was held from 14th – 17th September.

The session, led by VERITAS interns, Jason Siah and Maadavan Jayakumaran, provided a captivating platform for sharing their discoveries and experiences in exploring the vibrant architecture of Tokyo, Japan.



Maadavan A/L Jayakumaran

Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR)

"This Tokyo trip has certainly broaden my knowledge on the possibilites of architecture and appreciate the design process in creating such stunning marvels!"

VERITAS Hydroponic Water Spinach Harvest

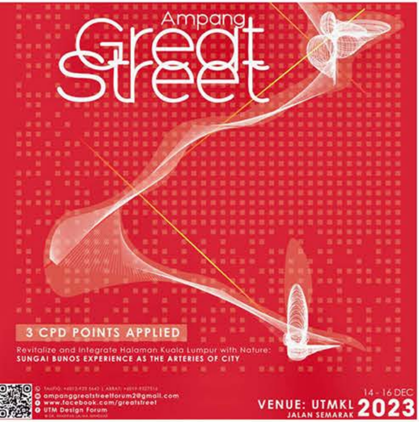
On 15th December, VERITAS CARE, in collaboration with VERITAS Landscape, distributed the second batch of water spinach (kangkung) from it's Hydroponics Garden located on Level 15 of Wangsa 118 to 20 VAKL Staff on a first-come, first-served basis. The harvest was led by VERITAS President David M Hashim and along with VERITAS Landscape Principal Khalifah Jamaluddin.

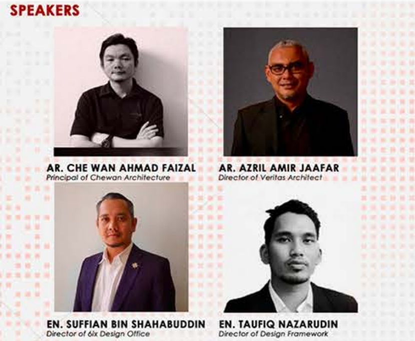
Starting in July 2023, VERITAS Landscape has led a fully funded collaboration with CARE for the hydroponics project, aligning with VERITAS's in-house ESG goals.

With this initial success, the hydroponics initiative aspires to expand and benefit more VERITASians in the future.

Ampang Great Street Forum

On 16th December 2023, VERITAS Principal Azril Jaafar was invited as one of the speakers at the Ampang Great Street Forum, organized by Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM). Azril engaged the audience with insights into the global climatic challenges and offered strategic suggestions on how Kuala Lumpur could proactively adapt to overcome these challenges. His valuable contributions added depth to the discourse, emphasizing VERITAS' commitment to addressing and navigating the complex issues shaping our urban environments.


Ampang
Great
Street
3 CPD POINTS APPLIED
Revitalize and Integrate Halaman Kuala Lumpur with Nature:
SUNGAI BUNOS EXPERIENCE AS THE ARTERIES OF CITY
ampanggreatstreetforum2@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/greatstreet
UTM Design Forum
VENUE: UTMKL
JALAN SEMARAK
14 - 16 DEC
2023


SPEAKERS
AR. CHE WAN AHMAD FAIZAL
Principal of Chewan Architecture
AR. AZRIL AMIR JAAFAR
Director of Veritas Architect
EN. SUFFIAN BIN SHAHABUDDIN
Director of 6ix Design Office
EN. TAUFIQ NAZARUDIN
Director of Design Framework

EN. FUAD FAHMY MUBARAK
Founder of Magical Kampung Bharu
UTM
14 - 16 DEC 2023

Kuala Lumpur Architecture Festival Design Charrettes

On 16th December, VERITAS Vice President Lillian Tay and Associate Michael Tan were among the jury and mentors for the participants of the Kuala Lumpur Architecture Festival (KLAF) Design Charrettes. Additionally, the organizational prowess of VERITAS was evident, with Principal Syah Kamaruddin, Associate Farah Yusof, and Architect Fatin Shaza playing integral roles as part of the dedicated organizing committee.

This collaborative involvement underscored VERITAS' dedication to shaping and supporting the next generation of industry professionals.

A PROGRAM UNDER
KLAF2023
NEXT100
IN COLLABORATION WITH
KLAF
DESIGN
CHARRETTES
2023
FINAL PRESENTATION
KLAF DESIGN CHARRETTES 2023
GOLD PRIZE
Amount: Ringgit Malaysia Five Thousand Only
RM 5,000.00
KLAF DESIGN CHARRETTES 2023
GOLD PRIZE
Amount: Ringgit Malaysia Five Thousand Only
RM 5,000.00

INAL PRESENTATION
2023
NEXT100
GOLD PRIZE [KL149]
GROUP 5
(RAI FOREST
KLAF DESIGN CHARRETTES 2023
GOLD PRIZE
RM 5,000.00

KLAF2023
NEXT100
KLAF DESIGN CHARRETTES 2023
GOLD PRIZE [KL149]
Amount: Ringgit Malaysia Five Thousand Only
16 DECEMBER 2023
RM 5,000.00

KLAF
DESIGN
CHARRETTES
FINAL PRESENTATION
2023
BMI
BMI

S. Kian Seng Factory Visit

On 16th December, 18 VERITASians including architects and interior designers attended S. Kian Seng (SKS) factory visit in Subang Jaya. The visit provided useful insights and learning opportunities for the attendees about the process of metal fabrication such as robotic welding and laser cutting machines, which SKS utilize to produce quality and precise furniture to their clients' specifications along with their in-house powder epoxy as well as polyurethane forming production lines to provide additional customization flexibility of color or cushion density for their clients.

SKS
HOSPITALITY
SKS
HOSPITALITY

The Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) Export Acceleration Mission

Group Vice-Preside
Lillian Tay
FPAM, MIID
Princeton University, USA
Over 35 years of experience
ST REGIS

On 18th-21st December, The Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) spearheaded a 4–day mission aimed at promoting Malaysian construction and related companies. This effort was carried out through MATRADE's Export Acceleration Mission (EAM) on construction and related services to Indonesia. VERITAS Design Group, represented by its principal in Indonesia, Andrew Tirta, was among the delegates of this mission.

Taylor’s Tropical High-Rise

On 19th December, the VERITAS-Taylor's High-Rise Studio final crit was held at Taylor's University Lakeside Campus. Associate Ar. Michael Tan and Architect Daryl Law were on the panel reviewing the studio work of the first-semester master's students.

Focusing on the projects' design concepts, feasibility, sustainability and response to our tropical climate, the reviewing panel provided meaningful feedback to the students, celebrating the best ideas and offering suggestions for improvement.

Asia Young Designer Award (AYDA Closing) Ceremony and Award Presentation

On 19th December, VERITAS Principal Alif Arif participated in the closing ceremony for AYDA 2023, themed "Converge: Championing Purposeful Designs", where he served as one of the distinguished award judges. The event took place at the Avante Hotel in Petaling Jaya. The rigorous judging process, which began in October with over 1000 submissions, culminated in the final evaluation in November. The coveted award was ultimately bestowed upon Lim Jeng Ying from Universiti Malaya (UM).

AYDA AWARDS
Brought to you by
NIPPON PAINT
Official Partner :
IJM LAND
A SUBSIDIARY OF IJM CORPORATION BERHAD
AYDA AWARDS 2023
INTI International University & Colleges
KYPJ
CTS
TAYLOR'S UNIVERSITY
UTSU ACADEMY
AYDA AWARDS
NIPPON PAINT
GOLD AWARD
RM6,000.00 CASH PRIZE
RM6,000.00

VERITAS
NIPPON PAINT
IJM

AYDA AWARDS
brought to you by
NIPPON PAINT
Official Partner
IJM LAND
VERITAS

Ar Lillian Tay Appointment to Lembaga Arkitek Malaysia (Board of Architects Malaysia)

On 19th December, VERITAS Vice President Ar Lillian Tay was appointed to the Board of Lembaga Arkitek Malaysia (Board of Architects Malaysia.

With a wealth of experience and expertise, Lillian's appointment is a testament to her contributions to the field of architecture. Her role on the board positions her to play a pivotal role in shaping architectural practices nationwide, promoting professionalism, and influencing industry standards.

The architectural community eagerly anticipates the positive impact of her leadership on policies and innovation within the profession.

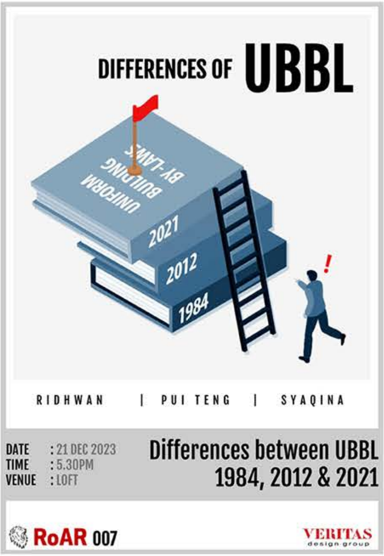
Congratulations to Lillian on this well-deserved appointment, and best wishes for her continued success in advancing the architectural landscape in Malaysia.

Road to AR (RoAR) program; Differences between

UBBL 1984, 2012 & 2021

On 21st December, the RoAR program was held at the Loft at VERITAS HQ in Kuala Lumpur. During this seventh session for 2023, Architects Ahmad Ridhwan, Chow Pui Teng and Nurul Syaqina presented a talk entitled “Differences between UBBL 1984, 2012 & 2021”.

ROAR – ROad to **Architectural Registration** program was initiated in the year 2017 to gather VERITASians to discuss in detail the LAM Part 3 exam topics and the challenges we have faced in this industry thus far.



New Hires

Intern
Sima Bihar
VI

Designer
Abiraamie Santhana Raju
VI

Graduate Architect
Mohamad Qawiem
VAKL

Technical Assistant
Muhammad Imran Ismail
VPlanning

Who's Celebrating their Birthday - December

- 1st - Edward Chew Fook Kong - VAKL
- 1st - Chu Zi Ting - VAKL
- 1st - Muhammad Amirul Syafiq - VJB
- 3rd - Mohamad Zahir Bin Abu Bakar - VJB
- 4th - Tan Ai Lin - VAKL
- 4th - Anthony Lau Yin Hon - VJB
- 5th - Helmi Bin Mohd Nor - VAKL
- 5th - Amira Zakiah Binti Muhammad Zaky - VAKL
- 5th - Syed Hamid Sha Bin Syed Hussein - VJB
- 6th - Liew Lei Quin Quinny - VAKL
- 7th - Choong Wei Li - VAKL
- 8th - Vigneswaran A/L Mayachandran - VAKL
- 9th - Mohammad Fauzi - VPenang
- 10th - Mohd Nazmi Bin Mohd Shohaime - VAKL
- 11th - Low Joo Yin - VAKL
- 13th - Nurul Syazwani Binti Mastika - VAKL
- 13th - Husman Bin Setta - VJB
- 16th - Putri Nadea Adrianna - VI
- 17th - Shakthee Kumar A/L Subramaniam - VAKL
- 21st - Muhammad Hazwan Bin Sallehudin - VAKL
- 22nd - Syahril Nizam Kamaruddin - VAKL

Newlywed

Congratulations to VERITASian Pinky Tan Jun Inn and her spouse Lee Maw Jia for tying the knot on 19th December 2023 at the National Registration Department (NRD) Putrajaya.

Bundle of Joys

In October and November, joyous moments unfolded for several members of the VERITAS Architects family.

In October, Kuala Lumpur staff Adrinfahd Adnan and his spouse Rosmalina Abd Kadir celebrated the arrival of their baby boy, Alyasfahd Adrinfahd, into the world.

Heartfelt congratulations to the happy couple!

Moving on to November, Kuala Lumpur staff Helmi Mohd Nor and his spouse Sarah Kamal welcomed a precious addition to their family, their baby girl Maryam Mikayla Helmi.

Congratulations to the delighted couple on their bundle of joy!

In the same month, joy echoed in the halls of VERITAS Architects Johor Bahru as staff member Ahmad Noramin Ahmad Shuhaimy and his spouse Fadiah Diyana Alias embraced the arrival of their baby boy, Ahmad Naim Ahmad Noramin.

Warmest congratulations to the blissful couple on this wonderful occasion!