VERITAS
design·group

A VERITAS DESIGN GROUP PUBLICATION

Greetings to all our Readers!

2025, February e-newsletter

As cities evolve and environmental challenges become more pressing, architecture plays a crucial role in shaping sustainable, energy-efficient spaces.

At the VERITAS Design Group, our commitment to green building principles is evident in projects that prioritize energy conservation, resource efficiency, and long-term resilience.

This month, we feature four recent projects by VERITAS that have achieved the highest levels of green building certifications, demonstrating VERITAS' leadership in sustainable design and urban development.

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- New Interns

We hope you find this edition insightful and inspiring! Should you wish to know more about any of the featured stories, feel free to reach out to us.

www.theveritasdesigngroup.com

MAIN NEWS

A VERITAS DESIGN GROUP PUBLICATION

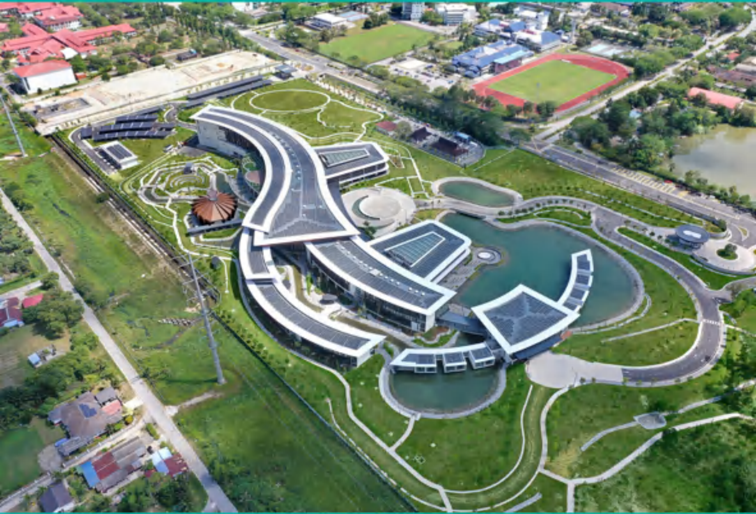
FEBRUARY 2025

PETRONAS Leadership Centre (PLC)

Bangi, Selangor

Platinum GBI & LEED Certified

The PETRONAS Leadership Centre (PLC) is a state-of-the-art training facility designed to foster collaboration and innovation while setting new standards in sustainable architecture. Situated within a 14-hectare estate in Bangi, the 45,000-square-meter campus seamlessly integrates learning spaces with the natural environment.



The design approach embraces passive design strategies, including optimal building orientation, daylight harvesting, and natural ventilation, significantly reducing energy consumption.

‘ Water-efficient landscaping and rainwater harvesting

systems further enhance sustainability. ”

The campus' curved central pedestrian spine encourages interaction and connectivity between learning spaces, while the cascading built form adapts to the site's natural topography, ensuring a low-impact, environmentally integrated development.

ETIQA Office Tower

Kuala Lumpur

Platinum GreenRE & Gold GBI Certified

Located in the heart of Kuala Lumpur, the ETIQA Office Tower is a landmark commercial development that exemplifies energy efficiency and sustainable corporate design.

The tower integrates high-performance glass façades that minimize heat gain while maximizing natural daylight, significantly reducing reliance on artificial lighting and cooling systems.

A high-efficiency mechanical and electrical system, including smart lighting controls and optimized HVAC systems, ensures low energy consumption without compromising user comfort.

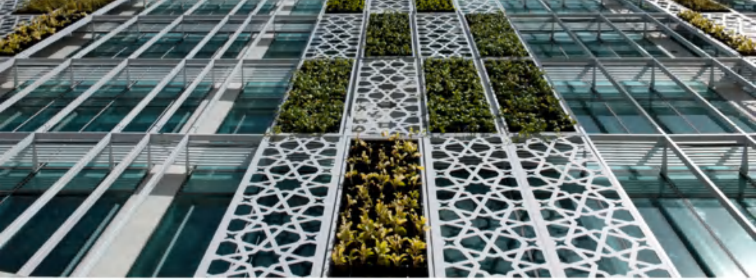
The tower also incorporates green rooftop spaces and urban landscaping, contributing to improved urban biodiversity and stormwater management. These features collectively position ETIQA Office Tower as a model for next-generation corporate sustainability in Malaysia.

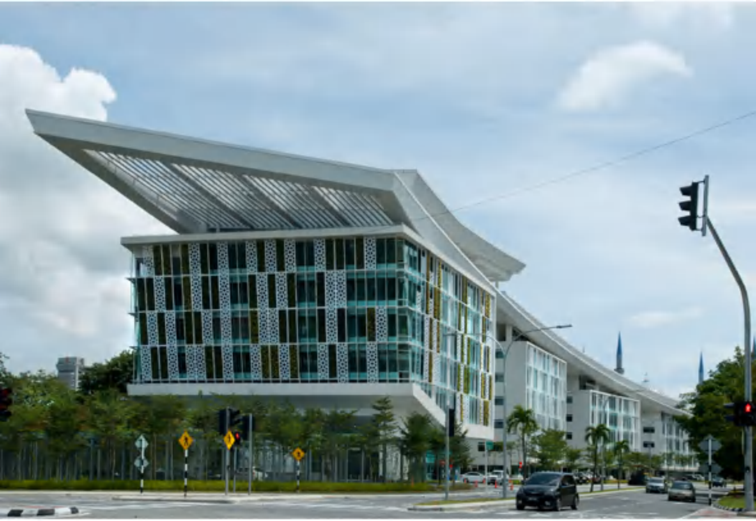
PKNS Headquarters

Shah Alam

Platinum GBI & LEED Certified

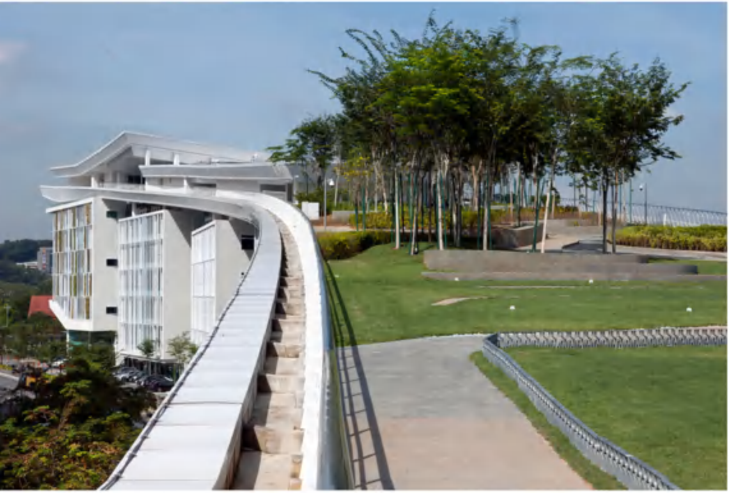
The Perbadanan Kemajuan Negeri Selangor (PKNS) Headquarters in Shah Alam is a showcase of sustainable government and commercial architecture, demonstrating how public-sector developments can lead in green building innovation.





Beyond energy efficiency, water conservation is a key feature of the design, with rainwater harvesting systems and water-efficient fixtures implemented throughout the development.

RESTORAN TASIK



The building's strategic orientation and shading elements further contribute to reducing its carbon footprint, making it a benchmark for sustainable office design in Malaysia.

International School of Kuala Lumpur (ISKL)

Kuala Lumpur

Platinum GBI Certified

The International School of Kuala Lumpur (ISKL) campus is a model for sustainable education facilities, integrating learning with environmental consciousness.

The school is designed to be a living classroom, where students experience sustainability firsthand through green building strategies and eco-friendly infrastructure.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

The campus features high-performance insulation, advanced energy management systems, and solar photovoltaic panels, significantly reducing its energy footprint.

The integration of rainwater harvesting and greywater recycling systems ensures efficient water use.

ISKL also prioritizes healthy indoor environments, incorporating low-VOC materials, excellent indoor air quality measures, and abundant natural lighting to create an optimal learning environment.

With these initiatives, ISKL is not just a school - it is an immersive sustainability experience, inspiring students to understand and embrace environmental responsibility from an early age.

UOB Plaza 1
Kuala Lumpur

Platinum BCA Green Mark Certified

UOB Plaza 1 sets a new standard for sustainable commercial spaces, earning BCA Green Mark (Platinum) certification under the Healthier Workplaces (GM HW, 2018) scheme.

The project integrates energy-efficient systems, enhanced indoor air quality, and occupant well-being strategies, creating a high-performance, environmentally conscious workspace.

With VERITAS Environment Sdn Bhd leading the energy modeling, the building prioritizes resource optimization, operational efficiency, and long-term sustainability. As part of VERITAS' commitment to advancing green-certified workspaces, UOB Plaza 1 joins a growing portfolio of projects redefining sustainability in Malaysia's commercial sector.

The project was designed by Design Collective Architects.

Sustainability in Design: A Holistic Approach

Each of these projects highlights VERITAS' expertise in sustainable architecture, with key strategies including:

Energy Optimization

Passive cooling, natural ventilation, and high-performance building materials to reduce operational energy use.

Water Conservation

Rainwater harvesting, grey-water recycling, and efficient plumbing systems to minimize water waste.

Resource Efficiency

Sustainable material selection, adaptive reuse of structures, and reducing construction waste.

Green Certification Leadership

Setting industry benchmarks with Platinum GBI, LEED, and GreenRE-certified developments.

Sustainability is no longer an option - it is a necessity in shaping resilient cities and communities. Through innovative design solutions and environmentally responsible practices, VERITAS continues to drive the future of sustainable architecture in Malaysia and beyond.

WHERE ARE WE FEATURED?

A VERITAS DESIGN GROUP PUBLICATION

FEBRUARY 2025

Universal Design and Green Infrastructure: **Azril Jaafar in Starbiz7**

On 1st February, VERITAS Principal Azril Jaafar was featured in Starbiz7's article, "***Problems of Pavements and Plants,***" discussing the challenges of pavement design in Malaysia's urban

BIZPROPERTY 27

By SAMANTHA WONG

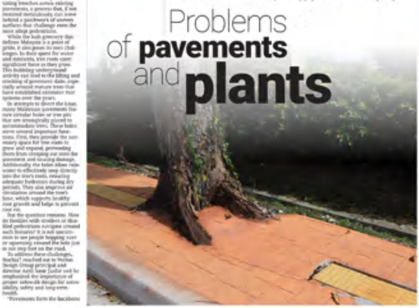
- Ficus trees are the most aggressive pavement pushers
- Curb cuts and ramps for wheelchair users
- Tactile walking surfaces for visually impaired individuals

Getting to the root of the problem

Different trees maybe?

environments.

With issues like inconsistent maintenance, tree root disruptions, and poor drainage, sidewalks often hinder movement rather than facilitate it.



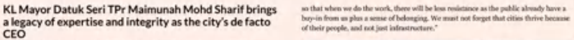
Problems of **pavements** and **plants**

Azril emphasized the importance of Universal Design, advocating for curb cuts, tactile surfaces, and spacious walkways to ensure accessibility for people of all abilities. He also highlighted green infrastructure solutions, such as tree canopies, permeable pavements, and rain gardens, to enhance pedestrian comfort while addressing urban flooding. "*In a tropical city like Kuala Lumpur, well-planned sidewalks don't just support mobility; they shape the quality of life*," he stated.

At VERITAS, we remain committed to designing people-first cities, integrating sustainable and inclusive solutions to redefine the urban walking experience.

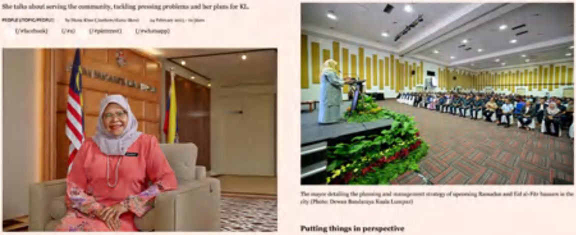
Leadership and Urban Growth:
Lillian Tay in The Edge Malaysia

https://www.optionstheedge.com/topic/people/kl-mayor-datuk-seri-tpr-maimunah-mohd-sharif-brings-legacy-expertise-and-integrity-city



KL Mayor Datuk Seri TPr Maimunah Mohd Sharif brings a legacy of expertise and integrity as the city's de facto CEO

so that when we do the work, there will be less resistance as the public already have a buy-in from us plus a sense of belonging. We must not forget that cities thrive because of their people, and not just infrastructure."



She talks about serving the community, tackling pressing problems and her plans for KL.

PEOPLE (/TOPIC/PEOPLE)

(/#facebook) (/#x) (/#pinterest) (/#whatsapp)

The mayor detailing the planning and management strategy of upcoming Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr bazaars in the city (Photo: Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur)

Putting things in perspective

TOURISM CENTRE

On 3rd February, VERITAS Vice President Lillian Tay was featured in The Edge Malaysia's article, "*Of Grit + Growth*," highlighting the leadership of Kuala Lumpur Mayor Datuk Seri Maimunah Mohd Sharif in her first 100 days.

Recognizing her commitment to sustainable and inclusive urban planning, Lillian praised Mayor Maimunah for being "*a person of her word*" - someone who listens, acts decisively, and adheres to proper governance while implementing impactful city initiatives. As Kuala Lumpur embarks on new urban policies and infrastructure projects, VERITAS looks forward to collaborating with leaders who prioritize thoughtful planning, resilient design, and a people-first approach to city-making.

Adaptive Reuse and Urban Renewal:
Al Mamun Ur Rashid in The Business Standard

https://www.tbsnews.net/features/habitat/renovation-sony-square-rmg-factory-modern-entertainment-hub-1054211

What had once been a dim, enclosed space now feels alive, vibrant, and connected to nature.Photo: Amur Architects

On 27th January, VERITAS Bangladesh Principal Al Mamun Ur Rashid was featured in The Business Standard, discussing his role in transforming a 40-year-old RMG factory into Sony Square, a modern entertainment and commercial hub in Dhaka.

Completed in 2021, the six-month renovation project preserved the industrial heritage of the original structure while seamlessly integrating modern architectural elements, optimized spatial planning, and sustainable design strategies.

The result is a thriving mixed-use development, now serving as the corporate headquarters of Sony International Private Ltd, alongside a vibrant shopping mall featuring leading national and international brands.

This project exemplifies how adaptive reuse can revitalize aging urban structures, fostering sustainable development and economic growth in dense metropolitan areas.

Rethinking TODs for Sustainable Urban Growth:

Ng Yiek Seng in The Star

https://www.starproperty.my/news/getting-it-right-for-tods/131218

6 FEATURE ARTICLE

StarProperty

StarProperty

FEATURE ARTICLE 7

Getting it right for TODs

Transit-oriented developments are usually perceived as large-scale but smaller projects qualify too

Misconception 1: TODs must be large-scale

Misconception 2: TODs must include residential components

Misconception 3: TODs must be self-sufficient

Misconception 4: TODs are a new concept

Misconception 5: The TOD is not the silver bullet

The TOD's evil twin

On 14th February 2025, VERITAS Principal Ng Yiek Seng was featured in The Star, sharing insights on the evolution of transit-oriented developments (TODs).

While TODs are often associated with large-scale, high-density mixed-use projects, he emphasized that smaller developments can also align with TOD principles if they effectively integrate residential, commercial, and recreational spaces within walkable proximity to public transit.

He highlighted the need for flexibility in TOD planning, ensuring that developments support connectivity, sustainability, and urban livability across various scales.

By broadening the TOD definition, urban planners and developers can create better-connected, people-centric cities that maximize transit use and promote long-term sustainability.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

A VERITAS DESIGN GROUP PUBLICATION

FEBRUARY 2025

Designing for Density: Navigating Mixed-Use Residential Developments

LIVING IN A CITY WITHIN A CITY
Residential Use in
Mixed-Use Developments
Ar Dr Miguel A. Robles
Senior Associate Architect
VERITAS Design Group
VERITAS
UNIVERSITY PUTRA MALAYSIA
VERITAS

On 22nd January, VERITAS Senior Associate Ar. Dr. Miguel Robles delivered a talk at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) to 60 Year 4, Part 2 architecture students on "*Living in a City Within a City*."

The session provided practical insights into high-rise residential design within mixed-use developments, focusing on arrival experience, access differentiation, circulation strategies, stacking, and unit typologies.

Using real-world case studies such as STAR Residences, Sentral Suites, Oxley Towers, and Business and Leisure Park, students gained a structured approach to tackling their upcoming high-rise residential studio. VERITAS remains committed to bridging industry knowledge with education, equipping future architects with the skills to navigate the complexities of urban development.

Preserving Heritage: VERITAS at Hospitality Indonesia Conference 2025 (HIC 2025)

On 12th February, VERITAS Indonesia Principal Andrew Tirta spoke at Hospitality Indonesia Conference 2025 (HIC 2025) in a fireside chat on "*Adaptive Reuse of Historic Buildings for Hotels.*"

Hospitality Asia Event Series
8TH HOSPITALITY Indonesia Conference
Adaptive reuse approach may not only preserve the historical value of the building but also enhance its marketability and operational efficiency, potentially leading to favorable financial outco
Stronger Market Position & Branding
Unique Identity & Storytelling – A hotel with a historical narrative attracts experience-driven travelers looking for authenticity.
Higher Room Rates & Occupancy – Many guests are willing to pay a premium for a stay in a historic building with unique character.
Stronger Brand Recognition – An adaptive reuse project differentiates the hotel from modern, generic competitors, boosting marketing appeal.
Cultural Enthusiasts: Given its dual function as a guesthouse and art space, Sinkeh Hotel likely attracts guests interested in local culture and the arts.
Heritage Tourists: Located in a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the hotel appeals to travelers seeking authentic heritag experiences.

Hospitality Asia Event Series
8TH HOSPITALITY Indonesia Conference
Hospitality Asia Event Series 20

Andrew presented Sinkeh Hotel in Penang, a VERITAS-designed heritage hotel that blends cultural preservation with modern hospitality design.

The discussion emphasized sustainability, adaptive reuse strategies, and the growing demand for heritage-driven hospitality experiences.

HA | Hospitality Asia Event Series
8TH HOSPITALITY
Indonesia Conference

VERITAS continues to lead in transforming historic spaces into timeless, functional destinations.

Bridging Design & Commercial Viability with BON ESTATES

On 13th February, VERITAS Senior Associate Ar. Dr. Miguel Robles was invited by BON ESTATES to share insights on project feasibility from an architect's perspective at their office and gallery in Bangsar.

Great design must align with commercial intelligence to create successful developments. This session explored key factors beyond aesthetics, including market positioning, development costs, and phasing strategies, ensuring design decisions drive both value and viability.

Singgah KL 2025:
Exploring Architecture with VERITAS

On 16th February, VERITAS had the privilege of hosting Singgah KL 2025, an event that offered the public a unique opportunity to experience architecture beyond blueprints through curated site visits.

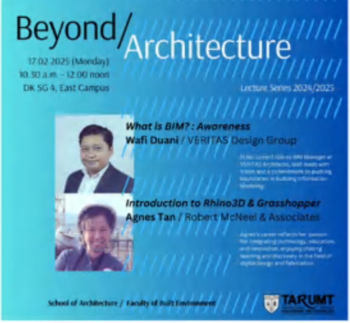
As part of the program, we proudly showcased two of our landmark projects - Saloma Bridge, a fusion of engineering ingenuity and striking aesthetics, and KPD The Five, a contemporary corporate development redefining workplace environment.

These visits provided an immersive insight into the design philosophy and innovation that shape our work, reinforcing our commitment to creating impactful and meaningful spaces in the urban fabric of Kuala Lumpur

Exploring Digital Innovation at Tunku Abdul Razak University of Management and Technology (TARUMT)

On 17th February, VERITAS BIM Manager Ahmad Wafi Duani spoke at the Beyond Architecture Lecture Series 2024/2025 at TAR UMT, sharing insights on "*What is BIM? : Awareness*". Wafi's session highlighted the growing role of Building Information Modeling (BIM) in improving design workflows, collaboration, and project efficiency in the AEC industry.

The event also featured Agnes Tan from Robert McNeel & Associates, who introduced Rhino3D & Grasshopper, emphasizing the impact of parametric and computational design in modern architecture.



Beyond/Architecture

17.02.2025 (Monday)
10.30 a.m. - 12.00 noon
DK SG 4, East Campus

Lecture Series 2024/2025

What is BIM? : Awareness
Wafi Duani / VERITAS Design Group

Introduction to Rhino3D & Grasshopper
Agnes Tan / Robert McNeel & Associates

School of Architecture / Faculty of Built Environment

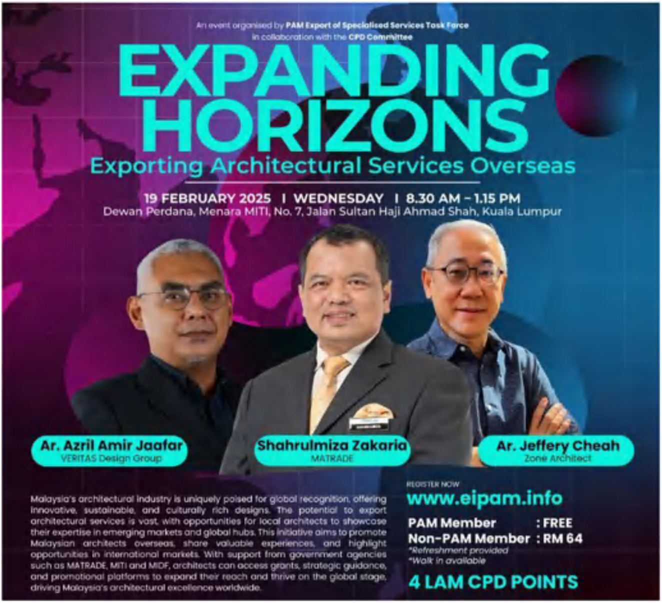
TARUMT

These discussions reinforced the importance of digital tools in shaping future design practices. VERITAS remains committed to bridging industry and education, preparing the next generation of architects for a digitally driven future.

Expanding Horizons:
Bringing Malaysian Architecture to the Global Stage

On 19th February, VERITAS Principal Azril Jaafar spoke at "*Expanding Horizons: Exporting Architectural Services Overseas*", organized by PAM's Export of Specialised Services Task Force.

Outline
Who we are ?
When to export ?
What to do ?
Project Potentials
Secrets of Success



An event organised by **PAM Export of Specialised Services Task Force**
in collaboration with the **CPD Committee**

EXPANDING HORIZONS

Exporting Architectural Services Overseas

19 FEBRUARY 2025 | WEDNESDAY | 8.30 AM – 1.15 PM
Dewan Perdana, Menara MITI, No. 7, Jalan Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah, Kuala Lumpur

Ar. Azril Amir Jaafar
VERITAS Design Group

Shahrulmiza Zakaria
MATRADE

Ar. Jeffery Cheah
Zone Architect

Malaysia's architectural industry is uniquely poised for global recognition, offering innovative, sustainable, and culturally rich designs. The potential to export architectural services is vast, with opportunities for local architects to showcase their expertise in emerging markets and global hubs. This initiative aims to promote Malaysian architects overseas, share valuable experiences, and highlight opportunities in international markets. With support from government agencies such as MATRADE, MITI and MIDF, architects can access grants, strategic guidance, and promotional platforms to expand their reach and thrive on the global stage, driving Malaysia's architectural excellence worldwide.

REGISTER NOW
www.eipam.info

PAM Member : FREE
Non-PAM Member : RM 64
**Refreshment provided*
**Walk in available*

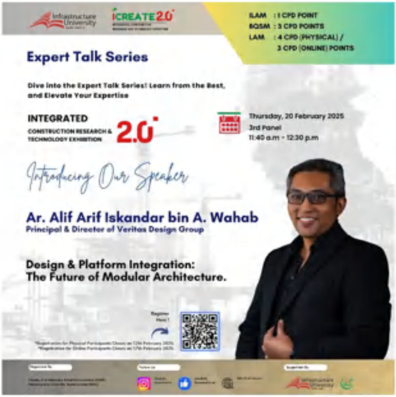
4 LAM CPD POINTS

Sharing insights from VERITAS' international projects, Azril highlighted key strategies for market expansion, cross-border collaborations, and positioning Malaysian architecture globally. The session, featuring MATRADE and industry experts, provided valuable discussions on navigating opportunities and challenges in architectural exports.

VERITAS remains committed to advancing Malaysian architecture on the world stage.

Advancing Modular Architecture at I-CREATE 2.0

On 20th February, VERITAS Principal Ar. Alif Arif spoke at I-CREATE 2.0's Expert Talk Series at Infrastructure University Kuala Lumpur (IUKL), discussing "*Design & Platform Integration: The Future of Modular Architecture.*"


Infrastructure University
iCREATE 2.0

ILAM : 1 CPD POINT
BQSM : 3 CPD POINTS
LAM : 4 CPD (PHYSICAL) /
3 CPD (ONLINE) POINTS

Expert Talk Series

Dive into the Expert Talk Series! Learn from the Best, and Elevate Your Expertise

INTEGRATED CONSTRUCTION RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITION 2.0

Thursday, 20 February 2025
3rd Panel
11:40 a.m - 12:30 p.m

Introducing Our Speaker

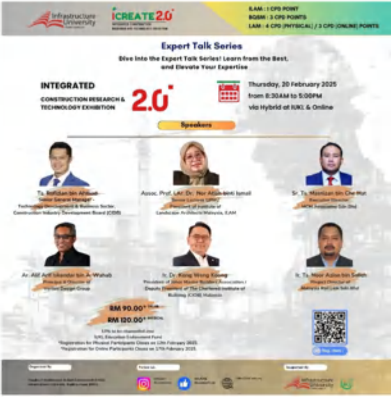
Ar. Alif Arif Iskandar bin A. Wahab
Principal & Director of Veritas Design Group

Design & Platform Integration:
The Future of Modular Architecture.

Register Here!

iCREATE 2.0
INTEGRATED CONSTRUCTION RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITION
2025
Infrastructure University

INTEGRATED CONSTRUCTION RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITION
2025


Infrastructure University
iCREATE 2.0

ILAM : 1 CPD POINT
BQSM : 3 CPD POINTS
LAM : 4 CPD (PHYSICAL) / 3 CPD (ONLINE) POINTS

Expert Talk Series

Dive into the Expert Talk Series! Learn from the Best, and Elevate Your Expertise

INTEGRATED CONSTRUCTION RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITION 2.0

Thursday, 20 February 2025
from 8:30AM to 5:00PM
via Hybrid at IUKL & Online

Speakers

Ar. Alif Arif Iskandar bin A. Wahab

RM 90.00*
RM 120.00*

Alif highlighted how digital platforms and integrated workflows are reshaping modular construction, enabling faster, more cost-efficient, and sustainable building solutions. The event brought together industry leaders from CIDB, ILAM, and MCM Associates, driving conversations on technology's role in the future of construction.

VERITAS 1st Staff Quarterly Meeting & Chinese New Year Celebration

On 22nd February, VERITASians gathered for the 1st Staff Quarterly Meeting, celebrating achievements, new team members, and the Chinese New Year spirit.

The session featured speeches from Group President David Hashim, an insightful talk by Dr. Hossein Rezai on decarbonisation, and updates on technology, VFE, CARE, ESG initiatives, and the VSSC Committee.

The event also recognized Core Values Award winners and announced "*The Biggest Loser – Lose It to Win It*" champion, Trbe S. The day concluded with a festive lunch at Amber Chinese Muslim Restaurant, where angpows were handed out, reinforcing VERITAS' culture of collaboration and excellence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A VERITAS DESIGN GROUP PUBLICATION

FEBRUARY 2025

Who's Celebrating Their Birthday - February

- 1st – Mohd Taqiyudin Bin Ahmad (VAKL)
- 1st - Roselinda Binti Razak (VAKL)
- 2nd - Puvaneswary A/P Anbalagan (VAKL)
- 2nd - Mohd Rafiuddin bin Jasman (VAJB)
- 5th - Renny Thing Kai Ren (VAJB)
- 8th - Mohammad Iskandar Bin Abd Razak (VAKL)
- 8th - Siah Chu Yang (VAKL)
- 9th - Kathlene Rachel Kanniah (V Contracts)
- 14th - Leong Bee Shim (VAPG)
- 15th - Misamudin Muda Bin Mohd Ibrahim (VAKL)
- 17th - Muhammad Zubair Bin Hazni (VAKL)
- 19th - Chew Min Er (V Planning)
- 19th - Muhammad Imran Bin Noor Effendy (V Contracts)
- 23rd - Muhammad Syafie Bin Baharin (VAKL)
- 24th - Aimi Fairuz Binti Mohd Azman (VAKL)
- 26th - Erlianny Binti Tekoh (VAKL)

New Hires/Intern

Wan Ainul
Hanissa

Assistant Architect
- VAKL

Noraini Binti
Azizan

Senior Technical
Assistant
- V Landscape

Emmanuel John
Andoy Galvan

Intern Architect
- VAKL