VERITAS
design·group

December
2025

e-newsletter
A VERITAS DESIGN GROUP PUBLICATION

Greetings to All Our Readers!

Engineering Synergy: Integrating Design, Delivery & Technical Intelligence

As the year draws to a close, we reflect on how architecture today extends beyond form-making. The most effective outcomes emerge through multidisciplinary collaboration—where engineering expertise, digital intelligence, and project governance work together to strengthen performance, resilience, and long-term value.

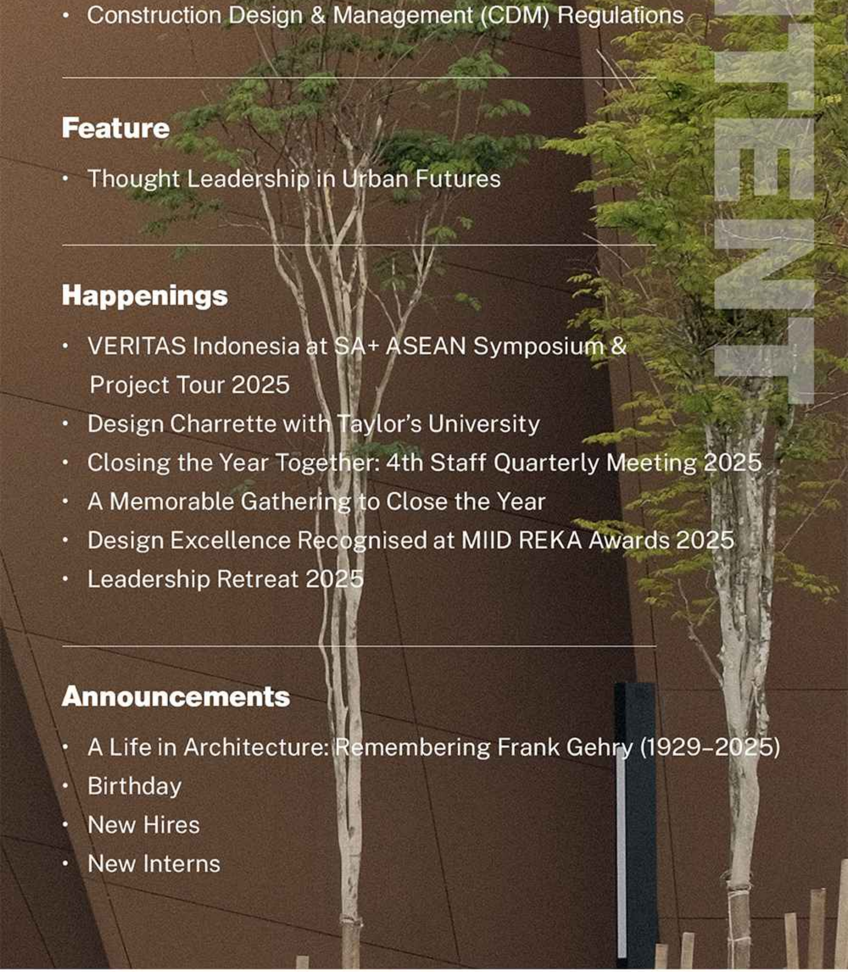
In 2025, VERITAS continued to advance this *integrated approach across the Group, delivering work that is coordinated, future-ready, and responsive across diverse contexts.*

This December, we spotlight VERITAS Contracts Sdn. Bhd., led by Richard Raymond, which anchors the Group's integrated consultancy model through four technical pillars: Mechanical & Electrical (M&E) engineering, Civil & Structural (C&S) engineering, Building Information Modelling (BIM), and Project Management Consultancy (PMC) including Construction Design & Management (CDM) Regulations. Together, these disciplines form the technical backbone of VERITAS—supporting architectural intent with sound engineering, precise coordination, and disciplined execution.

We hope you find this edition insightful, and as always, we welcome you to reach out should you wish to learn more about the work featured here.

Main News

- VERITAS Contracts Sdn. Bhd.: The Technical Pillar of the Group
- Mechanical & Electrical (M&E) Engineering
- Civil & Structural (C&S) Engineering
- Building Information Modelling (BIM)
- Project Management Consultancy (PMC)



- Construction Design & Management (CDM) Regulations

Feature

- Thought Leadership in Urban Futures

Happenings

- VERITAS Indonesia at SA+ ASEAN Symposium & Project Tour 2025
- Design Charrette with Taylor's University
- Closing the Year Together: 4th Staff Quarterly Meeting 2025
- A Memorable Gathering to Close the Year
- Design Excellence Recognised at MIID REKA Awards 2025
- Leadership Retreat 2025

Announcements

- A Life in Architecture: Remembering Frank Gehry (1929–2025)
- Birthday
- New Hires
- New Interns

VERITAS Contracts Sdn. Bhd.: The Technical Pillar of the Group

READ MORE

Richard Raymond
Principal, VERITAS Contracts

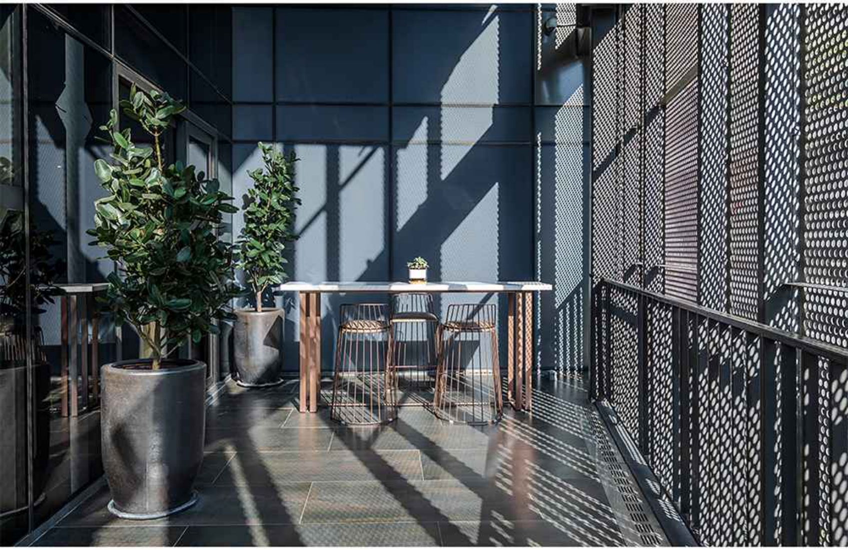
Under the guidance of Richard Raymond, VERITAS Contracts Sdn. Bhd. integrates engineering intelligence, digital design, and project governance into a cohesive delivery framework.
By aligning M&E, C&S, BIM, and PMC from early design through delivery, the team ensures clarity in decision-making and consistency in execution across the project lifecycle.

This integrated approach has supported projects across institutional, hospitality, commercial, and residential sectors, including the Petronas Leadership Centre in Selangor, Imperial Lexis in Kuala Lumpur, Porsche Centre in Johor Bahru, Tribeca Service Apartments in Kuala Lumpur, and KWSP in Kota Kinabalu.

Collectively, these works reflect VERITAS Contracts' ability to support both discipline-specific scopes and fully coordinated, multi-disciplinary delivery.

Civil & Structural (C&S) Engineering

The Civil & Structural team provides the structural clarity that underpins VERITAS' design ambitions. Their work spans feasibility studies, conceptual framing, foundation and substructure design, and complex structural systems. By aligning engineering rigor with architectural intent and site conditions, the team delivers resilient and buildable solutions across varied project contexts.



Imperial Lexis

Mechanical & Electrical (M&E) Engineering

The M&E team translates design intent into high-performance building systems that ensure safety, comfort, sustainability, and operational efficiency. From early system strategies and load analysis to detailed design, regulatory submissions, and commissioning, technical discipline is embedded throughout the delivery process. Close coordination with other disciplines ensures building services are seamlessly integrated and responsive to regulatory, environmental, and user requirements.

PORSCHE
Porsche Centre Johor Bahru

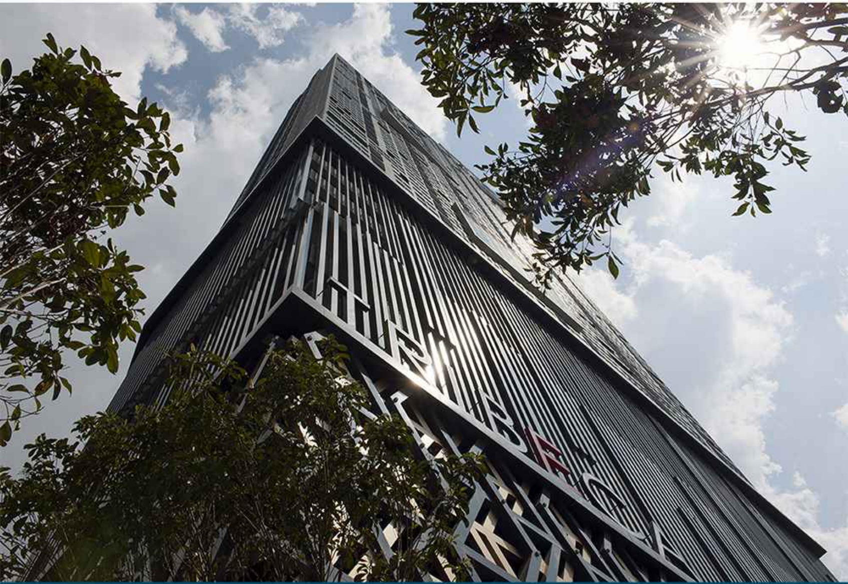
Porsche Centre Johor Bahru

Building Information Modelling (BIM)

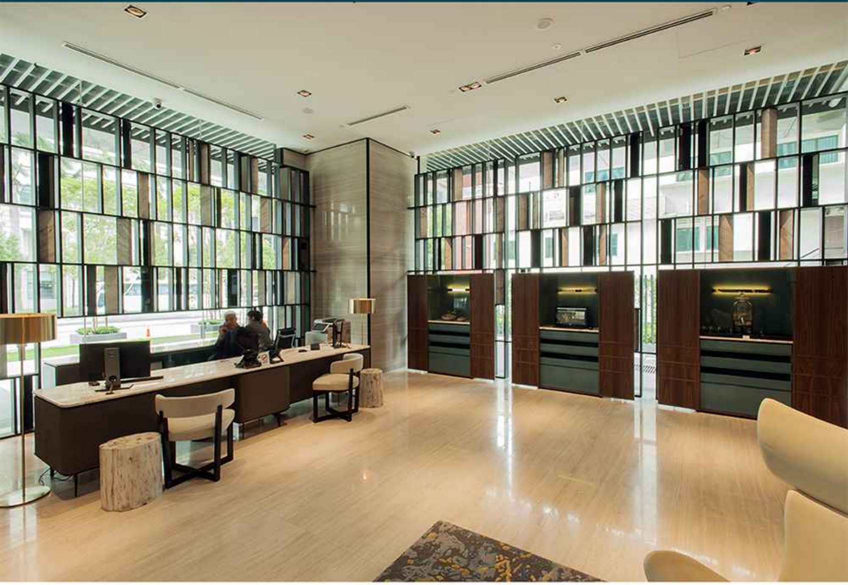
BIM supports digital coordination through advanced 3D modelling, interdisciplinary collaboration, and structured data management. By enabling model-based workflows from early design through construction, the department improves coordination, reduces rework, and strengthens delivery certainty for complex projects.

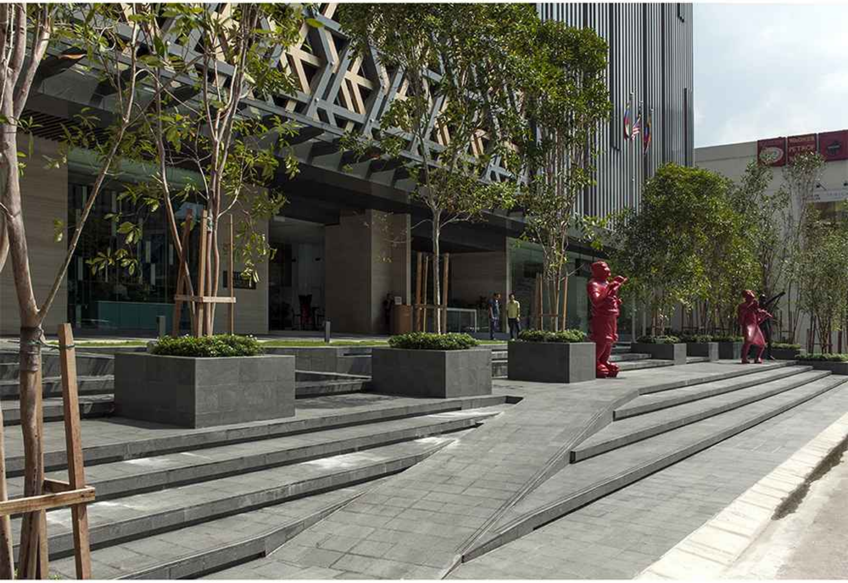
Petronas Leadership Centre

Project Management Consultancy (PMC)



PMC provides the governance and execution discipline necessary for predictable project outcomes. Through risk management, programme control, stakeholder coordination, and transparent oversight, PMC supports informed decision-making and reinforces VERITAS' commitment to accountability and delivery excellence.





Tribeca Service Apartments

Construction Design & Management (CDM) Regulations

As a service line within PMC, Construction Design & Management (CDM) Regulations supports the structured management of design, construction risk, and coordination throughout the project lifecycle. Working alongside design and engineering teams, CDM promotes early risk identification, clear roles and responsibilities, and safer, more coordinated project delivery. This approach strengthens overall project governance and supports consistent outcomes across diverse regulatory and operational environments.

KWSP Kota Kinabalu

Looking Ahead to 2026

As VERITAS moves into the new year,

VERITAS Contracts will continue to serve as the Group's technical anchor—deepening integration while retaining flexibility across project scopes. Building on experience gained from projects such as the Petronas Leadership Centre, Imperial Lexis, Porsche Centre Johor Bahru, Tribeca Service Apartments, and KWSP Kota Kinabalu, the team remains focused on precision, coordination, and a performance-led approach to design and delivery.

WHERE ARE WE FEATURED?

December 2025

Thought Leadership in Urban Futures

On 7th December, VERITAS Founder and Group President David Mizan Hashim was featured in StarProperty with a thought-provoking commentary titled *Quo Vadis: Reflections on Our Nation's Capital (Part 2).*

Quo Vadis Kuala Lumpur

Reflections on our nation's capital (Part 2)

Contributed by **DAVID M HASHIM**

To set the stage for the story of Kuala Lumpur, my article last year outlined the background of how and why the great cities of European empires arose in recent history. The explosion of human flourishing in the West, beginning with the Renaissance, followed by the Enlightenment and the Industrial Revolution, further catalysed by the rise of capitalism, was certainly an underlying driver for the rise of grand urban centres in Europe.

However, a primary funding source in most cases for these mega public projects was the wealth extracted by imperial powers from colonial holdings in the undeveloped world, including Malaya. Such extraction, in the form of raw or processed commodities and slavery in some places, in large part paid for the opulent palaces, edifices and gardens that we so admire in Paris, London and Berlin today.

Meanwhile, back in the colonised world of the late 2nd Millennium, villages and towns struggled to emerge into larger urban concentrations. Due to the subjugation by foreign powers, native societies in America, Africa and Asia (with the notable exception of China and India) had no significant unified centres of state authority in recent memory. Mostly, they were small tribal or feudal communities led by local competing mercantile organisations and minor warring kingdoms. Thus, they were not only subjugated by better-organised and technically superior colonising civilisations but they were also unable or unmotivated to otherwise muster the resources needed to build enduring edifices and cities on their own.

But there had always been silver linings brewing in the rule by Western colonists. The first was the quality of infrastructure and underlying urban planning which formed the foundation for future city growth. The other silver lining, especially in Malaya, was the unintentional yet very obvious emergence of a truly diverse ethnic and multi-cultural fabric, predominantly in our cities. Over recent centuries, three European nations had imprinted their unique cultures on Malaya to varying degrees. But far more importantly, the importation of Chinese and Indian immigrant labourers to Malaya by the British, starting in the late 18th century, truly had a transformative effect on our culture, especially within Georgetown, Melaka and of course Kuala Lumpur.

The city rises

Like all cultural melting pots around the world throughout history, the combination of rich human diversity and population density in cities such as Kuala Lumpur, especially, sparked the enthusiasm to grow, expand and ignite the spirit of capitalism. Our nation's indigenous Malays, together with their Chinese and Indian counterparts, eventually evolved into the ideal cultural-ethnic partnership to later exploit the era of globalisation in South-east Asia.

Once we regained control of our country after independence in 1957, the work of nation-building (figuratively and literally) could begin with patriotic fervour. Unlike the ostentatious administrative buildings built by and for the colonial governments, these new projects were to serve the rakyat. Neo-colonial architectural styles, so preferred by pre-independence administrators, were intentionally replaced by modernist forms and expressions. Kuala Lumpur was becoming more than just a city but a symbol of a new, modern, independent and self-confident nation.

Thus, in the late 50s and 60s, there began to arise in Kuala Lumpur large modern public edifices in celebration of our new nationhood. Grand stadiums, universities, hospitals, government complexes, courthouses, airports, highways, public parks and more were erected. Also built during this dynamic period were Bank Negara, Masjid Negara, Zoo Negara and Muzium Negara. These complemented the more meagre private investments in mostly individual shop-houses in the older commercial centres of our cities. Kuala Lumpur was beginning to rise.

By the 70s, private capital began to make its contribution to the city. Commercial offices, hotels and apartment towers began to define a skyline, especially in Kuala Lumpur. During the waning decades of the late 20th century, our cities experienced unparalleled growth due to a combination of expanding population, rural-urban migration and immigration. Private interests had begun to define the city. Central business districts (CBDs) began to shift away from the congested old urban centres of their Chinatowns and Little Indias to where expansive land plot sizes could accommodate gradually larger and larger building complexes.

Especially in the last three or four decades, despite local, regional and global economic setbacks, Kuala Lumpur persevered and flourished. To keep pace with the unanticipated soaring demand and pressures to accommodate a surging population within the city, and further pressured by capitalist zeal and the inflow of foreign capital, regulatory city plans were repeatedly issued and then revised again to the consternation of older city folk. The seemingly haphazard city planning we witness today in Kuala Lumpur's streets and neighbourhoods is a testament to this period of unbridled enthusiasm and ever-evolving regulatory frameworks.

Today and Beyond

Today, as the cities of Malaysia, especially Kuala Lumpur, continue to evolve, they will face a future defined by many challenges. Three of them are highlighted here:

Firstly, public mass transportation and physical connectivity are existential to the viability of any city and Kuala Lumpur is lagging behind the metrics of most cities of equivalent size in the developed world. Until the MRT3 line is completed to complement the other MRT, LRT, monorail and bus networks and the last-mile connectivity is in place, our capital will not achieve its potential. But once an integrated public transport system, complemented by a pedestrian-friendly urban fabric, exists, Kuala Lumpur can begin to wean itself off its car-biased past and begin its transformation into a world-class city.

Secondly, addressing climate change and energy conservation are absolutely essential to the health of any city. A resilient response to the detrimental effects of rising temperatures and the associated unpredictable, destructive weather that accompanies it will require an unprecedented degree of coordination and funding. This is one area in which Kuala Lumpur is sorely behind. The focus over the next few years will have to be on energy reduction and conservation, effective waste recycling and management, ecological sustainability and retrofitting our buildings to face the coming climate crisis. Without an integrated approach to the environment, our capital city, like many others, will not be a pleasant place to live.

Lastly, the historical conservation of our older urban fabric and the buildings of which it is comprised have become increasingly important to the character of cities. Unfortunately, until recently, Kuala Lumpur has not done enough to conserve its urban heritage. The conservation of Kampung Baru, Chinatown/Medan Pasar and Little India will be key to it becoming a world-class city on par with its European counterparts. These enclaves are especially relevant to our history as a multi-ethnic society. But the focus should be on conservation by adaptive reuse to bring life, economic activity and energy back to these neighbourhoods and not merely historic preservation.

Given this historic context and the current challenges explained above, what does the future hold for Kuala Lumpur?

David M Hashim
Founder and group president
Veritas Design Group

In this piece, David reflects on the historical forces, planning decisions, and development pressures that have shaped Kuala Lumpur, while outlining the strategic priorities needed to steer the city toward a more resilient and liveable future.

His insights highlight the importance of an integrated public transport network, climate-responsive planning, and a renewed commitment to adaptive reuse as a cornerstone of heritage revitalisation.

The feature underscores VERITAS' continued role in driving national discourse on urban development and the shared responsibility of architects, planners, and policymakers in shaping the next chapter of Malaysia's capital city.

READ MORE

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

December 2025

VERITAS Indonesia at SA+ ASEAN Symposium

& Project Tour 2025

On 27th November, VERITAS Indonesia Principal Andrew Tirta participated as a speaker at the SA+ ASEAN Symposium & Project Tour 2025, where he shared insights on steel architecture, material performance, and the evolving relationship between structure and design expression in contemporary practice.

Glenn Murcutt Architecture Foundation
asa
PAM
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BlueScope
Shaping Resilient Future
Heritage and Moderni n Steel Architectural Design
27 mber 2025

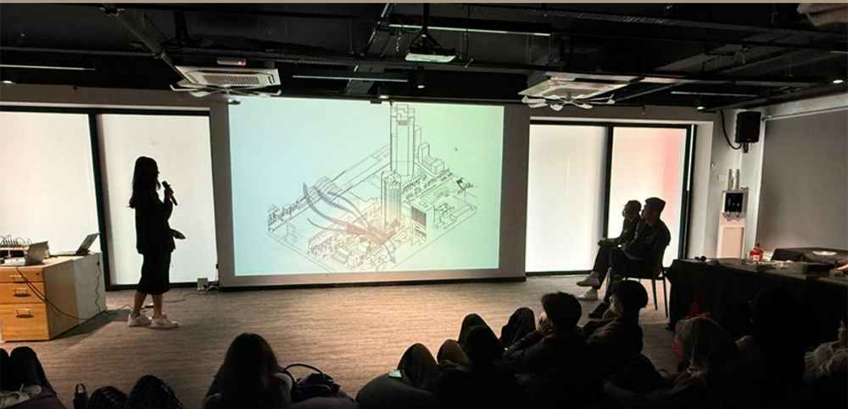
His presentation highlighted the importance of efficiency, resilience, and clarity in steel-based systems, resonating strongly with the symposium’s focus on regional innovation.

Shaping Resilient Future
Heritage and Modernity in Steel Architectural Design
27 November 2025

BIG
VERITAS

The programme concluded with a curated visit to Q BIG, selected as one of the featured case study projects. Andrew led participants through the development of the scheme, offering an inside look at its architectural logic, structural strategy, and execution.

The event marked a meaningful opportunity for VERITAS Indonesia to contribute to the regional discourse on high-performance, future-ready design.



Design Charrette with Taylor's University

On 25th November, VERITAS hosted 40 students from Taylor's University for a half-day Design Charrette session at our Kuala Lumpur office, running from 10.00am to 1.00pm and led by Senior Architect Daryl Law and Architect Qawiem Yusman.

The programme included a design-sharing session, a *PechaKucha*-style charrette, an open Q&A, and a guided office tour that introduced students to our studio culture and collaborative design workflow.

The session provided a meaningful platform for emerging designers to engage with real-world practice while giving our team the opportunity to support and inspire the next generation of architects.

VERITAS
LUNCH

Closing the Year Together: 4th Staff Quarterly Meeting 2025

On 29th November, VERITAS convened its 4th and final Staff Quarterly Meeting of 2025 at The Agam, Penchala, bringing together colleagues from across offices and special business units for a meaningful close to the year. The half-day session featured leadership addresses by the Group President and Group Vice President, a guest sharing on positive life and leadership, and the introduction of new VERITASians.

VFE UPDATES SQM (4-2025)
planet
VFE
VERITAS Fund for Excellence

ENVIRONMENT
SOCIAL
GOVERNANCE
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The programme continued with

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IAN TAY)
E & LEADERSHIP COACH
R. TOPIC: BE HAPPY AT
(SUHAIMI BABA)
NADZEEM)
THIBRI)
ALIFAH)
RY)
ELYNA)
A)
HILDREN'S DAY
VERITAS

consolidated project and departmental updates spanning Architecture, Interiors, Landscape, Planning, Environment, Contracts, BIM, ESG, CARE, and VFE — offering a comprehensive snapshot of progress, performance, and shared priorities.

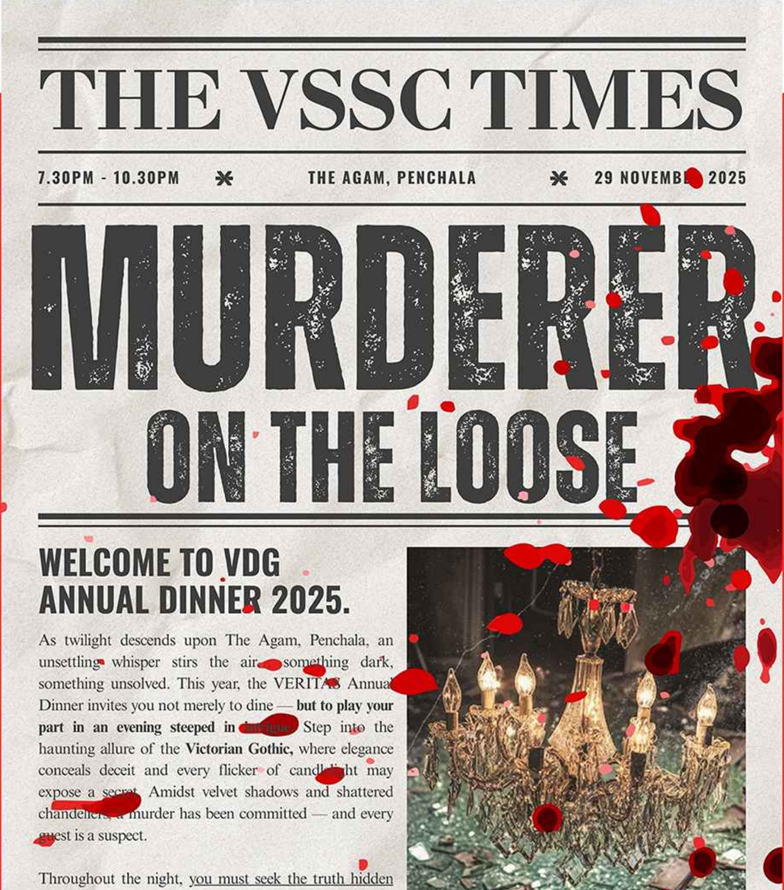
The session served not only as a reflection on the year's achievements, but also as a collective alignment toward the direction and momentum heading into 2026.

A Memorable Gathering to Close the Year

On 29th November, VERITASians gathered at The Agam, Penchala for an unforgettable Annual Dinner themed around a Murder Mystery Night, where elegance met intrigue.

NEW VSSC TIMES
SUSPECTS
NEW VSSC TIMES
SUSPECTS

Guests embraced the evening's Victorian Gothic attire, setting a dramatic tone as the night unfolded through a staged disappearance. Stepping into character, attendees pieced together clues and collaborated to uncover the truth behind the unfolding narrative.



THE VSSC TIMES

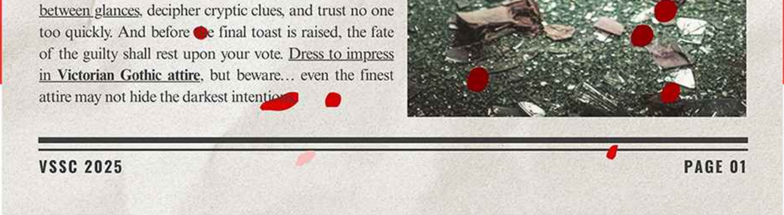
7.30PM - 10.30PM ✱ THE AGAM, PENCHALA ✱ 29 NOVEMBER 2025

MURDERER ON THE LOOSE

WELCOME TO VDG ANNUAL DINNER 2025.

As twilight descends upon The Agam, Penchala, an unsettling whisper stirs the air — something dark, something unsolved. This year, the VERITAS Annual Dinner invites you not merely to dine — **but to play your part in an evening steeped in intrigue.** Step into the haunting allure of the **Victorian Gothic,** where elegance conceals deceit and every flicker of candlelight may expose a secret. Amidst velvet shadows and shattered chandeliers, a murder has been committed — and every guest is a suspect.

Throughout the night, you must seek the truth hidden



between glances, decipher cryptic clues, and trust no one too quickly. And before the final toast is raised, the fate of the guilty shall rest upon your vote. Dress to impress in **Victorian Gothic attire**, but beware… even the finest attire may not hide the darkest intentions.

VSSC 2025

PAGE 01

Beyond the mystery, the celebration featured lively lucky draws, recognition for Best Dressed attendees, and shared moments of laughter and camaraderie that brought the entire organisation together.

NEW VSSC TIMES
REWARDS!
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NEW VSSC TIMES
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NEW VSSC TIMES
REWARDS!
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The night offered a playful departure from the everyday—reflecting the creativity, teamwork, and strong sense of connection that continue to define VERITAS. It was a fitting and memorable way to close the year on a high note.

Design Excellence Recognised at MIID REKA Awards 2025

On 12th December, VERITAS Interiors Sdn. Bhd. (VISB) was recognised at the MIID REKA Awards 2025, reaffirming the studio’s commitment to thoughtful, high-impact interior design.

The awards were received by Bianca Purkis, Principal of VERITAS Interiors, on behalf of the studio.

VERITAS

Congratulates

CORPORATE OFFICES

Petronas Leadership Centre, Bangi, Selangor

VERITAS Interiors Sdn Bhd

BRONZE

REKA
AWARDS
2025

VERITAS Interiors Sdn Bhd on its award for the PETRONAS Leadership Centre, Bangi at the MIID Reka Awards 2025. The award was proudly received by Ar. Azril Amir Jaafar, Principal of VERITAS Architects Sdn Bhd, and Bianca Purkis, Principal of VERITAS Interiors Sdn Bhd.

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by
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Interiors
PETRONAS Leadership Centre, Bangi
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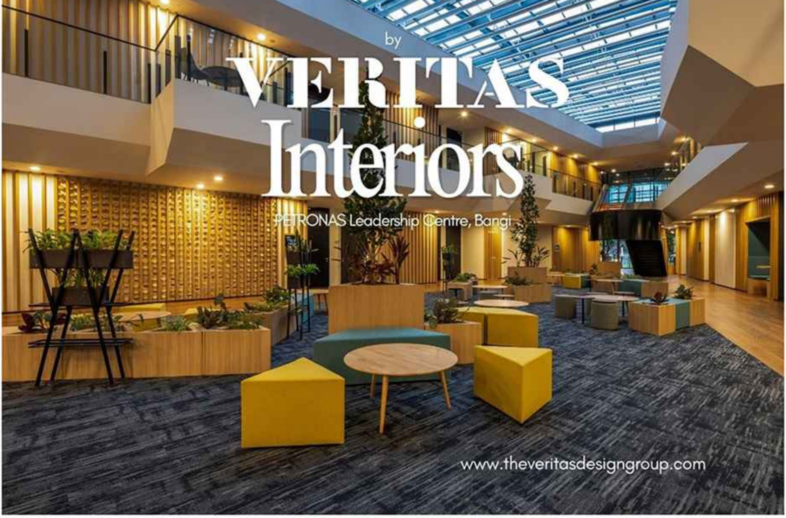
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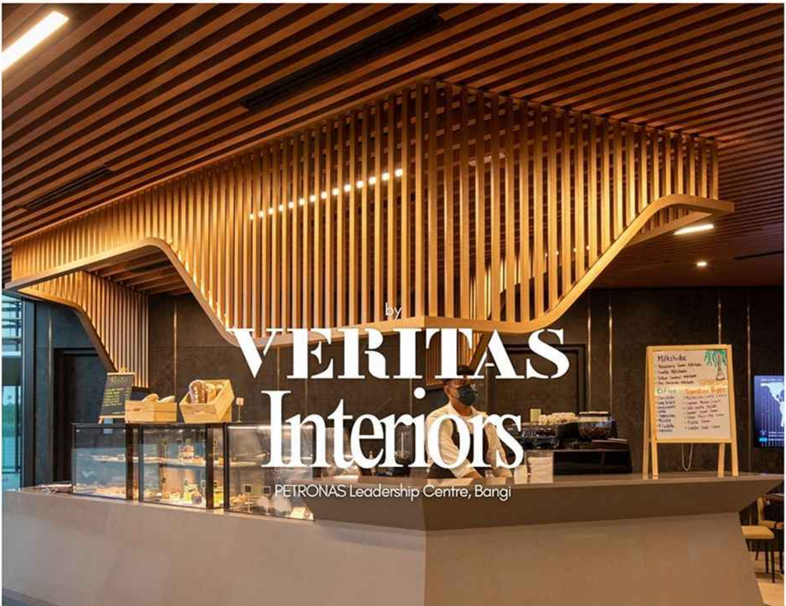

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At the ceremony, VISB received two accolades — Bronze for the PETRONAS Leadership Centre (PLC) and an Honourable Mention for M Social Resort Penang.

The awards celebrate projects that demonstrate strong conceptual clarity, spatial innovation, and design execution that responds meaningfully to context and user experience.

VERITAS
Congratulates
HOSPITALITY
MSocial Resort, Penang
VERITAS Interiors Sdn Bhd
REKA AWARDS 2025
HONOURABLE MENTION

VERITAS Interiors Sdn Bhd on its award for M Social Resort, Penang at the MIID Reka Awards 2025. The award was proudly received by Bianca Purkis, Principal, and Ashwin Mohan, Senior Interior Designer of VERITAS Interiors Sdn Bhd.

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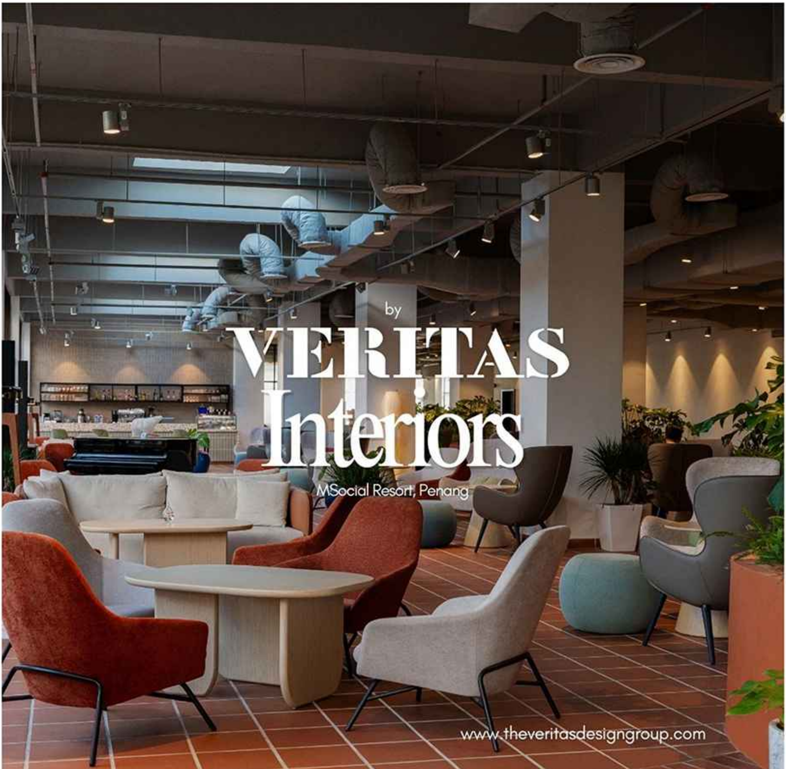
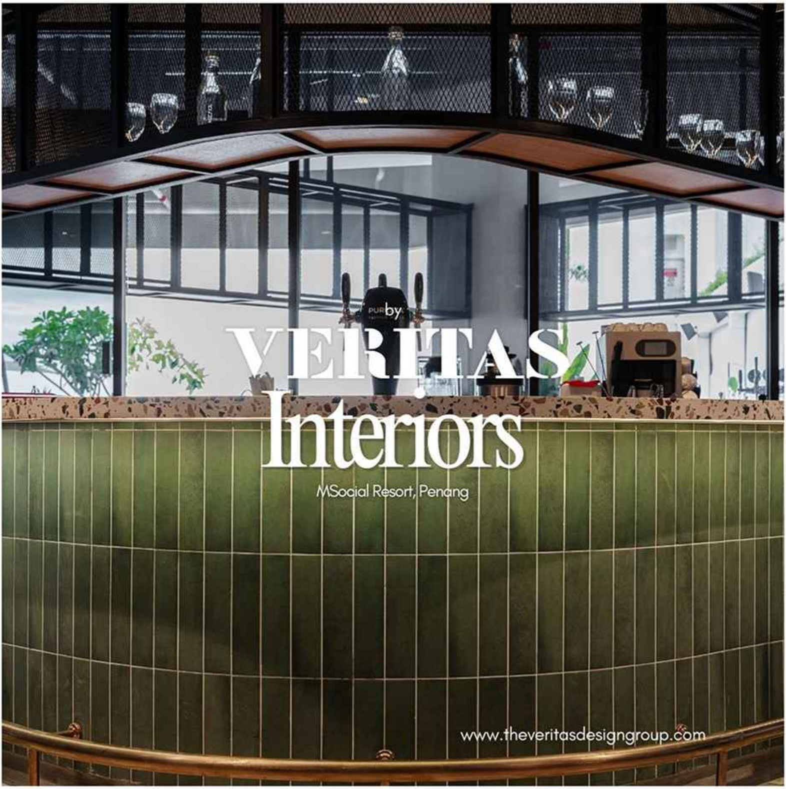




by
VERITAS
Interiors
MSocial Resort, Penang
www.theveritasdesigngroup.com

These recognitions reflect the collective effort of the VERITAS Interiors team and the collaborative strength across disciplines, reinforcing the Group's ongoing pursuit of design excellence across hospitality, institutional, and corporate environments.

Leadership Retreat 2025

On 12th–13th December, VERITAS held its second Leadership Retreat of the year at Awana, Genting Highlands, bringing together Principals and Associates from across Strategic Business Units (SBUs), alongside Principals from VERITAS' international offices in

Indonesia, Japan, the United States, Vietnam, and the UAE.

The retreat provided a dedicated space for leadership connection, reflection, and alignment—strengthening relationships across regions while reinforcing a shared sense of purpose across the Group.

VERITAS
WRAP UP SESSION

Over the two days, conversations focused on reviewing the year's progress, strengthening cross-disciplinary and cross-regional collaboration, and aligning leadership priorities as VERITAS looks ahead to 2026.

Key themes included organisational growth, talent development, design leadership, *sustainability, and the role of digital intelligence in shaping future practice.*

The presence of international leadership enriched these discussions, allowing perspectives from different markets and operating contexts to inform collective thinking and decision-making.

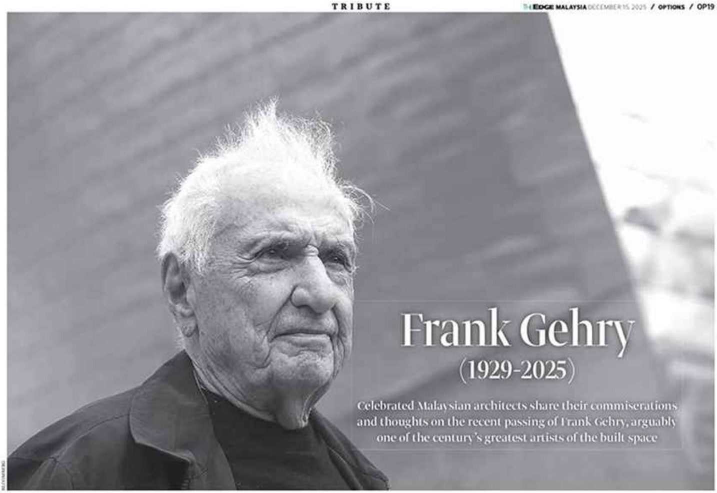
Beyond strategy, the retreat also created space for leaders to reconnect on a personal level—reinforcing trust, shared values, and a culture of openness that underpins effective collaboration.

As part of the programme, a corporate photoshoot was conducted to support the upcoming VERITAS website refresh, with individual portraits taken throughout the day and a full group photograph captured after Friday prayers.

The retreat marked a purposeful close to 2025—strengthening leadership cohesion while setting a confident, people-centred foundation for the year ahead.

A Life in Architecture: Remembering Frank Gehry (1929–2025)

The passing of Frank Gehry in December 2025 prompted reflection across the architectural community—not only on an extraordinary body of work, but on the values and attitudes that shape architectural practice.



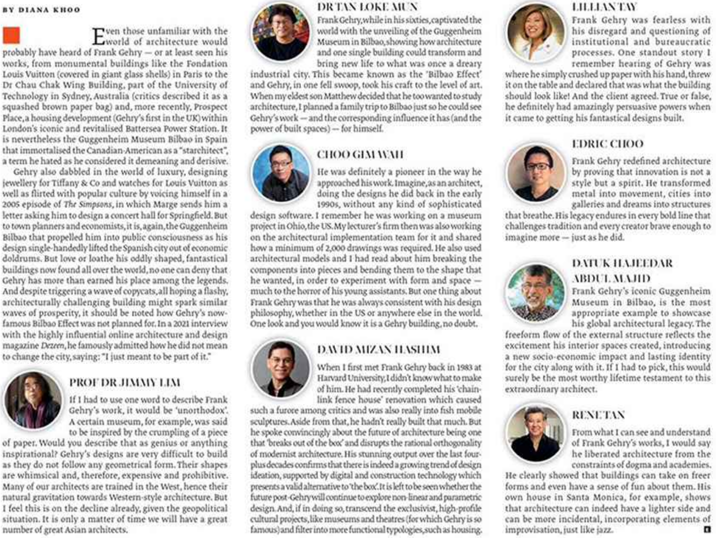
TRIBUTE

THE EDGE MALAYSIA DECEMBER 15, 2025 / OPTIONS / OP19

Frank Gehry

(1929-2025)

Celebrated Malaysian architects share their commiserations and thoughts on the recent passing of Frank Gehry, arguably one of the century's greatest artists of the built space



BY DIANA KHOO

Even those unfamiliar with the world of architecture would probably have heard of Frank Gehry — or at least seen his works, from monumental buildings like the Fondation Louis Vuitton (covered in giant glass shells) in Paris to the Dr Chau Chak Wing Building, part of the University of Technology in Sydney, Australia (critics described it as a squashed brown paper bag) and, more recently, Prospect Place, a housing development (Gehry's first in the UK) within London's iconic and revitalised Battersea Power Station. It is nevertheless the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao in Spain that immortalised the Canadian-American as a "starchitect", a term he hated as he considered it demeaning and derisive.

Gehry also dabbled in the world of luxury, designing jewellery for Tiffany & Co and watches for Louis Vuitton as well as flirted with popular culture by voicing himself in a 2005 episode of *The Simpsons*, in which Marge sends him a letter asking him to design a concert hall for Springfield. But to town planners and economists, it is, again, the Guggenheim Bilbao that propelled him into public consciousness as his design single-handedly lifted the Spanish city out of economic doldrums. But love or loathe his oddly shaped, fantastical buildings now found all over the world, no one can deny that Gehry has more than earned his place among the legends. And despite triggering a wave of copycats, all hoping a flashy, architecturally challenging building might spark similar waves of prosperity, it should be noted how Gehry's now-famous Bilbao Effect was not planned for. In a 2021 interview with the highly influential online architecture and design magazine *Dezeen*, he famously admitted how he did not mean to change the city, saying: "I just meant to be part of it."

PROF DR JIMMY LIM

If I had to use one word to describe Frank Gehry's work, it would be 'unorthodox'. A certain museum, for example, was said to be inspired by the crumpling of a piece of paper. Would you describe that as genius or anything inspirational? Gehry's designs are very difficult to build as they do not follow any geometrical form. Their shapes are whimsical and, therefore, expensive and prohibitive. Many of our architects are trained in the West, hence their natural gravitation towards Western-style architecture. But I feel this is on the decline already, given the geopolitical situation. It is only a matter of time we will have a great number of great Asian architects.

DR TAN LOKE MUN

Frank Gehry, while in his sixties, captivated the world with the unveiling of the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, showing how architecture and one single building could transform and bring new life to what was once a dreary industrial city. This became known as the 'Bilbao Effect' and Gehry, in one fell swoop, took his craft to the level of art. When my eldest son Matthew decided that he too wanted to study architecture, I planned a family trip to Bilbao just so he could see Gehry's work — and the corresponding influence it has (and the power of built spaces) — for himself.

CHOO GIM WAH

He was definitely a pioneer in the way he approached his work. Imagine, as an architect, doing the designs he did back in the early 1990s, without any kind of sophisticated design software. I remember he was working on a museum project in Ohio, the US. My lecturer's firm then was also working on the architectural implementation team for it and shared how a minimum of 2,000 drawings was required. He also used architectural models and I had read about him breaking the components into pieces and bending them to the shape that he wanted, in order to experiment with form and space — much to the horror of his young assistants. But one thing about Frank Gehry was that he was always consistent with his design philosophy, whether in the US or anywhere else in the world. One look and you would know it is a Gehry building, no doubt.

DAVID MIZAN HASHIM

When I first met Frank Gehry back in 1983 at Harvard University, I didn't know what to make of him. He had recently completed his 'chain-link fence house' renovation which caused such a furore among critics and was also really into fish mobile sculptures. Aside from that, he hadn't really built that much. But he spoke convincingly about the future of architecture being one that 'breaks out of the box' and disrupts the rational orthogonality of modernist architecture. His stunning output over the last four-plus decades confirms that there is indeed a growing trend of design ideation, supported by digital and construction technology which presents a valid alternative to 'the box'. It is left to be seen whether the future post-Gehry will continue to explore non-linear and parametric design. And, if in doing so, transcend the exclusivist, high-profile cultural projects, like museums and theatres (for which Gehry is so famous) and filter into more functional typologies, such as housing.

LILLIAN TAY

Frank Gehry was fearless with his disregard and questioning of institutional and bureaucratic processes. One standout story I remember hearing of Gehry was where he simply crushed up paper with his hand, threw it on the table and declared that was what the building should look like! And the client agreed. True or false, he definitely had amazingly persuasive powers when it came to getting his fantastical designs built.

EDRIC CHOO

Frank Gehry redefined architecture by proving that innovation is not a style but a spirit. He transformed metal into movement, cities into galleries and dreams into structures that breathe. His legacy endures in every bold line that challenges tradition and every creator brave enough to imagine more — just as he did.

DATUK HAJEEDAR ABDUL MAJID

Frank Gehry's iconic Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, is the most appropriate example to showcase his global architectural legacy. The freeform flow of the external structure reflects the excitement his interior spaces created, introducing a new socio-economic impact and lasting identity for the city along with it. If I had to pick, this would surely be the most worthy lifetime testament to this extraordinary architect.

RENE TAN

From what I can see and understand of Frank Gehry's works, I would say he liberated architecture from the constraints of dogma and academies. He clearly showed that buildings can take on freer forms and even have a sense of fun about them. His own house in Santa Monica, for example, shows that architecture can indeed have a lighter side and can be more incidental, incorporating elements of improvisation, just like jazz. ◘

For David Mizan Hashim, Gehry's influence lay in his willingness to question norms and embrace uncertainty. His work demonstrated that architecture advances when designers are prepared to disrupt convention, accept risk, and allow experimentation to inform both process and outcome. What endures is less the form itself than the mindset behind it—one that treats architecture as an evolving, critical discipline.

Lillian Tay reflects on Gehry's legacy through his commitment to seeing ideas through. Beyond spectacle, his practice revealed persistence: the resolve to pursue design intent despite technical, economic, or institutional challenges. For her, this steadfastness—rather than formal bravura—defines the lasting impact of his work.

Together, these reflections shift the focus from icon to practice. Gehry's passing becomes a moment to reconsider how architects approach conviction, experimentation, and responsibility—qualities that continue to shape the profession beyond any single figure.

Who's Celebrating Their Birthday - December

- 1st - Edward Chew Fook Kong (VAKL)
- 3rd - Mohamad Zahir bin Abu Bakar (VAJB)
- 4th - Tan Ai Lin (VAKL)
- 4th - Anthony Lau Yin Hon (VAJB)
- 5th - Amira Zakiah Binti Muhammad Zaky (VAKL)
- 5th - Syed Hamid Sha B Syed Hussein (VAJB)
- 6th - Liew Lei Quin (VAKL)
- 7th - Ahmad Aidil Bin Mohd Amin (VE)
- 10th - Mohd Nazmi Bin Mohd Shohaime (VAKL)
- 11th - Engku Khairil Anuar Bin Engku Taib (VL)
- 13th - Husman bin Setta (VAJB)
- 14th - Mohd Farid Bin Bakri (VL)
- 15th - Joy Tan Ke Yue (VAKL)
- 17th - Shakthee Kumar A/L Subramaniam (VAKL)
- 22nd - Syahril Nizam Kamaruddin (VAKL)

New Hires

Maryam Ilhami
Draughtsperson

Muhammad Haziq
Architect

Shahaida Binti Zulkefly
Accounts and Admin Executive (VE)

Mohamed Norhafeez
(VAPG)

Johanese Mega
Graduate Architect

Ashley Lau Ching Wen
Graduate Architect

Fitri Munap
Draughtsperson

Ng Boon Soon
Architect

Mimi Marina
Resident
Architect (Site)

Foo Jung Li
Architect

New Intern

Chauntel Wong Xin Le