

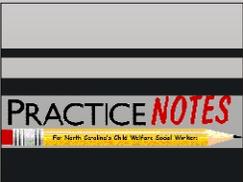


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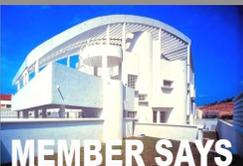
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## EDITOR'S NOTE

As an architect, I'm always looking at design through a photographer's eye, that is, within the boundary of the frame. We present our built projects, of course, through photography, and we present our proposed ones in 3D-computer modeling... again, digital images. I don't think there's a day that goes by that we don't have to consider composition, cropping, content and concept in our work.

In fine arts photography, being a designer means there is always a great interest in geometric subjects; streaks of light, industrial landscapes and objects, wires, patterns and naturally, architecture. The watermark on this very page is an example of a photograph capturing our Chapter Meeting Room (*the 'egg'*), now interestingly being transformed into a piece of abstract form. It is when the photograph becomes a design, and the photographer is a designer, some great opportunities and ways of seeing will occur.

In this issue of *Architext*, we showcase a selection of shots taken by our members under a new column aptly called "Photography Through The Eyes of An Architect". We hope that with your continuous support and contribution, this will be a permanent column starting from this issue.

The Venice Architecture Biennale is the most important international event in contemporary architecture. The Biennale brings together outstanding architects, designers, developers, urban planners and critics from around the world. Check out Page 14, as one of our member's work makes its way to this prestigious exhibition.

At *Architext*, we are always on the lookout for articles/commentaries on architecture. This issue we are fortunate to get two articles with topics that range from the Green Building Index (GBI) to Design Proposal, to be published under our '*Member's Column*'. Turn to Page 10 to hear them out.

We certainly hope to see more of you sharing your works and your thoughts with us. Perhaps you could start by giving us feedback on the new layout. We are eagerly awaiting to hear from you.

Happy reading!

Ar. Belinda Chia  
Editor

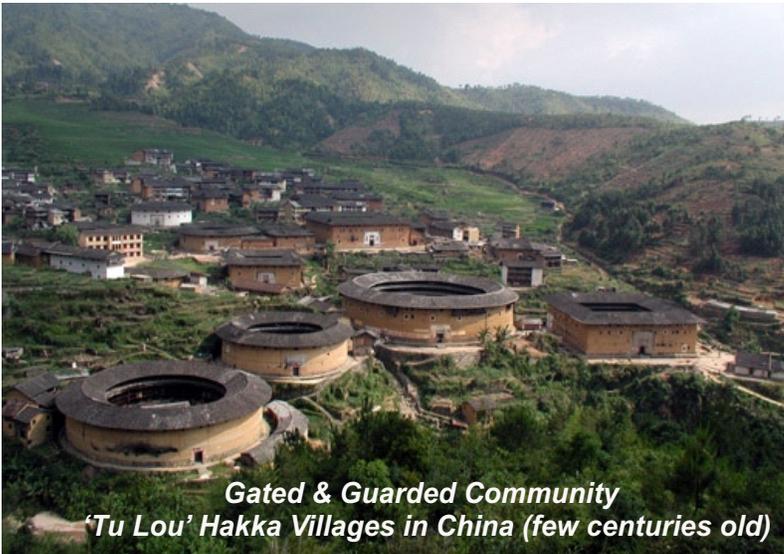
## CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH ...

**Gated Community 2010 Conference**

Except of speech by Chapter Chairman, Ar. Ho Jia Lit (10 July 2010)

Gated and Guarded Communities [GGC] are a worldwide phenomenon. A common understanding is that gated communities are a response to the fear of crime in urban areas and the perceive failure of government to ensure adequate safety and security.

However Gated and Guarded communities are not a new phenomenon as they have been in existent centuries ago, example, in Fujian, China in the 'Tu Lou' Hakka Villages. Ancient military camps and police complex are all a form of Gated and Guarded Communities in one way or another. [Malaysian New Villages during the EMERGENCY can be in a way, classified as a form of GGC]. "Expatriate Compounds" of Saudi Arabia and other Middle Eastern countries are examples of modern day Gated and Guarded Communities.



*Gated & Guarded Community  
'Tu Lou' Hakka Villages in China (few centuries old)*

The desire for gated and guarded communities in Malaysia is on the rise due to safety and security concerns. People are more and more attracted to projects that offer increased security, especially when they are in their homes. There is no doubt that the popularity of gated communities in Malaysia has been largely propelled by the growing rate of crime and other urban problems such as rubbish and un-kept gardens and common spaces in housing areas. This is similar to the reason for gated communities in other parts of the World.

Safety and security is a right of every human being. It is natural that people would want to live in a neighbourhood that is safe with security. However, of late, it appears that the police are stretched beyond their capacities therefore the people have resorted to employing their own guards to patrol the housing areas.

**CRIME REDUCTION**

The question is whether such gated and guarded communities do in fact reduce crime. At best, gated enclaves represent the hope of better security; they appeal to consumers searching for a sense of community and identity; they offer an important niche marketing strategy for developers in a competitive environment; they keep out the unwelcome; they often come associated with attractive amenities; they increase property values.

Better security does come with a premium; however, not all residents pay their maintenance fees regularly and some just enjoy the benefits that are paid for by others without paying at all.

Developers are increasing the price of the properties and purchasers are paying double maintenance costs; i.e. State land quit rent, and Local Councils / City Hall quarterly assessments and maintenance fees. There is a price premium for properties in gated enclaves. According to the trend in Malaysia, there appears to be a marked increase in properties price in gated communities. Additionally, such communities enhance class and ethnic segregation; they privatize elements of the public realm (like streets, parks, and drains); they may promote rather than reduce the fear of crime. There are many instances of where gated communities are not foolproof where safety is concerned and from the local newspaper [NST, STAR] reports, one still hears of robberies, rapes and murders in these posh developments. There is nothing to stop criminals from getting work [as gardeners etc.] inside or rent or buy into these gated and guarded communities and then carry out crimes from within.

Gated and guarded premises do not ensure that violent crimes are prevented. There are other reasons like having bad management and incompetent security personnel engaged in their duties.

Theoretically gated development is meant to provide an image of security, safety and privacy. It cannot be denied that there is a perception that crime has been reduced in most gated residential properties.

## **SOCIAL IMPACT-** **[Segregation, to Protect & Divide]**

Are there any social implications from such Gated and Guarded Communities development which may inflict on the development of our Country?

Gated and Guarded residents may become cut off from one another outside their community, thereby leading to a segregation of race and/or class. This may seem to be against our recent government policy of '1 Malaysia' to encourage for a better integration of all races, especially in our multi racial and -cultural nation.

The promotion of gated communities implies acceptance of the most affluent among us to wall ourselves off. Gated communities raise significant questions related to affordability, segregation, and connectivity. They present physical barriers within the community, limiting access to formerly open landscapes and to public space. The present trend can be perceived to appear that gated communities reflect an increasing polarization, fragmentation and diminished solidarity within our society.

It is interesting to note that the Human Rights Commission [HRC] does not support boom gated and guarded communities in South Africa [esp. when access was based on race]. The HRC concluded that road closures and boom gates enhanced social polarization and contribute to dysfunctional cities.

However in Malaysia, albeit we are not having road closures and boom gates into the city entrances but into housing estates. But would this not have a similar impact, of enhancing social polarization and thereby contributing to a dysfunctional section of the Population?

The emphasis in these guarded community are the combination of security, privacy and the affluent lifestyle of its residents.

Although some housing schemes are not categorized as gated and guarded schemes, residents have nevertheless taken steps to restrict access of the general by setting up guard posts with the hope of preventing and reducing crime in the area. Usually some form of physical barrier surrounds the boundaries to the housing estate where residents employ private security to provide security services. This often involves an attempt to restrict or regulate public spaces privately by erection of barriers on public needs, guardhouses, etc. which is not provided for under any current laws in Sabah and maybe illegal to do so.



## **ADVANTAGES OF GATED COMMUNITY**

The key advantage is on safety and security and it is undeniable that this advantage far outweighs a number of disadvantages such as extra cost for maintenance of common space that gated communities may have to offer.

Gated communities are perceived as the answer or deterrent to crime. As part of a lifestyle, gated communities also provide privacy and peace of mind.

The other advantages of gated and guarded community are lifestyle and the enhancement of property values. There are also clear development guidelines for individual style homes which help to keep house designs at an acceptable standard.

One important feature of a gated community is that the building standards are more flexible and as such enables more efficient land utilization. For example removing the necessity for walled boundaries, fences and drain reserves and building setback requirements.

Better quality "public" services, such as garbage removal and park maintenance can be expected as these jobs are privatized, leaving local authorities to concentrate on the provision of other aspects.

There is a high degree of community spirit and informal social interaction which contributes to a secure and peaceful community. This helps provide a positive signal about its residential desirability in its localised areas.

Another advantage is that in a gated community, residents have the opportunity to participate in the management of their developments.

## CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH ...

### No Fencing and Gate Frontage



Common Open Space & Playground

### DISADVANTAGES OF GATED COMMUNITY

Their physical security measure lead to further social divisions and produces a negative impact on poorer neighbourhoods – in terms of security and social integration. [Social Impact].

The presence of barrier gates effectively means that public entry into the housing estate is restricted.

Children may grow up with a fear of persons and going outside the gates. Segregation may be perceived as intended to divide between the haves and have-nots.

There are rules in [GGC] with strict covenants and restrictions to regulate most aspects of their houses and environment and these must be obeyed. *Deed of Mutual Covenant*. The majority of [GGC] built by private development companies in Malaysia are mainly to cater to the "upper middle class " and therefore may not represent a questionable trend of city development accentuating inequality, they still show the connection between a chosen lifestyle and a certain kind of city environment.

### LEGAL BARRIERS TO GATED COMMUNITIES

There is an urgent need to streamline existing State rules and Regulations and/or to enact new legislation to cater for the development of gated and guarded [LANDED] properties as at the current moment there is no specific legislation governing this form of development in Sabah.

It is inevitable that there must be rules and regulations to govern gated and guarded [LANDED] properties as there are currently no laws in Sabah to provide for this situation.

Parliament has recently enacted the Building and Common Property (Maintenance and Management) Act 2007 (Act 663) (the Act). The preamble to the Act reads that it is an act to provide for the proper maintenance and management of common property and buildings.

This Act applies to Peninsular Malaysia and the Federal Territory of Labuan. [Note: *Sabah and Sarawak are excluded from the application of this legislation*].

It is unlawful to privately attempt to restrict or regulate public spaces without the approval of the relevant authority. Any attempt to close, barricade or restrict the access of a public road, drain or space, there may be a contravention of certain local by laws.

In recognition of a growing problem of security, various local authorities and state governments in West Malaysia have issued guidelines for guarded communities. These guidelines do allow erection of guard houses and the employment of private security based on the consent by the residents in the area affected.



Illegal Guardhouse & Boom Gate

A developer may elect to proceed with subdivision of land under the National Land Code 1965, or subdivision of land into land parcels to be held under strata titles, under the Strata Titles Act 1985.[Amended 2007]. Even if a developer chooses to subdivide the land under the Strata Titles Act 1985, it does not necessary mean that the developer can develop a gated and guarded scheme.

Planning law requirements as well as the State Authority have set out strict guidelines for approving gated and guarded schemes. These guidelines also take into account socio-economic factors in determining whether to allow gated and guarded schemes.

The implications of the growth of this trend are, however, troubling. Gated communities increase housing costs.

They enhance class and ethnic segregation; They may promote rather than reduce the fear of crime.

This in turn may contribute to the physical and social segregation within our community. [GGC] is clearly profitable, but can it be "sustainable"?

[GGC] provide a false sense of security and encourage behaviours which promote a lack of community spirit; squabbling among resident's member and apathy among residents were already in evidence in our present existing set up.

## CONCLUSION

The development of gated and guarded community schemes in Malaysia now seems to be part of the latest trend of the housing industry.

It must be understood and appreciated that all purchasers of houses in a gated and guarded community will have to pay higher charges for the maintenance, sinking fund, security fees, electricity and water and other services because the cost of all facilities within the boundary of gated and guarded community will have to be borne by them in addition to the usual quit rent and assessment rates levied by the local authorities.

The desire for gated and guarded communities [GGC] is in part a reflection of growing concerns about crime in urban areas.

Gated enclaves represent the hope of security; they appeal to consumers searching for a sense of community and identity; they offer an important niche marketing strategy for developers in a competitive environment; being guarded they keep out the unwelcome; they often come associated with attractive amenities; they increase property values.

## PRACTICE NOTES

1. The use of official email address for Chapter members has commenced on **12 July 2010**.
2. PAM Sabah Chapter discouraged its members from paying bond to their prospective clients.
3. In response to DBKK enquiry, the Chapter has informed that *Letter of Release* is required regardless of whether the change of submitting person is from Architect to Architect, or from Architect to Engineer and vice versa.
4. The Chapter has started its drafting course since **3 July 2010** with Ar. William Ho as the course principal.
5. *World Architecture Day* is celebrated on the 1st Oct each year. PAM KL has decided to organize an Exhibition in collaboration with LAM. The exhibition will consist of models and drawings to highlight the *90 years of Architecture*. On behalf of the Chapter, Ar. Victor Wong will prepare a write-up on the history of PAM Sabah Chapter for the event.

# PHOTOGRAPHY THROUGH THE EYES OF AN ARCHITECT ...



## SUTERA HARBOUR IN SUNSET

**Photographer:** Ar. Victor Wong

### Where & Why I took the shot:

*The orange glow of the sunset reflected on the glass and the sea, together with the beautiful cloud formation caught my attention at the Sutera Harbour. I took the golden opportunity to capture the shot.*

**Camera used:** Canon 5D Mark 2, focal length 40mm, 1.3 sec f/22 ISO 100.

## BUS TERMINAL (WARISAN SQUARE)

**Photographer:** Eddie Tann

**Title:** Bus Terminal (Warisan Square) 2003

**Where & Why I took the shot:** *I took from 5th floor Car Park. For personal archive purposes.*

**Camera used:** Canon Powershot Pro70 (Semi - DSLR), Auto mode, No flash. software joined panoramic photo.



## SHELTER

**Photographer:** Ar. Yong Ming Cheong

### Where & Why I took the shot:

*The most basic shelter for humanity found at Pulau Banggi, rather cooling indeed.*

**Camera used:** Unspecified





## TIME



**Photographer:** *Ar. Ho Jia Lit*

### **Where & Why I took the shot:**

*I have taken so many photos in my life to date and yet we have always taken the "TIME" of photo taken for granted.*

*Unless for those photos that is obviously taken at night or day but for those taken in-between day and night, we never questions the TIME it was taken as we are too engrossed it the details of the subject inside the photo.*

*This is a photo taken recently....which make one take a step back and ask.... "When was this taken... at Sunset or Sunrise...?"*

**Camera used:** *Unspecified*



## MOONLIGHT



**Photographer:** *Ar. Belinda Chia*

### **Where & Why I took the shot:**

*Taken at Manukan Island inside a tent. The hanging light swaying in the wind, like a moon lighten up the dark moonless sky.*

**Camera used:** *Panasonic Lumix DMC- LX 2*



## SUNSET @ TG. ARU

**Photographer:** *Ar. William Ho*

**Where & Why I took the shot:** *Taken @ Shangri-la Tg. Aru Resort 6.00 – 6.30 pm I took this photo coz I was inspired by Ar. Victor Wong.*

**Camera used:** *Cannon D1000*

# PHOTOGRAPHY THROUGH THE EYES OF AN ARCHITECT ...



## MT. KINABALU



Photographer: Ar. William Ho

**Where & Why I took the shot:** Taken @ KKIA 6.00 – 6.30 pm  
I took this photo because I didn't realize we can see such a beautiful view of Mt Kinabalu from KKIA (check-in counter).

**Camera used:** Cannon D1000

## RURAL SCHOOL IN TANDEK

**Photographer:** Ar. Lo Su Yin

**Where & Why I took the shot:**  
Unspecified

**Camera used:** Nikon D 90



## BIRD NEST OF KOTA KINABALU

**Photographer:** Ar. Victor Wong

### Where & Why I took the shot:

The picture was taken at the Promenade Hotel, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. It is the designer's effort in trying to copy the Bird Nest of Beijing, China.

**Camera used:** Canon 5D Mark 2, focal length 24mm, 4 sec f/9 ISO 100.



PHOTOGRAPHS THROUGH THE EYES OF AN ARCHITECT ...



## MODERN VS CLASSICAL

**Photographer:** Ar. Victor Wong

### Where & Why I took the shot:

Taken at Walsall, Birmingham, UK. The single cantilevered support with sub-cantilevers and glass stands out distinctively against the traditional and classical English styles against the blue sky.

**Camera used:** Canon 5D Mark 2, focal length at 32mm f/11 at 1/160 sec ISO 200



## KAMPUNG AIR PASAR MALAM

**Photographer:** Eddie Tann

### Where & Why I took the shot:

I took from 5th floor (roof top) Kampung Air Shophouse. For personal archives purpose.

**Camera used:** Canon Powershot Pro70 (Semi - DSLR), Auto mode, No flash. software joined panoramic photo.



## WHAT THE MEMBERS SAY ...

# GBI - The Great Big Green Initiative

By Ar. Rizal Ahmad Banjar

**Green...** The trendy word nowadays. Just the other day I was with a client,

“ I want my house green, can aaa? What's the thing already, GBO? BGI? HBO?”

“ You mean GBI? The green building index”. I corrected him.

“Ya ya. Can save air-con bill one.”

Afterwards I went on to explain to him the GBI, its concept, the ratings, the certification, how it's going to be good to the environment, tax break incentive etc.. However, I was greeted by a perplexed look, staring back at me,

“ How much does it cost aaa to have this GBI thing? Mesti mahal punya. Can I have just a plastic tank collect rain water? Also green maaa”.

Hmmm....

It's unfair to use the above conversation to make an assumption on the general understanding of “Green” especially in Sabah. Not with all the advertisements bombarding our senses to love our earth and care for our environment. But trendiness won't get us far, just as the bell-bottom trousers were fashionable during the 70's.

## Way of the Green

Environmentally responsive buildings have been around for a long time, built by faceless builders, which can be seen from those old kampung houses through their pitched roofs, high windows, louvers, overhangs, uninterrupted layout to allow for cross ventilation etc. which provide for cool and comfortable living enclosures.

Local architects like Ken Yeang and Jimmy Lim, brought the vernacular green concept to the global level and were recognised for their efforts. Ken Yeang's Roof-Roof house and the IBM Mesiniaga building are just some of those relatively experimental buildings that have been referred to as green buildings. It should be interesting to know how these buildings fare with the GBI rating though.



*Ken Yeang's Roof-Roof house*

During my university days, the design emphasis was more on practicalities. Fundamental design consideration like sun orientation and wind direction were just some of the basic element in forming up the shape and structure. The direction was clearly to make the building energy efficient and as comfortable as possible to the occupants.

## GBI- the Great Big Initiatives For the environment

GBI stands for Green Building Index. It is a Malaysia 's industry recognised green rating tool for buildings to promote sustainability in the built environment and raise awareness among Developers, Architects, Engineers, Planners, Designers, Contractors and the Public about environmental issues and our responsibility to the future generations.

Other countries have developed their own rating like LEED and Green Mark for US and Singapore respectively. Ratings are set via benchmarks such as GBI Certified, Silver, Gold with Platinum as the most “Green” label as one can get.

Maybe I was just plain *Kiasu* or I would preferably put, concern on the environment, hence enrolled myself for the GBI Facilitator Course.

## GBI Facilitator Course- a personal experience

When I registered for the GBI course, it was just launched amidst the announcement by the government to give more attention and emphasis to the environmental cause.

A facilitator is a qualified person under the GBI scheme to assist the client in preparing their submission for the GBI rating. By hiring one, an automatic 1 point will be given under the scheme, on top of being the green consultant. The course was organised end of October 2009 with my batch was the third batch since the course was commenced.

During that time, the course was organised in KL, only recently the organiser is looking to have it outside KL. As an outstation participant, on top of what I have to pay for the course, which was about RM1000 plus, I also had to arrange for my own flight and accommodation for the duration for the course. I have to thank the "Semangat Hijau" for the motivation.

The course was stretched to about three weeks and was held during the weekends in Universiti Malaya. It was a very compact course, starting from 9am till 5pm with few breaks in between.

For the first day of the course, they included a GBI introductory course which was open to those who were only interested to get a basic understanding of the subject. They only had to pay a fraction of the whole registration fee. Of course, those taking the full facilitator course had to sit through the whole thing.

One thing I noticed was the course was quite heavy with technical approaches and emphasis, albeit with some lectures on concepts and planning. It brought back memories during my university days attending those dreaded mechanical and electrical engineering lectures.

Since the essence of the course is to get the best system, both for comfort and the environment, it was inevitable but to grasp these engineering concepts. By end of the day, one would know what are MS1525 and OTTV, regardless of whether one understands it fully or how to calculate it out!

Apart from we had to attend all the lectures, we were also given assignment in groups. All group were adequately diversified to ensure the relevant expertise was available i.e. architect, mechanical and electrical engineers, etc. For my group, apart from the architects and the engineers, we also got a developer as one of our member. To make things more interesting, our group members resided in KK and KL with our group leader from Kuching! How's that for communication barrier. Thank God for Email.

Our assignment was to prepare a proposal for a building with GBI target rating of Gold. I considered our group as lucky as one of the members is an architect specialising in the green building. So he was relatively familiar with the requirements, and thus became our guide in preparing the proposal. Needless to say, he was assigned as our main speaker for the presentation.

We met up a few days earlier before the presentation to firm up our discussion. Even then we had to stay up quite late to prepare the printouts and powerpoint.

Prior to the presentation which was held during the final day of the course, we had to sit for an hour of multiple choice examination paper. It had about 40 questions in which we were tested on the subjects lectured during the length of the course. Some of the questions were quite technical and require calculations and frankly speaking, most of us were struggling on that aspect.

Right after the examination, we had to proceed with the presentation of our assignment. There was a panel (consisted of speakers who had given talk during the course) in which we were questioned on the validity of our proposal and were also required to justify the various aspects of our technical submission. The gist of it was to ensure that we understood fully the GBI requirements and not simply regurgitating data.

One of the key points that the panel had stressed during the presentation was that, team effort is imperative as the GBI covered a vast area of the building science. A lot of effort was required thus the diverse experience and expertise among the group members had served to facilitate in preparing the proposal.

We also came into the conclusion that by being able to quantify comfort level, rather than it just a perceived jargon, green design and economics would be able to thread the similar route in achieving the desired green benchmark.

## WHAT THE MEMBERS SAY ...

### Clients galore

Subsequently I got the result that I have passed the course, and few months down the line the accreditation as a certified GBI Facilitator. I was half expectant that developers would be running to me to assist them on the GBI certification. Simply said, I couldn't wait to utilise my newfound certification and knowledge.

The earliest inquiry I had was for an existing lodging house. Since GBI was reasonably in its early stage, its' yet to cover certification for existing building. We were told during the course that it would be covered very soon. Nevertheless, I still advised him on the GBI rating and certification and the ways to get the building certified.

That was until I asked him where the lodging house is situated. Imagine my surprise that its located at Laban Rata, Mount Kinabalu, about 4000 m above sea level! I was stumped for a while as GBI is tailored for Malaysia's hot and sunny environment, not the chilly and freezing UK winter like weather. But that was not really my actual concern. I can't help imagining the GBI Certifier climbing all the way up just to confirm the rating and wonder whether they might request and charge for helicopter transport.

Worse comes to worse, I might just ask the client to pay for the porter to carry them all the way up. Just a thought.



*A GBI rated building at Laban Rata*

Since then, quite a number of potential clients inquired on the GBI, nevertheless more out of curiosity rather than actually wanting to adopt it.

### How much do you charge?

Another aspect that became an issue even during our course was how much to charge the client. Similarly as above, there is no clear guideline to refer to and it is up to our discretion to propose reasonable fee to the client.

In the event that one being the architect for the same project, the client might have the tendency to ask the architect to also be the green building consultant and thus absorb the fee, or at a nominal charge. The client might see it as a value added service, but for us, same money more work.

Hopefully, a clear guideline on the scale of fee can be sorted out as soon as possible.

### What's next

GBI is purported to be one of the best incarnation of the various green rating systems around the world, and can only get better after all the wrinkles have been ironed out.

Currently, things are more of "bits and pieces" with developers taking the wait and see approach as some incentives like the tax break still vague and might not be attractive enough for them to pursue.

For the designers, they must work together to piece up workable "green" and "sustainable" buildings with the support from the clients/developer. It is a fine balancing act to juggle between time and cost, especially in this time of economic uncertainty.

It takes great effort and political will to push the green agenda all the way through and not just simply monkeying a commercial labeling act. The future shall be reflective of the steps we take today.

Now, I have to go back to the drawing table and decide where to put the rainwater harvesting tank. Maybe covering it with solar panel will make it look better.....

## FREE PROPOSAL

By Ar. William CK Ho

Recently, I was chatting with a few fellow architects and somehow we ended up talking about “FREE PROPOSAL”. Each fellow responded differently but in general we all felt “helpless”.

Ar A “Yah lo..... keep asking us to do, but never pay.”

Ar B “Ai yah ..... that’s life lah.”

Ar C “We have done so many proposals and none materialized.....”

My question is why do we still do it? Is it out of survival? obligation? Gambling spirit? Pure ignorance?

Or we architects just love being constantly “abused”!

(I am definitely one of the victims.)

I always scold myself every time it happens and promise myself I won’t do it again. But I always lied!

Hence, after many years of lamenting and reflecting, I have to confess that I am a “Proposal Addict”.

Somehow, somewhere I was deceived and got my first “shot” like a drug addict I got hooked!

Unconsciously, I am always looking out for it.

Whenever someone approaches me to prepare a “proposal”, immediately I would feel a sensation. My heart beat like a drum and my blood start boiling. I say to myself “may be this is the one I am waiting for. Just may be ..... could be..... THE BREAK THROUGH Project that will propel my career and income. Besides, there is NOTHING TO LOOSE & much to gain”. And there it goes again. Another cycle, another disappointment, another self pity party .....

I like to share what Ar. K H Lim said many years ago during a LAM/PAM Exam tutorial coffee break. It started by me saying “.....but it is very difficult to chase for money from clients who are our relatives, ex-classmate and good friends.” Immediately Ar. Lim responded saying “whoever doesn’t pay IS NOT YOUR FRIEND!”

Wow! It was a revelation to me”

I learned a bit late but like they say it’s never too late. I’ve been practicing almost 10 years and now I have a new manifesto. That is

1. “Absolute NO Free Proposal”
2. “Insist on Down Payment”.
3. Full payment within 7 days otherwise reminder every month for 3 months. Then consult a lawyer (if amount justifies).

I call for all Architects in the name of PAM, our noble profession, to stop compromising and insist what is rightly due to us.

Let us begin today to make that change and set the right path for us and our future generations.



## OTHER HIGHLIGHTS...

### Venice Architecture Biennale

#### the 12th International Architecture Exhibition

where the submission of our fellow Sabah architect, Ar William CK Ho of Wisma Akitek was selected for this prestigious exhibition which is to be held from August 2010 to November 2010 in Venice, Italy.

There were a total of 90 participants and 60 submissions were selected.



According to Ar. William Ho, This exhibit is a conceptual representation of a cultural museum emphasizing the architecture design concept of:-

- Building "floating" on water
- The human circulation

This exhibit is "carved" out of an imaginary cube of 300mm x 300mm x 300mm. The dimensions are determined by geometrical proportion of halves (i.e. 300mm, 150mm, 75mm etc.)

**Earth** is represented by the black "box".  
**Water** is represented by the transparent box.  
**Human** circulation is represented by a continuous metal strip which starts from the car park and ends by returning to the black box (Earth).

**Material** used are Timber, Glass and Metal.



Venice Biennale started as a showcase of Italian art in 1885, and eventually has become the oldest and most important international visual art event in the world. As an international platform for contemporary art, it has evolved over the years to include architecture. Venice Architecture Biennale is now recognized as the most strategic and highly profiled event on the international calendar of contemporary architecture, with thousands of the world's most influential architects, designers, urban planners, developers and critics visiting, and extensive coverage and commentary in the architectural press and general media during and after the exhibition.



## Factory Visit to **TOMHER**

Reported by Ar. Yong Ming Cheong

The Chapter organized another factory visit on 17th July 2010 Saturday, Tomher Industrial Sdn Bhd located at mile 6½, Tuaran Lama Road Telipok. It was attended by 26 participants including 9 architects.

Upon greeted by welcoming staff, the product talk began with our Vice Chairman, Dr. Tan Jun Kwang introducing the Managing Director Mr. Ethan Tan who presented the talk. The topic for our visit is – GREEN Plastic, you can make the change!

Mr. Ethan Tan encouraged architects to implement sustainable design & material to fulfill the Green Building Index (GBI). He spoke on plastic application as a sustainable material exploiting its advantages further by converting into environmental friendly products & systems.

There are many products being made including HDPE spiral pipe, PE water tanks, PE septic tanks, etc. in the two factories located within walking distances. Tomher Industrial Sdn Bhd introduced another product recently for palm oil estate – HDPE Gravity Conveyor. This being an ideal solution for transporting harvested fresh fruit bunched (FFB) in hilly terrains. This award winning product makes harvesting possible in all weather conditions.

The factory tour began at the HDPE pipe producing section. We were introduced to the raw material that comes from Saudi Arabia in pallet form of polystyrene. Once mix and dyed, it is put to high temperature for melting purposes and later cooled down when going through an automated mechanism process that controlled the sizes of the pipe being produced. This include spiral HDPE pipe (with cement lining) that was so commonly used for sewerage pipe in KK district. Various different sizes and thickness of pipe can be produced and rolled into batches for delivery.

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At the entrance to this factory is their signature display of SMARTER rainwater harvesting solution attached to a large 3M tall water tank. The smart system for harvesting contains a gadget with several innovative designs that allows easy usage with effective first flush diverter. It features self cleaning channel, leaf catcher, overflowing channel and a completely detachable lid. The gadget is easy to install and can save up to 50% water consumption.

At another factory within the same vicinity is where the blue coloured water tanks of various capacities are made. Directly fed into metal mould of the desired capacity where the raw material is heated to nearly 200°C. The mould rotates to give the circular tank an even layer of thickness. After approximately 20 minutes, each mould is cooled by watering to lower the temperature for pulling the contracted tank out of the metal mould by hand. This process is repeated for another water tank.

All products coming out from the two factories are tested to ensure quality assurance to the standard prescribed by SIRIM Malaysia.

Mr. Ethan Tan informed that they also made PE septic tank and has been actively in discussion with local authorities to undertake retrofit works to existing non-functioning sewerage treatment plant. They are able to come-up with solutions to suit the different types of treatment plant design in order to bring about normal functionality.



## UP COMING EVENT TO WATCH OUT FOR ...

NO	DATE	TOPICS	SPEAKER	CPD
1	Saturday, 17 July 2010	Product Presentation and Factory Visit to TOMHER Industrial Sdn Bhd	Mr. Ethan Tan	1
2	Saturday, 24 July 2010	Insurance for Architects and Engineers	Ms. Susan Low	2
3	Saturday, 4 Sept 2010	Claiming and Processing EOT Under PAM Contract 2006 (organized by PAM KL)	Ar. Jerry Sum	2
4	Saturday, 25 Sept 2010	Plaster and Mortar (E.mix)	Eastern Pretech (M) S/B	1
5	Saturday, 2 Oct 2010	The Business of Design reating and Maintaining a Dynamic Practice (Organized by PAM KL) * Optional: Construction Procurement Management Systems and the Architect	Ar. David Mizan Hashim Prof. Dr. Khairuddin Abdul Rashid	2
6	Saturday, 16 Oct 2010	Marketing for architects, color in Architecture & sustainability & green	ICI Paints (M) Sdn Bhd	2
7	Saturday, 4 Dec 2010	Conservation (Organized by KL)	Ar. Laurence Loh	2

## OTHER NEWS

1. The Chapter 35th Annual Dinner has been postponed to 8 October 2010, which will be held at Magellan Sutera.Hotel. The theme for this year is **“O” Our Planet – One World**.
2. PAM Fellowship Golf 2010 has been held successfully on 23rd June at the Sabah Golf and Country Club. It was attended by 6 architects and 20 invitees.



*Chapter Chairman, Ar. Ho Jia Lit was at the prize presentation lunch to grace the occasion*

Architext welcomes opinions and contribution from Chapter Members. Please contact the secretariat at 088-252324 or e-mail: [pamsabah@gmail.com](mailto:pamsabah@gmail.com) should you wish to contribute. The editorial reserves the right to edit for brevity and clarity. Disclaimer: The views and/ or contributions expressed and published in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect that of the PAM Sabah Chapter.