

2012 Architectural Education Odyssey

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The year 2012 has been an eventful year for the Department of Architecture, Faculty of Design & Architecture, UPM. From 8th to 13th July 2012, the department successfully hosted the 24th Architectural Workshop with the theme PADI@UPM2012. PADI the acronym for Passive Active Design Intervention, is a synergy between the inert and vigorous, a duality between idyllic and energetic, a dichotomy between traditional and modernity. PADI is a yearning for the basic essence of living. PADI is a moment to reflect, to ponder, to reminisce and to rekindle the memories of our past.

For one week, approximately 800 architectural students and lecturers from twenty four architectural schools that offer degrees, diplomas and certificates in architecture, attended the workshop. For the first time, two schools from Indonesia, Institut Teknologi Bandung and Universitas Parahyangan, participated in PADI@UPM2012. The concept of PADI had become the key reference in approaching the modules in the workshop. Each module was designed to challenge the exploration of ideas and creativity skills of the participants. Group activities were also held throughout the workshop to inculcate soft skills such as communication skills, critical thinking, teamwork and leadership skills.

Amidst the PADI festivities, the Putra Architectural Exhibition (PAX) 2012 was officiated on the 10th July 2012. The exhibition featured the works of three renowned Malaysian architects, Dato' Ar. Hj. Hajeedar Hj. Abdul Majid, Ar. Wooi Lok Kuang and Ar. Dr. Tan Loke Mun. They are also currently serving as Adjunct Professors at the Department of Architecture, UPM. Architectural students assembled during PADI@UPM2012 were able to view their various approaches towards achieving excellence in architectural design. It is envisaged that Putra Architectural Exhibition will be held annually and a good platform for Malaysian and International architects to showcase their works.

On the 4th and 5th Oct. 2012, the inaugural Malaysian Architectural Education Conference (MAEC) 2012 was held at the Faculty of Design and Architecture, UPM. Advised by the Council Of Heads of Architectural Schools (COHAS), MAEC 2012 successfully brought together internationally and locally renowned architects, scholars and academicians, whom presented their views, debated current modes and investigated possible new directions in architectural education in Malaysia.

With the theme "The Future of Architectural Education", MAEC 2012 was graced with the presence of Prof. Ashraf M. Salama from Qatar University who presented his Keynote Paper 1 titled "Beyond Consumption of Knowledge: Questioning of and Questing for Future Forms of Pedagogy in Architectural Education". Ar. Mohd. Zulhemlee An presented Keynote Paper 2 titled "Surviving Globalisation: Involvement and Contributions of the Malaysian Institute of Architects (PAM)". Additional thirteen papers covering four sub-themes of Sustainability in Architectural Education, Innovation in Studio Teaching, Interdisciplinary Collaboration and Global Outreach, Integration of Teaching and Research and Virtual Design were presented during the conference. It is envisaged that MAEC 2012 will be the impetus for further discourses in architectural education and hopefully will be held annually or biennially.

For STEdex'12 the architectural studio works offer multitude design problems for students to solve. First Year Studio looks into reinforcing a balance between functionality and aesthetic values through an Observatory Tower and Marine Info Kiosk projects. With the theme Work, Respite and Revitalise, Second Year Studio dwells into creating

spaces for working, relaxation and rejuvenation through Studio Lodge and Therapy Centre and Recreational and Creative Centre projects. Third Year Studio ventures into training centre and office projects with an ABIM Outreach Youth Leadership Training Centre and a Habitat For Humanity (Hfh) Regional Operational Office. Fourth Year Studio looks into Urban Sustainable Living whilst Fifth Year Studio undertakes Urban Intervention of Kuantan, Pahang. Department of Architecture also acknowledges excellence in design competition with Special Commendation for winners in Borneo Eco-Resort and Cameron Highlands Farmstay design competitions.