



Work, Respite and Revitalize

Zalina Shari

With the semester theme “Work, Respite and Revitalize”, the fourth semester students of the Bachelor of Design (Architecture) were given two project briefs to design medium-sized public buildings. The design aspects throughout this semester emphasized several issues. How spaces are organized? How internal spaces are related to the outdoor spaces and integrated to the landscape? A concern for climate? Clear distribution of public and private spaces? Articulation of openness and enclosure with daylight, natural ventilation, transparency and shading elements? Other environmental strategies that have been imposed on both projects are preservation and enhancement of existing natural features on site as much as possible.

The first project, Studio Lodge and Therapy Centre, reflects the “work and respite” part of the semester theme. The project demands the student’s creativity to design the site instead of just the building by conceptualising on three aspects: planning, architecture, and interior concurrently during the design process. Specifically, students are challenged to design two separate building types with timber post and beam construction, namely: 1) a 40m2 prototype studio living unit to accommodate two UPM’s guests; and 2) a small therapy centre, consisting of a meditation room, sand therapy room, corporate massage room, and small cafe serving UPM staff who undergo counselling and mind therapy procedures.



Located on a one-acre land near MARDI area, this 5-week project requires six prototype studio living units and a therapy centre to be located on the site by considering their relationships with the existing reception office. Visually organised planning, comfort level and pure forms with good three-dimensional proportions are the selection criteria of the students' projects reviewed in the following articles.

The second project is the Studio Lodge and Therapy Centre: ZEALOUS. In order to generate and maintain the ambiance of a resort, Esther created an exciting tropical atmosphere using a blend of large scale landscape, a lush courtyard, and structures arranged in an axial composition. Due to the staggered composition, an attractive perspective

view of the lodge units is offered for guests as they enter the site. Esther's design also eliminates potentially dismal perspectives from all lodge units by creating views to the central sculptural courtyard (inward looking) and to more expansive views across MARDI green fields (outward looking). The lodge units sit on a plateau evoking a processional route celebrating a transformation of sensuality accentuated by the heat and the humidity. However, the therapy centre is placed perpendicular to the overall scheme, creating an anomaly in the site planning. Overall, the building structures seem to integrate seamlessly with the landscaped areas, expressing zealous and a sense of unity and harmony.





Jury Review

Faridah Adnan

PROTOTYPE STUDIO LODGE AND THERAPY CENTRE, UPM

Students started off with explaining their design approaches both in terms of written text as well as concept diagrams. Most of the ideas stemmed from the opportunities and constraints posed by the UPM site including building approach, circulation, climate and views. These aspects were well covered and the designs that evolved responded well to the contextual analysis. However, the enquiry could have been taken to a higher level along the philosophy of lodging, healing, therapy and rejuvenation.

The individual designs of the lodges were very stimulating. As part of the requirement was to use timber post-and-beam construction, several of the lodges were raised on stilts. Timber construction also implied that the building plan be rectilinear as it was difficult to do curved plans with timber. While the students conformed to this check, some of them cleverly set this off by adding expressive curves for the roof forms to articulate with the rectilinear plans. Still, the use of curved planning was also exploited. This was appropriately

handled by designing the building with a ground slab and utilising appropriate combination with concrete at the foundation level to affect the curvature for the walls. The curved spaces that resulted provided for more rejuvenating and therapeutic environments as compared with conventional rectilinear spaces. Both these tactics were deemed as exciting approaches that pushed the conventional methods.

The students produced excellent drawings and models that epitomised their design intentions. The floor plans included furniture layout which showed competent skills in anthropometry and ergonomics. Certain sectional drawings and models demonstrated a clear understanding of the compulsory post-and-beam timber construction. The layout of the six lodges and the therapy centre on the site, showing vehicular movement, drop-off, foot path and landscaping, displayed proficiency in organising multiple buildings on site. Most of the lodges were correctly oriented with the linear shape in the east-west direction. Thus it can be



concluded that the students achieved the main objectives of the project vis-à-vis: To revisit skills in anthropometry and ergonomics in designing an interior layout; To refine knowledge in post-and-beam timber construction; and To develop skills in organising multiple buildings on site, with consideration for exterior spaces.

The proposals also displayed fine consideration for ecological issues within our hot, wet and humid climate. As most of the lodges were raised on stilts, the raised floors thus facilitated good ventilation and cooling. Students have also appropriately designed the roof with generous slopes i.e. more than 12o for the pitch, and avoided the flat roof. The roof form contributed positively to the massing, thus lending handsome aesthetics, without having to be very elaborate with the elevation treatment. While most applied restraint, some of the other lodges had forms that were way

too complicated for such a small building. The use of landscaping could have been further exploited in the site planning. Slim, tall trees planted closely together could give privacy against the busy dual-carriage approach road besides acting as a noise buffer. Instead of putting built form on a site, the site planning could be conceived conversely as the creation of private outdoor spaces that were allied individually to the various lodges for intimacy, away from the rest of UPM. The use of water in terms of its sight and sound could enhance both the mundane experience of lodging and the healing experience of therapy. Likewise the rejuvenating effect of local fragranced flowers such as kesidang, cempaka, kenanga, melor and kemboja...



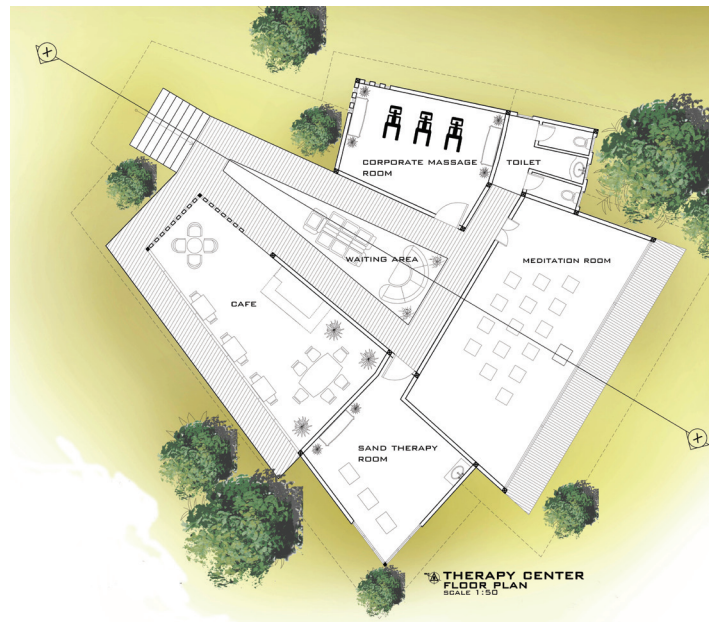
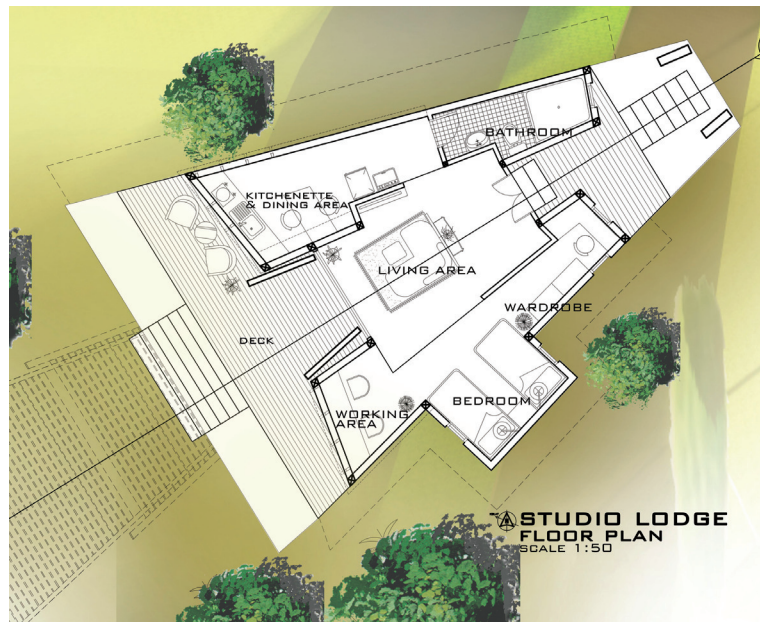
Zealous

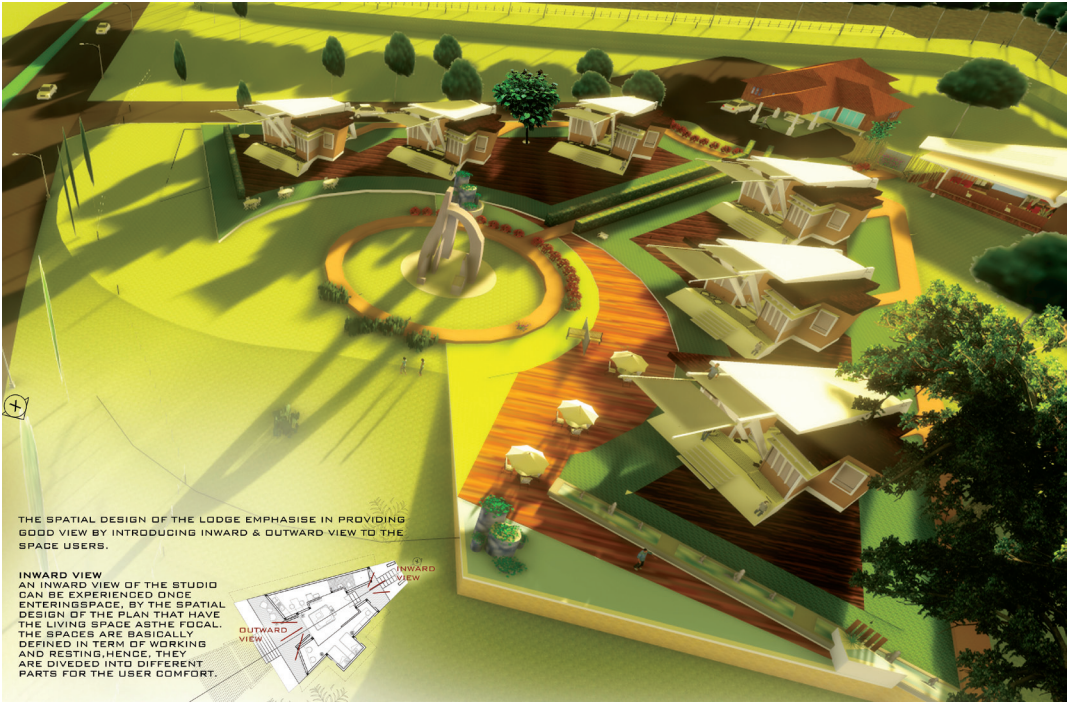
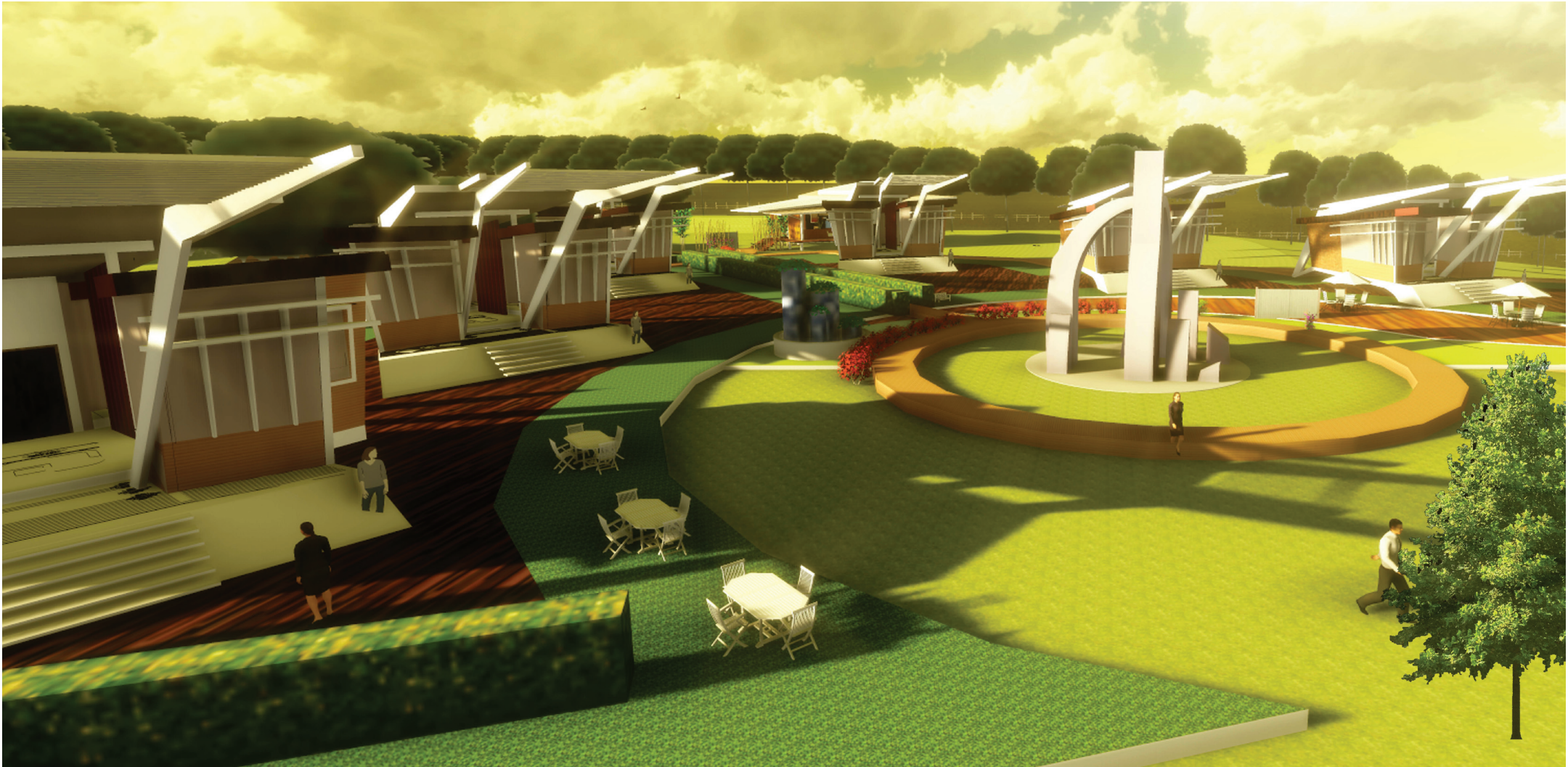
Zalina Shari

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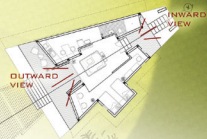
Strong geometry is evident both in the plans and three-dimensional forms. In fact, the design concept for the lodge units and therapy centre is driven by the open plan concept, thus, creating a sense of spaciousness. The proposed structures create beautiful geometric spaces allowing light and air to enter from all sides as well as providing visual penetration through building to the sky, trees and beyond. Her scheme clearly shows that the tropical feeling can be achieved without the existence of traditional high pitched roofs. Instead, mono-pitched and angled roof planes are proposed to the raised timber structures giving a contemporary look as well as expressing pavilions rather than large masses. The wide eaves and louvered roofs allow the windows to remain open during the monsoon and shield it against the western glare of the tropical sky. By using timber, metal and glass as the basic materials, Esther emphasized on a clear expression of construction, and an attention to the detailing of different building materials.





THE SPATIAL DESIGN OF THE LODGE EMPHASISE IN PROVIDING GOOD VIEW BY INTRODUCING INWARD & OUTWARD VIEW TO THE SPACE USERS.

INWARD VIEW
AN INWARD VIEW OF THE STUDIO CAN BE EXPERIENCED ONCE ENTERING SPACE. BY THE SPATIAL DESIGN OF THE PLAN THAT HAVE THE LIVING SPACE AS THE FOCAL. THE SPACES ARE BASICALLY DEFINED IN TERM OF WORKING AND RESTING. HENCE, THEY ARE DIVIDED INTO DIFFERENT PARTS FOR THE USER COMFORT.



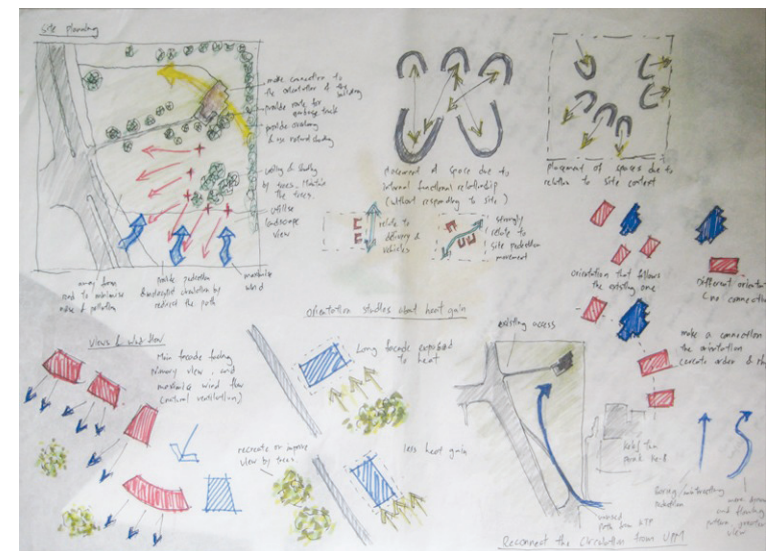
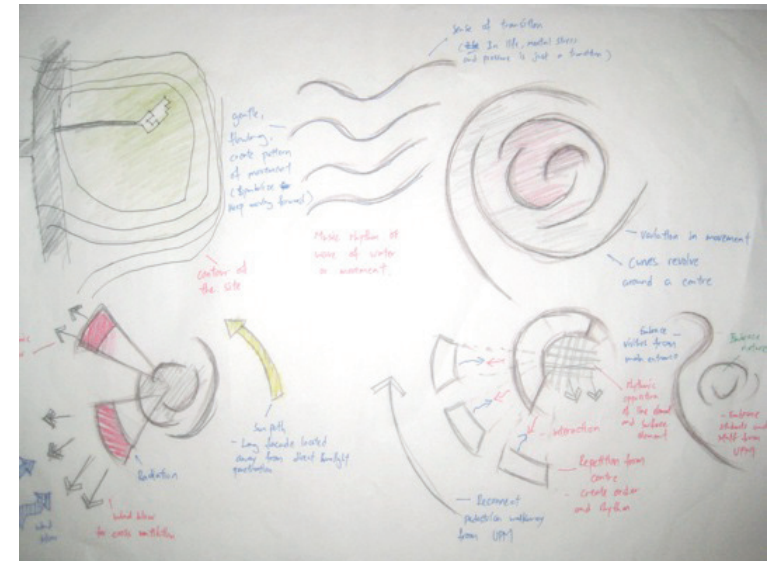
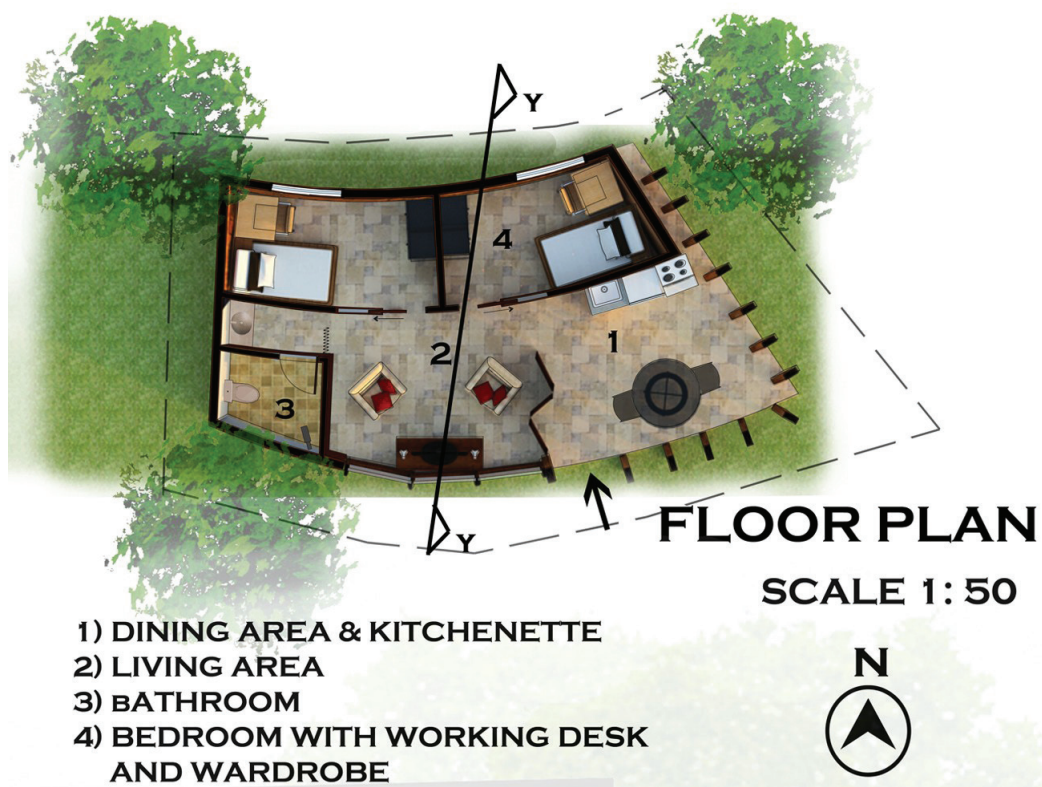
Esther Wong Shan Ya



Rejuvenating Healing Embrace

Zalina Shari

With a semi-circled configuration of lodge units that captures the frontal view of the vast landscape and rear view of the therapy centre with an integration of outdoor spatial sequences, Ngu Xian Dung's proposed site plan clearly captures the advantages of the site. As the buildings with colours imitating nature are lower than trees, they are obscured and shaded by trees. This enhances the visual experience and celebration tantalised by the different layering of shapes, light and shade, variety of hues and the mysticism of the unseen and unanticipated. A unified overall composition is culminated by the therapy centre located in the central point of the semi-circle. Due to its close proximity to the existing reception office and the dense groups of trees at the site boundary, the purpose of the therapy centre serves best in terms of accessibility, privacy, and views as well as for rejuvenating and healing. The concept of traditional living in the tropics is portrayed in two ways: 1) the creation of semi-outdoor living with transitional spaces between the inside and outside, as in the serambi (verandah) in Malay houses; and 2) the rational approach to the organisation of space where plans maximize natural light and ventilation. Since the living spaces spread outwards and the garden flows inwards, the line between the outside and inside seems to be a fluid one. The contemporary tropical architecture is also defined here by a combination of modernised traditional forms and a system of interlocking wooden components. Clearly, Ngu Xian Dung's proposal establishes a correspondence between the elements of the site as well as its relationship to the geographic context and architecture.



■ Ngu Xian Dung

