

Undergrads design eco-friendly living spaces

SUBANG JAYA: Nippon Paint Malaysia together with IJM Land Bhd recently announced the winner of the Nippon Paint Young Designer Award (NPYDA) 2014 for the Architecture and Interior Design categories.

The NPYDA 2014, now in its seventh consecutive year, received a total of 623 entries.

With the theme “Re: Think. Re: Create. Our Community, Our Home”, each contestant was tasked to create a community-centric and sustainable township that provides high quality of life for all ages and walks of life.

The two Gold Winners were Wong Kail Li of Universiti Putra Malaysia and Lim Yong An of KBU International College, in the Architecture and Interior Design categories, respectively.

Wong’s design of the Bond the Vicinity — Hydrophilic Retirement Retreat tackled the issue of isolation faced by the retired and elderly who are often cut off from mainstream community and unable to enjoy their golden years in a meaningful way.

Chief judge for the Architecture category, Ar Jasmeet Singh Sidhu, said: “Wong’s concept demonstrated a refined grasp of a very real

social issue. By incorporating initiatives for the elderly to participate in the community and creating a green and sustainable environment that everyone can enjoy, she showed the judges that she was truly designing with the needs of the community in mind; this comprehensive interpretation of the theme ultimately tipped the balance in her favour.”

For the Interior Design Category, Lim conceptualised the LEAF Agricultural Nursery, a unique idea for creating more green space within the city.

“Lim’s design was very well-thought-out, marrying practical aspects such as utilising the produce effectively and using the organic waste as compost, with beautifully designed areas for harvesting and enjoying the fresh produce such as in the cafe,” said chief judge for Interior Design category, Fendarie Su Pek Fuang.

“In addition to fulfilling all the requirements in an innovative and aesthetically-pleasing way, his design stood out from the rest because of its creative take on a future community living space with sustainability as a key element.”

The winners each received a RM3,000 cash prize, a sixth-month



Lim Yong An (left) and Wong Kail Li wow the judges with their winning designs. Pic by Nurul Shafina Jemenon

paid internship at IJM Land Bhd and a fully-paid trip to Japan for the Japan Learning Programme.

The Silver Winners in each category also receive a sixth-month

paid internship at IJM Land Bhd, besides a RM2,000 cash prize.

“Without the inspiration of the young, the design world will be stagnant. However, we also recognise

the value of experience, which is why the Japan Learning Programme, which will take place in March next year in Osaka, will fuse the ideas of the young with the insights of renowned industry experts — together, they will shape the future of our physical world,” said Nippon Paint Malaysia managing director Yaw Seng Heng.

Sharing similar philosophies on design, IJM Land Bhd chief executive officer and managing director Datuk Soam Heng Choon, said, “As one of Malaysia’s premier property developers, we have always aspired to create living spaces that inspire and nurture the human spirit while maintaining respect for the environment.

“We all want homes and communities that are socially sustainable and practical where people want to live, work and enjoy life, and we look forward to nurturing NPYDA winners’ design thinking skills to address the multi-faceted issues that we faced today.”

Soam said IJM Land recently sent its staff to Australia to study retirement homes and villages as well as to Hong Kong and China to look at retirement homes in more densely populated areas. He said that the green ideas and sustainability bodes well with IJM Land’s vision.