

■ Saiful Azam

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Designing Social Engagement

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Connecting Urban Engagement

Mohamad Fakri Zaky Ja'afar

This studio revisits the basic needs of human settlement – namely Live, Work and Play. Currently, these three basic human activities necessitate a high dependence on fossil fuel transportation to move people. People live in a town, work in another, shop in yet another and go to faraway places for recreation. The main idea is to create a development whereby all these three can happen within an autonomous society. This exercise is named 'WOLP Cosmos' – a cosmos where all the basic needs: Work, Live and Play (WOLP) are clustered together to minimize the generation of new vehicular artery in and out of the city.

At the outset, students were asked to investigate the issue of density. Buckminster Fuller once said, "If all people living at the time be placed shoulder to shoulder, they can all fit on Long Island". However, to provide the need for work, live and play, we need more land for that. So, the important question is: how much more? There need to be a balance between super high density and sprawling development. At both extremes, they are unsustainable. Sprawling development uses up a lot of land and resources. Super high density living also creates large ecological footprint in terms of provision of basic needs as well as social stress.

The site chosen is the junction between Jalan Ampang and Jalan Tun Razak, right in the heart of Kuala Lumpur. The challenges of development in inner city are abound: heavy traffics on two sides, the issue of land cost as well as the need to optimise the value of this particular site, and the much sought after view of the gleaming Twin Towers. The solutions are varied and interesting; pushing the limits of what is acceptable today, to explore a potentially sustainable solution for the future.

Meanwhile, the second project—Sepang Permaculture Centre—requires the students to seek the true meaning of sustainable living in Malaysian context in the locality of Banting and permaculture techniques that could be promoted and extended to existing farmers and industry partners. This could improve the way conventional and unsustainable farming is done.

The interpretation and portrayal of permaculture depends on the students' creativities. The project should address the local context made up of farmers who come from traditional and medium scale commercial farming background that do not emphasize on ecology and sustainability lifestyles. The site which is located near a mangrove riverfront presents opportunity to students to expand their ideas in integrating the environment and site context with the local community. The ultimate aim is to design farming facilities that function as a holistic permacultural environment and learning centre for the town and community. It will ultimately assist in improving the economic growth and urban lifestyle.

Jury Review

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The strength of this 4th year batch is in producing buildings with long-life quality which would be capable of long-term occupation and reuse. The buildings should regenerate local resources to sustain economically in the long run. In the first project, the students demonstrate adequate understanding on the urban issues especially in addressing the problem of density and the way the living and commercial spaces should be designed in an urban setting. In Saiful Azam's scheme, the interlocking rectangular boxes create a series of open spaces that not only integrate the environmental and social space to work, live and play but also unite the whole building form. The final product embodies the student's idea on creating vertical environmental and social space which is badly needed in Kuala Lumpur. Meanwhile, Safarin Savikon's idea of connecting the variety of urban building typology on the street level in a high-rise deserves the accolades. In his proposal, the urban streets are reintroduced as social and environmental paths which criss-cross the building made of simple rectangular boxes thus deconstructing the activities on the street into a vertical arrangement.

In another scheme, Teh Min Shen's Urban Morphology denotes the richness of the forms connected by a spatial circulation ribbon that begins at street level moving upwards and uplifts the value on the street life in an urban setting population. The continuous and meandering corridors enhance social interaction whilst allowing inhabitants to view the overall panoramic view of Kuala Lumpur. Conceivably, Tee Khay Mee scheme as the winner of Nippon Paint Awards 2010 project (see pp. 192-193) shows a student maturity in using colours as an important design component. The scheme can be considered as an intelligent attempt of using earth colours to evoke an invigorating and healthy lifestyle that blends sustainable design principles with sinuous organic forms of urban fabric.

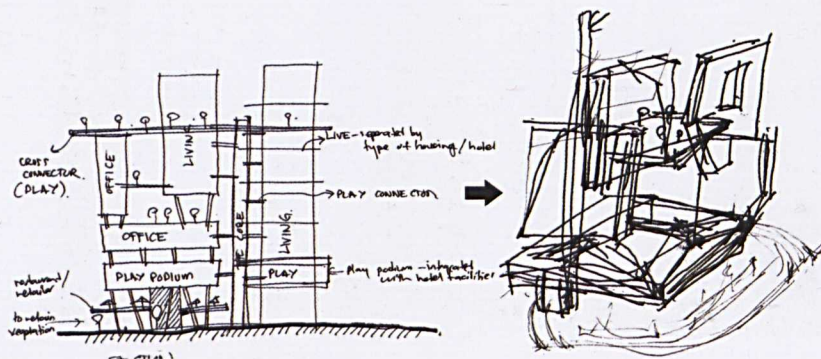
The second project which is located in a suburban area cemented the students' creativities in their interpretations and portrayals of a permaculture centre with a new building typology in this sustainable era. The environmentally intelligent design is intended to create an energy-active system that introduces both proven and innovative low energy consumption systems, environmental control systems and newly developed energy harvesting systems. Norhasni Ahmad's proposal breathes life to the idea of building as a source of knowledge to its occupants. The utilization of courtyard spaces and passive design technique and clear separation of public and private spaces accentuate the environmental experience and learning which is missing in many profit-oriented conventional commercial buildings. Meanwhile, Asyraf Azmi puts forward a commendable proposal that successfully generate the environment and social interaction through a series of environmental friendly courtyards and corridor linkages that can be accessed and viewed interactively by all users. The proposal has also successfully addressed the site context by keeping the building at lower scale that creates a sense of belonging to the community.

Meanwhile, the prevalent weakness in the artefacts is that most are lacking quality spatial experience in the units and in external spaces. Most forms are rigid basic rectangular forms in attempting to reflect the urban setting. However, it is conceivable that the form can be more fluid to counter the strict rigid urban forms; a similar case observed in the second project. In this case a transformation process based on the investigation of nature based on cell-like structure can be considered appropriate for this project. It is heartening to see the 4th year students vibrantly embarking on the main urban and sustainable issues and interpolating them into a strong design output that contains attentive ideas that can be passed on to other architectural students.

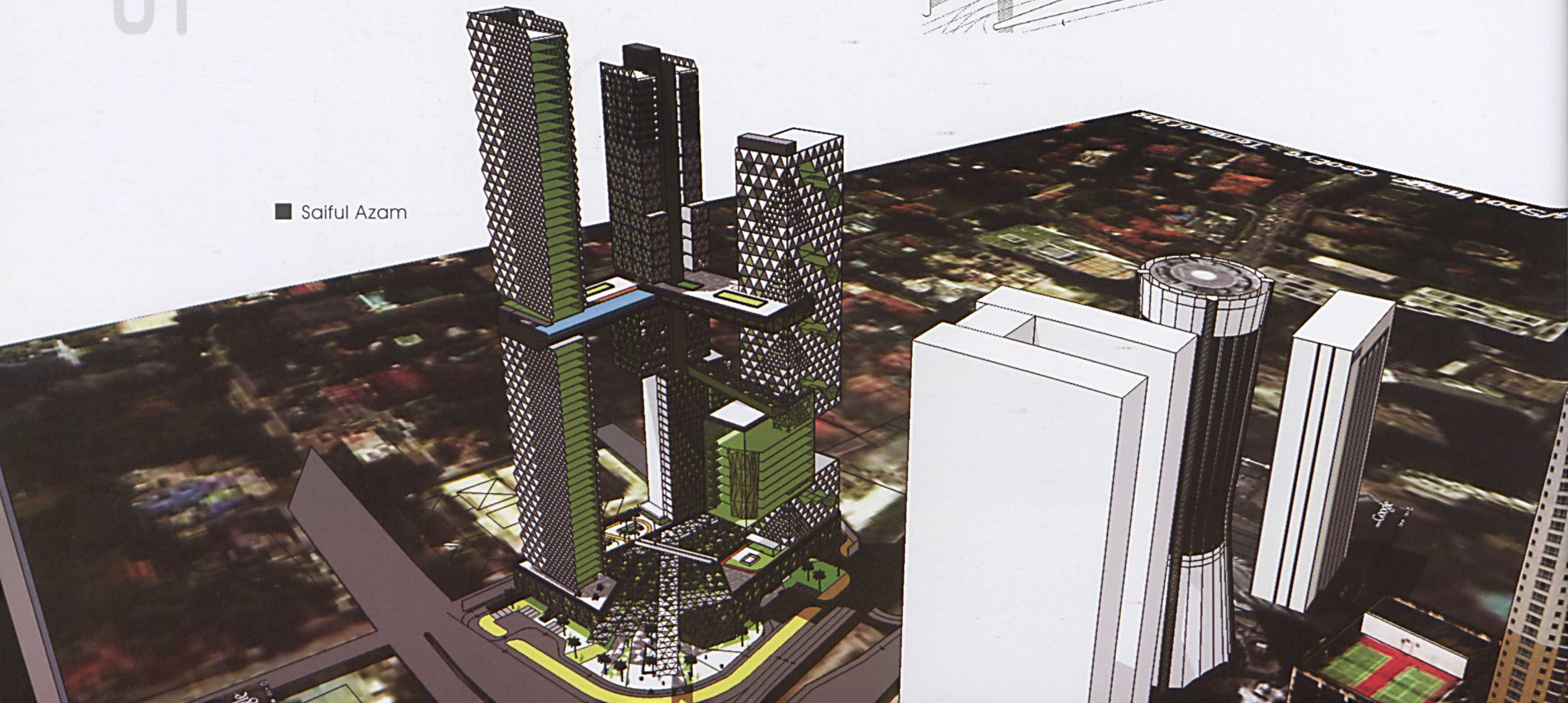
Urban Green Interlock

Mohammad Yazah Mat Raschid & Mohamad Fakri Zaky Ja'afar

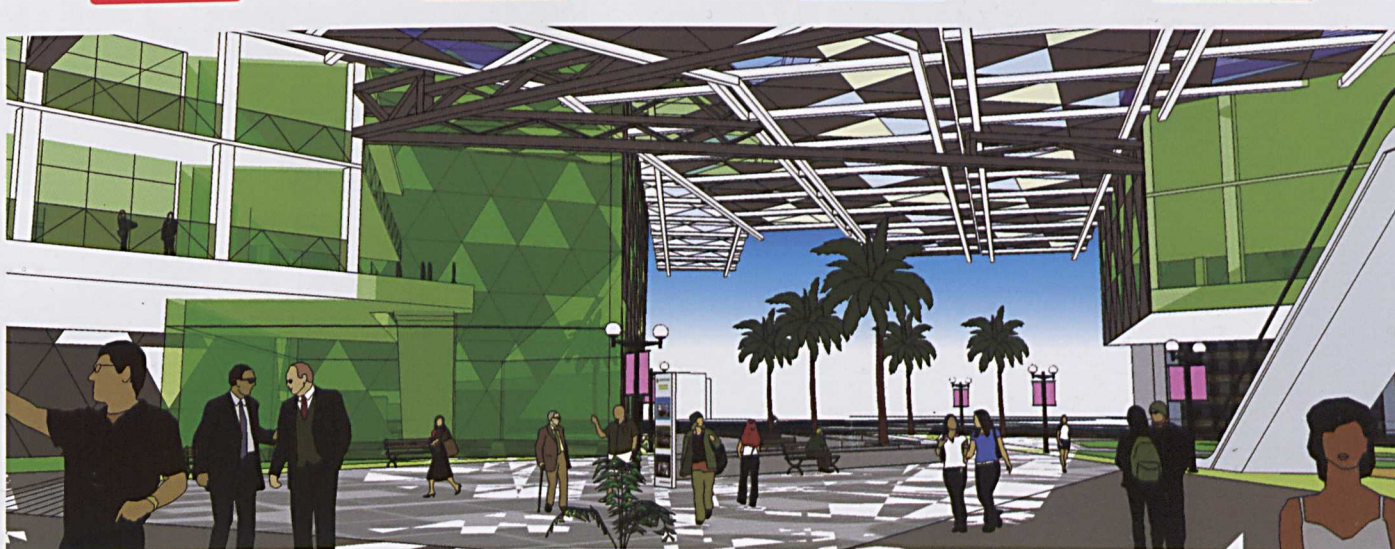
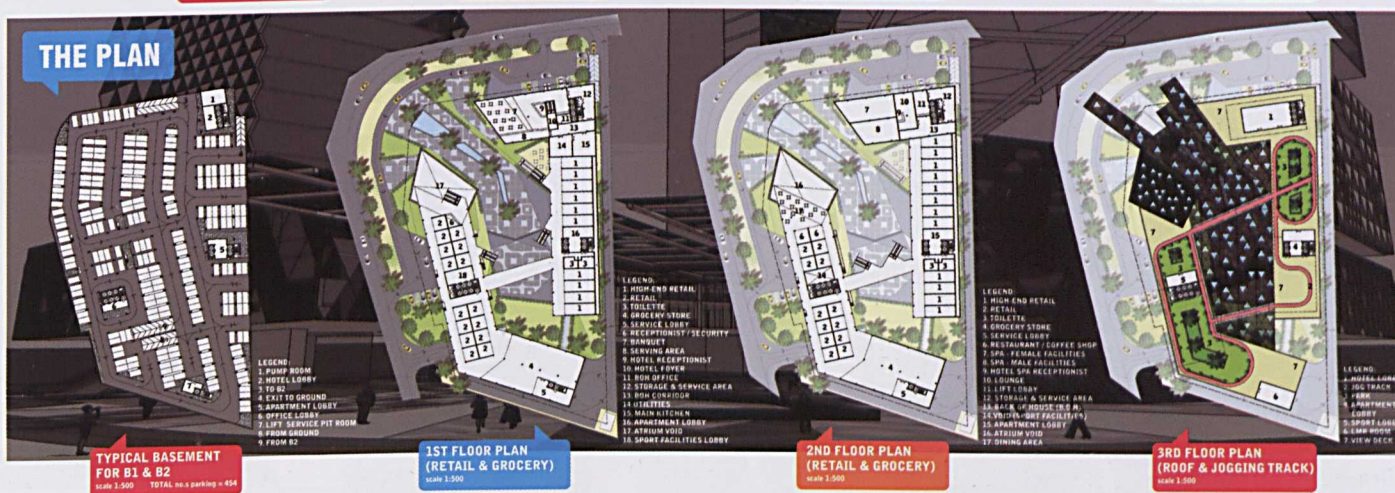
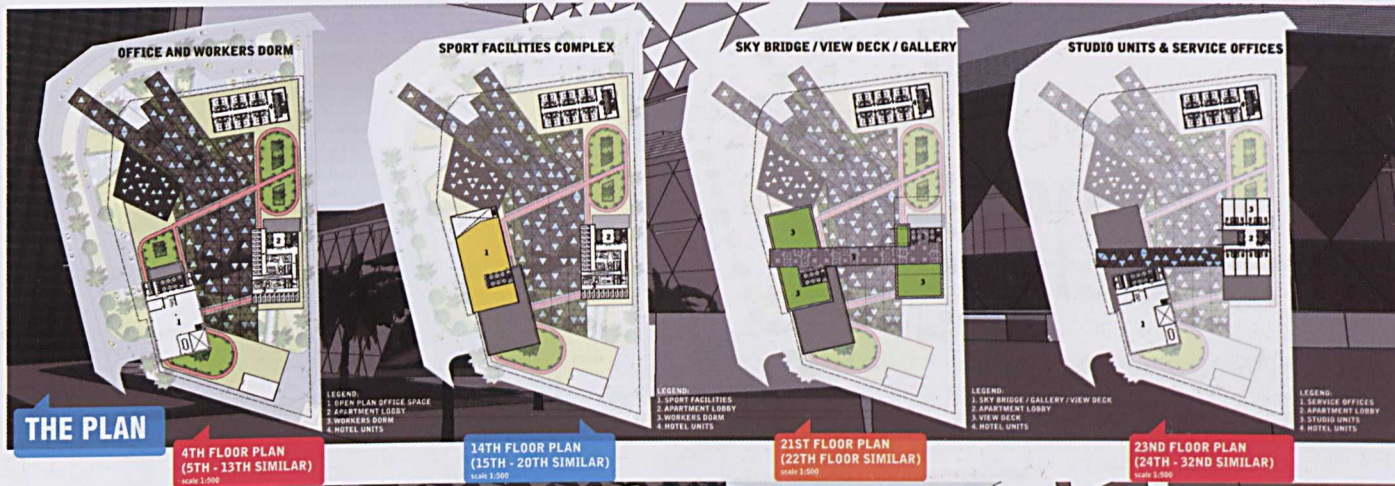
The rapid development growth of Kuala Lumpur has resulted in the loss of comfortable open green spaces at the pedestrian level that serves as connecting points between the residents and public in a high density urban development. Saiful Azam proposed arranging blocks of open spaces that were slotted vertically to replace the lost open spaces in a mixed high-rise development. The interlocking rectangular boxes create open spaces that act as a comfortable environmental and social space to work, live and play and also unite the whole building form. A new definition of sustainable living created in this project challenges the conventional urban open spaces and the lifestyle in this millennium.



■ Saiful Azam



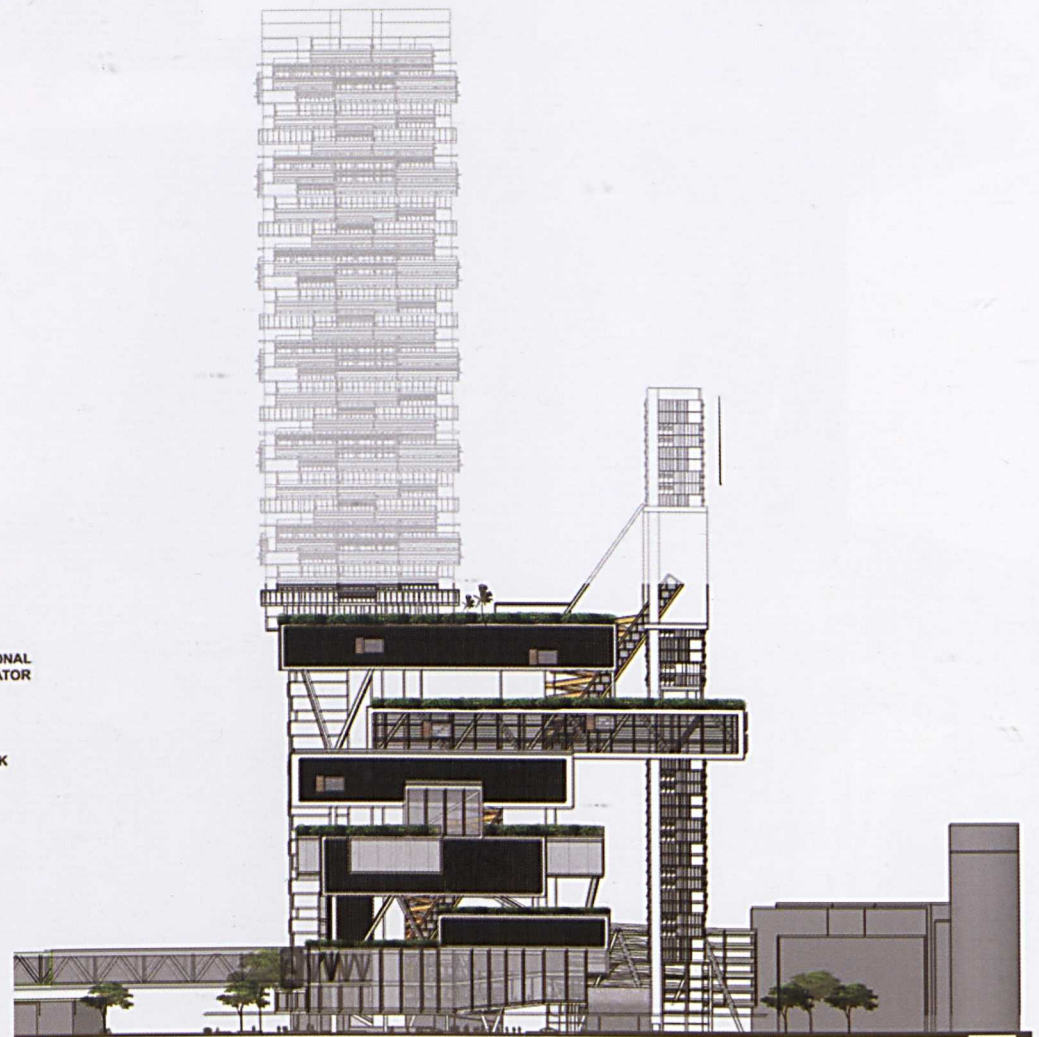
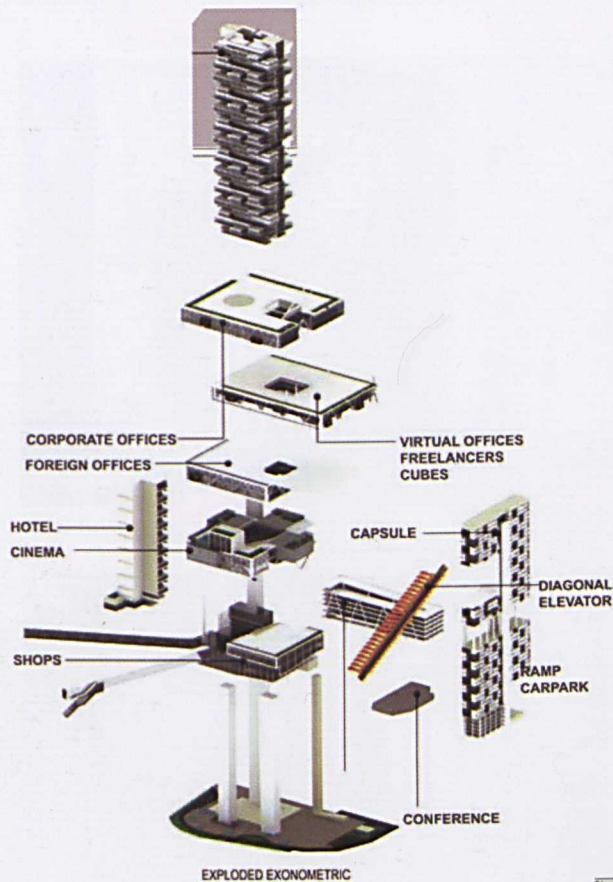
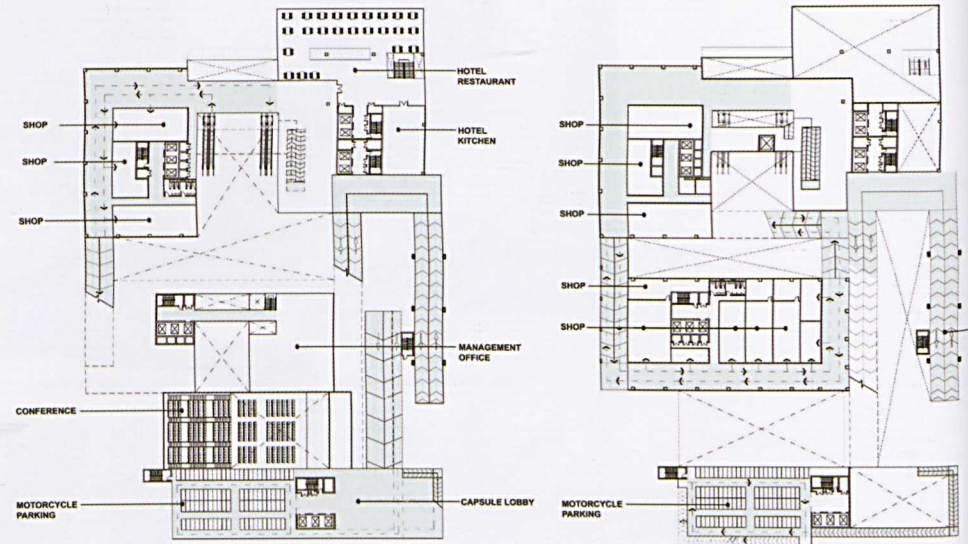
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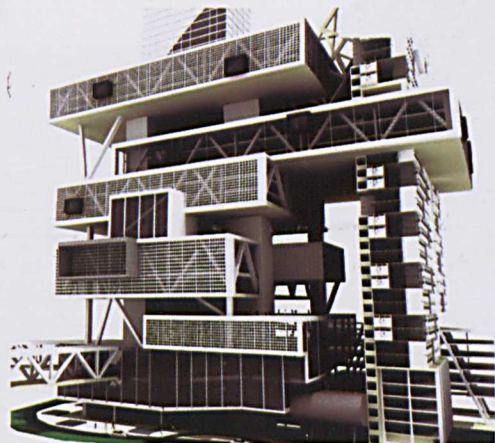
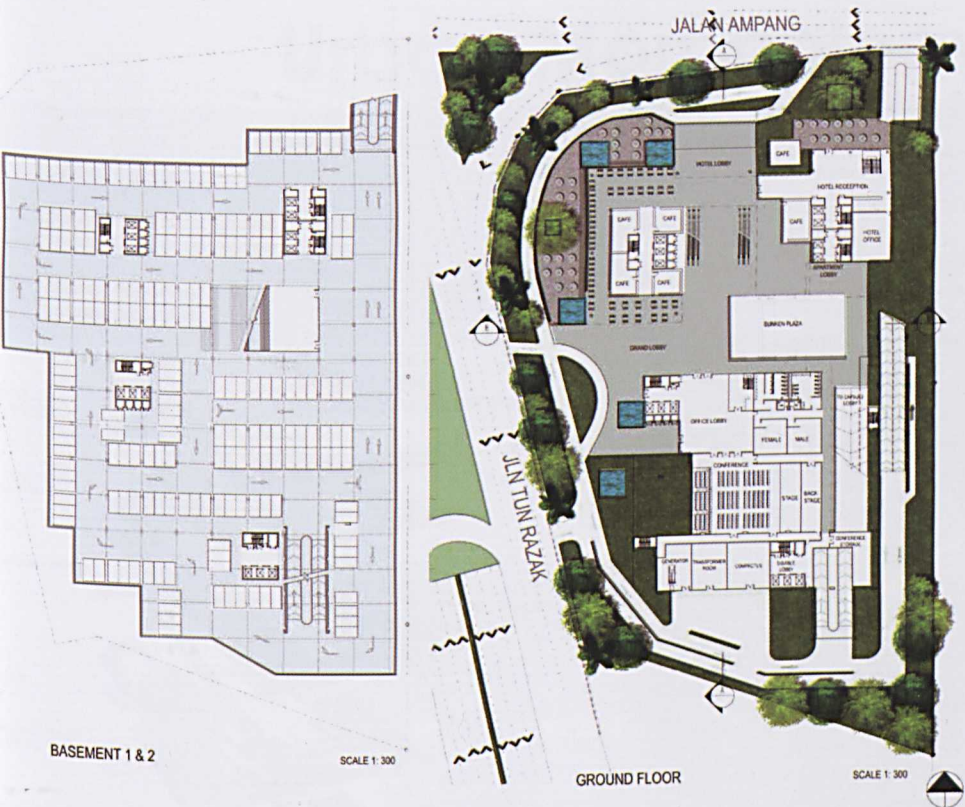


Urban Connectivity Deconstruction

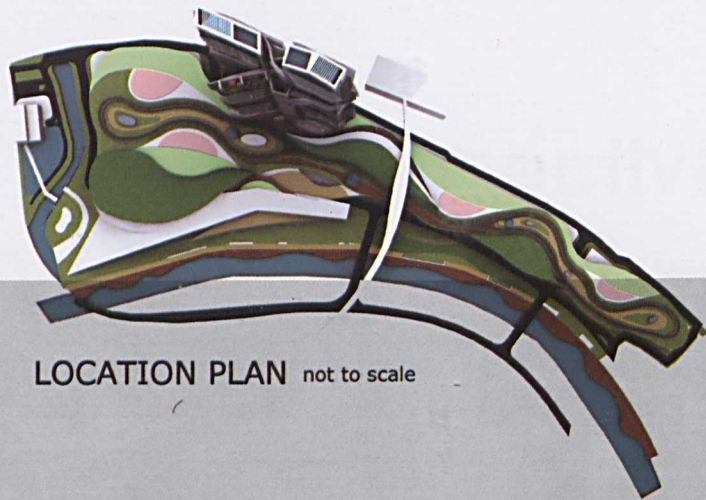
Mohammad Yazah Mat Raschid & Mohamad Fakri Zaky Ja'afar

Many urban mixed developments are highly dependent on fossil fuel transportation mode as they fail to connect efficiently with the essential urban fabrics and features. While the use of automated vehicle is necessary, it nevertheless causes environmental and social discomfort to both the residents and the public. Safarin Savikon proposes the idea of deconstructing urban connectivity to reduce both the environmental and social problem. He restructures the mixed development coherently to the city by connecting different spatial programmes with the integration of urban streets, parks and districts in the building form. His strategy can be considered as an effective urban design intervention tool to enhance the urban environmental and social experiences.

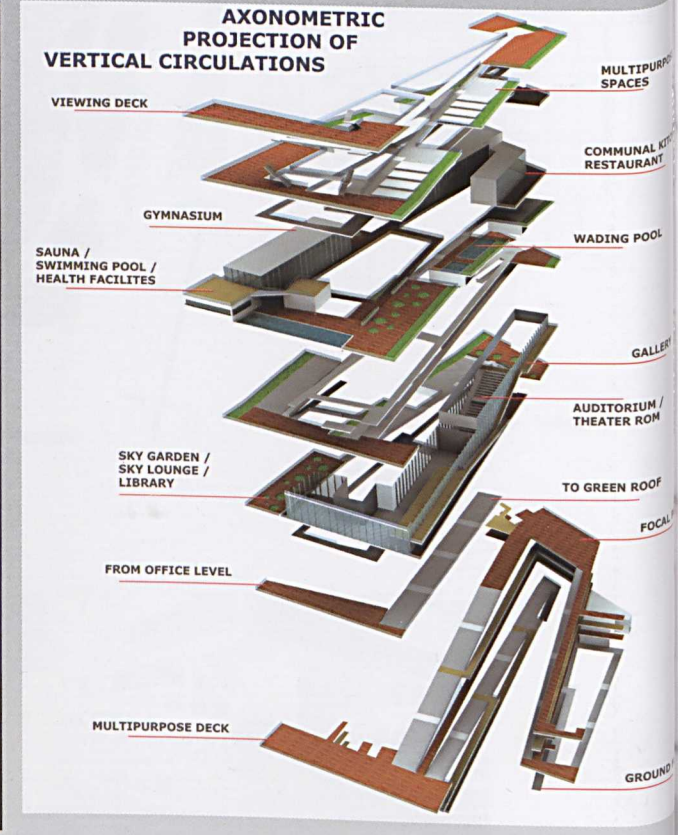




■ Safarin Savikon



LOCATION PLAN not to scale



■ Teh Min Shen



LEGENDS:

- 1. CORRIDORS
- 2. POCKET GREEN
- 3. LIFT LOBBY
- 4. AUDITORIUM/THEATER ROOM
- 5. LIBRARY
- 6. SKY LOUNGE
- 7. SKY GARDENS
- 8. RAMP DOWN TO FLOR BELOW
- 9. VEGETATION
- 10. COMMUNAL RESTAURANT
- 11. OUTDOOR DINING
- 12. MULTIPURPOSE ROM
- 13. SQUASH COURT
- 14. TABLE TENNIS
- 15. CHANGING FACILITIES
- 16. GYMNASIUM
- 17. DANCING ROOM
- 18. SAUNAS
- 19. SWIMMING POOL
- 20. WADING POOL

15TH FLOOR PLAN SCALE 1:250 NORTH

16TH FLOOR PLAN SCALE 1:250 NORTH

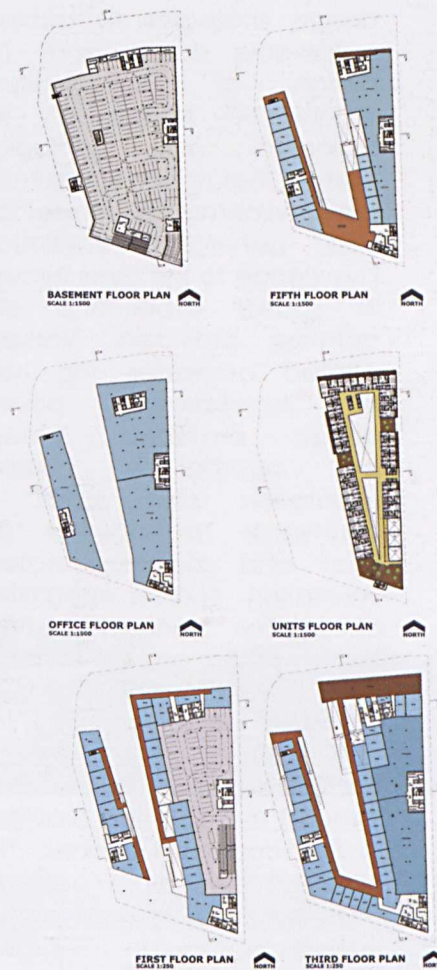
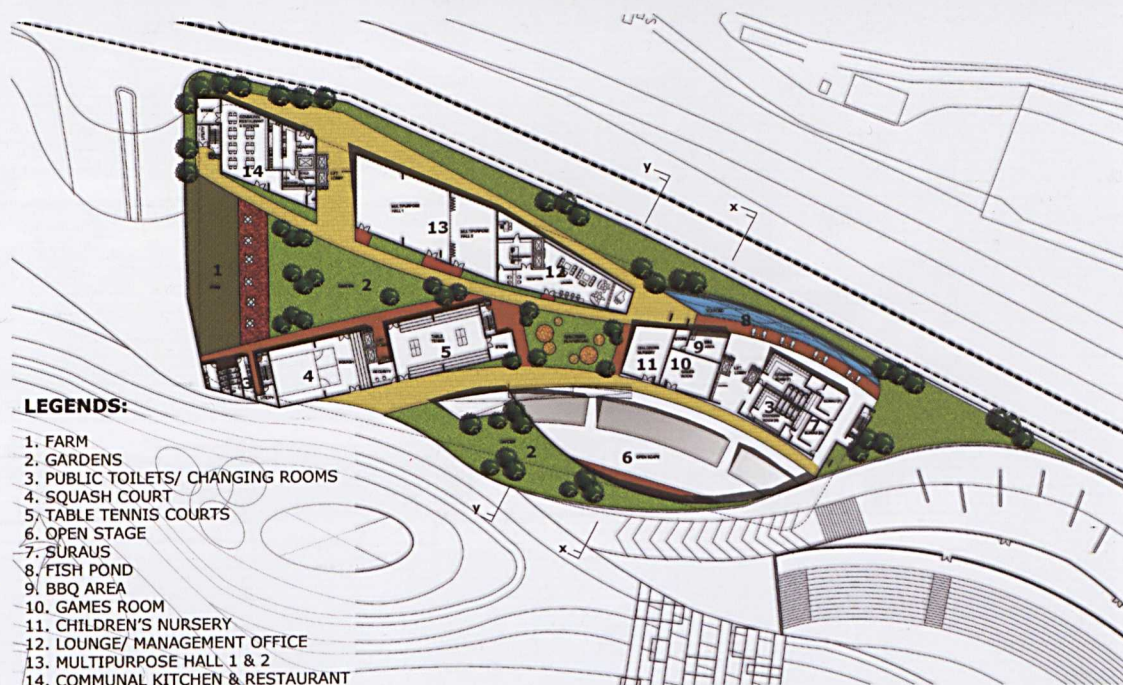
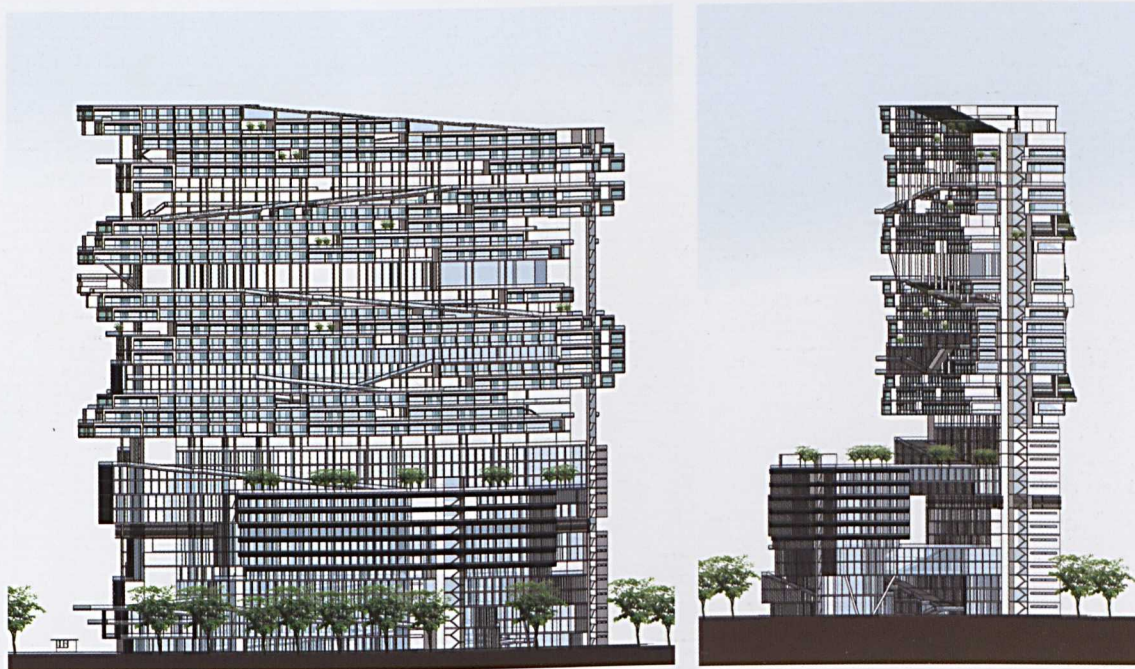
PODIUM FLOOR PLAN SCALE 1:250 NORTH

Urban Morphology

Meor Mohammad Fared Meor Razali & Mohammad Yazah Mat Raschid

A typical skyscraper seldom has the same qualities of human scale development in terms of social interaction that happens along the streets and the open spaces as offered in the sprawling urban development. The solution is to create a skyscraper that attempts to integrate the street life of Kuala Lumpur in a vertical configuration. Teh Min Shin proposes that entire fragmented volume

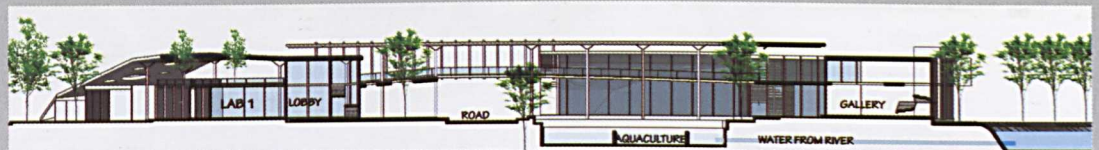
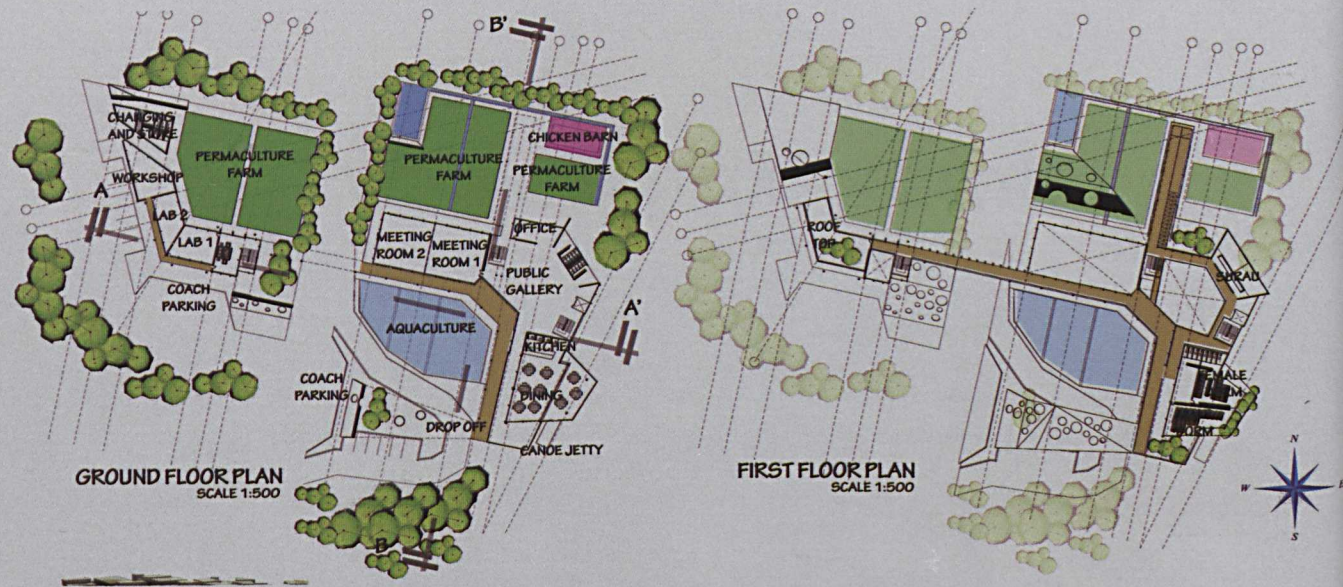
of building to be interconnected with a spatial circulation ribbon that begins at street level moving upwards to create community areas, restaurants, auditoriums, parks and cultural spaces. This approach challenges the common perception of a skyscraper which does not place any value on the street life and the sustainable well-being of an urban population.

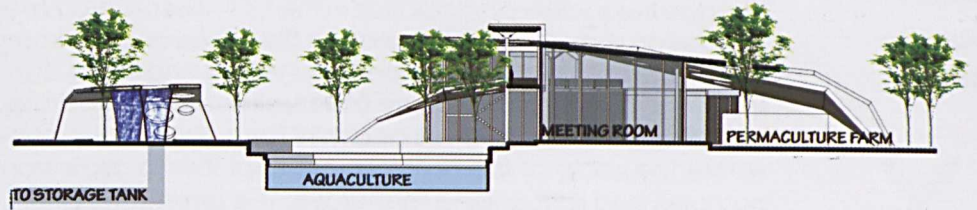


Lifelong Learning Building

Mohamad Fakri Zaky Ja'afar &
Meor Mohammad Fared Meor Razali

The environment and social aspects are important design considerations, yet both are always neglected as part of the design strategies to achieve sustainable design goal. The design of 'permaculture' should be based on the biological and ecological pattern that not only maximizes the environmental impact but also generates continuous knowledge to the users through its spatial experience and activities provided. Norhasni Ahmad addresses the issue by incorporating passive design strategies through the appropriate building orientation and series of courtyards to minimize the heat and maximize natural ventilation. Further integration of active energy saving photovoltaic panels, recycle and waste management strategies also prolong the continuous environmental and social education to the users through the activities provided in the courtyard spaces. The proposal opens a new pathway on understanding how a built environment can instigate sustainable lifelong learning.



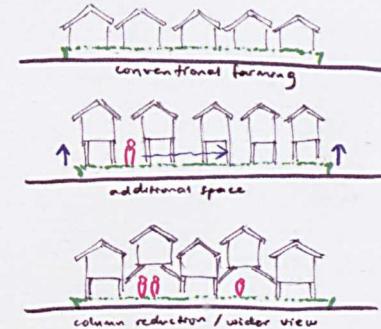
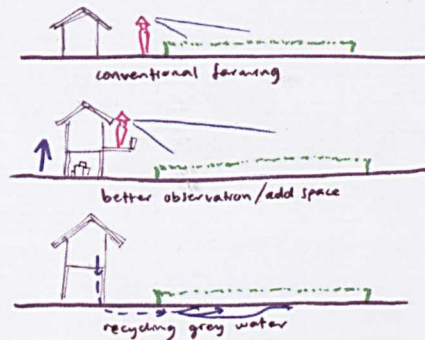


■ Norhasni Ahmad

Designing Social Engagement

Mohamad Fakri Zaky Ja'afar & Mohammad Yazah Mat Raschid

Being regarded as a relatively new idea, a Permaculture Centre should maximize the site resources to engage the society participation in the activities programmed whilst enjoying the surrounding environment. The design should not only enhance the social and environmental experience but also become a unique learning laboratory in which both the visitors and locals can utilize. Asyraf Azmi designed his Permaculture spaces in a natural mangrove observation hub orchestrated by a central rectangular courtyard created near the main axis. It serves as a mini farm open to the public and is flanked by green houses for farming where the scale of the buildings are kept low to allow transparent observation throughout the building complex and surrounding mangrove. The arrangement of integrated built spaces with intertwining open areas allow more social interactions that can enhance the environmental learning.





■ Ashraf Azmi

