

In this month's e-news, we are delighted to feature some important architectural projects in Malaysia that are the result of collaborative efforts between VERITAS and foreign design architects. VERITAS has enjoyed a long tradition of professional association with renowned international designers, resulting in many noteworthy and award-winning projects throughout the country. We firmly believe that capable foreign design expertise is a sometimes necessary ingredient in the making of great architecture, and to this end we welcome the opportunity to learn from these collaborative experiences.

Also, we would like to share with you our VERITAS Ramadan celebration 'Buka Puasa' and other interesting "happenings" at VERITAS. We hope you enjoy this month's VERITAS e-news!



**W Hotel** In collaboration with Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP (SOM), Hong Kong.

The site of this W Hotel is located at the heart of **Kuala Lumpur City Center**. The project comprises 55 storeys which consist of 25 storeys of hotel accommodation and facilities and 30 storeys of service apartment and a wide range of guest F&B facilities and services including sky lobby, bars and restaurants. The W Hotel is expected to be completed in 2018.



**YTL HQ, Kuala Lumpur.** In collaboration with Kohn Pederson Fox Associates, United States of America.

The building is located at **Jalan Bukit Bintang**, a high-end retail strip that has developed into a highly lucrative commercial and hospitality hub in Kuala Lumpur. The form of the building is generated from the awkward geometry of the site. Shaped like a jagged shard, the site has a finger extended from it that terminates at a narrow street frontage along Jalan Bukit Bintang.

The lack of workable proportions on the ground floor results in difficulty in space planning and a need to take a different approach strengthen the building's street presence. Instead of rationalizing the footprint into a cartesian form, the building takes on the prescribed character of its **crystal-shaped** floor plan, transforming as it rises into a 3-dimensional crystalline sculpture. The design is set to qualify for a **GBI Gold Rating**, including a rainwater harvesting unit, an energy efficient cooling and electrical system, energy saving light ballast and other passive features.



**LEGOLAND, Nusajaya.** In collaboration with Forrec.

'Lego' is a brand of popular children's toys, comprising colorful interlocking plastic bricks which can be assembled and connected in immense variation to construct many objects. **The Legoland Theme park** is a 76-acre life-scaled experience of this brand within the concept of a theme park targeting families with children between the ages of 2 to 12 years old.

Within the local context, this project also has a specific role in furthering the tourism agenda of the **Nusajaya Masterplan** by becoming the anchor initiative that attracts tourists from the surrounding region.

At the bold entrance the visitor is ushered into a vast playground of theme park rides and recreational zones divided thematically to provide a story and focus to each ride's experience. All components of this master plan are modeled after long established branches of Legoland from Europe and America, adapted to the local climate culture and building methods. Legoland® Malaysia is the sixth Legoland to be built in the world and its **first** in Asia.



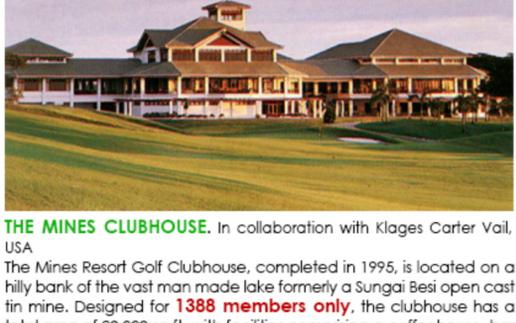
**Platinum Tower, Kuala Lumpur.** In collaboration with Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP (SOM), New York City

The Platinum Tower was projected to become the heart of a new Kuala Lumpur financial district at the **Tun Razak Exchange (TRX)**. The competition brief called for an 80 storey tower that houses a comprehensive program ranging from offices, a hotel, serviced apartment, conference center, retail components and other public amenities. At 380-meters high, the elegant bullet-shaped tower was shaped by program, climate and views; this elliptical floor plan improved energy performance by reducing the surface area to volume ratio and reducing wind loads. It had no **hot face**; reducing energy use by more than 4% whilst producing 84% efficiency floor plans. The mechanical and structural engineering of the tower was optimized to allow maximum light penetration into the building. This tower was a model of fine-tuned efficiency that could have been constructed rapidly, with significantly reduced materials and which would have operated at LEED or GBI Platinum efficiency.



**THE TWINS.** In collaboration with Axis Architects, Singapore

The Twins, completed in 2012, is a **luxury high-rise** residential development for Panareno Sdn Bhd; a joint venture between the Lion Group Berhad, the American International Group (AIG) Inc. and Singapore-based Koh Maju and Heaton Holdings Limited. The Twins offers 318 units of luxury residential suites, built on twin 36-storey blocks, with 159 units in each block. The **"avant garde"** residential twin towers combine modern elevational treatments with efficient planning to achieve a highly rigorous design solution. A glistening fusion of glass and metal will allow residents to enjoy the view of the surrounding affluent neighborhoods and the city skyline. The project offers many facilities including two sky gyms, a studio suitable for yoga, aerobics workout and dance sessions, swimming pools, landscape gardens and a hi-tech home automation security system.



**THE MINES CLUBHOUSE.** In collaboration with Klages Carter Vail, USA

The Mines Resort Golf Clubhouse, completed in 1995, is located on a hilly bank of the vast man made lake formerly a Sungai Besi open cast tin mine. Designed for **1388 members only**, the clubhouse has a total area of 80,000 sqft, with facilities comprising a coffeehouse, bar lounge, billiard room, swimming pool, conference facilities, a men's fitness centre and special VIP suites for overnight stays and afternoon rendezvous. A generous porte cochere leads one to a spacious open lobby, from which one catches the first glimpses of the lake beyond the building. A 4-storey viewing tower offers a dramatic view of the surrounding landscape developed by Country Heights Holdings Berhad. The overall structure is configured as a complex of pavilions around landscaped courtyards, overlooking a panorama of the lake and an 18-hole golf course.



**ASSUNTA HOSPITAL.** In collaboration with Thomson Adsett, Australia

Located in the older part of the **Petaling Jaya** district, Assunta Hospital is a long established medical institution. This project comprises additions to the existing hospital building and the rehabilitation of the old structure. The additions consist of a separate carpark wing comprising 6 carpark floors and 2 service floors located along Jalan Assunta and a new 6 storey medical wing with new specialist clinics, operating theatres and wards. The original Assunta Hospital was an iconic building designed in the **Modernist** style. The new wing retains these modernist qualities by keeping the lines of the building clean and minimal. The overall form of the new wing's frontage echo the old frontage's massing but clad in white aluminum panels and long glazed fenestrations. Horizontal sun-shading elements fringe the glazed surfaces to reduce sun exposure. This project was completed in 2006.



**MALAYSIA AIRLINES GROUND SUPPORT FACILITIES.**

In collaboration with McClier, USA

The Ground Support Facilities for Malaysia Airlines are housed on a 100-hectare campus to the South of the KLIA Main Terminal Building and was completed in 1998. The project comprises 5 components: the Inflight Catering Facility, an Advanced Cargo Terminal, a Freight Forwarding Agents Complex, the MAS Administrative Support Offices and the Engineering and Maintenance Complex. The design seeks to reinforce the **corporate identity** of the national airline by employing a consistent architectural language throughout the scheme. The modern aesthetic of the previous MAS buildings are carried through to this facility but reinterpreted with new materials. The overall masterplan is driven by efficient administration and the interfacing of the ground support facilities.

## GREEN BUILDINGS CHEAPER TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN

**Most developers, architects and building engineers assume that the construction of green buildings is expensive. However, it is possible to be environmentally friendly without breaking the bank.**

**International Construction Week 2016**

By **Thomas Wong**, Managing Director, Green Building Solutions, C.K. Tang & Associates

Building by making right has been the motto of the green building movement. Green buildings are not just about energy efficiency and green roofs. They are about creating a better environment for people to live and work in. They are about creating a better environment for the planet. They are about creating a better environment for the future.

One of the ways to do this is by using green building materials. These materials are made from renewable resources and are often recycled. They are often more durable and longer-lasting than traditional materials. They are often more aesthetically pleasing and can improve the indoor air quality of a building.

Another way to do this is by using green building practices. These practices include using energy-efficient lighting and appliances, using water-saving fixtures, and using sustainable construction methods. These practices can help reduce the energy and water consumption of a building, which can help reduce the building's carbon footprint.

By using green building materials and practices, developers, architects and building engineers can create green buildings that are not only environmentally friendly but also cheaper to build and maintain. This is a win-win situation for everyone involved.

Item	Description	Cost (RM)
1	Concrete wall	100,000
2	Brick wall	150,000
3	Block wall	120,000
4	Insulation	50,000
5	Plaster	30,000
6	Paint	20,000
7	Window	100,000
8	Door	50,000
9	Roof	200,000
10	Foundation	150,000
11	Structural steel	300,000
12	Concrete slab	100,000
13	Concrete column	50,000
14	Concrete beam	50,000
15	Concrete wall	100,000
16	Brick wall	150,000
17	Block wall	120,000
18	Insulation	50,000
19	Plaster	30,000
20	Paint	20,000
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97	Concrete column	50,000
98	Concrete beam	50,000
99	Concrete wall	100,000
100	Brick wall	150,000

**C.K. Tang** of VERITAS Environment was featured in the May 14th - 27th issue of Malaysia SME Magazine. The article focused on sustainability and "Green Buildings". C.K., who is an expert environmental engineer explained how it is possible to be environmentally friendly without incurring excessive costs.

## so WHO's the STAFF OF THE MONTH? Alif Arif Iskandar

**Alif** was schooled and worked in the United Kingdom for 15 years and went to 7 high schools, 4 universities and lived in 9 cities!! That would explain where he got his British sense of humour and how he strives to be friendly with everyone regardless of their background. These experiences solidified his belief that people are all both weird and beautiful in their own way, no matter which planet they are from!

His passions and weaknesses include reading, sketching, travelling, art performance, Tottenham Hotspurs and making fun of the French.

**Kate Ker (KK)** gets in-depth info about **Alif Arif (AA)**

**KK:** What inspired you to join VERITAS?  
**AA:** Well, I was at a design practice in London for 4 years then came back to KL in 2004 and worked for myself for a while. Then I joined a couple of other small local firms. I had always wanted to be a part of VERITAS since I returned from U.K. and had several friends who worked here. They told me about the **unique culture** at VERITAS and the exciting projects and clients it had. This got me excited so I planned my career, working to hone my skills in other firms for past 8 more years. So when the opportunity finally arrived, I grabbed it and have never looked back.



**KK:** You have been with VERITAS for over 3 years. What was been your proudest moment and biggest challenge so far?  
**AA:** There have been many such moments, but an important one would be when my team **won** the competition for Oxley Towers by beating several international firms. Then to be involved in the actual project and making it a reality is a dream I am now living. It is not easy, in fact it is also the source of many of my most stressful moments here (as evidenced by the increasing number of white hairs on my head. Hmm, maybe I should dye it someday... haha). But to see the project complete would be one of my proudest moments in life. After all, we Architects are slaves to our passion!



**KK:** How do you handle a large project like Oxley Tower KLCC while managing other responsibilities simultaneously?  
**AA:** 2 words: **Great Teamwork!** I couldn't do it without the help all of my teammates who have supported me through thick and thin (though I haven't seen many of the thin moments yet! haha). I also firmly believe in the "5 Levels of Leadership" ethos where we need to create leaders from among our teammates that are responsible for their actions and results.

**KK:** How do you manage to balance family and work?  
**AA:** 4 words that are true since the dawn of time... **Happy Wife, Happy Life!!!** Architecture is a very tough profession no matter where you are. So I believe you must always be aware of the needs of the family.

**KK:** What are your future plans with VERITAS?  
**AA:** I'm here all the way, to be the best that my team and I can be. I believe I can achieve **"My Best"** here with VERITAS.

**KK:** Describe VERITAS in your own few words?  
**AA:** A constant source of inspiration, joy, and enrichment mixed with a dash of stress. After all, **diamonds are made under great pressure!**

**Well done Alif!!** It has been a great journey working with you so far and we look forward to many more exciting adventures at VERITAS together with you.

## OTHER HAPPENINGS

### VERITAS RAMADAN 'BUKA PUASA'



In the spirit of spreading cheer and giving back to the community, VERITAS Design Group through its **VERITAS Social and Sports Club (VSSC)** fulfilled the wishes of 51 underprivileged children from Pertubuhan Kebajikan Anasaf Al-Barakah Malaysia and the Lighthouse Children Welfare Home Association Kuala Lumpur and Selangor by treating them to a visit to the KLCC Aquaria followed by Ramadan Buka Puasa with VERITASians at the VERITAS HQ, Kuala Lumpur on 16th June 2016.

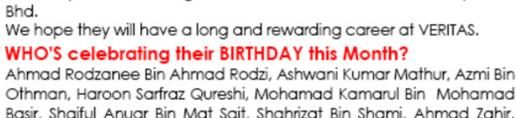


VERITAS Design Group Principal, **Azif Nasaruddin** said, "This Ramadan Buka Puasa Program is one of the best platforms for VERITAS to reach out to the community, particularly the underprivileged children. Our commitment to CSR has been an integral part of the company's corporate culture since the establishment of VERITAS Design Group over 29 years ago".



To add even more festive cheer, VERITAS' Planning Principal Ng Yiek Seng also distributed **'duit raya'** and hampers to all the children. At VERITAS Design Group, we strongly believe that the real nature of service is in offering a helping hand to those in need.

### So WHO are the NEWCOMERS at VERITAS?



Welcome on board new VERITASians:  
 Assistant Architect **Ahmad Faliq B Mohd Sapparudin** and Account Executive - **Lim E Yun** for VERITAS Architects Kuala Lumpur  
 Architects **Mohamad Raffie Bin Drahman** and **Zulhalmie Bin Zakaria** for VERITAS Architects Penang  
 Landscape Architect **Angeline Yeo Tze Hui** for VERITAS Landscape Sdn Bhd.

We hope they will have a long and rewarding career at VERITAS.

### WHO'S celebrating their BIRTHDAY this Month?

**Ahmad Rodzane Bin Ahmad Rodzi, Ashwani Kumar Mathur, Azni Bin Othman, Haroon Sarfraz Qureshi, Mohamad Kamarul Bin Mohamad Basir, Shaiful Anuar Bin Mat Sait, Shahizat Bin Shami, Ahmad Zahir, Muhammad Khairul Hisham Bin Mohd Badri, Chew Ngai Seong, Mohd Sophiee Bin Mohamad Idris, A/SABIAN A/L Issac, Engku Mohd Faez Bin Ungku Md Saleh, Sellorain A/P Sellorain, Kuber Premnath Miskin, Mohd Hanif Bin Ramli, Aizi Afifi B Abdul Aziz, Muhammad Hafiq Bin Daud and Ahmad Syazil B Hafiz Othman, Mohd Ridzal Hassan, Fakhruazi bin Bustani, Rasidah Bt Samad, Saifuddin Mazlan and Zainul Fadli Zaini, Anton Alers.**

### BUNDE OF JOY



Congratulations to VERITAS Architects Kuala Lumpur **Mohd Hanif Bin Ramli** and his wife **Jamiyatur Jamiah Bt Kamaruddin** on the arrival of their **adorable** baby girl **Izz Harith Amsyar** born on 20th June 2016.



Congratulation also to VERITAS Architects Kuala Lumpur **Muhammad Khairul Hisham Bin Mohd Badri** and his wife **Barita Bt Hizyir** on the arrival of their **gorgeous** baby girl **Maryam Hannani** born on 14th June 2016.

