

buletin warisan

January – February 2006





Ar Dato' (Dr) Ikmal Hisham Albakri, 1930 - 2006

Hisham Albakri came from a long line of distinguished civil servants in Perak, who made the unusual step a couple of generations ago to keep a family name, rather than each generation using the father's name. He was born in Batu Gajah hospital, the cradle of many eminent and interesting people, on 7th September 1930.

In 1955, while at Sheffield University, he met – (through a classmate, Maurice Ralph) the beautiful daughter of old friends of his family who had been persuaded, against her mother's advice, to join them for a University Ball! Six months later they met again, and Valerie's family were delighted with Hisham. After graduating from Sheffield University in 1956, Hisham worked at the Sheffield City Architect Department for a year before returning to Kuala Lumpur in time for Merdeka. Valerie joined Hisham in Malaya a year later where a full scale traditional Malay wedding took place at the Albakri's Kuala Lumpur home on Petaling Hill. Very properly, Valerie assures us, she stayed with the Commissioner for Lands and his wife, Mrs Luckham until the wedding.

Shortly after this, while Hisham was working at the PWD, he was accepted at the A.A. in London to study tropical architecture. Perhaps it was here that his great talent for fusing the best elements of traditional Malay architecture into a totally modern concept was formulated. Certainly all his major buildings bear out this concept – such as the Hyatt Hotel in Kuantan, apparently always one of his favourite works; the proto type Balai for this hotel which was I believe one of the first to include traditional Malay concepts in a modern building, ended up adorning his house in Jalan Kia Peng where it still provides a cool and elegant space.

Another of his famous designs was for the National Mosque – when the team at the PWD of Hisham, Howard Ashley and Baharuddin Kassim made sure that this mosque had a firm basis in Malay architecture, with little if any influence from the Middle East.

There was also, among many others of course, Bank Bumi and the PWTC – Prince Philip famously described Hisham as the Architect of the Great Barn, referring to the latter. In 1963 Hisham was at the inauguration of the Commonwealth Association of Architects – the only Malaysian, and he later became its president. More recently he was voted the Vice President of the Union of International Architects, for Asia and Australia. So much of his recent life has involved a great deal of travel in connection with these organizations. However his practice is still extremely active, and indeed during his last hours he was on site at his latest project.

One of Hisham's possibly most beneficial legacies was to encourage his daughter, Zehan, to set up the Friends of the Heritage Trust, Sahabat Warisan in the early 1980s. Zehan was working with her father at this time, when Tan Sri Mubin Sheppard realized her potential and asked her to help him set up a Youth Wing for the newly established Badan Warisan Malaysia. The Albakri family took up memberships Nos 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5. Hisham's sons also played important parts during this time – with Zarul dedicating the premiere of his first major feature film *Mati-nya Sa-orang Patriot* to raise funds for the Sahabat, and Zahim involved when back from his studies in organizing exciting functions and activities. During this period Kumpulan Akitek certainly played a major role in financing and assisting the day to day administration of the emerging society. I well remember coming to some of the early meetings of the Sahabat at the Albakri house, where a whole group of enthusiastic young were hatching plans, aided and abetted by Valerie. It was an exciting time.

It was hard to believe that Hisham was 75 years old. He would not have enjoyed being really old and unable to enjoy the things he loved most, good food, good golf, good friends and travel with his family. Instead he will always now be remembered as debonair, articulate and full of life, a man who has spread the word of his country's best aspects far and wide, and who is respected around the world.

C Waveney Jenkins February 2nd 2006.

I remember Dato' Hisham...

On the morning of 14th January 2006, I received a call from Datin Sabine Mustapha, who had just heard from Dato' Mustapha from the Royal Selangor Golf Club. So it was that I learnt of the shocking news of Dato Hisham's fatal collapse on the course, playing a flight just ahead of Dato' Mustapha's group.

I remember Dato' Dr Hisham from the early days of my professional life in the 1960s. We were among the small group of architects returned from overseas and had set up practices in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore. At the time most architects worked with established firms, usually expatriate owned and named. Both of us went against the trend and formed partnerships with Malayan and Singapore contemporaries using group titles rather than our individual names. We were friendly rivals in those pioneering days. While his Kumpulan Arkitek has lived on my group, sadly, had a short life.



More recently, in the midst of researching old buildings for a forthcoming book on Perak, I was called by Datin Valerie, who alerted me to a serious error in the recent launched KINTA VALLEY, which I was using as

reference. It was the house of Dato' Hisham's grandfather, Dato' Amar Di-Raja of Perak in Batu Gajah, wrongly attributed in the book. This led to my singular interview of Dato' Hisham when over a leisurely Saturday lunch (after his usual round of golf) I learnt of his early childhood in the house, known as the 'Royal English School' in Batu Gajah, the frequent travels and changes of homes as Dato's father was transferred from one town to another as D.O. Very naturally, we were both agreed that the family house should be 'saved' and rehabilitated for posterity. It was not as straightforward as it sounded, as the property was jointly owned with a sister. So it is left to the younger Albakris to pursue this in memory of their distinguished father.

One other subject in which Dato Hisham and I shared an interest was a central repository of architects' drawings. We discussed this over time and I suggested that he should initiate and ideally head the project. It would not necessarily be part of PAM but linked to it or with other organizations. Very initial ideas and again it would have to be carried out by the younger generation.

On the Sunday morning, as the bier was borne to the waiting hearse, a subliminal vision flashed across my mind of Dato' Hisham teeing off in the eternally green fairway up there in the far beyond.

My deepest condolences to Datin Valerie, Zarul, Zehan, Zahim and their families.

Chen Voon Fee 1 February 2006

As an established architect Hisham has left his personal imprint in the design of a number of landmark buildings in Kuala Lumpur. But he was equally concerned about saving several of what he called our "amazing" buildings. He was adamant that buildings such as Central Market and the former Telephone Exchange building must be kept.

The classic building at the foot of Bukit Nanas that now houses the Telecommunications Museum would have been demolished but for the voices of Hisham and others who shared similar concern. In the early 1980's there was a proposal to build a modern Telecommunications Complex and Centre at that area. The plan included the demolition of the former Telephone Exchange building.

Fortunately, Hisham and others who felt the same way were able to highlight to the right ears the architectural value of the building. I well remember Hisham explaining that this building was the only example of the perfect Corinthian columns in the country and how important it was that architectural students should have the opportunity to observe and study them. The demolition plan was aborted and the building saved as a result of the concerns of Hisham and others like him. The building remains as an architectural landmark in Kuala Lumpur.

Leo Moggie 11 February 2006

Allahyarham Ar Dato' Ikmal Hisham Albakri

I first heard of Dato' Hisham while I was an architectural student in London about 27 years ago. His name was mentioned at a private dinner with Frederick Roundhwaite, a former President of the Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA) who praised stalwarts like Dato' Hisham for the tremendous work done in 1967 in setting up the Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM).

About 8 years later, I met Dato' Hisham when a constitutional crisis precipitated an emergency meeting on a Saturday morning and PAM members flew in to KL from the region to pack the hall, a PAM first! Then already a former president (the first) of PAM, Dato' Hisham was beaming with pride and appreciation that his selfless work in drafting the constitution had evinced a full house to debate the various clauses of the instrument. As he said, "I never dreamt that such a morning could happen!" Such were the untiring efforts made by him in what was essentially a thankless task - attending meetings, working on papers and proposals, mediating between opposing factions, for the betterment of the Institute, all for charity so to speak. Humble, courteous, gentlemanly and dignified in the way he conducted himself, he was President of the CAA, one of many eminent positions he held both at home and abroad. I especially enjoyed the outing in 2003 to the British High Commissioner's House in KL where Dato' Hisham with quiet pride and great satisfaction showed us around one of his architectural works.

With his passing, the world is poorer for the loss of a gentleman architect of the old school.

Lim Take Bane 20th February

Highlighting a Building

Masjid Negara – the National Mosque A discussion with the late Ar Dato' (Dr) Hisham Albakri by Diana Cooper

All photographs by Diana Cooper



There could have been no better person, to talk to about the National Mosque, a building that in its forty-year existence seems to have spun its own folklore, than Dato Albakri.

Hisham Albakri was part of a three man Public Works Department (now JFK) team, with Baharuddin Kassim and headed by Howard Ashley a UK architect, who were responsible for designing the mosque. Hisham said he was involved in developing the plan and was the project's spokesperson, frequently giving reports to the press. After two years Hisham left the team to take up a scholarship. At this point the piling phase of the mosque construction was underway.

Tunku Abdul Rahman, Malaysia's first Prime Minister had a vision for the newly independent country, and he wanted this to be reflected in a series of buildings that would depict both the optimism and uniqueness of the young nation. These buildings were to include a new museum, a parliament building, a national mosque, a stadium, a national monument and also a new palace. Only the Merdeka Stadium was completed before the Independence celebrations.

The first site chosen for the national mosque was close to the Lake Gardens. The proposal was for a grand building elevated on a hill. But Tunku Rahman was adamant; he wanted a mosque that would be used, not admired from a distance. Consequently he insisted that it was easily accessible and located nearer to the town.

Various other sites were suggested and finally a four-hectare piece of land close to the railway station on what was formerly Victory Avenue was nominated. Initially there was considerable opposition to this choice, the main objection being that there was a deep ravine between two major roads in the area. Ironically, transporting the earth excavated from the site of Merdeka Stadium to fill the ravine solved this problem.

Tunku Abdul Rahman gave only general instructions concerning the design of the new mosque. Two major considerations were that it had to have a distinctive design that identified it as Malaysian, and have the capacity for 8,000 worshippers.

Hisham explained that the design approach was very simple and was based on three concepts. Primarily, it was to have the identity of a mosque. Secondly, it was to have a Malaysian identity and not look as though it had been transported from another country. Thirdly it was to be contemporary, giving the architectural team the exciting challenge of experimenting with new materials.

An innovative roof adapted from an open umbrella, and acting as Hisham said "like a tent", was made from reinforced concrete. This theme was echoed in the styling of the 73.5 metre minaret shaped like a folded umbrella.



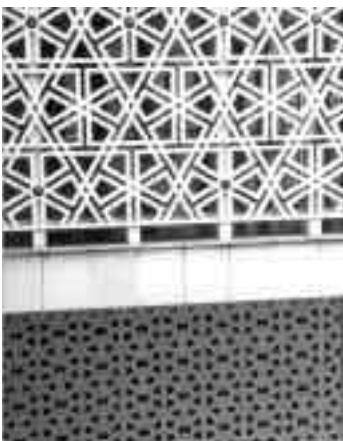
A neutral colour, a light pink was deliberately chosen for the roof so that it could not be claimed as belonging to any one specific state. The 18 spokes of the main roof has since been interpreted as symbolising the 13 Malay states plus the 5 pillars of Islam. According to Hisham this is erroneous, as he pointed out at the time of the building's inception only 11 states existed in Malaysia.



The distinctive umbrella roof shape is also mirrored in the design of the Makam Phlawan, the National Heroes Mausoleum at the rear of the mosque compound. This roof has remained as it was originally constructed, whereas the main roof was given an additional layer of green and blue tiling during extensive renovations in 1987.



Sensitivity to the tropical environment is a very conscious design element of the mosque, portrayed in the interpretation of the verandahs and the use of water. 5,000 people can be accommodated in these large airy verandahs that use pilotis columns making the structure seem raised like a traditional Malay house on stilts. A latticework of grilles that connects the interior with the outside environment further enhances the ventilation and the sense of space. Water circles the Heroes Mausoleum, cool reflecting pools flank the building and it is from a pool that the single minaret dramatically soars.



After three and half years of construction the Mosque was completed. Local craftsmen were employed throughout to build the mosque and wherever possible materials were sourced locally; the marble for example came from Langkawi. On 27th August 1965 the National Mosque was officially opened for prayers.

Forty years later the National Mosque is admired for its tranquillity and aesthetic beauty created by the clean lines, functionality and integrity of the design. The Mosque remains one of the most modern and innovative in Southeast Asia, to the everlasting credit of the architects.

This initiates a new occasional series to be featured in future Bulletins.

On 18 October 2003, the late Dato' Dr. Ar. I Hisham Albakri graciously agreed to lead a members' visit to the British High Commissioner's Residence in Kuala Lumpur. He gave a short talk entitled "The design of the British High Commissioner's Residence in the Context of Malaysian Architecture" and also prepared and distributed a little booklet on the subject.

The following is an extract from booklet:

Appreciation of Architecture

It is always my objective to advocate - when talking to non architects or layman on occasions like this - to convince them of the philosophy "appreciation of architecture" – different from talking about property development, building industry and commercialism of buildings. The term "architecture appreciation" is used to promote the idea that architecture can be enjoyed much as performing or visual arts, physically through the senses. Architecture appreciation like music appreciation or art appreciation is learned. In music, it is learning to hear. In art, how to see. In the case of architecture, it is learning how to perceive.

Trips & Visits

Merdeka Legacy Visit 2

Parliament House, Kuala Lumpur
10.30 a.m., Wednesday 1 March 2006

With the formation of the Federal Executive Council in 1909, Parliamentary Democracy in Malaysia began to develop. This personal tour of the site will be a great opportunity to learn about the workings of the supreme legislative authority of our nation.

There is a formal dress code – for details please contact the secretariat. Photography and smoking are not allowed in the premises.

RM10 per member. Please provide your full name and IC or passport number when registering. If you are driving, please also provide your vehicle registration number. Members not on the list will not be allowed entry.

2006 Visits Programme

Badan Warisan Malaysia would like to invite members to send in their suggestions for trips and visits and better yet, volunteer time and effort to help us run these members' programmes! Details will be published in the next Buletin Warisan and Web site. Our next visit is expected to be a day trip to Kampar on 8 April 2006.

Kandis Resource Centre News from 2005

By Datin C. Waveney Jenkins

2005 saw the end of the first stage of development of the Kandis Resource Centre. The publication of the book, *Spirit of Wood*, had been the first major achievement which has enabled us to persuade both governmental and academic sectors of the importance of giving support and attention to the woodcarvers of the East Coast of Malaysia.

After the euphoria of the progression from the small show at the Badan Warisan Malaysia in 2000, through the dramatic exhibition at the Asian Civilisations Museums (estimated visitor numbers 10 000) and the more subdued but classic show at the Brunei Gallery in London (where the electronic eye clocked in over 11 000 visitors which does not include groups) in 2005 the collection returned to Malaysia, and to the Muzium Negara where the exhibition was opened by HRH the Sultan of Selangor – who delighted us all by taking over an hour looking at all the exhibits, which meant that all the other VIPs had to take a similar time instead of the normal ten minutes!

In June, we were able to draw together a very distinguished group of international and Malaysian speakers for a seminar on the origins of Malay design. Several members of the Badan Warisan supported this – and we were very happy with both the attendance and the free and open debate that occurred.

From the lectures in London, a special edition of the *School of Oriental and African Studies journal*, Indonesian and Malay world has been issued, which can be ordered from me. It carries Rosnawati's thesis on the Langkasuka motif, Dr Annabel Gallop's seminal article on illuminations in Malay Korans, and an extended article on Malay motifs in the batiks of Jambi. For this issue for the first time ever, they included full colour illustrations.

The papers from the June seminar will also be published during the next year – academics are notoriously difficult to get finished texts out of – specially when scattered over the world.

The exhibition travelled onto the Muzium Terengganu in September, and finally reached home right in the middle of the monsoon rains in November, which was not ideal.

Rosnawati Othman is now finalising plans for accommodation for students at Kandis – where already a sculptor from the Prince of Wales Institute's Visual Islamic Arts (VITA) in London has already spent a month studying the various aspects of Malay design. Both UTM and IIUM are also sending busloads of students to spend time studying the artefacts and old carvings on the traditional houses at the site under Rosnawati and Norhaiza Noordin's tutelage.

The help, advice and the support of Badan Warisan Malaysia throughout this time has been of huge value, and has been greatly appreciated. Long may both organisations flourish!]



*Rumah Pelawat, Kg Raja.
Norhaiza Noordin's guest house at Kampong Raja.*



*Norhaiza Noordin's home
The courtyard, with traditional houses grouped around it.*



*Pintu Gerbang Dato Perdana
Norhaiza has placed this 150 year old gateway
in a protected position.*



*Guest house, Kg Raja.
Guest house at Norhaiza Noordin's home*



Kampong Kandis.



*Interior of 2nd house
Rear gable end of Rumah Ibu with superbly carved windows.
Simple solid shutters close the lower windows.*



Looking towards the Kandis Resource Centre.



*Houses under restoration.
Old houses in process of re-erection*



*Norhaiza Noordin and his wife with Puan Rosnawati.
An informal eating area by the Waakaf.*



*Pintu Gerbang Kg Raja.
The gateway to Norhaiza Noordin's home*

Malayan Railways

As it was known before it became KTMB Some glimpses into the distant past

By Dr Chandran Jeshurun

The dates of our railway system's growth, expansion and evolution are fairly well known as we commemorate its 120th anniversary. It all began with the coming of the British and the opening of the first line from Taiping to Port Weld, an eight-mile stretch that was, in fact, laid in 1884 by Ceylonese railway workers. The next line was the one from Kuala Lumpur to Klang, a distance of some 22 miles, and by July 1896 practically all the Federated Malay States of Perak, Selangor, Negri Sembilan and Pahang had their own railway lines. Thus, there came into being a number of rather unusual and long-forgotten lines that led to such places as Telok Anson, Tapah Road, Kuala Kubu Bharu, Port Dickson and Malacca. It was not until 1903 that a continuous line stretching from Johor Bahru in the south to Bukit Mertajam in Province Wellesley in the north was finally built and in 1918 this was extended to Padang Besar on the Thai border. With the completion of the Causeway to Singapore in 1923, the line was linked to its terminus at Tanjong Pagar where a most elegant Art Deco-style station was built with its striking sculptured Malayan motifs. Then, in 1931, a new line to the east coast was opened from Gemas to Kota Bharu, thus, turning the former into a major junction of the railway system in the Peninsula that provided access to the interiors of Pahang and Trengganu. The only other station that served as a junction from the earliest times, even before Gemas, was Bukit Mertajam which had its off-shoot to Prai and later Butterworth while being a strategic part of the Johor Bahru-Padang Besar main trunk line.

Malayan Railways ran its engineering and operational services from its Depot in Sentul and, apart from the major projects such as bridges, tunnels and other such necessities, one of its hallmarks were its quaint old-worldly railway stations. Similarly, its transition from steam locomotives to diesel engines and, finally, electrified trains, is itself one of the most colourful features of its modernization process. This exhibition offered a look into these sometimes forgotten aspects of the old Malayan Railways many of which have been either obliterated in the name of progress or stand in silent neglect and hardly remembered any more.



Key, Kuala Kangsar, Perak by Arthur Teng



Tunnel, Kelantan by Bob Teoh



Segamat Station, Johore
by Chan Kin Wah



Alor Star, Kedah by Syed Zainal Rashid



Tanjong Malim Crossing, Perak by Chan Kin Wah



Penang Station by Eric Peris



Victoria Bridge, Kuala Kangsar, Perak by Syed Zainal Rashid



Merapoh Station, Pahang by Soraya Yusof Talismail



Tanjong Pagar interior, Singapore by Bob Teoh



Turntable, Tumpat, Kelantan by Arthur Teng



Kuala Kubu Bharu, Selangor by Eric Peris

Members will recall that Badan Warisan held a photography and ceramic exhibition to mark the 120th anniversary of the railways in Peninsula Malaysia. We are still working on bringing the exhibition to other venues but have now embarked on a photo documentation of the railways in Sabah and Sarawak.

Our Railway Heritage

Stored in a godown in a railway yard in Klang are a collection of artifacts that trace the history of the Malay Railway. A number of these items date back to 1862. But they are all looking for a home - a Museum dedicated to railways, where they can be displayed and shared with the public. The ideal location would be KL's old railway station, but this has yet to be realised. For the present the collection is being catalogued and maintained by one person who will retire next year!

Rail Link to Malacca

The Tampin-Malacca link was destroyed during WWII and was never reconstructed. Sixty years later KTM Bhd is undertaking a feasibility study into restoring this rail link. If the proposed link goes ahead it will be constructed under the 10th Malaysia Plan (2010-15) and will cater for passengers rather than freight.



Station Master sign, Taiping, Perak by Soraya Yusof Talismail

Mubin Sheppard Memorial Prize 6 (2005)

The Prizegiving ceremony was held on Wednesday 22 February 2006 at 5.00 p.m. following a seminar on the competition, focussing on the art of Measured Drawing.

Speakers at the Seminar were Associate Professor Puan Sri Datin Seri Nila Inangda Manyam Keumala from Universiti Malaya and Ar Lim Take Bane, Principal, Arkitek Shilpa.

The following were the panel of judges for MSMP Cycle 6:

Ar Lillian Tay - Principal, Veritas Architects (*Chairperson*)
Dr. Badriyah Salleh – Academic, Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris
Lilian Ho Yin Chin - Senior Assistant Director, Jabatan Perancangan Bandar & Desa Semenanjung Malaysia
Ar John Koh - Managing Director, Arkitek Majubina Sdn Bhd
Ar Lim Take Bane - Principal, Arkitek Shilpa
Tuan Haji Norzam Darmin - Principal, NKC Architect
Ms Elizabeth Cardosa - Executive Director, Badan Warisan Malaysia

Category: Measured Drawings



Winner: You Seen
Antique Gallery, Jonker
Street, Melaka

Choi Kam Ping,
Nazhatulshima Mohd
Tajudin, Tang Chee Eun,
Mohd Idzaham Mohd
Mokhtar, Tay Leong Kee,
Noraini Narodden, Chew
Choar Koon

Department of
Architecture, Universiti
Malaya (2000/01)

The measured drawings and report is a group project completed in 2001 by seven Year 1 students. The jury was impressed by the comprehensive set of measured drawings that are entirely hand-drawn. Numerous ornamental and constructional details are meticulously drafted in hard line drawings and 3-D isometric drawings with brief notes on the materials, timber joinery and architectural details observed from on site field study. Selected samples of intricate ornamental details are recorded in precise, dimensioned or scaled hand drawings and their historical and cultural references are discussed briefly in the accompanying report.

The set of measured drawings is well structured, the elements of the house are clearly laid out on the sheets, producing not just a detailed record of the building as it is today but also forming an effective representation of the feel, texture and character of the building. Together with the report, the set of measured drawings presents to the viewer, a clear and accurate understanding of the structure, construction and planning of the house and an appreciation of its ornamental richness.

This comprehensive set of measured drawings forms a definitive historical record of this Malaccan townhouse building as recorded in the year 2001. It is hoped that more institutions will include such thorough studies and documenting of historical buildings in their curriculum as it gives their students a grasp of documentation methodology, an in-depth understanding of the building type and an appreciation of our architectural heritage.

Category: Thesis / Dissertation



Winner: Order in
Traditional Malay House
Form

Syed Ahmad Iskandar
Syed Ariffin

PhD (2001), Oxford
Brookes University

The dissertation is an inquiry into the quality and characteristics of order in the traditional Malay house form. It seeks to understand how order operated in traditional building practices and influenced the form of the Malay house. In identifying and piecing together the various principles that underlie traditional building practices and techniques that have been passed through generations of vernacular builders, the dissertation searches for an ordering system that would lend a more theoretical understanding of the built forms of vernacular architecture.

The hypothesis posed is that there is a relationship between the form of the Malay house and a larger ordering system beyond the common determinants of form such as function, climate and culture, and that this could be found in the inherent rationale and 'modus operandi' of vernacular building practices and conventions of the Malay communities.

The dissertation set out clearly and in detail, its research process and methodology to uncover the underlying rules of the building conventions which have contributed and evolved into some form of an ordering system, as yet not clear, of the traditional Malay house form.

The jury finds that the dissertation has in itself, put into some order, the rather extensive but apparently disparate studies and data that reside within the accumulation of unpublished academic studies by students and researchers in our institutional archives. It sets an important foundation for further theoretical development and elaboration of the topic. A publication of the dissertation would afford a closer understanding of the Malay house form than presently available for the general public.

Category: Case Study/Topical Study



Winner: Pentas Opera,
Tokong Chen Hoon Teng,
No 25, Jln Tokong,
Melaka.

Syahril Nizam Kamaruddin,
Chan Pau Moy, Teo Lay
Teng, Chua Chee Yong,
Cheah Kim Heng,
Muzamir Izhah Mustafa

Department of
Architecture (2001/02);
Universiti Teknologi
Malaysia

This case study conducted by a group of six students in 2001/02 is commended for its comprehensive documentation and well-researched analysis of the building.

As there is scant published literature or records of the opera house itself, the study thus forms a significant accomplishment in documenting this building, particularly valued as lesser known, secondary buildings such as those in a temple complex are often neglected both in research and publications as well as in physical maintenance. Of particular distinction is the comprehensive research and analysis of the decorative motifs in the opera house

and their symbolic significance in Chinese culture and mythology. The decorative motifs on the roof, door and screen carvings and calligraphy are meticulously studied, categorized and recorded in a combination of CAD drawings and line drawings originally drawn by hand and digitized.

Overall the study is well structured with a clear and objective writing style. The thorough background research and detailed fieldwork reflect the obvious enthusiasm and commitment of the team, who has produced an important and perhaps, first major and original document recording this relatively lesser known opera house building in Malacca.

Category: Case Study/Topical Study



Honourable Mention:

A Study of Arches on
Selected Buildings During
the British Colonial Era in
Kuala Lumpur.

Umy Fareena Ahmad
Department of
Architecture (2004/05);
Universiti Malaya

The Jury awarded Honourable Mention to this study to recognize its thorough fieldwork and systematic categorization of arches of a group of historical buildings from the end 19th and early 20th century located in the colonial administrative district. The elemental study of arch forms is uncommon and tabulated methodically in a spreadsheet-like document, forms a very useful and detailed categorization of the physical features of the

arches. While brief and inconclusive in its historical analysis of specific arch forms, the meticulous field measurements and clear diagrams of each of the arch forms have created in a single document, a unique and complete record of these arches that will be a helpful reference for further study.

Notices

After the AGM by Diana Cooper

During the AGM held on 10th November 2005 there was a lively discussion about the future residency of Badan Warisan Malaysia. Concern was expressed about the rapid development surrounding No2 Jalan Stonor and the potential impact this could have on the tenure of the site. Many members felt strongly about remaining at the present location. At the Council Members meeting held on 7th December these issues were discussed and in response it was decided to appoint an ad hoc committee to explore these topics. Members of this committee are Christopher Boyd, Datuk Abdul Rahim Abdullah, Datuk Haji Ismail Adam and Dr. Chandran Jeshurun.

Their objective will be to investigate the security of tenure of the present premises and consideration of an alternative long-term home for the Secretariat. Members will be updated of any news or developments.

Resource Centre by Puan Sri Susan Jalaluddin

As members are fully aware, the Resource Centre has grown beyond expectations over the years and now holds a great deal of very valuable and most useful material. This growth has demanded better storage, both to keep the material safe and to enable full access to the information, both for external researchers and Badan Warisan Malaysia itself. To meet this demand, extensive renovations have been made to the annex at the back of the main Badan building. The toilets and shower room have been renovated for more comfortable use and the two adjacent rooms remodelled for the Resource Centre. These two rooms will be used to store the Resource Centre materials systematically in a safe environment. The Centre will now be a fully closed system and all researchers will have access only to the materials they have previously requested. These materials will be made available to them in the Reading Room, the previous Resource Centre.

There have been some wonderful donors who have facilitated these renovations and BADAN WARISAN MALAYSIA is most grateful for their generosity. Others have donated books, photographs and various other useful materials for the Centre and these are always gratefully received. We are always looking for suitable additions to the Resource Centre and ask members to inform us, in writing, of any publications they consider appropriate.

Staff Matters

We are delighted to announce that Ms Nurzaifullah binti Mansor will be joining Badan Warisan Malaysia as Information and Library Officer from 13 March 2006.

Ms Intan Syaheeda will take on the position of Project Officer, dedicating her time to our special projects e.g. Mubin Sheppard Memorial Prize, National Heritage Awards, Rumah Penghulu Abu Seman and others.

Council Members

Tan Sri Dato' Seri (Dr) Ahmad Sarji bin Abdul Hamid,
President
Ar Laurence Loh, *Deputy President*
Christopher Boyd, *Honorary Treasurer*
Dato' H S Barlow, *Honorary Secretary*
Datuk Abdul Rahim Abdullah
Ar Helena Aman Hashim
Ishak Ariffin
Datuk Haji Ismail Adam
Dr Chandran Jeshurun
Dato' Ir Lee Yee Cheong
Ar Jimmy C S Lim
Ar Lillian Tay

Honorary Council Members

Puan Sri Datin Amar Elizabeth Moggie
Datin Valerie Albakri
Datin Waveney Jenkins
Tuan Haji Norzam Darmin
Puan Sri Datin Susan Jalaluddin

Secretariat

Elizabeth Cardosa, *Executive Director*
Lim Ee Lin, *Heritage Centre Manager*
Lee Chai Ching, *Accounts Officer*
Intan Syaheeda Abu Bakar, *Information Officer*

8 Heeren Street Centre Manager

Colin Goh

Badan Warisan Malaysia

Company No. 104798-A

2 Jalan Stonor, 50450 Kuala Lumpur

Tel: 03 2144 9273

Fax: 03 2145 7884

Email: heritage@badanwarisan.org.my

www.badanwarisan.org.my

Opening hours

Office: Mondays to Saturdays 9 am to 6 pm

Exhibition Centre: Mondays to Saturdays 10am to 5.30 pm

Resource Centre: Tuesdays to Saturdays 10 am to 4 pm

Rumah Penghulu tours: Twice daily Mondays to Saturdays
at 11 am & 3 pm (other times by prior appointment)

No 8 Heeren Street Heritage Centre

8 Jalan Tun Tan Cheng Lock, 75200 Melaka

Tel: 06 281 1507

E-mail: 8heeren@badanwarisan.org.my

Open Tuesdays to Saturdays 11 am to 4 pm

Vote of Thanks

Badan Warisan Malaysia would like to extend our appreciation to all the members and friends who have responded to our various requests for used, serviceable items throughout the year. Due to the generosity of our members, we have received:

- 1) VCD player – YBhg Dato' P.G. Lim
- 2) TV with built in VCD player – Diana Cooper and Andy Drinkwater
- 3) Fax Machine – Colette and Syed Abu Hassan
- 4) Slide Projector – Bob Teoh
- 5) Selected Furniture at No 8 Heeren Street, Malacca – Soo Beng Wa

Once again, our appreciation to all members who have donated generously - items, time and services!

Reader's Responses.

In response to the November-December 2005 Buletin Warisan.

Firstly, a correction in the Heritage in Danger - Kampung Cina, Kuala Terengganu article, highlighted by Ishak Ariffin. The term "State Government Plan" had been used. Ishak Ariffin adds:

The correct term is "Structure Plan". It is provided for in our Town & Country Planning Act 1976. A proposal in a Structure Plan is only a "policy" or strategic proposal. It will have to be translated into a Local Plan where the proposal will be more specific and refers to the exact lots of land that will be affected. Or it will have to be translated into other more specific plan for implementation, e.g. Special Area Plan or better known as RKK (Rancangan Kawasan Khas). The latter is the form I think Kampong Cina redevelopment plan will take if the State proceeds with the proposal from the Structure Plan. As such, there is still a lot of room for BWM and other interested parties to intervene to ensure an appropriate plan of action is drawn for future of Kampong Cina.

Secondly, a response from Olivia Tay to "The Day the Kijang Dropped In", when Chen Voon Fee described his unexpected early morning visitor - a full-grown deer!

PERHILITAN, Olivia says are the people to call if you have such wildlife encounters. This is the Department of Wildlife and National Parks, telephone for Selangor is 03 5519 3915 and at their headquarters in Cheras 03 9075 2872. Olivia adds, "Should readers come across any wild animal that is being kept without a permit or has been poached or harassed, they can also call the above numbers and ask PERHILITAN to help."

Many thanks for these contributions. Feedback from members is always welcome.

Diana Cooper

Editor

Editor@badanwarisan.org.my