## RED NETWORKING

## PAM Awards 2013: Recognising excellence in architecture

in the process of shortlisting the final

round of entries. In all, a total of 209

criteria for judging is similar to what I would do when I critic an architectural

"As an academic (professional), my

"Essentially, we look for the balance

in achieving form and function as well as

perceived to be more innovative and

creative, thus (ending up) being short-

part of the institute's objectives

presented during PAM's Annual

Dinner to be held on 11 May at the

entries were received this year.

student's work.

listed." she remarked

**ACHIEVING MILESTONES:** The entries received for PAM Awards 2013 underwent a rigorous judging process covering 14 award categories



or Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia's annual awards, more widely referred to as PAM Awards, is practically an institution on its own, with a history dating decades back.

PAM Awards is not only a platform for the recognition of excellence in architecture, but is also a barometer of progress in terms of the quality of works produced within the industry.

Certainly one of the key highlights of the architecture fraternity's calendar of events, this year's awards increasingly bears testimony to the growing sense of design excellence as seen in the entries.

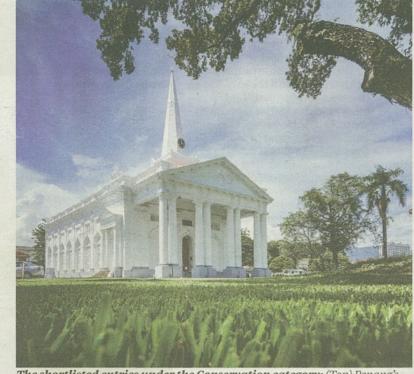
This years' event attracted participation from across a wide spectrum of 14 categories. These include the Single Residential, Multiple Residential Low Rise, Multiple Residential - High Rise, Public & Institutional, Education, Alteration & Addition, Conservation, Interior Design, Commercial - Low Rise Office, Commercial - High Rise Office, Sports & Recreation, Planning & Masterplanning, the Overseas and Special categories. There was no shortlisted entry in the Special category this year.

"We actually modelled the judging system according to the Aga Khan Award for Architecture (AKAA) with the convener presiding over the two stages of the award. Five judges formed a simple majority for this year's awards," said Ar. Wooi Lok Kuang, convener of PAM Awards 2013, who commented

from the institute including PAM past president Datuk Ar. Haji Hajeedar Abdul Majid of Hajeedar and Associates Sdn Bhd - last year's PAM Gold Medallist who has been practising a good standard of architecture in Malaysia for 40 years.

"Then, there's PAM immediate past president Ar. Haji Saifuddin Ahmad - the slightly younger architect with a downto-earth approach to architecture," he said of these two judges of PAM Awards

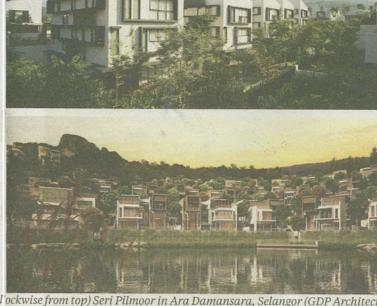
Cheah Kok Ming who is an architect and senior lecturer at the Department of Architecture, National University of Singapore (NUS) was also a judge. The composition of the jury this year included Robert Such of Robert Such Photography, a noted architectural photographer and writer for architecture journals and Dr. Naziaty binti Mohd raacob, senior lecturer, Department of Architecture, University of Malaya (UM), playing field," he explained.



The shortlisted entries under the Conservation category: (Top) Penang's St. George's Church (East Design Architect Sdn Bhd); (middle) 23 Love Lane (BYG Architecture Sdn Bhd) and (bottom) the Kapitan Keling mosque (Arkitek







The shortlisted entries under the Multiple Residential Low Rise category: (Cl'ockwise from top) Seri Pilmoor in Ara Damansara, Selangor (GDP Architects Sdn Bhd), 20 Trees West in Taman Melawati, KL (Ar. Chan Sau Yan, CYSA Studio), Rymba Hills in Kota Damansara, Selangor (Arkitek Maju Bina Sdn Bhd) and Nadayu Melawati in Taman Melawati, KL (KSKA Arkitek Sdn Bhd).



The shortlisted projects under the Sports & Recreation category: (Top) the Veil-Suited 3-storey Fitness Centre in Kuching, Sarawak (Design Network Architects Sdn Bhd), (middle) The Straits View Residence Clubhouse in Johor Bahru (Y. Architects Sdn Bhd) and (bottom) the KTS Anniversary Park & Function Hall in Kuching, Sarawak (Integrated Design Consultant).





Judging from the inside out According Wooi, who is also the principal architect of the eponymous

firm Wooi Architect, the different perspectives brought about by the photographer who oftentimes views the building looking from the inside out brought about a fresh perspective to the

He observed that the inclusion of an academician who is used to "reading plans from the inside out" made the judging process more balanced as compared to only restricting the judging process to the architecture fraternity.

"All five judges could vote for the entries. I could not vote during the process as my role was to ensure a level



Wooi, convener, PAM Awards 2013 said that the judging process this year emulated the AKAA system.

with regards to the architects behind the projects purposely not being revealed as the jury wanted to avoid favouritism.

"During the first shortlisting process, each judge made a selection of the entries individually based on the images and the plan submissions by the architects." he maintained.

that received at least three votes were immediately shortlisted.

This inevitably ensured that everyone would have an equal say rather than the judging process being dominated by just one or two persons.

"The technical reviewer acted as the eyes and ears of the jury when they to have someone neutral presiding over wanted to find out more about the angle or aspect of the entries," shared Wooi



PAM immediate past president Saifuddin proposed the introduction of a new category of awards as in the PAM Awards Building of the Year.

The second round involved a checking system which was quite stringent as it involved the technical reviewer going to the actual site to ensure that the photographs taken at the site were original and not doctored, which is

something that occurs in most awards. "For instance, even in the case where According to Wooi, the projects the tree has not even grown halfway, the rendering can be so realistic to portray a full-grown tree," quipped Wooi.

He shared that one of the shortlisted entries was actually disqualified by the jury because of this. For this reason and more, he stated

with serious intent that it is important the whole process of judging. "This year, the first round of



Datuk Hajeedar, PAM Gold Medallist for 2012 was also a judge at PAM Awards 2013.

straightforward and easy as compared past PAM president who was conferred to last year where there was a lot more the Lifetime Achievement in Architecture PAM Gold Medal Award 2012 was deliberation," shared Saifuddin.

"We also observed that each year so another judge at PAM Awards 2013. far. PAM Awards has not had a Building Stating that this was the first time of the Year being awarded. Thus, we are he was taking on the role of an assessor proposing that in the future, all the gold for PAM Awards, he noted that while winners will compete for a new category the quality of submissions this year was in the PAM Awards Building of the Year. high, he was also aware that there were other projects undertaken by Malaysian architects who are "shy, reluctant or too" listed submissions were re-evaluated, busy to submit" their respective works debated and finally, a consensus was

"Some of the projects are spread out in Malaysia and overseas, making it hard to make proper judgment. Since there sites, we are suggesting that next year, by videos," said Saifuddin who is also the ounder and director of SNO Architects

Datuk Hajeedar, managing director Anonymity was also maintained elaborating on the two-stage process. the selection process was quite of Hajeedar and Associates Sdn Bhd, a



Naziaty of UM wants more participation from other architects in order to boost the quality of the awards.

institutional buildings and interior design

smaller office and residential projects

were among the exciting entries.

project entries were submitted. The



Cheah, architect and senior lecturer of NUS was one of the judges at PAM Awards 2013.

"In the first session, each assessor

had to simultaneously pre-select their

preferred choice of entries in the various

categories for consideration. After

which, the shortlisted submissions were

identified for further evaluation and

verification by a panel of PAM appointed

technical assessors who visited the

respective sites over a two-week period."

that did not find their way to the awards. reached among the assessors to award

office developments, individual houses, categories for PAM Awards 2013.

conservation works and the relatively backgrounds of the assessors

High and medium density housing, the winning entries in their respective

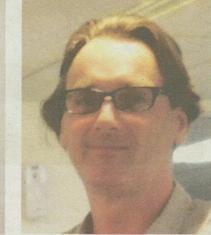
At the final deliberation, all the short-

According to him, the criteria adopted

"From my perspective, the criteria

reflected the respective professional

and merits in the assessment came



Such of Robert Such Photography, a noted architectural photographer

architectural presence and significance

the spaces, detailing, climatic response,

execution of the works, functionality and

the ultimate user-friendly qualities of the

projects were my fundamental criteria

future PAM Awards would see a rise in

the number of submissions received by

the institute. To her, this would spur the

industry to be more competitive which

"This is my first time judging at the

ultimately leads to higher standards.

PAM Awards. The quality of submissions

is consistent with the development of

architecture in Malaysia.

for assessment," he detailed.

"The total design relationship of



and writer was a judge at the awards.



**Behind the PAM Awards** The PAM Awards represents

and mission to recognise excellence in architecture. Competitions and awards are effective ways to promote excellence in architecture since many recognised buildings in Malaysia were the results of such competitions and awards. The PAM Awards 2013 will be

some "really interesting works" being Naziaty meanwhile hoped that developed in the conservation and adaptive re-use categories.

"I would clearly say that the three shortlisted projects were of very high standards in terms of conservation and is comparable to other projects in other

parts of the world," she enthused. Naziaty added that she found the first round of judging rigorous, noting that "More architects and clients should arguments among the jury members

from the first impressions, impact, participate in the PAM Awards to give a truer picture as I believe there are works that we refer to within the academic circles that were not submitted. This is especially in relation to the single residential and interior design categories," she analysed.

Naziaty shared that there were

The incoming PAM president Ar. Chan Seong Aun will also be introducing the PAM Council members for the 2013-2014 term.

Next: PAM Awards 2013 Gold

Pics courtesy of PAM.

Maiestic Hotel, KL.