

ARCHITECTURE MALAYSIA

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PAM AWARDS 2008

PAM Awards for Colour on Building 5



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One Tree House

ARCHITECT Design Network Architects Sdn Bhd

CLIENT Muhammad Abdullah Zaidel

BUILDER Pembinaan Leyan Sdn Bhd

Project Description

Nostalgic for the village lifestyle he grew up with - the client bought a kampong plot to build his family house. He wanted to return to the casual living style with generosity of space, close interaction with nature and water and enough grass for his four kids to run around.

The site had a mature tree on it, so the architect decided to plan the house around it - with two wings; one for the kids and one for mum and dad. During construction, the client's wife worried about the size of the tree, and wanted it cut down. (going against their desire to embrace nature.

Happily, Mother Nature intervened and struck down half of the tree in a thunderstorm.

The L-shaped plan meant that most of the house is one-room thick; with ample cross ventilation and views of the garden. In the children's wing, the gallery walls are angled to

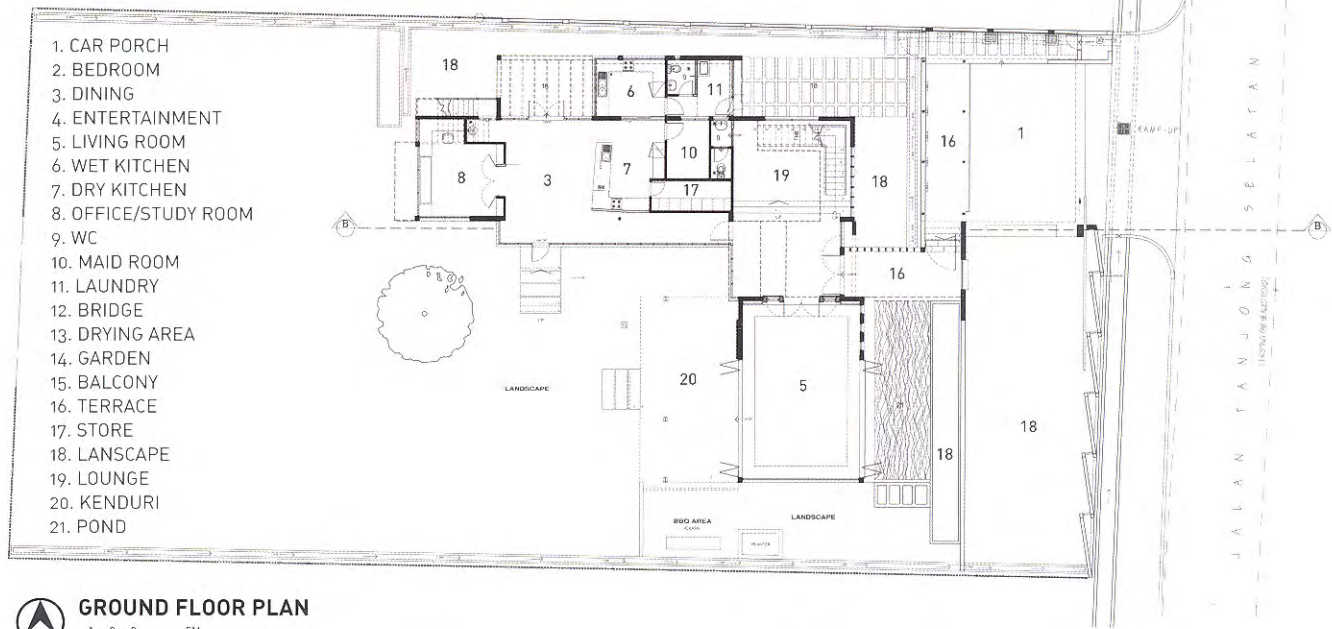
catch breezes and glimpses of the street while the dining room gallery is fully glazed to capture garden views.

The architect designed the house as a series of experiences - from crossing the pond under a low canopy to the heightened volume of the entry hall; from the compressed 'pentas' under the stairs to the tall 'kenduri' terrace and from the open-sided living rooms to the self-contained pods that are the children's domain complete with their own secret staircase. All spaces share strong links to nature and the elements.

Perhaps these series of experiences may evoke in the owner a sense of familiarity with a time past; free spirited and open to suggestion, carefree yet self-assured. Most definitely, his children would benefit from this experience; and in time, yearn to return to this.

MENTION

**Category 1
Single Residential**



Jury's citation
A well considered scheme that displayed an unpretentious response to its cultural and surrounding context. Its clarity in planning showed in its ordered and disciplined spatial arrangement as well as clear separation of primary and secondary spaces.



MENTION

Category 7
Public and Civic
Building

Masjid Wan Alwi

Architect Design Network Architects Sdn Bhd

Builder Pembinaan Kuantiti Sdn Bhd

Client Ibraco Properties Sdn Bhd

Project Description

This is a local mosque located in the heart of suburban Kuching. The land and the mosque is a donation in the form of a 'wakaf' from the family that developed the suburb to the local Muslim community.

The 3-acre site is approached via a street lined with trees. The site shares one boundary with Sungai Tabuan. An existing surau lies on the south end of the site that is populated with mature trees.

As the Malay population migrates to the cities, many aspects of their traditional lifestyle is lost simply because there are no venues available for this type of communal interaction and activity. Therefore, it is appropriate for the mosque complex to have a hybrid of spaces designed to recapture this lifestyle found in the kampong and integrate this into the local urban fabric.

The solution is a programme where a mosque complex has a strong relationship to the urban surroundings with forecourts that serve dual purposes; one of which is to link the urban fabric, allowing people to use it for communal purposes and the other as a preparatory space before entering the realm of prayer.

There are four main site forces, which drove the initial formation of spaces and their relationships:

- The orientation of the building towards Mecca
- The relationship of the building with nature in the form of the trees in the court
- The relationship of the building with the river
- The street as the main means of access

The architecture of the mosque is predominantly adapted from local built forms. There are examples of earlier local mosques, which are built along these lines:

- The need to respond to a tropical climate using elements such as the steeply pitched roofs; deep shady overhangs and semi permeable walls.
- The construction is carried out by house builders or 'tukang' thus resulting in simple forms of construction put together with care and thought.

Jury's Citation

A commendable effort in reinterpreting a building of traditional typology yet maintaining the functional and cultural context.



