

ARCHITECTURE MALAYSIA

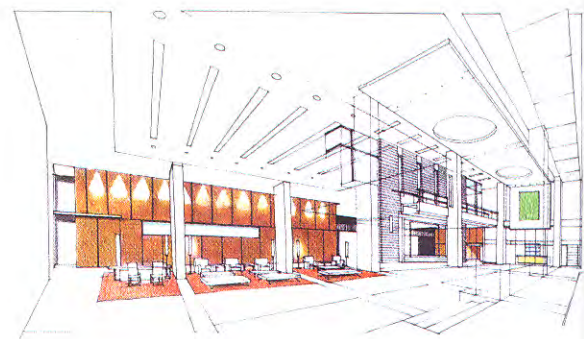
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HOTELS & RESORTS

TRADERS HOTEL
IMPIANA KLCC
WESTIN KUALA LUMPUR
HILTON & LE MERIDIEN
RH HOTEL
THE ARYANI
LAKE EDGE CLUBHOUSE

FEATURES PARK HYATT SAIGON, SHANGRI-LA'S RASA SAYANG RESORT & SPA
ST GREGORY SPAS, ARCHITECTURE & RACIAL HARMONY
RESIDENTIAL LEONG HOUSE INTERIOR HOTEL MAYA

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RH Hotel, Sibu

(ARCHITECTS'S STATEMENT)

► The RH Hotel was completed in August 2006. This 4-star hotel is located in the centre of Sibu town; 3,642 square metres of prime real estate next to the Town Square with Sibu's answer to Kuala Lumpur's *Dataran Merdeka* – a forecourt to the Rajang River and Wisma Sanyan; the tallest building in town. It is an extremely compact site for the host of facilities called for in the client's brief.

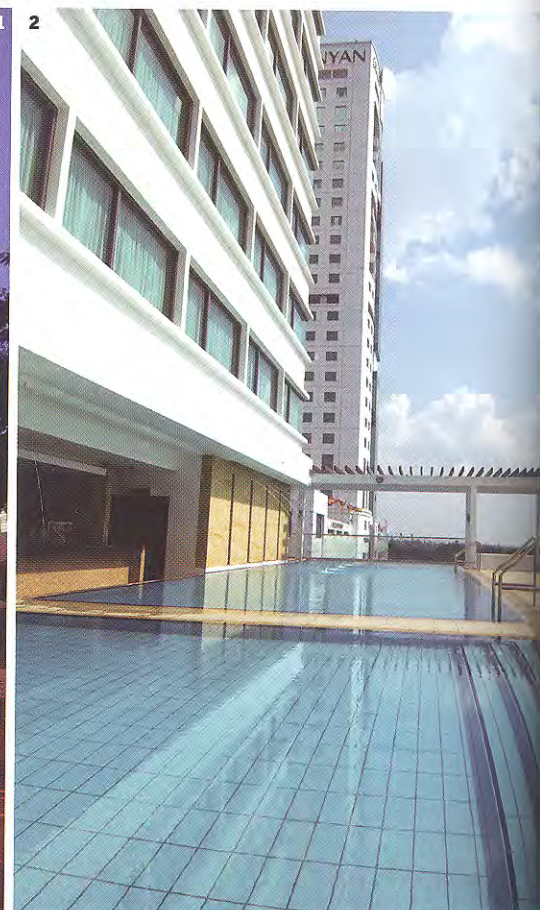
Sibu is half an hour by plane from Kuching. Its history is closely linked

to the Rajang River and her close knit community known for their pragmatism and their industry.

The past twenty years has seen an influx of people from Sibu; in search of further education, work and business opportunities. In recent years, the town elders and leaders of the business community have taken measures to upgrade Sibu's image and quality of life by the implementation of several civic projects such as the Town Square. A series of cultural exchanges have

also been cultivated with sister cities in mainland China – creating a need for hotel facilities of international standard.

The hotel building comprises an L-shaped 11-storey guest room block on a four-storey podium. The podium built to the limits of the site measuring 36 metres by 56 metres; its long elevation facing Jalan Kampung Datu, a busy dual carriageway, while its rear elevation faces an access road that it shares with Wisma Sanyan and the



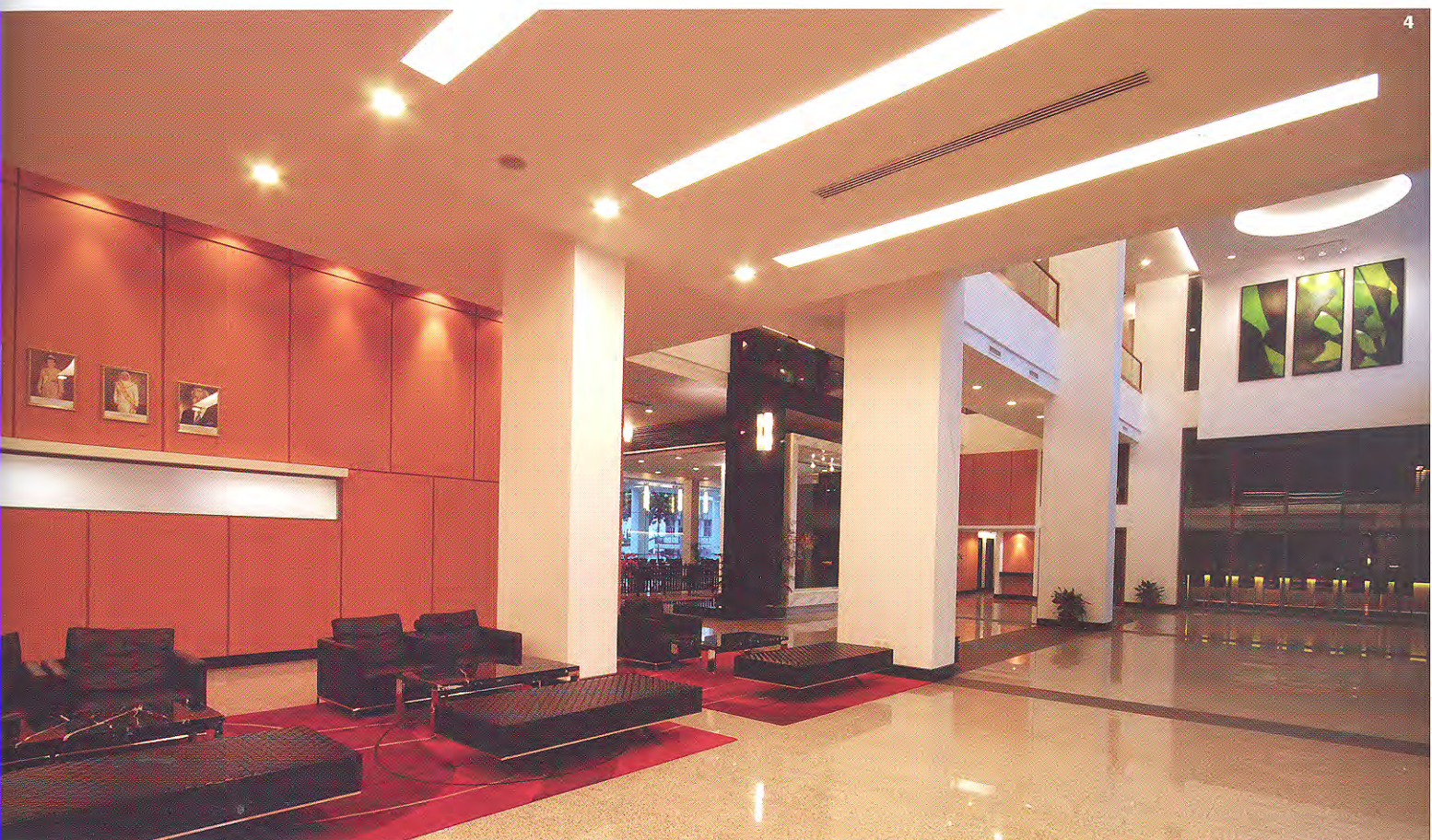


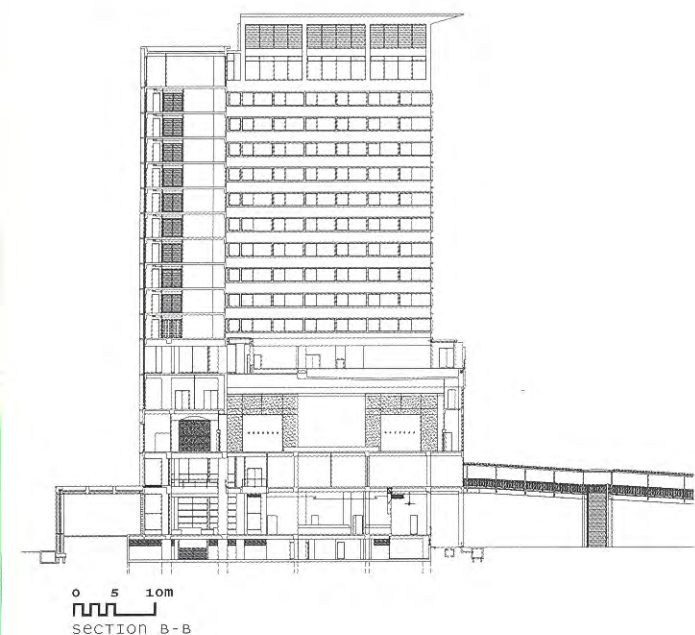
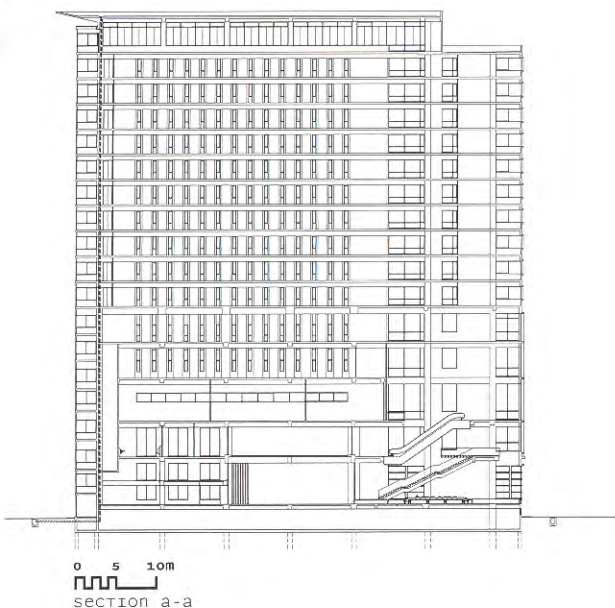
1 A view of the hotel from Jalan Kampung Dady in the evening

2 The podium roof is the setting for the pool deck and gym as well as a terrace for al fresco events with panoramic views of the Rajang river

3 The two-storey entrance lobby combines the open plan of the ground and mezzanine floor

4 A view of the double-storey entrance lobby from the reception area





Town Square. The hotel blocks are deliberately tapered back to provide a more elegant silhouette and to accentuate its height despite being only 11 storeys high.

The podium houses the hotel F&B facilities, business centre, meeting and the pride of the development – the Grand Ballroom, which has a seating capacity of 1,000 persons.

The people of Sibü have a penchant for hosting large dinners and luncheons; and until the RH Hotel was built, dinners of more than 600 people had to be catered for in several venues simultaneously.

The hotel has a main entrance from Jalan Kampung Datu, and since the building is quite shallow, it seemed a good opportunity to extend the public domain into and through the building. The rear entrance at the coffee house provides access to the Town Square, combining the Hotel's strategic location with the opportunity of mixed clientele while creating a forum for activity.

The two-storey entrance lobby combines the open plan of the ground floor and mezzanine to give a spatial experience beyond the relatively small floor area. From the lobby, the coffee house (and the Town Square beyond) is visible, as is the reception, the theme lounge and the business centre on the mezzanine level.

The hotel interiors are designed in a contemporary manner in response to the town's quest to upgrade and modernise its image in the region.

Light grey granite flooring contrasts with muted white internal walls; with highlights of timber panelling and sandstone feature walls. A black rectangle of murmuring water against a backdrop of sandstone sets the tone for the staircase from the ground floor to the mezzanine, an escalator leads to the Ballroom one level above.

The podium roof is the setting for the pool deck and gym, as well as a terrace for al fresco events with panoramic views of the Rajang River.

There are 225 guest rooms – the typical floors have rooms of three different layouts, while one wing of guest rooms lead off from a double-loaded corridor. The north wing has a single-loaded corridor leading into the suite rooms, offering glimpses of the town from different levels of the sun-lit corridor.

The uppermost floor houses the penthouse with a large dining hall and lounge.

Construction of the project took twenty months; employing simple R.C. frame with brick infill. The fenestration is from floor-to-floor using standard sections punctuated by horizontal concrete fins to create a profile that is more intimate. A curtain wall system may have created an appearance that is all too cool and impersonal.

As it stands, the hotel cuts quite a dashing figure in Sibü's fledgling skyline.

On the 2nd of September 2006, the RH Hotel was officially launched and in the spirit of Sibü's close knit community, the whole town was invited. am



5 Corner room with timber privacy screen between room entry and bedroom area
6 View of the bar



LOCATION
Sibu, Sarawak

ARCHITECT
Design Network Architects
Sdn Bhd

INTERIOR DESIGN
Design Network Architects
Sdn Bhd

C&S
Minsar Sdn Bhd

M&E
Ch Engineering Co.

QS
KPK Quantity Surveyors

CLIENT
Regalia Ritz Sdn Bhd

GENERAL CONTRACTOR
Binapuri Sdn Bhd

ID CONTRACTOR
Hann Design Sdn Bhd

GRAND JASMINE BALLROOM

The double-height pre-function space to the Grand Ballroom