

PAM launches book to preserve heritage buildings

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KUALA LUMPUR, April 2 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Institute of Architects (PAM) today launched a book titled 'Kuala Lumpur Architecture Festival 2018 (KLAF 2018): The Merdeka Interviews' in its bid to preserve heritage buildings for future generations.

PAM president Ezumi Harzani Ismail said the book showcased research and interviews conducted over a decade with 17 key architects, engineers and artists on historical city building projects in Kuala Lumpur.

"The 668-page book displays eight projects such as Stadium Negara, National Museum, Parliament House, Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka and the National Mosque."

"It also captures stories of women and men that have contributed to the development of Malaysia," he said in his opening speech at the book launch here today.

Also present were KLAF 2018 royal patron Tengku Zatashah Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah and KL Mayor Tan Sri Mhd Amin Nordin Abd Aziz.

Ezumi Harzani said the book was a collaborative effort of architectural historian, Dr Lai Chee Kien and KLAF 2018 director Ang Chee Cheong.

"We must realise that preserving historic buildings is a Herculean task for us because as architects, we, too, play a pivotal role in instilling national identity and pride in our young ones."

"I hope the book will mark the beginning of other architectural publications that will record not only the early years of independence but also the progression of buildings and our nation," he added.

Meanwhile, Tengku Zatashah said besides creating awareness on preserving historical buildings, the book also recognised the role of ordinary women on the frontlines of nation building.

"The 'Kongsi Women' who toiled in the muddy fields to bring us iconic buildings were also featured in the book on their resilience and dedication, for having worked with their bare hands, shoulder poles and buckets to carry construction materials," she said.

Ezumi said those interested to buy the book may visit PAM online store, www.PAMonlinestore.com, beginning Friday.

Visitors will be able to purchase a copy of the book at RM220 for the hard cover and RM150 for the soft cover from the online store.

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