

PAM gets new home

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The Malaysian Institute of Architects (PAM) launched its new home in Jalan Tandok, Bangsar, on July 19.

"We want to inspire future generations to dream, design, build and lead the building industry by building a top-notch facility such as the PAM Centre," said president Ezumi Harzani. The ceremony was officiated by Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah.

The 40,709 sq ft centre comprises a 2,000 sq ft auditorium, a grand lobby, a council boardroom, an exhibition hall, eight meeting rooms, a restaurant and PAM's main secretariat. The 8-storey building features concrete slabs, exposed pipes and raw brick walls. Its façade is covered in dark aluminium screens. The institute allocated about RM17.8 million for the construction.

Ezumi added: "The building was not only designed in line with PAM's aspirations to be a centre for architectural advancement and development but also took into account the environment, culture and society with a timeless and minimalist approach in the overall design and detailing."

According to Ezumi, through its Education Fund, PAM purchased the abandoned site with an old 4-storey building on it for RM6.5 million in March 2011. PAM had initially earmarked the site, formerly leased by jeweller The Carat Club, for an architect-driven centre for contemporary arts in the same spirit as the National Art Gallery and Museum of Modern Arts.

However, there was a change of plan when Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL) issued a notice for PAM to vacate its premises on Jalan Tangsi in 2012. The institute decided to change the initial design brief to build a new home for itself.



Above: The Sultan of Selangor officiating at the ceremony. Looking on is Ezumi Harzani.
Below: The new PAM Centre in Jalan Tandok, Bangsar

MOHD EDWAR MOHD NAZAM/THE EDGE



A single-stage competition, New PAM Centre Architectural Design Competition, was held and received 36 submissions. HMA & Associates partner Mohd Heikal Hasan's winning design featured stacked layouts and green solutions.

Completed middle of last year, the centre aims to be the greenest building in town and is set to meet the Platinum requirements under the Green Building Index (GBI). Some of the building's green features are an energy management system, rainwater harvesting system, 25kWp photovoltaic system, high-COP variable refrigerant flow

(VRF) air-conditioning system, energy efficient TS and LED lighting, water-efficient sanitary fittings, hybrid vehicle-charging station, vertical greenery and a herb garden. According to Ezumi, the building has five key design features — timelessness, sustainability, practicality, innovation and economic viability.

PAM also launched a book, *In the Eye of the Storm*, documenting the institute's journey in building the new centre. The council room and roof terrace were named after eminent past presidents, the late Datuk Ikmal Hisham Albakri and the late Datuk Kington Loo. ■