

MALAYSIA EDITION 8

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HOME

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THE BEST OF
RED DOT
PRODUCT
DESIGN
AWARD 2014

IMPRESSIVE
SHELL-SHAPED
VILLA
IN THE WOODS OF JAPAN

ARCHITECT SPECIAL

ARCHITECTURAL MASTERPIECES

Zaha Hadid | Daniel Libeskind | Moshe Safdie

EDITION 8

RM15



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ACGMEDIA



"ARCHITECTURE
SHOULD BE ABLE
TO TRANSCEND
TIME."

David Chan and Munn Inn Chan, Principals of Design Collective Architects.



TAILOR MADE

Design Collective Architects believe that a good architecture should consider the relationship between client and architect and spatial interaction.

TEXT VANITHA PAVAPATHI IMAGES COURTESY OF DESIGN COLLECTIVE ARCHITECTS

Despite sharing identical surnames, David Chan and Munn Inn Chan are not by any chance blood related. That's exactly what they tell their clients during initial meetings. However, both have had quite a history together. Munn Inn was once David's student at university who later joined the latter's firm Design Collective Architects.

Specialising in designing bungalows and hilltop residences, DCA regard themselves as

tailors for their approach in creating bespoke spaces. "Just because a person can't fit the clothes, it doesn't mean one needs to go on an extreme diet to make it work. So our intent is to create a dream home for each individual," explains David.

Also not the sort who follow trends because they feel that every trend fades away after five to ten years, they believe that clever use of space is far more important because humans



are creatures of habit. So would that inadvertently mean that DCA lack identity, I asked. "No, not at all. We do not have a signature style because we aim to fulfill the desires of clients. But I would say our works are distinct enough to be recognisable as we still follow our philosophy of structure over trends because the former is timeless," asserts David.

When it comes to working with clients, Munn Inn shared that it's extremely important to get along with clients so they could all be happy about the outcome. After all it's a two to three-year marriage. So when asked if working with the homeowner or developer is more difficult, David replied, "It's a different ball game altogether. Developers desire good impressions but don't live in the house, but homeowners do. It's like one is looking for a girlfriend while the other is looking for a wife. So we find it more challenging to work with homeowners but at the end of the day, we form this strong relationship and become good friends."

One client even told them that he commissioned DCA to design his home not because of their design ability but because of their perseverance and tenacity in successfully carrying out the project for several years. "As mentioned by Thomas Edison, it's 99 per cent perspiration and one per cent inspiration," concluded David. ❖

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