

Urban Naturalisation

Kalsom Mohamad, Wan Srihani Wan Mohamed, Wan Sofia Wan Ishak & NikAriff Azmee

For their final semester in the Third Year, students are required to design building within an urban context. They started by creating an object in an urban setting and culminated with designing an office complex in the heart Kuala Lumpur.

ANTI-OBJECT

'...an object is a form of material existence distinct from its immediate environment.'

Kengo Kuma

An architecture as an object is not necessarily bad but tends to compromise the possibilities of what it can do with its existence. Applying anti-object in architecture attempts to look at architecture not only by its physical forms but also the experiences and emotions that the architecture creates and evokes. Another way of looking at it is that, it is a narration of an architecture to its environment and users. This project requires students to design creative conceptual application through perceptual and experiential development and not merely from arbitrary forms or symbols. It is based on four conceptual functions: ACCRETION, BUOYANT, CAPRICE and DYSTROPHY. They are to apply a designated conceptual function architecturally unto a given site within an urban setting to resolve and develop the conceptual function with only the criteria of perception and experience.

INHABITING THE URBAN LUNGS - Green Building Centre @ Jalan Tun Ismail, KL

The Green Building Movement is becoming an immediate issue in the modern world and there are needs to spread the awareness among professionals, in governmental or public sectors. The emphasis on sustainability, energy efficiency and environmental friendly buildings have liberated new ideas and technologies on ways for our built-environment to sustain the natural resources but still continue to be developed for future use. The vision for the Green Building Centre is to generate interest, knowledge and participation. It has to be designed with innovative ideas that offer new experiences not only to its visitors but more importantly to those working there. Making the centre as the urban lung students are required to find a new definition to inhabit it for the various functions with the office working space as the main focus.

The Green Building Center is a one-stop source of "green" information, products, resources and expert support to help members in the building industry and the public to create a healthy, environment-friendly, energy efficient and sustainable building through education and examples. Therefore, a good working environment is proposed to explore such design that is environmentally sensitive by maximising passive design strategies (optimise natural lighting with consideration on minimum heat gain and glare) as well as recycling of materials. There is also the need to address the requirements of barrier free building design.