

Dynamic Urban Information Mediator

John Ashraf Lucas Abdullah

This innovative approach to the stuffy world of libraries and information centres demonstrates a total re-thinking, not only of the contents, but also the very essence of libraries themselves. Although it is still conceived as an 'institution', the dynamism of the locale, as well as the openness, flow and flexibility in the learning process and notions of fluidity and movement are cleverly captured in a design which encapsulates this new dynamism.

Begun as an act of re-thinking, redefining the institution of the library from a place exclusively for the printed word to an 'Urban Information Mediator', the 'library' is now viewed as a place to provide an immersive experience of knowledge in an exciting world of virtual information. It has become a centre for knowledge with a mixed typology of library, exhibition, education, culture and recreation spaces with their associated infrastructure. It has become a 'Media and Commerce Centre'.



■ Muhammad Khairi Ismail



The Media and Commerce Centre addresses ideas of openness, flow and flexibility in the learning process. The notion of fluidity and movement will operate against static spaces with freer movement around and through the centre. Thus, it encourages and develops relationships among its various users in promoting an exchange of knowledge through a variety of experiences at the centre.

The architecture of the centre, in its dynamic urban setting adjacent to the historical Odeon cinema along Jalan TAR, mirrors the fluidity and movement of life along Jalan TAR and the Klang Valley. The design organises a range of movement patterns for its various users and focuses its circulation systems in revealing and expressing its functions while guiding users' experience in spaces created by the movement of visitors. Conceived as an extension of the street level's urban movement that is stretched horizontally into the site and brought vertically into the centre, the radical reorientation of the public surface upwards into the green facades of the centre creates connections between the street and the various programmes offered within the complex.