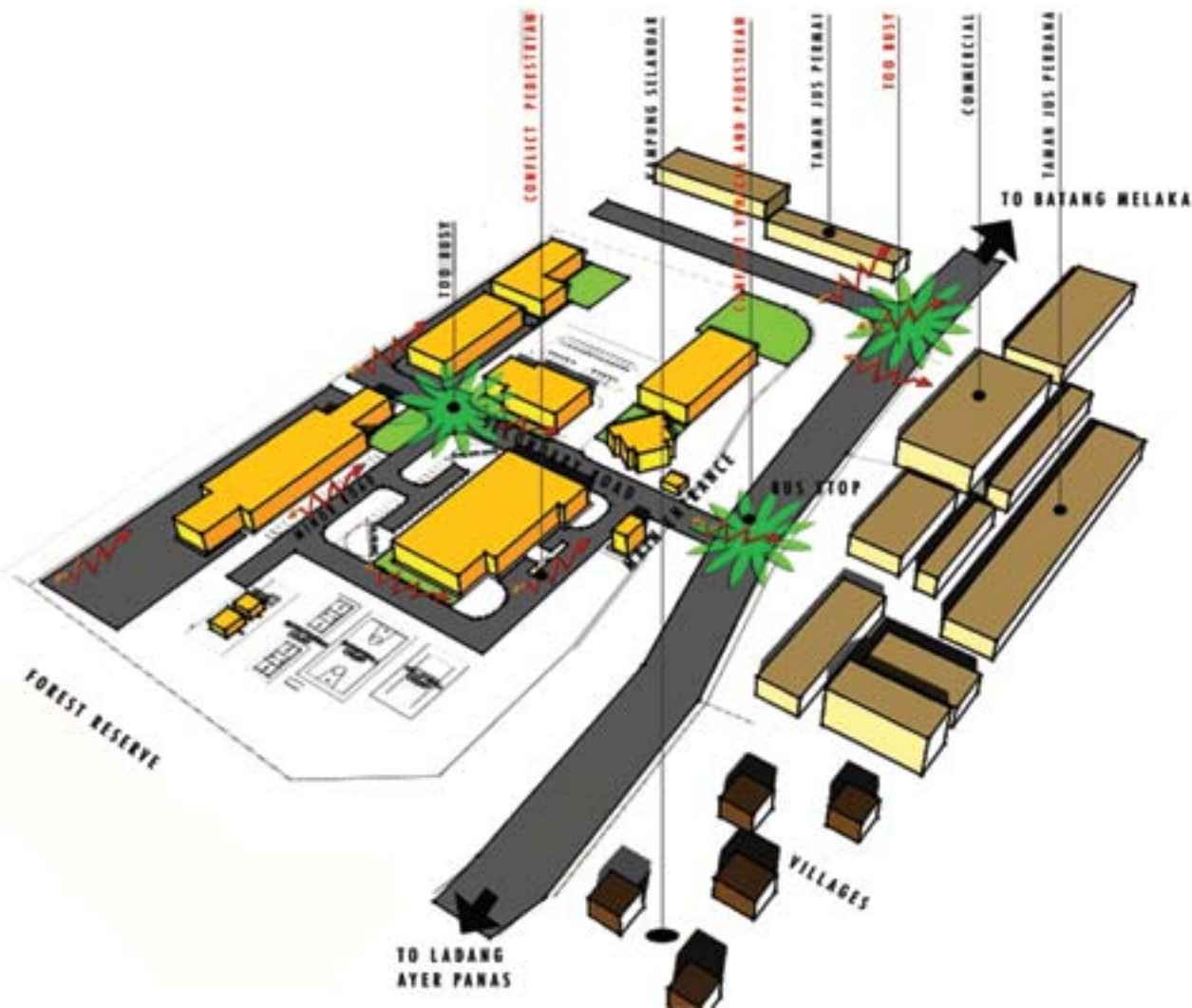


# Enriching Communal Integration

Norsidah Ujang

The proposed community college sited in Selandar, Melaka redefines the true meaning of a community college through spatial integration, identifiable accesses and effective connectivity. Reacted against the standard and ill-fitted to college planning and architectural design, it embraces the idea of sequential functional spaces providing continuity of spaces for community participation in the educational and social activities. Rooted in the sustainable concept of campus planning and design, the scheme exemplifies the manipulation of landscape elements, spaces and buildings using the concept of 'layering' of spaces from public to private with careful integration of soft and hardscape elements. These spaces support integrated activities for the existing college inhabitants and the surrounding community.

Based on the interpretation of spatial concept of Melaka traditional dwelling, emphasis is given to the spatial organisation of spaces generated by understanding their uses, activities and interrelationships. People from the surrounding communities are generously welcomed by an open public recreational space to encourage communal interaction. It is strongly directed to the main central building functioning as an administrative and information centre and library on the upper floor.



Rohaniah Mohd Nor

Buildings are organised to form a series of courtyards, gardens and water elements forming a sequence of spaces with a strong visual axis. The academic core is located in the inner layer while the residential units for staff form the innermost layer of the scheme. The meaning of integrated community college is reflected in the absence of hard edges of the site. Instead, physical and visual connectivities, integrated human interaction within the spaces and sense of harmony between interior and exterior spaces are made abundant.

The proposed model for community college synthesises a sustainable campus environment through shared activities and serves as a cultural centre, a long life learning centre and commercial centre. It forms a sense of place to which community and public can come to supplement its aesthetics as well as intellectual and cultural experiences. An integrated college environment could sustainably widen the presence of aesthetically pleasing public spaces and strengthen the campus as a community's design asset.

