

ECOWORLD FLOW GALLERY

Architectural Design

1,245 sqm | Penang Malaysia | Built 2015

“How do you extend the memory of history but yet remain relevant?”

Ecoworld, one of Malaysia's leading developers, commissioned MOD to design a show gallery and office in Penang, Malaysia. Situated at a busy traffic junction in zone 2 of Penang's UNESCO heritage district, the site is along the historic Macalister road and houses an existing 100-year-old colonial bungalow that would have to be adaptively reused and incorporated into the new design.

When first considering the richness of this heritage site and building, there were 2 possible design responses. The first possibility had long been established as common practice in Penang, i.e. create an “unseen” sacred boundary around the heritage building and respectfully distance any new buildings away from it.

Though this would allow the heritage building to maintain its rightful place under the proverbial 'spotlight', it unintentionally draws what could be a harsh and jarring distinction between old and new; negating any attempt to cultivate a continuum between old and new worlds. Instead, any design born from this approach often juxtaposes generic, physically disconnected and glaringly modern buildings alongside heritage ones; enhancing the gulf between old and new, and missing the opportunity to complement or directly embrace the richness of Penang's heritage context or distinctive architectural language.

“The New Extruded from the Old”

There is a second approach, one which is grounded in a humble reverence for heritage and pays homage to it, by literally becoming an “extension” of it, albeit with a contemporary twist. This approach seeks to create a continuum between old and new, whilst simultaneously maintaining an artful balance, which celebrates them both.

MOD's proposal takes this route and the design for the new 'extension' derives its very form, presence and articulation from the heritage building itself. The new building simply could not exist in its current form without the heritage building, and literally 'extends' from the heritage building, sharing its profile, proportions and image.

Simultaneously however, there is a clear and intentional transition between old and new building. This can be seen through the introduction of skylights and vertical glass blades along the new building's length, a column-free double-height space and a transparent glass entry facade. The new building's entry facade is also angled towards the heritage building in deference to it, a gesture which underpins the importance of the heritage building as its forerunner and establishes a clear hierarchy which pays homage to heritage.

PROJECT DATA

Architectural Design	Ministry of Design: Colin Seah, David Tan, Karen Wong, Inez Low, Marc Kho, Arnel Anonuevo, Don Castaneda
Photography	CI&A Photography (Edward Hendricks) * All images may be used and printed, courtesy of Ministry of Design
Developer	Ecoworld Development Sdn Bhd
Developer Main Contact	Ron Lim, Manager, Project Planning & Development EcoWorld
Main Contractor	TNH Group
Interior Designer	Art et Domain Pte Ltd
Landscape Designer	Coen Design International
C&S	Team PDB Sdn Bhd
M&E	GH TAG Consultancy
Quantity Surveyor	N/A
Submissions Architect	BYG Architecture Sdn Bhd
Built in GFA	1,245sqm
Land area	4,486sqm (about 1.1 acre)
Facilities Programme	Sales Gallery, Offices
Development website	<a href="http://ecoworld.my">http://ecoworld.my</a>
Construction duration	September 2014 to March 2015
Opening	30 April 2015
Press Contact	Joy Chan Seah
Website	<a href="http://www.modonline.com">http://www.modonline.com</a>
General e-mail	studio@modonline.com
Office address	20 Cross Street #03-01 Singapore 048422

Architectural Materials / Finishes

	Area	Material	Supplier
1	Structure	Steel trusses sandwiched with blockwalls	N/A
2	Façade	Mainly plaster and paint, with glazing and powder coated frames. Limewash on selected areas to match conservation building and composite aluminum cladding on selected areas.	N/A
3	Roof	Heritage-replica clay tiles	Monier
4	Floor	Proprietary raised floor systems	N/A
5	Air conditioning	VRV systems, ducted from the floor	N/A

ECOWORLD 流动美术馆  
建筑设计  
1250 平方米  
马来西亚 吉隆坡 2014  
进行中

Ecoworld，马来西亚的顶级开发商，委托 MOD 在马来西亚槟城设计一座展览及办公建筑。场地位于槟城交通最为繁忙的 2 区，这个区域也是联合国教科文组织划定的遗产区。周边毗邻有浓郁历史气息的麦卡利斯特路，并且包含一栋已经有 100 年历史的殖民地别墅，这栋别墅的重复利用也需要被考虑到整体的设计中去。

我们在开始考虑这个富有历史和文化意义的场地和建筑时，设想了两种可能的对策。一种是在槟城非常常见的解决方案。例如：使新建的建筑都和文物建筑保持一定的间距，以这种‘不可见’的领域感烘托文物建筑的地位，并以此向文物建筑保持敬意。

然而，尽管这使文物建筑在众所周知的“聚光灯”下保持其应有的地位，但这种无意划定的界限也会使新老建筑难以和谐共存；从而阻碍任何在新旧世界创建联系的尝试。与此同时，源于这种想法的设计还经常会生硬地将夺目却无关联的现代新建筑和文化遗产并排放在一起；反而强调了新旧之间的分歧，而且丢掉了用建筑语汇延续槟城历史脉络，将新旧建筑整合起来的机会。

第二种策略的考虑是以谦卑的态度向文化遗产致敬，把自己变成它的“延续”，并同时向现代转变。这种方法旨在创建一个新与旧的联系，并保持一个巧妙的平衡，使二者同时得以展现。MOD 的设计采取了这种思路，新的“延续”源于文物建筑本身特有的形式，状态和脉络。若是没有文物建筑，则新建筑根本不可能以当前的形式存在，也无从延续，无法沿用遗产建筑的轮廓，比例尺度和形象。

但是同时，我们在新老建筑之间也故意设置了一个清晰的变化界限。新建筑的天窗，沿长边设置的玻璃竖肋，一个无柱的双层通高空间，以及一个透明的玻璃入口立面都展示了这种变化。新大楼的主入口立面设置了斜角以转向文物建筑，这样的姿态表明了新建筑对旧有建筑的重视程度，文物建筑就像它的前辈，它要建立一个清晰的层级关系来向文物建筑致敬。