

ARCHITECTURE · INTERIOR DESIGN · LANDSCAPING · M.E.P. SYSTEMS

November / December 2023

SEAB

SOUTHEAST ASIA BUILDING

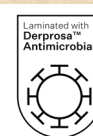


In This Issue

Luxurious Hospitality

**Exclusive Content: Decarbonisation In the Built Environment
- What It Means To Architects**

ON THE COVER: Renaissance Bali Nusa Dua Resort / Indonesia



ISSN 2345-7066





Project:
Office of WE Communications Singapore and WATATAWA
Interior Design:
Conexus Studio
Photo credit: Kelvin Cuff
Page 38

EDITOR'S NOTE

4 Letter from the editor

NEWS

6 Asia Pacific, Middle East & World

FEATURES: LUXURIOUS HOSPITALITY

- 18 Bailey Hotel & Resort / Australia
- 22 Le Méridien Petaling Jaya / Malaysia
- 26 Hotel in Bodh Gaya / India
- 30 Capella Sydney / Australia
- 34 Renaissance Bali Nusa Dua Resort / Indonesia

FEATURES: OFFICE INTERIOR DESIGN

- 38 Office of WE Communications Singapore and WATATAWA / Singapore
- 40 Office of IMC Pan Asia Alliance Group / Singapore

EXCLUSIVE CONTENT: DECARBONISATION IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

42 Insights from architects on what decarbonisation in the built environment means to them

FEATURES: PLAYGROUNDS & LANDSCAPING

- 50 Putting Play Value In Playgrounds – Interview with Patrick Lee, Director and Founder of CT-Art Creation Pte Ltd
- 52 Giving Back Through Volunteering at LIAS & SILA – Interview with Ruen Qing Wong, a landscape architect, mentor, teacher and also a volunteer for LIAS – CPSI VP and SILA council member in Singapore

MECHANICAL, ELECTRICAL & PLUMBING SYSTEMS

54 Industry News

SHOW REVIEW

56 BEX Asia 2023 / Singapore

EVENTS

71 List of exhibitions, trade shows, fairs & conferences



On the Cover: Renaissance Bali Nusa Dusa Resort in Bali, Indonesia by ONG&ONG. Photography: Marriott International Inc

Cover design by Fawzeeah Yamin

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

Eric Ooi (eric.ooi@tradelinkmedia.com.sg)

EDITOR

Amita Natverlal (seab@tradelinkmedia.com.sg)

MARKETING MANAGER

Felix Ooi (felix.ooi@tradelinkmedia.com.sg)

HEAD OF GRAPHIC DEPT/ADVERTISEMENT CO-ORDINATOR

Fawzeeah Yamin (fawzeeah@tradelinkmedia.com.sg)

CIRCULATION

Yvonne Ooi (yvonne.ooi@tradelinkmedia.com.sg)

Disclaimer

All advertisers and contributors must ensure all promotional material and editorial information submitted for all our publications, must be free from any infringement on patent rights and copyrights laws in every jurisdiction. Failure of which, they must be fully liable and accountable for all legal consequences (if any) that may arise.

The Editor reserves the right to omit, amend or alter any press release submitted for publication. The publisher and the editor are unable to accept any liability for errors or omissions that may occur, although every effort has been taken to ensure that all information is correct at the time of going to press. No portion of this publication may be reproduced in whole or part without the written permission of the publisher.

The editorial contents contributed by consultant editor, editor, interviewee and other contributors for this publication, do not, in any way, represent the views of or endorsed by the Publisher or the Management of Trade Link Media Pte Ltd. Thus, the Publisher or Management of Trade Link Media will not be accountable for any legal implications to any party or organisation.

Southeast Asia Building is available free-of-charge to applicants in the building industry who meet the publication's terms of control. For applicants who do not qualify for free subscription, copies will be made available, subject to acceptance by the publisher, for a subscription fee, which varies according to the country of residence in the following manner:

Annual Subscription

Airmail: America/Europe – S\$220, Japan, Australia, New Zealand – S\$220, Middle East – S\$220, Asia – S\$180, Malaysia / Brunei – S\$120

Surface mail: Singapore – S\$70

(Incl 8% GST Reg No: M2-0108708-2)

Printed in Singapore by Fuisland Offset Printing (S) Pte Ltd
MCI (P) 027/08/2023 KDN No: 1560 (1270) - (6)
ISSN 2345-7066 (Print) and ISSN 2345-7074 (E-periodical)

Trade Link Media Pte Ltd also publishes:

- Bathroom + Kitchen Today
- Lighting Today
- Security Solutions Today
- Southeast Asia Construction

SOUTHEAST ASIA BUILDING is published bi-monthly by:

Trade Link Media Pte Ltd, 1 Paya Lebar Link, #04-01, Paya Lebar Quarter 1 (PLQ 1), Singapore 408533

Tel : +65 6842 2580

Editorial e-mail: seab@tradelinkmedia.com.sg

Website: www.tradelinkmedia.com.sg

Co. Reg. no: 199204277K

Scan QR Code



or visit our website
http://seab.tradelinkmedia.biz

Connect with us on social media!



www.facebook.com/
southeastasiabuilding



www.twitter.com/
SEA_Building



www.instagram.com/
southeastasiabuilding

Hotel in Bodh Gaya





Bodh Gaya, where Lord Buddha is deemed to have received enlightenment, is one of the holiest and oldest pilgrimage sites for Buddhists. Hundreds of thousands of pilgrims and tourists from around the globe visit the city annually.

Spread over 5-acres, not far from the Mahabodhi Temple (one of the four holy sites related to the life of Lord Buddha), the Hotel in Bodh Gaya responds to the religious tourism in the region – designed as an ode to the historical roots of Buddhism in India.

The 78-key hotel consists of two key zones – the public block closer to the northern access road and the guest block on the site's southern end. All vehicular movement is restricted to the site periphery.

The public block has spaces arranged around a long, central courtyard, which forms the physical and emotional heart of the hotel. This zone comprises a reception, banqueting facilities, a health centre with a spa, a gym, a swimming pool, and a restaurant. A linear waterbody oriented east-west separates this public zone from the residential block comprising guest rooms and suites.

Invoking Memory and Emotion

Each space in the hotel represents the tenets of Buddhism through two key architectural lyrics – memory and emotion.

The first one – memory – is invoked through traditional features of Buddhist architecture. Vaults, corbelled arches and stepped jambs are re-envisioned in a contemporary idiom across all spaces in the hotel – reminiscent of the past but designed for the present.

The other architectural lyric of emotion conveys the Buddhist ethos of simplicity, compassion and serenity through a series of gestures.

In that spirit, a series of layers from outside to inside in the



form of outdoor, semi-outdoor and indoor spaces allow for a gentle transition into the public spaces as one enters the public block.

Portals are formed at the edges of these transitional spaces. Viewing spaces through these frames is like viewing the passage of life and its different phases. A banyan tree, the same tree species under which the Buddha is said to have received enlightenment, sits at the other end of the central courtyard, which is seen through these frames – signifying Buddhism's ultimate goal of enlightenment.

The building embraces the human scale, which is conveyed through the proportions of the courtyards, verandahs, arches and windows. The soothing colour palette of muted whites and warm terracotta further lends to the lyric of emotion.

The landscaping of exterior spaces, including the linear, river-like water body with floating lotus plants (associated with the purity of body, speech and mind in Buddhism) gives rise to calmness and tranquillity. Edged by *ghat*-like steps (ceremonial stairway to a river), the water body allows visitors to rest and rejuvenate in the outdoors.

Buddhist Philosophy and Symbolism as a Tool for Wayfinding

Ideas from Buddhist philosophy and symbolism are translated into the hotel's interiors, artwork and signage, which also eases navigation.

The five wisdoms associated with Buddhism, represented in the Buddhist icon of *Vajradhatu Mandala*, are expressed in the five public spaces – reception, cafe, banquet, lounge and spa-gym-pool. These wisdoms are fearlessness, the wisdom of *dharma*, giving and sharing, unity with oneself and oneness with the earth.

The mandala associates each wisdom with a *mudra* (a symbolic hand gesture). Each *mudra* is further associated with specific colours, seasons, elements and symbols, which are translated into interior design schemes for the spaces.

To Brick or Not to Brick

The romance of working with brick, widely used in Bodh Gaya's local and traditional architecture, was immense. However, the architects found that sandy soil on the site with a poor bearing capacity made brick foundations prohibitive. Furthermore, brick vaults are not accepted in the Indian Standard Codes





for earthquake resistance. Studies conducted also suggested that Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (AAC) blocks would insulate the interiors 1.5 times better than brick, thus saving costs and energy in the long run. Ultimately a combination of materials was chosen – RCC, local brick and AAC blocks for the structure, and terracotta-tinted concrete for the vaults – each material doing what is best for the project.

Collaborating with the Local Community

The hotel uses locally-made roof tiles with an earthy, crafted visual appeal to them as the last layer of insulation over the RCC vault roof – a conscious choice born out of the opportunity and need to support the local economy.

The architects collaborated with 26 local families in 12 villages near Bodh Gaya to handcraft 80,000 clay tiles, which insulate the vaulted ceilings – cheaper and far more sustainable than industrial insulation alternatives.

Passive Design Strategies to Regulate the Local Microclimate

Several passive design strategies are integrated into the design to reduce energy consumption and create a thermally comfortable environment, particularly during Bodh Gaya's hot and dry summers.

The residential blocks are oriented in the north-south direction to minimise heat gain from the western facade during the summer months. Aerated concrete blocks, double-glazed windows, and a double roof system topped with clay tiles create a well-insulated envelope.

The double roof constitutes a concrete vault and a pitched roof covered with steel and clay tiles, with an air gap between them. This keeps indoor temperatures comfortable in all seasons,

thus reducing energy consumption.

Courtyards are introduced to facilitate natural ventilation. All circulation spaces including the entrance lobby, comprising 30 percent of the total space, completely depend on the natural air flow, significantly reducing air-conditioning loads. Additionally, water bodies on site further aid evaporative cooling.

Channelling, Conserving and Restoring Water

The hotel's extensive water management system illustrates the Buddhist idea of mindfulness and conscious consumption. The site is located on a low-lying paddy field, in close proximity to the Falgu river. In the three months of monsoon, the river floods the regions in its vicinity. Therefore, the site has been raised to the same level as a nearby culvert that does not get submerged during monsoons.

In sharp contrast, the water in the river disappears during summers. At this time, like many other parts of India, water availability becomes a challenge in Bodh Gaya – making it crucial to harvest

rainwater on site. However, due to its sandy-silty soil, the region's water percolation rate is exceedingly slow. Thus, to give the soil adequate time to soak in all the rainwater, several interventions are adopted to hold water while preventing flooding on site, and thus, any obstacles to the hotel's operations:

- Rainwater is collected into a number of underground harvesting pits on site. These deep pits with honeycombed walls hold the water until it seeps into the earth via openings in their walls and base.
- Rainwater from some roofs is collected in underground tanks for irrigation.
- Bioswales have been integrated to allow water to seep into the earth as it flows through the site. The swales emulate natural streams supporting a host of plants that grow on both edges.
- A pond has been created in the lowest portion of the site in the east; this pond can act as an emergency water holding area in case of a flash flood.

PROJECT DETAILS

PROJECT NAME: Hotel at Bodh Gaya

PROJECT LOCATION: Bodh Gaya, Bihar, India

CLIENT: M/s Marasa Hospitality Pvt Ltd

ARCHITECT: SJK Architects

AREA: 76,000 square feet on 4.5 acre land

COMPLETION: January 2020

PHOTO CREDIT: Niveditaa Gupta