

Bismillaah hirrah maa nirrahim

Ampun Tuanku.

Mengadap kebawah

DYMM Yang Di-Pertuan Besar Negeri Sembilan Darul Khusus

Tuanku Muhriz Ibni Almarhum Tuanku Munawir

Mengadap kebawah

DYMM Tunku Ampuan Besar Negeri Sembilan Darul Khusus

Tuanku Aishah Rohani Binti Almarhum Tengku Besar Mahmud

Ampun Tuanku, beribu-ribu ampun, sembah patik mohon di ampun.

Dengan penuh hormat dan takzimnya, patik bagi pihak **Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia** mengalu-alukan keberangkatan kebawah Duli-Duli Tuanku ke majlis santapan malam sempena Anugerah PAM Gold Medal 2012.

Patik sekalian memohon sembah menjunjung kasih, setinggi-tinggi kasih di atas limpah perkenan kebawah Duli-Duli Tuanku sudi mencemar duli berangkat kemajlis pada malam ini. Patik serta para hadirin rasa amat terharu dan bersyukur di atas perkenan kebawah Duli-Duli Tuanku berangkat mencemar duli ke Majlis yang tidak sepertinya ini. Sesungguhnya dengan keberangkatan kebawah Duli-Duli Tuanku menjadikan majlis ini penuh bermakna, dan bersejarah.

Ampun Tuanku.

Patik merafak sembah memohon ampuni limpah perkenan Tuanku, untuk patik meneruskan acara majlis dengan menggunakan Bahasa Inggeris.

Menjunjung kasih Tuanku.

- Yang Amat Mulia Tunku Besar Seri Menanti Tunku Ali Redhauddin Ibni Tuanku Muhriz
- Yang Amat Mulia Tunku Zain Al- 'Abidin Ibni Tuanku Muhriz
- Yg Berbahagia Dato' Architect Haji Hajeedar Bin Hj Abdul Majid and Datin
- Yg Berbahagia Datuk Architect Dr Amer Hamzah Mohd Yunus, President of Lembaga Arkitek Malaysia
- Tan Sri – Tan Sri
- Puan Sri- Puan Sri
- Dato' – Dato'
- Datin-Datin
- Distinguished guests
- And Ladies and Gentlemen

Assalammu'alaikum wbt and a very good evening.

The PAM Gold Medal Award is the most prestigious award that can be accorded to an architect or an architectural practice by his /her/their own peers, in recognition of his /her lifetime contribution to architecture. The objective of the award is to recognize a distinguished individual PAM Corporate Member or a group of PAM Corporate Members, who has brought great distinction to architecture through a body of work which demonstrates the highest level of design excellence or a lifetime contribution which has promoted the advancement of architecture in Malaysia or internationally.

The Award may also recognize an architectural practice comprising 2 or more Corporate Members, that has similarly brought great distinction to architecture through a body of work over a sustained period of time that consistently demonstrates the highest

level of design excellence and has the advancement of architecture in Malaysia or internationally.

The Award, first instituted in 1988, has been conferred on six individuals so far. Tonight's recipient, the seventh, joins a legion of distinguished architects whose careers have endowed the profession with great distinction and have promoted the advancement of architecture in Malaysia and internationally. Past PAM Gold Medal winners include the late Dato' Ar Kington Loo (1988), the late Dato' Ar Hisham Albakri (1992), Datuk Seri Ar Lim Chong Keat (1997), Ar Hijjas Kasturi (2001), Dato' Ar Dr Baharuddin bin Abu Kassim (2008) and Dato' Ar Dr Kenneth Yeang (2011).

PAM President chairs the PAM Gold Medal 2012 Jury, and is joined by other jury members, PAM Gold Medallist 2011 Dato' Ar Dr Kenneth Yeang, PAM Past President Ar Haji Hussein Hamzah, PAM Immediate Past President Ar Boon Che Wee, and PAM Award-winning architect Ar Lim Teng Ngiom.

The man whose architectural achievement we are about to honor and celebrate tonight needs little or no introduction in the architectural fraternity. He is known to us all – to some more than others – as a professional who has since carved a very successful career doing what he loves best in his career of choice as a professional architect.

In 1986, when I received my corporate membership certificate from Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia, it had the recipient's signature on it as he was then the President. In 2009 when the recipient received his Fellow from PAM it had my signature on it as I was then the Honorary Secretary. And tonight, it is a great honor for me as PAM President to read this citation and tribute and later confer upon the recipient this prestigious award. The chance of this repeating to others is very remote.

Born and bred in KL, the recipient comes from a large family of nine, whose parents have had a great influence on the children. Out of the nine, two are interior designers, one is a fashion designer, one is a fine artist and, of course one is an architect. The children undoubtedly inherited the artistic and creative traits from their mother who loves embroidery among others. The father who was the Chairman of the Royal Federation Police Thrift and Loan Society Limited (The Police Coop) was in charge of the construction of one of the highest building in KL then, the Bangunan Koperasi Polis at Jalan Sulaiman. The father used to bring the children around to inspect the progress of the construction. I assumed this might have inspired this young lad to become an architect. This was at a time when architecture was not a preferred profession especially among the Malays. This young lad was already an accomplished child artist and founding member of Wednesday Art Group, who does fine sketches until today. The children are taught to be independent, to speak their minds and to advocate things that they believe in. These traits have continued in him and have been fact became

beneficial to his advancement as a professional Architect and to the architectural profession who he represents.

The first evidence of these traits was seen when this young lad cancelled the word naval from his scholarship offer letter which earned him early recognition as a rebel well before he started his architectural training in the UK.

He studied at Portsmouth Polytechnic UK majoring in Urban and Conservation Studies and was conferred a Diploma in Architecture in 1972. In 1973 he was awarded a Certificate in City Planning in Tokyo.

Started his professional experience in UK before returning to Malaysia in 1973. He was appointed as an Architect in Urban Development Authority (UDA) and continued to work there till 1978. His last post there was as the Deputy Director, Technical Services Division. In that same year, he set up his own practice, HAJ dan Rakan-rakan, one of the very few Malay architectural practices at the time. This sole proprietor firm was subsequently renamed HAJEEDAR AND ASSOCIATES SDN in 1983 and still is today. This spirited young man went about his career serving his clients dutifully although some of the clients preferred to call it 'antagonized' - in the discharge of his architectural duties. Nevertheless to this day, he has remained true to his ideals and I believe many of his clients are still his friends.

He was first elected as Council member of Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia in 1976 reaching the helm of Presidency in 1985 -1987 for a two year term. It is interesting that his elder sister Siti Majidah was the President of the Malaysian Society of Interior Designers at around the same period. I think this is a record of sorts in Malaysian history whereby siblings helmed their respective professional institutes at around the same time.

During this period, the recipient was also appointed as a board member of Lembaga Arkitek Malaysia. At LAM he was a member of the Disciplinary Committee. His strong principles on professional ethics, fees, and supplanting were very evident then and members of the profession dreaded to see or face him on such matters to the extent that he was known as the hanging judge.

He was blunt, sharp tongued and always spoke his mind because of his strong principles. He doesn't mince his words on that he believes in no matter what the circumstances are.

On the encroachment of foreign architects working in Malaysia without permits, it is legendary that it was during his time that he, and of course with the help of his friends in the Immigration Department and Bukit Aman stopped a foreign architect at the

Subang International Airport for working here without a permit. Till today no one is able to emulate this daring feat!!!

His other professional appointments are as a member of the Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur Advisory Board (1985 -1992), member of Majlis Penasihat Kebangsaan Berkenaan Kebudayaan (1979 – 1981, 1993 – 1995), to a name a few.

In the academic, the recipient was a part time Design lecturer under the Department of Planning & Housing, USM, Pulau Pinang, an external examiner for Schools of Architecture at ITM, UTM and USM. He is currently an Adjunct Professor for the School of Architecture, UPM since 2006. UPM has recognized his contribution to the profession by having his works exhibited and published at Putra Architectural Exhibition (PAX) 2012 organized by the Faculty of Design and Architecture.

Design wise, the recipient subscribes to contemporary design style, endeavoring to fulfill the client's brief to design spaces and buildings for the intended function while respecting the climatic constraints and responding to sustainable environment, social and cultural content. He aspires to create appropriate architecture for each project to be cost effective in construction and subsequent maintenance. In fact cost effective is practiced even in his every day life.

“Architecture is common sense, anything else is non-sense” this is the motto of his firm or is it his motto?

Amongst the numerous projects that the Recipient has designed and subsequently constructed, the most captivating building to me is the Masjid Abu Bakar Al Sidique or the Bangsar Mosque completed in 1982. The design broke away from the norm of most mosque design in our country at the time. An almost similar design was subsequently built, Masjid Saidina Othman Ibn Affan or the Bandar Tun Razak Mosque. The Bangsar mosque in fact captivated the eyes of the President of Maldives who visited Kuala Lumpur and the recipient was later appointed to build the Islamic Centre and the Friday Mosque in Male, Maldives. The government of Maldives was so impressed by the recipient's capabilities that he was appointed the Honorary Consul of Maldives to Malaysia.

As conservation is one of his major qualification the recipient assisted in the restoration and conservation of a number of historic buildings in Kuala Lumpur. The most successful being the restoration works carried out to the historical building of JKR 26 at Jalan Hishammuddin, Kuala Lumpur of which he was awarded the Penguin Prize by the Norwegian government.

Long before Kuala Lumpur is famous for the Petronas Twin Towers, the recipient has actually completed two twins; the MNI Twins at Jalan Pinang and the Bank Pembangunan and Bank Industry at Jalan Sultan Ismail.

As we all know the Prime Minister during this period was Tun Mahathir Mohamad. Tun Mahathir Mohamad was known to be on the look out for young successful Malay professional and entrepreneur to help in the nations continuing development. He must have impressed the honorable Prime Minister then as they became quite close and he was often consulted on issues related to the built environment. It was also known that the Prime Minister visited his firm in Bangsar to check on the new computer equipment that was installed in his firm. This connection is good and the profession needs such connections. Guess that was how he was appointed as Chairman of PERNAS Construction Sdn and Chairman of subsidiaries companies that followed. At LAM the recipient got another title, the Link Man....

If you talk to the people who have been with him in his office – many of them here tonight in his honor – they will tell you not to mess with him or his work! They will also tell you of an architect who clearly understands his obligations and duties as a professional; of someone who works incredibly hard and smart at building a successful career; of a devoted husband, father and today a doting grandfather; of a mentor they were privileged to have had (and still do) to guide them in their respective, architectural careers.

Lastly, one needs to monitor or remind him on the time limit when he is given a chance to speak as he is so passionate on whatever topic, that he goes beyond that allocated time. A kind reminder from Jidah to Jeedar on this for your lecture tonight.

On that note, it is with great pleasure that I proudly announce Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia's highest recognition for lifetime achievement in architecture for a Malaysian architect, the PAM Gold Medal 2012 is conferred to Dato' Ar Hj Hajeedar bin Haji Abdul Majid.

All said and done, all that is left for me to say is that I now look forward to Dato Ar Hj Hajeedar Abdul Majid's Gold Medal lecture; I know he will share with us his thoughts with real conviction and great passion and may even correct what I have said earlier. Events in the past have shown that this man just cannot sit there and listen to others speak; tonight is his night and we have concerted to let him have the stage all to himself after this! Congratulations again Dato; I can't tell you just how proud I am, how proud we all are, to be here tonight in your honor.

Please join me in extending a warm round of applause for Dato Ar Hj Hajeedar Hj Abdul Majid, the 7th recipient of PAM's Gold Medal Award for the year 2012.