

REVIVAL OF HOPE



History of St. Theresa Church

Founded in 1935, located at Old Nilai Town, Malaysia. It is in between the states of urban area Kuala Lumpur & Negeri Sembilan. It is a rapid development town in future. The connection in between is Nilai KTM railway station & highway. The church can be seen from the highway or when the train passes by In 1st Jan 2012, St Theresa Church caught on fire. The existing burnt church becomes a ruined building. But the part of the wall remaining. Afterwards, all the existing programme move to the new building at the side of the church.

Religion Communal Hub

The first of the idea about to give it a new life “Revival of Hope” to this burnt church. Break the traditional concept of church design but remain the memories of the burnt church. As there’s a railway station could be a new possibility to connect the peoples to the church. It could be considered for non-Catholics can make use of the building as communal space as well. Blur the boundaries in between the constraints of life and death, religion and belief. Change the negative perception of the people about death.



A spiritual journey in between the space

This adaptive reuse project about to inject the “Heaven & Underground” for the “Burnt Church”. As catholicism believe that life is eternal existence, death is the beginning of eternal life. When Human dead (Burnt Church) the bodies will stay at the earth & the soul will be the heaven. “REVIVAL OF HOPE” represents the new beginning of life for the “Burnt Church”. This burnt church seems to die, but it may get a new life. The injection of a floating prayer hall “Heaven” represents the new hope that brings the dead soul (Underground Columbarium) to heaven. The prayer room at the top can overlook the most beautiful scenery of view to the hill. When people pray, the priest stands in front of them. A beam of light that sown behind him is like a glimmer of hope to the people. The open underground columbarium surrounded by urn box wall. A lively “death” space filled with flowers & greenery. The floating prayer hall at the top metaphor brings the dead soul from columbarium to return to heaven.



How we preserve the historical & story of the building?

As Malaysia over-destroys buildings of historical value not remaining well. To reflect this issue. The injection of a floating block, the old spirit of “Burnt Church” completely remaining. The open building plan & materials are made of rough texture such as wire mesh & steel. It used to continue the soul of the burnt old church. All the cracks, burnt texture & broken part of the burnt church remaining. The triple volume height open steel frame structure continues the soul of the burnt church, give the dead burnt church a new life. The building itself becomes a storey-telling space. People can appreciate the memory of the burnt church. They can feel it, touch it, memorial it. It captures the old spirit of “Burnt Church”. Without touching the past. Remain it as a memory of the past. As awareness of preserving the historical building to the public.