

Levitating Our City's Image

UCSI's [School of Architecture, Management and Surveying \(SAMS\)](#) organised its first Design Review and Exhibition recently. This inaugural Exhibition showcased the final projects of the School's pioneer batch of students who are completing their first semester of studies.



Vice Chancellor Peter Ng taking a closer look at an exhibit

Themed "Levitating Our City's Image", the exhibition featured designs and models of public transport shelters. Students were at liberty to come up with designs for bus stops, taxi stands, STAR/Putra LRT stations, or a combination of any of the three. The students let their creative juices flow for almost two months and the results were nothing short of amazing. The designs and models displayed futuristic concepts, introducing a generation of aspiring architects brought up under the influence of such sci-fi adventures as Star Wars and Matrix to the world.

"Besides being futuristic and aesthetically appealing, the designs must also, very importantly, have practical elements," explained architecture lecturer, Kelvin Ching.

One design that was particularly eye-catching belonged to first year [Bachelor of Science \(Hons.\) in Architectural Technology](#) student, See Ziu Hong. Not only did his design meet the project's requirements, it also incorporated very interesting natural elements. It had a water feature below a transparent fiberglass floor to keep the shelter cool.



See posing with his state-of-the-art public transport shelter

"Instead of installing air-conditioning units that will consume a lot of electricity," he said, "the water-layer below the flooring will keep the temperature of the air within the shelter at a relatively comfortable level. The water will not be static. It will be continuously circulating to ensure heat does not build up."



Ching (right), explaining See's project to the Vice Chancellor as See and Zaiton look on behind

His design was the only one that also featured a police beat base. "Crime is on the rise and so I thought it would be good to have the police close by. And of course, the beat base will be air-conditioned. After all, the police are serving the society. They should be able to serve in comfort," he quipped.

Present at the launch of the Final Design Review were UCSI President and Vice Chancellor, Peter T. S. Ng, members of the Management Board, Head of SAMS Mohammad Zani Mohammad Zain, SAMS lecturers and students, and several guest jury from the Malaysian architecture industry.

"These guest jury are practicing architects who are here by invitation of the School and on a voluntary basis. Their role is to review and evaluate the students' projects, hence, the title Final Design Review. They will give their comments on the feasibility of the designs and a mark for the projects. These marks will also contribute to the students' final results," said Zaiton Mokhtar Shah, Head of the SAMS Architecture Department.

"This arrangement", she added, "is common practice in the United States. It is really a win-win situation for the guest jury and for the School. On the one hand, they can contribute to education by adding value to the students' learning experience. On the other, they get fresh ideas for new projects or existing ones that they may be working on. It facilitates a two-way communication between industry and academia."



Zaiton Mokhtar Shah
- Head, Architecture
Department

Head of SAMS, Mohammad Zani, had this to say: "I am very proud of the students' projects. At their level (undergraduate), the designs and the quality of work they have produced are at par with industry standards, if not exceeding them. These students will be the ones who will be designing the Petronas Twin Towers and Empire State Buildings of the future. We will continue to nurture their talents and bring out the best in them."