**ISSUE #13** MAY-JUN 2020

#### **SPECIAL REPORTS**

Impact Assessment of the Movement Control Order and COVID-19 Pandemic on Interior Design Practices in Malaysia

The Impact of COVID-19 on Interior Design Students & Academicians

# ARTICLE INTERIOR DESIGNERS NEED TO GO DIGITAL

#### FEATURED PROJECTS

FLYPROJECT BOUTIQUE GYM AT DC MALL TITIJAYA – PARK RESIDENCY SHOW HOUSE UNIT OPAL RESIDENCE SHOW UNIT

## **ABOUT MIID**

The Malausian Institute of Interior Designers (MIID) or Pertubuhan Perekabentuk Dalaman Malaysia (PPDM) is the national institute representing the interior design profession in Malaysia.

It is an amalgamation of two previous bodies namely, Interior Designers Institute of Malaysia (Institut Perekabentuk Dalaman Malaysia or IPDM) and the Malaysian Society of Interior Designers (MSID).

The vision of the institute is to develop a sophisticated society of Malaysians who are conversant and appreciative of the creative world of interior design. To this end, the institute conducts various programmes throughout the year to educate, promote and foster better ties between the public and professional members alike. These include:

- 1 A lecture series where leading practitioners are invited to share their ideas, experience and visions for the future.

2 Exhibitions highlighting members' work and other subjects of current interest.



**3** Workshops, seminars and conferences to provide a platform for discourse and discussion.

4 An official design magazine to showcase members' work plus the design world at large.

- 5 Social media i.e. a website for MIID and a Facebook page.
- **6** Developing since 1989, an education policy with academic programmes geared towards training interior designers for design excellence.

Providing an advisory role between the Malaysian interior design profession and statutory/professional bodies e.g. Board of Architects Malaysia (Lembaga Akitek Malaysia), Fire Department (Jabatan Bomba), etc. via the Architects Act 1967 of the Laws of Malaysia (Act 117).

8 Actively engaging with international and regional design bodies e.g. International Federation of Interior Architects/Designers (IFI), International Design Alliance (IDA), Asia-Pacific Space Designers Association (APSDA), etc. to promote and develop the interior design profession.

#### **MIID COUNCIL 2018-2020**

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→ THE PREMIER **INTERIOR DESIGN** AWARDS OF MALAYSIA

> DESIGN EXCELLENCE INDUSTRY

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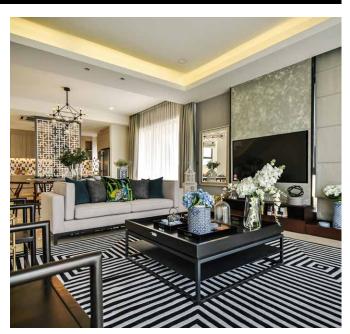


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#### **MIID CORPORATE PARTNERS 2020**

Infinite Category



Platinum Category

<u>Roca</u>

**Johnson Suisse** 

Gold Category



# **Editor's Note**

#### Welcome to the third edition of the MIID Newsletter for 2020!

I hope everyone is coping well and staying positive as we face the ongoing pandemic. We are currently under the Recovery Movement Control Order (RMCO), where many businesses have started to reopen after more than two months of inactivity. Most industries have been heavily affected, but the full impact is yet to be known. With the ongoing uncertainty, many events, including MIID's, either have to be postponed or cancelled. Hopefully, more uplifting news is on the horizon.

On a positive note, I am pleased to announce that the MIID REKA Awards 2020 for both Design Excellence and Industry Excellence is now open for submissions. Log on to www.miidrekaawards.com.my now to submit your entries!

Mr. Joseph Wong from The Star Media Group had contributed another interesting article entitled "Interior Designers Need to Go Digital", where he talks about how the interior design industry has to adapt quickly in the current environment.

A special MIID COVID-19 Working Committee was set up to compile and update members on all the government assistance and incentives provided by various government ministries. In this issue, we feature their special report on how the pandemic and the subsequent MCO, CMCO, and RMCO has impacted the Interior Design industry in Malaysia. We have also included all the information gathered regarding the government assistance programs in an effort to assist our members in any way we can. On the education front, we've also collaborated with the MIID Education Committee to discover the challenges and impact of the pandemic on Interior Design tertiary education from the point-of-view of both students and lecturers.

Lastly, we feature some of the winning projects from the past MIID REKA Awards to inspire readers.

As we continuously work towards expanding and improving our e-Newsletter, feel free to suggest any ideas by dropping us an email at info@miid.org.my.

Happy reading and continue to stay safe!

**IDr SHARIFAH SUZANA SYED HASSAN** Co-Editor

#### MIID PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE



IDr SHARIFAH SUZANA SIMMONDS Head of Communications/Co-Editor Council Member (2018-2020)







#### **NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION TEAM**

#### **EDITORIAL**

**IDr SHARIFAH SUZANA SIMMONDS IDr PATRICK CHIN YOON SEONG IFRAN YAZID KANE CHONG** 

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#### **ON THE COVER**



**TITIJAYA - PARK RESIDENCY** SHOW HOUSE UNIT MIID REKA Awards 2019 Design Excellence Silver Award Winner Show Units Category

# EVENT CALENDAR 2020

DATE TBC	REKA Workshop 3.0
DATE TBC	MIID REKA SESSION 40 VENUE TBC
DATE TBC	MIID REKA SESSION 41 VENUE TBC
DATE TBC	REKA Workshop 4.0
DATE TBC	MIID REKA SESSION 42 VENUE TBC
DATE TBC	MIID ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING VENUE TBC
DATE TBC	REKA Design Week VENUE Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre REKA Interiors Exhibition VENUE Hall 7, Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre
DATE TBC	MIID REKA Conference VENUE Plenary Theatre, Level 3, Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre REKA International Design Award Ceremony VENUE EQ Hotel, Kuala Lumpur
DATE TBC	MIID Annual Ball and Awards Night 2020
DATE TBC	MIID REKA SESSION 43

# IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE MOVEMENT CONTROL ORDER AND COVID-19 PANDEMIC

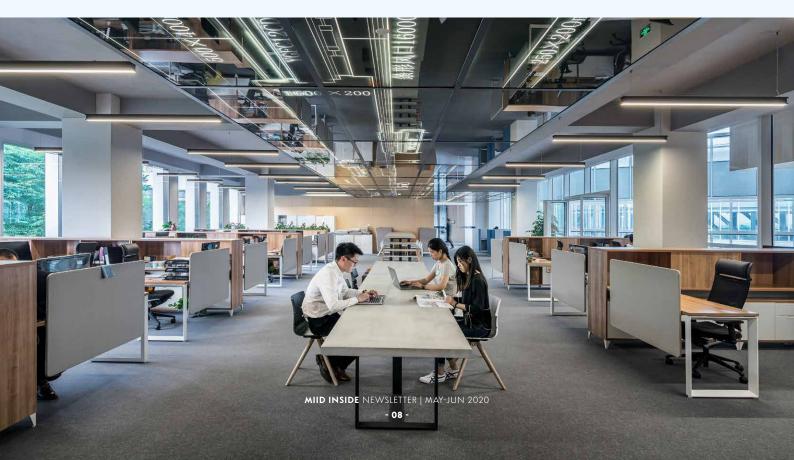
#### A special report by the **MIID COVID-19 Working Committee**

his report provides the findings and analysis of impact assessment conducted amongst Interior Design Practices in Malaysia to study the impact of the Movement Control Order (MCO) implemented by the Malaysian Government since the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2020 to curb the spread of COVID-19.

During the MCO period, most nonessential businesses' were ordered to cease operations. This has affected businesses while monthly overheads are still running, of which Human Resource takes up the largest portion for consultancy practices. The MCO has was extended to 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020 which basically meant that most Interior Design Practices would have been unable to operate for up to 56 days. The prolonged MCO will economically affect most Interior Design firms and SME businesses.

This survey was carried out by the MIID COVID-19 Working Group amongst MIID members who are Main Principals of local Interior Design firms, so as to better understand the impact the MCO and the COVID-19 pandemic have had on Interior Design practices in Malaysia. A total of 53 members participated in this survey, of which 52 completed the entire survey. In the survey we looked at the following:

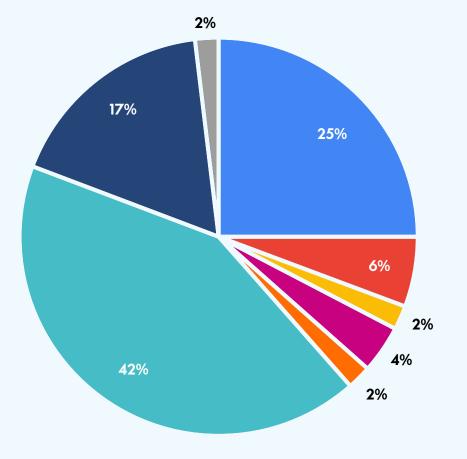
- i. The Sectors in which Malaysian Interior Design Practices are involved
- ii. The size of Interior Design Practices in Malaysia
- iii. How long an Interior Design Practice can continue paying full salaries during the MCO period



#### Sectors

Based on the feedback shown in the table and pie chart below, the two main sectors in which the Interior Design Firms practice are Residential Interiors representing a total of 41% of the Firms surveyed, followed by Corporate Offices represented by 25% of the firms surveyed. The three least represented sectors are the Hospitality, Transportation and Recreational Interiors at 2% each.

Sector	%	Firms	Sector	%	Firms
Corporate Office	25%	13	Recreation	2%	1
F&B	6%	3	Residential	42%	22
Hospitality	2%	1	Retail	9%	9
Institutional	4%	2	Transportation	1%	1



# What sector of works does your firm do?

- Corporate Offices (25%)
- F&B Restaurants/Fast Food Outlets/Bars (6%)
- Hospitality Hotels/Motels/Resorts (2%)
- Institutional Convention Centres/ University/Colleges/Schools/Centres of Higher Learning (4%)
- Recreation Theme Parks/Casinos/Clubs (2%)
- Residential Show Units/Apartments/ Condominiums/Houses (42%)
- Retail Boutiques/Supermarkets/ Department Stores/Retail Outlets (17%)
- Transportation Airports/Bus Terminals (2%)

#### Size of Practices/Firms

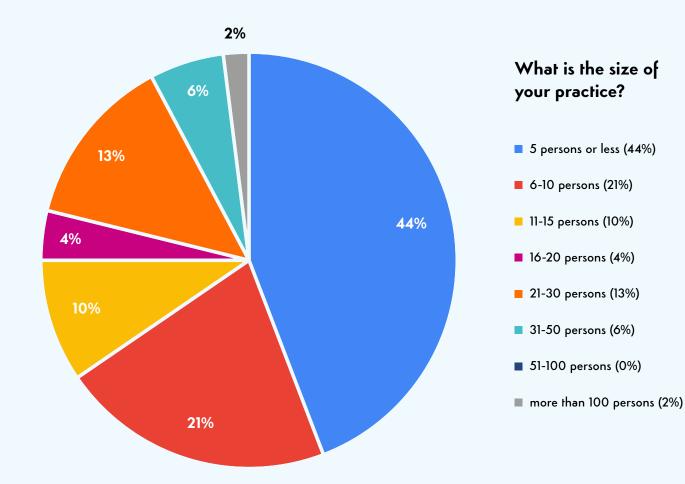
Based on the feedback, the size of Firms that participated in the survey range from 5 employees and below to large firms that employ more than 100 personnel. Of this, a majority of the Interior Design Firms tend to be in the Micro Category with a total of 43% employing 5 or less employees each. Only 2% of the participants are running large firms with more than 100 employees.

The firm size breakdown is as shown in the table, and the total number of employees were estimated based on the median of the range from the size of practices.

Size of Practice	No. of Practices	Estimated Total Employees
5 Persons or Less	23	69
6-10 persons	11	88
11-15 persons	5	65
16-20 persons	2	36
21-30 persons	7	182
31-50 persons	3	120
51-100 persons	0	0
Above 100 persons	1	175
Total	52	735

Based on the SME definition of professional services, enterprises with less than 5 employees are considered micro enterprises, while small enterprises are those with 6-30 employees, and medium sized enterprises are those with between 31 to 75 employees.

	Survey Size No. of Employees	Respondents	Percentage
Micro	5 or less	23	44%
	6-10 persons	11	21%
Small	11-15 persons	5	10%
Small	16-20 persons	2	4%
	21-30 persons	7	13%
Medium	31-50 persons	3	6%
Medium	51-100 persons	0	0%
Large	Above 100 persons	1	2%

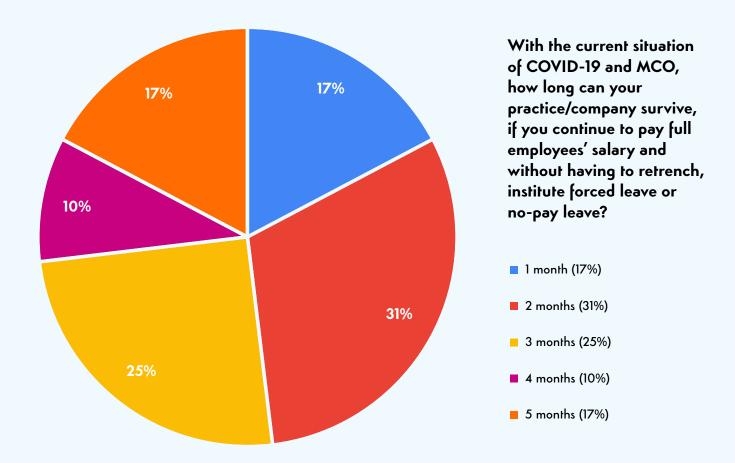


#### Ability of Interior Design Firms to sustain in the aftermath of the MCO

In our survey we also looked into the ability of Interior Design Firms to sustain their practice during the MCO, and how long they are able to sustain their firms, if they are paying full salaries to all their employees, without instituting no-pay leave, and they retain all their employees.

The findings from the survey show that 17% of the participants are only able to sustain their practice up to a month of MCO, and an additional of 31% of firms will not be able to sustain their firms beyond 2 months. Another 25% of the participants will not be able to sustain their firms beyond 3 months of MCO. A cumulative 73% of firms do not have the financial reserves to withstand a MCO that prolongs beyond 3 months.

Financial Stress Test – Cash Reserves					
Ability to Sustain (in Months)	Total Firms	Cumulative Total Firms	Percentage	Cumulative %	
1 month and below	9	9	17%	17%	
2 months	16	25	31%	48%	
3 months	13	38	25%	73%	
4 months	5	43	10%	83%	
5 months	9	52	17%	100%	



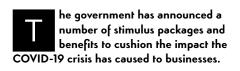
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- 1. This report is solely intended for MIID Corporate Members' and Body Corporate Design Firm Category's reference only.
- 2. MIID reserves the rights on all the data and information (contents) in this report and shall not be held responsible for any misinformation or inaccuracy at all times. No duplication of the report in whole and/or in part is permitted.
- 3. The information and data in the report are provided by survey responders and do not represent the overall aptitude, situation and/or views of the Interior Design practices in Malaysia.
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# **STIMULUS PACKAGES** & BENEFITS BY THE GOVERNMENT

Information compiled by the MIID COVID-19 Working Committee

Updated as of 5<sup>th</sup> June 2020



The MIID COVID-19 Working Committee has compiled the information for the benefit of our members.

No	Description	Website / Contact
1	Bantuan Saraan Hidup	https://bsh.hasil.gov.my
2	i-lestari	ilestarimohon@epf.gov.my
3	Bantuan Prihatin Nasional	https://bpn.hasil.gov.my
4	<b>Peka B40</b> Would be enhanced for health screening and new equipment	www.pekab40.com.my
5	Bantuan RM600 PERKESO (ERP)	www.perkeso.gov.my
6	Wage Subsidy Programme PERKESO (WSP) To extend for a further 3 months RM600/worker per month for up to 200 workers per company.	prihatin.perkeso.gov.my
7	Social Security Organisation (SOCSO) contributions for March to August 2020 salaries Deadline extended	https://www.perkeso.gov.my
8	<b>EPF contributions for March 2020 salary</b> Deadline extended to 30th April 2020	https://www.kwsp.gov.my
9	Sales & Service Tax Return (SST-02) Deadline extended	http://mysst.customs.gov.my/
10	<b>PTPTN</b> Deferment of payment	www.ptptn.gov.my
11	Human Resource Development Fund (HRDF) Deadline for contribution for March to August 2020 salaries are exempted	https://www.hrdf.com.my

#### **STIMULUS PACKAGES**

No	Des	cription	Website / Contact	
12	Bank Moratorium 6 months deferment		Kindly refer to respective banks for details	
13		e Insurance nonths deferment	Kindly refer to respective agents / insurance companies	
14	<b>MA</b> Def	<b>RA</b> erment of payment	http://www.mara.gov.my	
15		DMA ecial aid to warded COVID-19 patients	www.nadma.gov.my	
16	<b>ZAI</b> Aid	<b>KAT</b> from Zakat	Kindly refer to respective Zakat office	
17		aga Nasional Berhad bate on electricity usage	www.mytnb.com.my	
18	Inla	nd Revenue Malaysia	www.hasil.gov.my	
	a)	Deadline extended for tax filing		
	b)	<b>CP204 tax estimate</b> Payment deadline change / deferment of CP204		
	c)	<b>CP500 tax estimate</b> Payment deadline change		
	d)	<b>Withholding tax</b> Payment deadline change		
	e)	MTD/CP38 Payment deadline extended		
	f)	PRIHATIN Special Grant Every Micro company		
	g)	<b>RPGT</b> Payment deadline extended		
	h)	Notice of assessment on stamp duty Payment deadline extended		
	i)	<b>Tax Incentives</b> for companies purchasing equipment such as PPE and Thermometer		
	j)	<b>Income tax rebates up to RM20,000 for 3 years.</b> Government will grant income tax rebates of up to RM20,000.00 for 3 years to SMEs set up between 01/07/2020 to 31/12/2020.		
19	Abo	olishing interest rate for Micro Credit Scheme	Kindly refer to Bank Simpanan Nasional (BSN)	
20	Rer	ntal Exemption & Discount		
	a)	SMEs renting on government-owned premises exempted from rent payment, or provided a rental discount		
	b)	Private landowners or owners of business premises that reduce a minimum of 30% reduction of rent may claim to tax reduction equal to the amount of rent reduction for April 2020 to June 2020		

#### **STIMULUS PACKAGES**

No	Description	Website / Contact
21	<b>Reduction of Foreign Worker Levy</b> Reduction of foreign workers levy by as much as 25% to all companies where their workers' permits end on 1 April 2020 until 31 December 2020	
22	<b>Hiring Incentives is provided for Companies for 6 months</b> RM800 per month for each worker hired under the age of 40 RM1,000 per month for each hired worker above age 40 or those who have special needs	
23	<b>Encourage SMEs to implement work-from-home practices</b> Tax exemptions of up to RM5,000 for workers who get a tablet, computer or smart phone from their employers	
24	<b>Reducing the cost of public transport</b> Introduced MY30 where Malaysians pay RM30/month for an unlimited travel pass under Prasarana in Klang Valley. This initiative will commence on 15/06/2020 for a period of 6 months.	
25	<b>Complementary of internet data up to 1GB daily from 8am to 6pm</b> This initiative will be until the end of this year and is for the purposes related to education and teleconferencing.	
26	<b>Shop Malaysia Online and Buy Malaysia Product</b> Government encourages online shopping through the provision of promotion code to support Malaysian products.	
27	<b>Credit of RM50 for e-wallet</b> In the move to encourage cashless payments, the Government will credit RM50 into e-wallets starting from July 2020.	

# MEMBERSHIPupdate as of15 JUN 2020

#### MIID **MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY**

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP	TOTAL
Honorary Members	1
Fellow Members	35
Corporate Members	618
Graduate Members	51
Academic Members	58
Associate Members	77
Student Members	1,874
Body Corporate – Design Firms	15
Body Corporate – Industry	25
Grand Total	2,754

#### **NEWLY REGISTERED MEMBERS I**

#### MIID CORPORATE MEMBERS

NAME	MIID NO.
nur munirah binti ismail	M 821
farhana aiman binti fauzilan	M 822

#### **MIID STUDENT MEMBERS**

NAME	MIID NO.
SEGI UNIVERSITY KOTA DAMANSARA	
TEW XIAO XUAN	S4479
low tuan leong	S4480
NUR AMANINA HAZIMAH BINTI AZMAN	S4481
CHING SIOW MAN	S4482
LIANG JIE YI	S4483
PUA CHEE ZUAN	S4484
CHOO MAN HIN	S4485
TAN JANG PING	S4486

# **FLYPROJECT**

#### **KEY INFO:**

Interior Designer Think Studio Plt

Client Flyproject

Date of completion February 2018

MIID REKA AWARDS 2019 - SILVER AWARD WINNER - LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

## **FLYPROJECT BOUTIQUE GYM AT DC MALL**

lyproject Boutique Gym is a a chic fitness centre located at DC Mall in Kuala Lumpur.

We spoke to principal Interior Designer Kalvin Ting Lik Wen to get more insights into this project.

#### When designing this area, what was the most important factor for you?

The fitness industry is constantly changing, with new gym design trends emerging each year. Our Interior Design team collectively gathered industry insights for an in-depth understanding of the current fitness landscape.

We then worked with the client, giving the utmost consideration to the business model that the gym wants to operate. Before starting to look at space and layout, it's important to understand how the gym is going to be used.

#### What was your design inspiration for this project?

The fitness industry is also continuing to learn from wellestablished service industries, by seriously investing in a facility's look and feel.

This is done through the manipulation of lighting, music, layout, and colour schemes. We expect this trend to continue, allowing this gym to turn their space into an "experience" in its own right.

Lighting rigs, sound systems and slick studio designs are no longer just an excessive expense undertaken by the high-end clubs or boutique studios. More gyms are factoring in ambitious styling and theming to their designs, especially in sectors where they haven't done so before.

The appreciation that people are as important as the spaces in designing a gym means that the operators are more open to flexible, functional training spaces





**Left:** Large glass windows give a peek into the chic and sophisticated interior.

Below: View of the facade and grand entrance to the gym. Bottom: The reception area and display shelf with various merchandise.





when they're confident in their staff's training and abilities.

The booming popularity of the UFC and MMA style training is influencing the fitness industry. Combat sports training has always been popular, but we are seeing an increase in hybrid centres that combine fitness classes, strength and conditioning, and martial arts under one roof.

This could be with the goal of creating a real fight training environment or allowing gym members the opportunity to train like a UFC athlete. We've seen nationwide operators develop combat facilities recently, as well as independent operators looking at incorporating this into their offering.

#### Could you elaborate on your ideation process for this project?

This outlet is a modern, boutique gym. We gave it a chic and luxurious concept which

is different from the traditional patterns, colours, and layouts typically used in gyms.

To give the spaces and air of sophistication, black and gold is the main concept colour used, adding to a sense of exclusivity. High ceilings were exposed and combined with lacquer-painted concrete walls and various flooring types to give an industrial-chic vibe.

The big beams, busy piping & ducting on the ceiling was one of the design challenges we had to overcome.

We created a raw concrete texture feature backdrop to match with the main logo in champagne gold finish.

Rich colours and decorative fabrics are a signature of luxurious interior design. Black and gold as a classy and noble colour combination works well with other stylish room colours – jewel tones of emerald, ruby red, sapphire, crimson and royal blue, adding to the strong contrast of black, white and gold to create an impressive and modern interior design.

Lighting also played an important part in the design, with the selective use of various LED lights and signage giving the spaces a hip and attractive glow.

**Below:** The washroom area also carries the overall theme with various gold accents.



GIRLS GIRLS



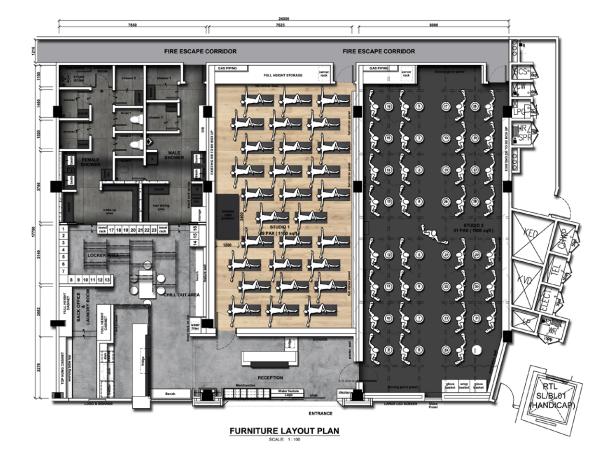


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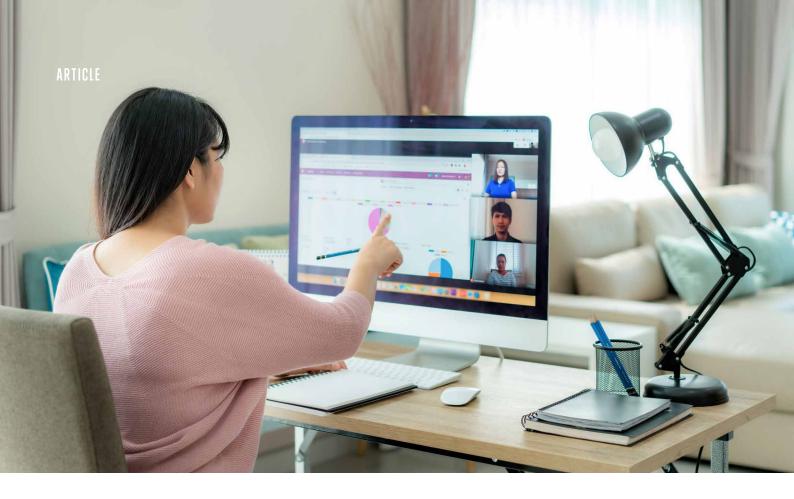
Above: Studio 1 features wood flooring.

Above: Studio 2 uses a mixture of warm white and blue lighting to create an energetic atmosphere.





MIID INSIDE NEWSLETTER | MAY-JUN 2020



# INTERIOR DESIGNERS NEED TO GO DIGITAL

Text by Joseph Wong, Content Manager of StarProperty

he COVID-19 pandemic has had a massive impact on the world, affecting not just the entire population of the earth, but every aspect of human activity imaginable. One of the biggest lessons that the outbreak has taught businesses across the world is that the adoption of digital technology has never been more vital for their survival.

Even if the spread of this deadly virus has been halted, either by finding an effective vaccine or through the measures of the movement control order (MCO), conditional MCO or other forms of MCO, things will never be the same again.

Although businesses have reopened, the new norm of practising social distancing is a given. This impacts every business. The same goes for the interior design (ID) industry. While many have their own websites and online channels, how many are actually successful in fully activating their digital content and services? Worse, how many have yet to go digital?

#### The market is here

It is undeniable that the forced confinement over the last three months has sped up the adoption of online practices. Over the MCO, CMCO and now the RMCO period, many people have turned to surfing the internet for both information and to purchase a variety of goods and services.

This move is paramount, and if interior designers want to stay ahead of their competition, going digital could mean they will make it or break it in the new normal. The market has been forced into a digital one, and more importantly, this is where the potential clients and investors are right now.

If the 18.4 million smartphone users in Malaysia are any indication, it shows

how many potential clients there are in the market locally. And with the property market having slowed drastically, there are a number of upgraders, whom due to the economic uncertainties, have held back on upgrading to a bigger home. Instead, a growing number are considering renovating their existing homes, and these are the potential clients of interior designers.

In addition, those wanting to sell off their properties need experts to spruce up their homes to get a better price.

Due to the social distancing practice, it is quite safe to say that potential clients are going online to look for ID companies for quotations. So tapping into the digital market makes perfect sense going forward.

#### **Digital platforms**

There is already quite a number of ID companies which have already

entered the digital world, from hosting their own websites to running digital marketing campaigns and social media promotions on many digital platforms.

But not every company has tapped into the full potential of the digital world, as this means diverting funds to power their drive into this arena efficiently. Because the scope is so wide, interior designers need to comprehend that for their digital campaign to be effective, they have to be extremely targeted.

The advantage of advertising to a highly targeted audience is that marketing costs can be minimised and the results maximised. Targeted advertising is possible in digital marketing because the targeted audience has already been sourced.

#### It's not too late

For the less tech-savvy ID companies, they could always take advantage of existing platforms like Facebook and Google to help advertise their services. For the budgetconstrained individuals and companies, they will need to narrow their campaigns to more ID-specific online events and publications.

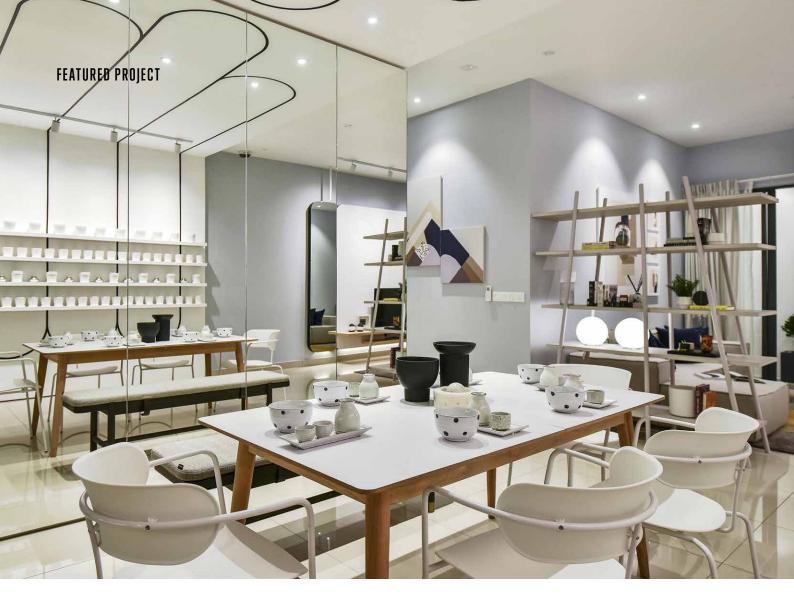
But ID companies will need to take their digitisation efforts up a notch in order to be

more successful. Most companies would have a basic website displaying samples of designs and a list of their services, but many clients expect face-to-face consultations. While this is possible via conference calls, interior designers need to anticipate the next step.

Just how far ID companies can take their business on the online platforms depends on themselves, but the digital application is virtually limitless. Left Page: Video conference calls are gaining popularity. Below: A big lesson from the COVID-19 pandemic is to adapt to digital technology. Bottom: There are 18.4 million smartphone users in Malaysia. It's time to tap this market.







#### **KEY INFO:**

Interior Designer Ooi Design & Associates Sdn Bhd

Client TLS group

**Total Area** 1,250 sqft

Date of completion April 2019 MIID REKA AWARDS 2019 - BRONZE AWARD WINNER - SHOW UNITS

## OPAL RESIDENCE SHOW UNIT

#### pal Residence show unit is located at Kajang, Malaysia with a unit size of 1,250 sqft.

We spoke to principal Interior Designer IDr. Ooi Boon Seong to get some insights into this project.

#### When designing this area, what was the most important factor for you?

Our property developer client TLS group, gave the brief to create a modern show unit for their condominium called Opal Residence. As an effort to attract young home buyers to the Kajang township, it was important that Opal's design could relate to the contemporary lifestyle of the new generation. The Opal package was designed to embody modern yet timeless design features, that could appeal to the target market of young, middle-income families, while maintaining an efficiently designed layout that is not only welcoming but also promotes good business flow.

#### What was your design inspiration for this project?

The concept for the show unit was inspired by the opal, a semi-precious stone. The stone's pure white base, delicate use of colours, and its cabochons shape was implemented throughout the show unit. By using white and muted tones as the main backdrop, pops of colour is shown through the accessories and soft furnishing. The concept for the show unit caters to young families and professionals that enjoy an artistic approach and contemporary style.

#### **Could you elaborate on your ideation process for this project?** The atmosphere tells the story of a young, artistic family that enjoys collecting modern pieces of art. The bright white tones





Facing Page: The dining and gallery wall come together beautifully with the innovative use of graphics and mirrors. Below: Opal's living room with muted tones as the base, while pops of colour is shown through the accessories and soft furnishing.



of the overall space act as a blank canvas for displaying collectibles, ceramics and modern artwork. A large mirrored wall creates a spacious environment for the living and dining area. Many of the built-ins are elevated off the ground or have concealed lighting to create a light, floating effect, which also allows for practical ease of cleaning. This can be seen at the gallery wall, where porcelain collectibles are displayed on multiple cantilevered shelves, and at the cabochons-inspired curved TV ledge at the living room wall. The living room sofa is the only large item that was purposely chosen, as the depth of the sofa creates a soft and luxurious feel while catering to its purpose. A display shelf gives privacy to the living room while providing more space to display collectibles. One of the most unique features of this space is the wall graphics that were intentionally placed at the gallery wall, which combines the wall

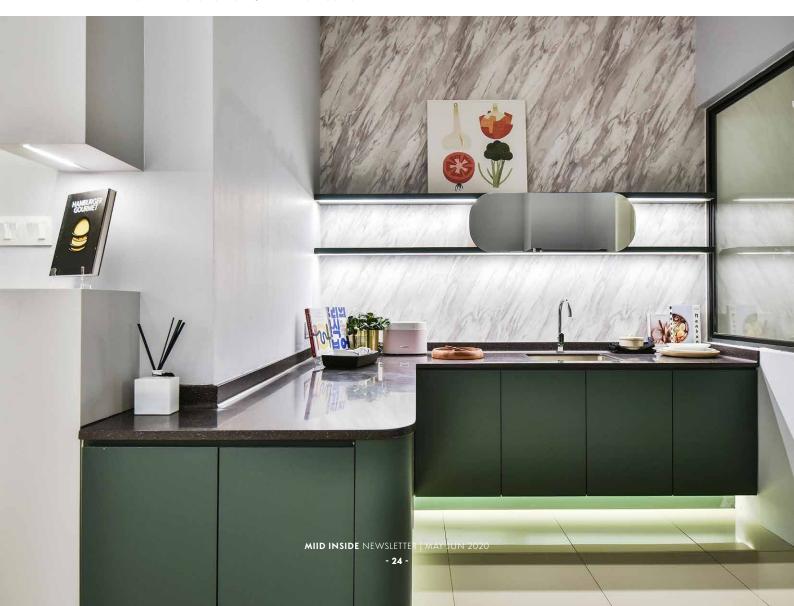
and ceiling in an artistic symmetry. Similarly, these curved line patterns can be seen repeated at the white timber wall panels at the living room, hence beautifully marrying the spaces together as one.

Next to the dining is a small yet stylish kitchen. The ambiance for this area was carefully curated with light play. Concealed lights were used at the cabinets and shelves to repeat the floating effect that mimics the living and dining area. The cabinets were dressed in a striking deep green which contrasts beautifully against the grey textured backsplash, while gentle curves that pay tribute to the opal's smooth edges are shown in the overall shape of the cabinetry.

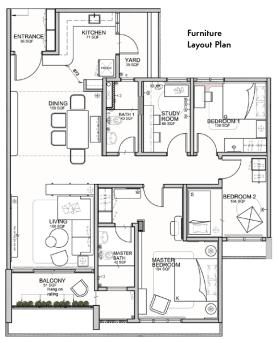
Low light ambiance as seen in the master bedroom creates a soothing and inviting place for sleep and relaxation. The illuminated headboard allows for a soft yet sensual setting, while a pair of pendant lights on each side of the bed provides a cosy spot for reading. The use of furniture is kept to a minimum in order to maintain the spaciousness of the room. This also resulted in the use of ledges and shelves. Another interesting feature is the cabochons-inspired dressing table. Its "mirror over mirror" look, combined with its elevated structure creates a unique design that blends with the rest of the mirror wall in a subtle way. A full length mirror further helps to expand the space, while a wall hung mirror and suspended drawer sits across the master bathroom, creating an elegant little vanity space to display fashion apparels.

We believe that an artistic approach to interior spaces can be expressed in many ways. For the home office and hobby room, we selected a fashion-centric theme, fully equipped with a functional and elevated working desk paired with white chairs. A deep blue chaise lounge and a soft rug adds a soft and cosy touch to the far corner

Below: A small and stylish kitchen, perfect for a young and contemporary family.







Above: A special skateboard feature wall in the son's room tells the story of an active boy with a passion for skateboarding. **Right:** The daughter's room showcases a playful and feminine mix of pink and pastels tones. **Bottom-Right:** The home office and hobby room sports a fashion-centric theme that is both functional and aesthetically pleasing.

of the room. Ample storage and display areas were provided above the work desk area to deck the wall space.

The show unit provides two options for children's bedrooms. The teenage son's room tells the story of a boy who is active, loves the outdoors and has a passion for skateboarding. The design took inspiration from this theme to create a unique feature wall, using elevated and backlit skateboards with interesting graphics, arranged in a simple yet contemporary manner to create a unique backdrop for the bedroom. For the daughter, we designed with soft pink and pastel hues, along with fun elements such as a teepee play area and a cosy built-in bed with padded headboard. Custom designed open wardrobes were also made specially for the kid's rooms. These open wardrobes were designed with a more playful approach to conventional wardrobes, allowing for a "lighter look" for a small space. Using open wardrobes also offers creative ways to store and display clothing and accessories.







# THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON INTERIOR DESIGN STUDENTS & ACADEMICIANS

A special report by the MIID Education Committee

Imost no industry has been spared from the effects of the COVID-19 crisis. With the social distancing and stay-at-home requirements, the education sector has had to switch to online-based learning in a very short period of time.

We interviewed a few students and lecturers to find out how they are coping

during this extraordinary time, to get a sense of the way the crisis has impacted their learning experience, the challenges that they are facing, what they feel the government could do to assist the situation further, as well as what changes they forsee for Interior Design eduction in the next year and the future.

Note: The following interviews have been edited for clarity.

#### Sheik Irfaan Mustun

MIID Membership No: \$3093

#### As a student, how has COVID-19 impacted the way you learn?

COVID-19 at first, I thought was going to be a huge barrier to my learning process, as I am in my final semester and I was quite worried about my productivity and quality of work that I was going to be able to produce. However, to my surprise, now that I am one month ahead in my final year project presentation, I feel like I have had quite positive gains. I learned how to be more independent and develop my work gradually on my own rather than to overly depend on my lecturers; but maybe this won't be true for first-year students. Being able to adapt to various situations is a great skill for a designer.

#### What's the most challenging part about learning online? How do you overcome it?

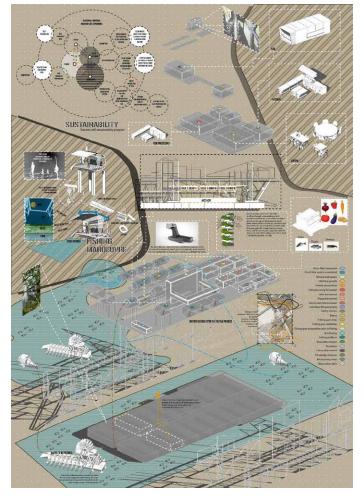
Doing models and being creative can be challenging, but not hard to overcome as I learned during this time that creativity comes around restrictions. Restrictions, I realised, is a creativity booster. Breaking routine when staying at home is also very important to keep being focused and productive.

# In your opinion, what could the government do to assist the situation further?

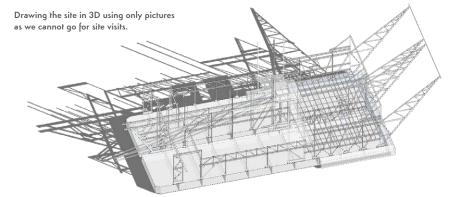
I think the government can focus on creating a safe environment for work and learning.

#### How do you foresee interior design education changing within the next year?

Certainly with new technologies interior design can cope with the challenges, but one thing that needs to be accentuated is the basics of design, understanding and mastery of it. New technologies and digitalization of design work may be counterproductive.

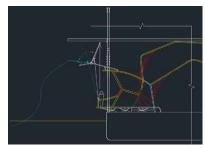


Programming boards for the final semester.





First view of the space after development, slowly getting to the final form.



After sketching in a section view, I trace on CAD before building the 3D in SketchUp.

#### Kee Zhi Xian

MIID Membership No: \$3637

#### As a student, how has COVID-19 impacted the way you learn?

The COVID-19 crisis has completely changed the way we learn and do things. Normally, I'm a very hands-on person, I really need to make something physically to generate ideas, and meeting in person is much clearer and easier to understand. But online learning has stopped me from doing that.

#### What's the most challenging part about learning online? How do you overcome it?

The most challenging part is to do everything virtually. To "make" models virtually is much harder as we won't able to touch and feel the relationship and connection between things and might not be able to generate good ideas. To overcome this, I just need a lot more time to adapt to this situation. In conclusion, this can't be overcome in a short time. I still prefer physical classes and meetings.

#### In your opinion, what could the government do to assist the situation further?

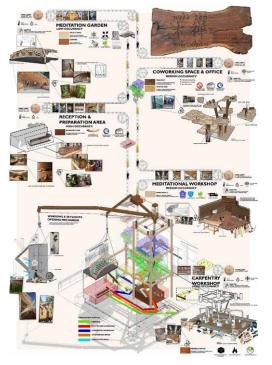
I think the government needs to find ways to continuing having physical classes, and if virtual meetings still need to go on, maybe the government can try to come out with much better platforms for each and every field. Because every field has different needs and requirements, and design needs a lot more "physical" and user-friendly platforms.

#### How do you foresee interior design education changing within the next year?

I think if design education needs to be in the virtual, online world, I think the "results" of it will not be as good as the results now. This is because design can't be taught online as easily as other courses.



"Making" models virtually is challenging.



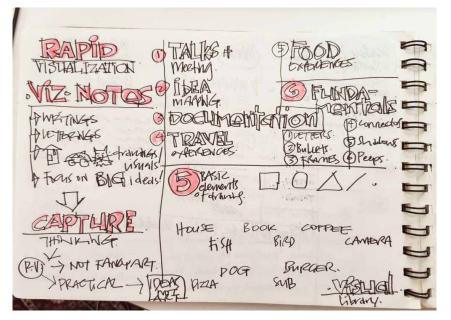
Programming boards for final semester.



Not being able to touch and feel the relationship and connection between things makes it harder to generate good ideas.

#### IDr Mohd Redzwan Hisham bin Bidin

Senior Lecturer Taylors University Lakeside Campus MIID Membership No: M135





Online classes with laptop, tablet/iPad and sketchbook.

Simplifying notes for online workshops.

#### As a lecturer, how has COVID-19 impacted the way you teach?

As a part of the teaching faculty, we have experienced new ways of teaching; something that we have never thought possible. Especially in tutoring studio related subjects, we have encountered digital sketch-assist using drawing tablets (mirroring to the PC), live online demonstrations and video recording. It was not easy in the beginning as the university management was doing regular check-ups for quality assurance, and providing us with various online trainings and discussions besides our regular weekly classes.

#### What's the most challenging part about teaching online? How do you overcome it?

The most challenging part of this issue was planning and changing the plan to suit the situation. We must be confident and 'follow the flow' as there are many platforms for teaching and learning online such as YouTube, Vimeo, Google Classroom, Zoom etc. Some of us managed to go online to buy tripods, LED lightings and microphones to make our video recording and demonstrations better and clearer.

#### In your opinion, what could the government do to assist the situation further?

The government should build more infrastructure for online facilities and encourage more flexibility and research in handling online education, with a well-balanced consideration to include hands-on and face-to-face education to a certain extent.

#### How do you foresee interior design education changing within the next year?

I see there will be changes within the next year as more universities and colleges are doing online critique sessions and virtual exhibitions with some involvement from international critics and designers. This scenario will see our design education move into a different exposure and new heights.



Basic video recording setup: tripods for phone, LED lighting and microphone.

#### Dr Muhammad Firzan bin Abdul Aziz

Senior Lecturer of the Interior Architecture Programme, School of Housing, Building and Planning Universiti Sains Malaysia MIID Membership No: E68

#### As a lecturer, how has COVID-19 impacted the way you teach?

It is fair to say that COVID-19 has rendered the global educational scene into disarray. The impact of this unprecedented pandemic to the realm of teaching and learning should not be understated. Undoubtedly, the Movement Control Order (MCO) imposed by the Malaysian government is a helpful and an effective preventive measure to combat the spread of the virus. Its implementation however, has brought about some challenges and setbacks for educators and students alike, to carry on the normal face-to-face classes or lectures. This predicament has triggered a new norm – a shift to remote teaching and distance learning via online platforms.



The small corner of my mini home studio where I normally conduct my online teaching and learning activities following the work from home (WFH) requirement during the MCO period.

As a public university lecturer, I personally believe that this adversity is also a blessing in disguise for me and my counterparts. One of the perks of having work-from-home (WFH) made compulsory during the MCO period is that we do not have to commute to the office on daily basis. This is considered a privilege, where educators could utilise our extra time to familiarise ourselves with the whole new world of digital teaching and learning platforms that are pervasively available online. As a matter of fact, I consider myself uber lucky to have enrolled in a compulsory teaching and learning course prior to the MCO, organised by the Centre for Development of Academic Excellence (CDAE) of Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), where emerging lecturers are exclusively coached by the National Academic Award winners in the likes of Prof. Karim Alias, Prof. Zainal Ahmad and Assoc. Prof. Azidah Abu Ziden. It has not only changed my view, but also enhanced the understanding and developed my proficiency in online teaching and learning by leaps and bounds. Upon the completion of the course, I managed to get my digital teaching portfolio (bit.ly/z10zelearn) ready, and was itching to delve into making full use of USM's very own integrated eLearning platform.

In this regard, teaching in the new normal is intriguing and experimental to me. Up to this day, I am still exploring the different platforms for synchronous teaching such as Webex, Zoom, and



A sneak peek into my digital teaching portfolio developed through mahara@USM

Microsoft Teams. For asynchronous teaching, I am fond of several online interactive tools such as Mentimeter, Loom, Flipgrid, and Padlet. These tools are excellent in engaging students and holding their attention longer while going virtual. Meanwhile, WhatsApp and Telegram are among the ideal alternatives to cater to issues of limited data quotas, poor internet connectivity, and unavailability of high-end gadgets or computer equipment that potentially trouble underprivileged students.

#### What's the most challenging part about teaching online? How do you overcome it?

When the pandemic calls for global lockdown, the conventional face-to-face teaching and learning process turned impractical. It consequently forces the educational world to shift to a new paradigm of emergency remote teaching and learning. This scenario is apparently not suited for everyone as we can see some are pleased with the implementation whereas others find it vexing. The skillsets (technological and technical competencies) could potentially add up to the obstacles of emergency remote teaching and learning. However, the main obstacle preventing educators from adapting to remote teaching and learning is their limiting mindset. I personally feel that one needs to adopt a growth mindset while navigating these days of uncertainty. It is sensible that online means demand strategic planning and effective delivery to fully match the effectiveness of offline means.

From my very own limited experience, I can sense that there is a lack of established connection between my students and I during our online lectures. There are times where I got quite frustrated whenever I realised that the conducted sessions did not really

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A snapshot of the interface of USM e-learning platform where students are equipped with learning materials during the MCO period.

happen in a two-way communication. I believe most lecturers would agree that at some point we tend to be disappointed with the timidity of students when they refuse to switch on their cameras or hesitate to give prompt responses when required during our ongoing online sessions.

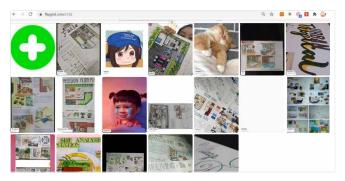
Online lectures and classes require ongoing interactions between the educator and students to be deemed fruitful. Lecturers anticipate a certain level of commitment and active engagement from most students. Nevertheless, it is wise to be apprehensive that online mode is not for everyone and the thing that matters the most is the students' comprehension of the lessons taught. My very own methods of ensuring that students get the gist out of every lesson taught online is by:

- stripping away all the complexities of each lecture topic by making them compact, minimal, and palatable to students to lock their focus within the few limited hours (the gen-Z is living in a world of dramatic distractions which results in very short attention spans);
- ii. making some contextual associations of the lecture topics to relevant contemporary issues or trends of the students' interests (understanding the pop-culture, jokes, and memes as well as common hashtags popular among the gen-Z really helps);
- iii. requesting students to have advance preparation prior to commencing studio, class, or lecture sessions (lecturers should be ingenious by facilitating easy access to relevant and highquality online materials, and serve more as a content curator rather than a content creator); and
- iv. prompting formative assessments after each of the taught sessions (I love to ask my students to reflect on the key learning points upon the completion of my online sessions, in which the submitted responses will be accounted as their attendance record).

On a serious note, the only thing that goes beyond the importance of students' active participation and engagement is their online presence. In this regard, I have always found that Facebook groups as well as the WhatsApp application offer interesting features in disseminating immediate or important information such as instructions, notifications, or requests. These platforms enable lecturers to keep track of students' involvement by checking the 'seen' status of their post. Thus, it is very helpful for lecturers in the current scenario as we can know whether our postings have been read by our students or otherwise. In this way, monitoring the case of students being left out or missing in action due to whatever reasons is made possible.

#### In your opinion, what could the government do to assist the situation further?

From my point of view, accessibility is the ultimate key when it comes to teaching and learning online. The government should put concerted efforts in ensuring students of different levels, from every locality are not overlooked in their quest of online learning. The government's effort of enabling high-speed internet connections in rural areas, increasing the complementary 1 GB data limit and provision of ideal gadgets or computer devices to students of lowincome families have been very helpful. Let's not forget that our students are the future leaders, hence allocating an amount of budget that profoundly eases their quest for knowledge is a such a worthwhile investment that any government in the world should contribute for the betterment of its country.



Students presented their design studio projects (video recording) via Flipgrid as an alternative to oral presentations which require their physical presence.



The 'seen' status feature in FB groups makes online monitoring and following up with my students easier.

#### How do you foresee interior design education changing within the next year?

Learning interior design involves all the three cognitive, affective, and psychomotor domains. Plus, fluency in social interpersonal skills would be advantageous. It would be a challenge to capture these aspects through a full online mode. Hence, extending the period of non-face-to-face teaching and learning post-MCO especially for design studio subjects is against the requirements of the Malaysian Council of Architectural Accreditation and Education (MAPS).

In the next year, I foresee that some of the non-design courses within interior design education will resume via online, while design courses, especially design studio, will have to be carried out face-toface with the physical presence of the studio masters. Therefore, the first-year and final-year students will be our priority, as the former needs guidance with the essentials of interior design, while the latter needs to be polished to be ready and have the capacity to venture into the real practice in the built environment field. Hence, going on online mode for the design studio subject is almost impossible as interior design students are required to undergo site visits and perform site analysis, solving problems both individually and collaboratively with their peers, assisting and competing healthily with their studio mates, attending critique sessions with lecturers and other experts, and so on.

In this regard, I predict that in the year 2021 there will be a significant reduction in physical classes and lectures within public universities especially during the first semester, as it is one of the preventive measures concerning everyone's health and safety.

#### Nurul Izzati binti Osman Zakba

MIID Membership No: \$3302

#### As a student, how has COVID-19 impacted the way you learn?

COVID-19 has been sweeping the nation off-track in academic and economic aspects. The outbreak is affecting academic progress of the students especially in terms of motivation and commitment.

The semester's studies have been lagging. In the first month of the MCO in March, there was nothing progressive for student development in terms of their studies. Turning the first month into a holiday month, it provided time for the students to catch up on their hobbies instead. Some of the students took this chance to improve and train their skills. These could be seen through the stream of artworks posted on social media, triggering inspiration to the youth souls all around the world. As the MCO duration increased, the learning sessions were then converted to online classes; to not let 2020 pass by with nothing. Online classes were held on various platforms - Zoom, Webex, Microsoft Teams, etc. The lecturers also expanded their efforts in providing different options in teaching to make it more interesting and fun for the students, such as inviting figures of the industry to give talks, based on the real situation happening in the industry. However, the long duration of the MCO had unexpectedly made students less motivated than before, as if there was no commitment given to the work they produced. In addition, the lockdown had impacted the students' mental health, especially those who are sociable and active during their study time. Social interaction is an important factor in our lives, and without it, we students tend to get more depressed and stressed. Chasing the due date, raising ourselves to the expectations of the lecturers with the criteria and conditions they have set has been the toughest situation to handle. It could go downhill from here; but we are trying to balance it out, learning to cope and adapting ourselves to this new environment.





During an online lecture session with an invited guest speaker.

#### What's the most challenging part about learning online? How do you overcome it?

The most challenging part about learning online is the internet coverage and speed. Lagging internet speeds disrupt the lecture sessions the learning process itself. The students may miss certain important information given during the classes, which subsequently makes it harder for them to keep up with the lesson as time passes. For students who stay in the city area, this may not be a big issue. However, for those who live in the outskirts, such as myself, this affected the lessons in negative ways. Students have no other way to overcome them other than for asking the lecturer to record the online sessions done for further review, or to inquire the information given from classmates instead. This problem sets a huge number of students back from experiencing the full atmosphere of what an "online class" could be, and eventually affecting the students' performance in classes due to the technical issues faced.

Another challenging part is balancing the time for studies, metime and family. Staying at home makes it hard to do so. Before, during studies students were mostly situated in the campus, thus they could focus on work alone. However, being at home somehow brings about this guilty unfilial feeling as they always spend time on assignments rather than with the family or helping with house chores. Hence, to separate time equally among studies and family beforehand is needed to ensure the other sides don't take our actions to heart.

The last one is to stay motivated. The fighting spirit in studies just keeps on dimming. No physical interaction with lecturers and classmates makes it harder to stay motivated. No exchanging of views and thoughts except for critic sessions done through texts and words. Due to the lack of clear communication between the students and the lecturers, students end up inquiring one another in regards to the progress instead, to ensure that they are not left behind. This act may not be successful at times, as sometimes we are left with nothing but confusion and anxiety as to whether what we are doing is right or wrong.

#### In your opinion, what could the government do to assist the situation further?

Providing daily free internet is helpful enough for the student. However, it might be inadequate for some who need to keep on searching for further information to do their assignments. Online counselling sessions should be provided for students that need it, to ensure the students are alright and have a place for them to turn to for help. The government should encourage the lecturers to record the online learning sessions or provide other options that the students could benefit from educationally, in order to help those who have poor internet coverage across the country.

#### How do you foresee interior design education changing within the next year?

Somehow, the interior design education/sphere will change that instead of by book learning, students might expose themselves more to the real-life industry and practical situations. Students have more chances to experience or to know more about the industry through these methods instead. Interior design talks done on online platforms makes it widely accessible – which gives equal opportunities for students studying the course worldwide – disregarding other factors (such as financial). Students will have more access to online learning experiences and networking through endless possibilities provided for us by new technologies in this new age.

#### Tuqa Mamdouh Aboueleiz Ibrahim Mohamed

MIID Membership No: \$3313

#### As a student, how has COVID-19 impacted the way you learn?

COVID-19 did not change the way to learn or teach, only that it challenged our lifestyles and it shed light on all the aspects of life that we never looked upon or gave attention to before. As a student that has been always learning through classes, workshops and studio; changing to online learning in the span of few days was difficult as no one was truly prepared or ready for the drastic changes that would come in teaching (lecturers) and receiving the information (students).

Earlier on, the impact of COVID-19 on the academic aspect was different from one university to another. Some chose to postpone the semester until the situation dies down and steps in handling it were clearer. Whereas some other universities chooses to continue their semester as usual and adjust to the new changes as time went on. Both decisions had their own benefits and disadvantages, however, the constant confusion and worry in continuing studying or extending the study time due to COVID-19 was a common thing experienced by all students at some point. It was a blessing to know that USM chose to continue the semester as normal through online learning. The impact of the pandemic was more obvious after online classes started; as the lecturers were not ready for such a change and due to that, most of the lecturers did not do well in teaching while some tried to find the best solutions/ways to teach. It was pressuring and demanding to both the students and the lecturers. Students had to manage their time and still be motivated to do work and produce good work with all the things that are happening around them – from worrying about their health and their families, to being stranded on campus and being far from home.

#### What's the most challenging part about learning online? How do you overcome it?

The most challenging part about online learning is maintaining a healthy mental state with all the pressure, worries, and changes that is going around. As we need to social distance and for the most part stay by our own self, it can get depressing and if not handled well, it could definitely escalate further to excessive depression and anxiety. Not being in a healthy state of mind can affect every aspect of life; especially students as we need to keep learning and constantly producing creative work! However, social media was one of the options available to let out some of our worries and find comfort in friends and family members when we can't be with them physically. Unfortunately, that may not be the solution for everyone, as some experience social anxiety (whether it be in real-life or online) which results in immense pressure, making it worse for them. Overcoming such an issue is a complex work that not only needs to be done by the person struggling, but the surrounding environment and the people around him/her as well. The lecturers and students need to have such awareness either to ask and understand, or comfort and seek help whenever such issues arise.

#### In your opinion, what could the government do to assist the situation further?

Providing free psychological sessions by phone or video calls to



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Maintaining a healthy mental state is important in these challenging times.

everyone that is in need, and weekly check-in calls especially for the people staying on their own or far away from their family to make sure of their well-being and mental state. To also provide free, temporary healthcare for foreigners and citizens because of the economic state that we are currently in. Work is no longer beneficial enough, and foreigners that cannot go back and cannot work can still be checked and provided with healthcare.

#### How do you foresee interior design education changing within the next year?

Due to such a world-changing pandemic, the industry should focus more on the ability of young designers to adapt to change and work in different conditions, while encouraging good communication skills that can be implemented in real-life or virtual situations. Moreover, the industry needs to adapt fast to new technology and embed in its work such as VR (Virtual Reality) graphics so it can be used as an alternative to design boards and meetings. The online world is becoming an essential place and is asserting itself as the main medium for us humans to communicate and promote ourselves as citizens of the world. Hence, in the following years, the industry should focus on what could be done and improved through the internet - now more than ever.

#### **KEY INFO:**

Interior Designer Innovative Space Dimension Sdn Bhd

Client Titijaya Land Berhad

Date of completion October 2018 MIID REKA AWARDS 2019 - SILVER AWARD WINNER - SHOW UNITS

### TITIJAYA - PARK RESIDENCY SHOW HOUSE UNIT

he Park Residency show house unit is a 3-storey link-villa (Type C) in a new and upcoming neighbourhood located in Alam Damai, Cheras.

Principal interior designer, IDr. Ronnie Choong Swee Beng talks about the design.

#### What was your design inspiration for this project?

The concept of this show unit explores one of the most powerful tools when it comes to creating a connection between an audience and an interior space – nostalgia. A well-designed living space that evokes a sense of nostalgia within its residents allows them to feel more at home and a sense of belonging, as they reminisce the familiarity of the past, of their childhood and of their ancestors. Such an ambience is what makes a residential show unit outstanding and different than the rest, as it creates a story that potential buyers can mould into their imagined life as they tour around the interior space of the show unit.

#### **Could you elaborate on your ideation process for this project?** The concept is achieved through

the juxtaposition of the traditional oriental elements and modern touches, which can be seen all the way from the design of the carpentry work, feature walls, loose furniture to styling items.

Warm, earthy tones are used as the base for the design of this entire show unit to give it a rich yet contemporary look, while pop of colours and whimsical touches that are synonymous with the oriental style are thrown into the mix as an unexpected twist.

Bespoke loose furniture designed to embody the marriage of the oriental and modern style are used in this show unit; staying





Above: The master bedroom was designed in a style that is true to the Modern Oriental concept, with customdesigned bed panel, TV cabinet, and walk-in wardrobe. The earthinspired colour scheme provides a calm and serene ambiance for the entire space.

Left: The second bedroom is targeted towards a young, millennial couple, designed in a more modern direction, but influences of the Modern Oriental can still be traced in this particular room, like the use of the timber strip wall screen that separates the two sections of the room.



true to the story and concept behind it.

The styling for this residential show unit was thoroughly chosen to represent the family who would be living there, where oriental-inspired pieces and modern items are combined to create a warm and inviting living space befitting of the lifestyle of the potential buyers.

Thoughtful space planning tailored for a family of two generations has resulted in a highly functional residential unit, by reconfiguring the original layout of the unit; together with detailed thoughts given to the orientation and placement of beds and wardrobe, and other furniture. ■





**Top-of-Page:** Located at the centre of the first floor, the dining room connects the living room and the kitchen, thus the furniture chosen for this area becomes a transition from the heavy toned living room to the bright toned kitchen.

Above: This room was designed in a refreshing modern style, complimented with a neutral colour palette.

Left: This oriental-motif partition screen was given a modern touch through the fresh combination of white and grey; and divides the living room and kitchen and creates a sense of privacy for the kitchen area. The bespoke dining table applies a modern take to the traditional round dining tables that are often used in oriental dining spaces – with the minimally designed leg in black powder-coated finish, topped with a sleek, white marble top.



**Right:** Rich toned timber strips, mixed with special paint and sleek clean lines for the TV cabinet embody the concept Modern Oriental, making it the focal point of the living room. The bold black-andwhite loose rug was chosen in a pattern inspired by oriental patterns and symbols, while adding an interesting contrast to the space.

Bottom: Whimsical touches inspired by the folk stories and symbolism synonymous with the oriental style add the charm and character to this living room – like the throw cushion with a peacock motif, the pagoda-inspired bird cage, and the blue-and-white porcelain jars.

Below: The chosen light toned timber laminate for the kitchen cabinet gives off a warm, cosy ambiance, while the use of the backsplash with such a bold pattern adds character to the whole space.





# DIRECTORY UPDATE AS OF 15 JUN 2020

#### DESIGN FIRMS

COMPANY NAME	ADDRESS	CONTACT NO.	CONTACT PERSON
ARCRADIUS WORKS SDN BHD	703 Block B Phileo Damansara 2, Jalan 16/11, 47301 Petaling Jaya	03-7955 0661	Mohamad Faisal Ghazali Norfarina Kamaruddin
BLU WATER DESIGN SDN BHD	E-2-1 Megan Avenue 1, 189 Jalan Tun Razak, 50400 Kuala Lumpur	03-2163 4689	Lai Siew Hong Nashzelima Binti Ngadmin
CHINPAKLOONG ARCHITECT	2A Jalan BM 1/2, Taman Bukit Mayang Emas, 47301 Petaling Jaya	03-7492 2182	Ar Chin Pak Loong Millie Wong
DUOZ SDN BHD	49D Faber Plaza, Jalan Desa Bakti Taman Desa, 58100 Kuala Lumpur	03-7984 4922	Nurul Asrifah Binti Nordin
ESSENTIAL DESIGN INTEGRATED SDN BHD	53B+C Jalan SS 22/19, Damansara Jaya 47400 Petaling Jaya, Selangor	03-7710 0799	Wong Pei San Ho Moy Lien
DENT-3 SDN BHD	No 48-2 Jalan Dataran Wangsa Dataran Wangsa 53300 Wangsa Melawati Kuala Lumpur	03-4141 6807	Mazlwa Mohd Azlan
NNOVATIVE SPACE DIMENSION SDN BHD	Unit C-2-2 Block C, Pacific Place Commercial Centre, Jalan PJU 1A/4 Ara Damansara, 47301 Petaling Jaya	03-7832 2202	Alia Suhaida Hana Felida
KTEO INTERIOR DESIGN	No 68A First Floor Jalan SS15/4B 47500 Subang Jaya	03-5637 6246	Teo Kui Soon
MAJIDAH DESIGN SDN BHD	16B Jalan Tun Sambanthan 3 Brickfields, 50470 Kuala Lumpur	03-2274 8911	Siti Majidah Azam B Abdul Aziz
MH POH INTERIOR DESIGN	No 117-1 Jalan Radin Bagus, Bandar Baru Sri Petaling 57000 Kuala Lumpur	-	Fifi Poh
OOI DESIGN & ASSOCIATES SDN BHD	39-2 Kinrara Niaga 3 Jalan Bk 5A/2, Bandar Kinrara 47180 Puchong, Selangor	03-8071 0333	Loke Seok Eng Toh Wei Kiat
SKALA DESIGN CONSULT SDN BHD	No 26 Jalan 4/76C, Desa Pandan, 55100 Kuala Lumpur	03-9282 2818	Noor Aini Binti Ismail Ozie Fadzrina Binti Mohd Nawi
SPATIAL FACTORS	Excella Business Park, Unit F, F-5, Jalan Ampang Putra, Taman Ampang Hilir 55100 Kuala Lumpur	03-42705290/89	Chang Huey Yan
rwleong design	19-1 Jalan 4/109F, Taman Danau Desa, 58100 Kuala Lumpur	019-384 3883	Leong Ta Wah

#### INDUSTRY

COMPANY NAME	ADDRESS	CONTACT DETAILS	CONTACT PERSON	NATURE OF BUSINESS
A & A CONCEPT DESIGN & CONTRACT SDN BHD	11 Jalan Nikmat Taman Gembira 58200 Kuala Lumpur	Tel: 03-7980 6633/6699	Agnes Ang Tong Shew Long 016-9209633	Interior Fit-Out Contract, Design & Build Contract Services, Project Management Services
ADVANTES GROUP SDN BHD	D-3-3 Menara Mitraland No 14A Jalan PJU 5/1 Kota Damansara, PJU 5 47810 Petaling Jaya	Tel: 03-7611 7308 HR@advantesgroup.com	Cheam Dow Hoong 012-7857884 Tan Eng Seen 019-6617399	Interior, Construction, Architectural
BINA WARE HOUSE SDN BHD	22 Jalan Kampung Attap, 50460 Kuala Lumpur	Tel: 03-2274 6111	Ms Kok Yi Ling Retail Director 012-684 9200	Sanitary Wares, Tap Fittings Kitchen Furniture and Kitchen Appliances
CHEKSERN YOUNG BUILDERS SDN BHD	No 2B Jalan BM 1/2, Taman Bukit Mayang Emas, 47301 Petaling Jaya, Selangor	Tel: 03-7804 3393	Seon Tan How Sern Game Tan How Young	Interior Builder
GREEN APPLE GALLERY SDN BHD	No 117-1 Jalan Radin Tengah Bandar Baru Sri Petaling 57000 Kuala Lumpur	Tel: 011-2610 2102 info@greenapplehome.com.my	Chan Kim Lai 016-3336286	Built In Furniture Manufacturer, Marble Piere, Designer Furniture
GROHE MALAYSIA SDN BHD	Suite G-03, Ground Floor, Menara Tan & Tan, 207 Jalan Tun Razak, 50400 Kuala Lumpur	National Toll-free Line: 1800 80 6570 Tel: 03-2028 4615 Fax: 03-2028 4601 info-malaysia@grohe.com www.grohe.my	Lisa Ng Key Account Manager Iisa.ng@lixil.com Law Ling Siang Business Development Manager (GROHE) lingsiang.law@lixil.com Dennis Chin Business Development Manager (American Standard/INAX) dennis.chin@lixil.com	Sanitary, water and housing products
IN STRIKE SDN BHD	PT210 Jalan KPB 12A Kawasan Perindustrian Kg Baru Balakong 43300 Seri Kembangan	Tel: 03-8961 4427	David Lim 016-9203628 Soo Lai Fong 016-9206828	Full ID Renovation Services, Turnkey Project Management
JALEX SDN BHD	Lot 3750, Lorong 2D, Tel: 03-784 Off Jalan Bukit Badak, Kg Baru Subang, 40000 Shah Alam		Janet Lee Chan C K	Interior Builder
JOTEX SDN BHD	PT4962 Jalan Haruan 7 Oakland Industrial Park 70200 Seremban	Tel: 06-767 1188 hello@jotex{abrics.com	Lee Jo Wee Lee Jo Yee	Curtains, Upholstery, Wall Paper, Rugs, Outdoor Fabrics
KEDING ENTERPRISES SDN BHD	K-5-13 Block K, No 2 Jalan Solaris, Solaris Mont Kiara, 50480 Kuala Lumpur	Tel: 03-6211 5540	Ng Eng Seng	Veneer (Prefinished) Supplier, Engineered Wood Flooring
KIAN CONTRACT SDN BHD	76-1 Jalan Putra 50350 Kuala Lumpur	Tel: 03-4042 3026 hello@kian.com	Jacky Teh 012-3919026	Furniture Solution Provider

#### INDUSTRY

COMPANY NAME	ADDRESS	CONTACT DETAILS	CONTACT PERSON	NATURE OF BUSINESS
LUXX NEWHOUSE FURNITURE SDN BHD	No.5, Jalan Utarid U5/14, Seksyen U5, Mah Sing Industrial Park, 40150 Shah Alam, Selangor Darul Ehsan.	Tel: +603-7847 5277 Fax: +603 7847 6392 marketing-my@luxxnewhouse. com www.luxxnewhouse.com	Jimmy Tong President jimmytong@luxxnewhouse.com Lee Thuan Khye Senior Sales Manager leetk@luxxnewhouse.com	Solid Surface, Quartz Stone Italian Engineering Slab, Kitchen Sink & Mixer Tap
NIPPON PAINT (M) SDN BHD	Lot I-17, Taman Perindustrian Subang Utama, Jalan SU4, 40300 Shah Alam	Tel: 03-5125 0888 1-800-88-2663 (Careline) Fax: 03-5191 5577 www.nipponpaint.com.my professional.nipponpaint.com.my	Harry Ang Assistant Manager - Marketing Harryang@nipponpaint.com.my Datin Wong Meng Lee Assistant GM - Marketing	Coatings Manufacturer
			mlwong@nipponpaint.com.my	
NIRO CERAMIC SALES & SERVICES (M) SDN BHD	Lot 2 Persiaran Sultan Seksyen 15 40200 Shah Alam, Selangor	Tel: 03-5033 9333	Michelle Johnson Helena Suit	Trading of Ceramic Tiles
PEDINI CUCINE (M) SDN BHD	Lot 10 Jalan Perusahaan Utama, Taman Perindustrian Selesa Jaya, 43300 Balakong, Selangor	Tel: 03-8961 8228	Tay Seng Chai	Interior Decorators, Furnishing, Construction
QUEL INTERNATIONAL SDN BHD	NO 35 Jalan PJU 5/21 The Strand Kota Damansara 47810 Petaling Jaya	Tel: 03-6142 4223	Ho Lai Kuan Noorie Yip 012-5055619	Furniture Supplier to F&B, Hotels, Corp Office, Education, Design & Build, Interior Fit-Out, Kitchen & Wardrobe
ROCA (M) SDN BHD	Level 3A, West Wing, Quattro West, No.4, Lorong Persiaran Barat, 46200 Petaling Jaya, Selangor	Tel: 03-7952 2522	Clarix Yew Head of Business Development 013-7622755 clarix.yew@my.roca.com	Design, manufacturing and commercialization of products for the bathroom space
SANIEURO SDN BHD	Lot G-2-10 Jalan 9, Connaught Avenue, Taman Bukit Cheras, 56000 Kuala Lumpur	Tel: 03-9108 2199	Aman Nabillah Binti Zulkafli Ada Wong	Sanitary Ware, Assisted Living Products, Sensor Water Dispenser
SIGNATURE KITCHEN SDN BHD	Lot 24 Jalan Teknologi Taman Sains Selangor 1 Kota Damansara PJU5 47810 Petaling Jaya	Tel: 03-6286 7000 soemay@signaturekitchen.com.my	May Mah 012-4041388 / Pang JF 012-3214866	Kitchen & Wardrobe Systems, Appliances, Home Living Furniture
SUN SYNERGY SDN BHD	17C Jalan PJS 1/33 Taman Petaling Utama 46150 Petaling Jaya	Tel: 03-7773 3755	Edwin Ng Kok Shui Catherine Ng Mei Kwan	Latham Australia, Trading & Contract Works, Progress Profile
TACHITICA SDN BHD	No 3, Jalan TPK 1/6, Taman Perindustrian Kinrara, 47180 Puchong Selangor	Tel: 03-8076 2409 sales@tachitica.com newtica@gmail.com	Patrick Teo Business Development Manager 012-2828954 patrickteo@tachitica.com	Manufacturers for interior and exterior blinds and curtains
TANASA FLOORING SDN BHD	No 20 Jalan PJU 3/40 Sunway Damansara 47810 Petaling Jaya	Tel: 03-7885 0115	Alec Tan 012-2022156 Daniel Leong 012-3770262	Supply & Install Solid Timber Flooring and Supply Internal & External Wood Coating

#### INDUSTRY

COMPANY NAME	ADDRESS	CONTACT DETAILS	CONTACT PERSON	NATURE OF BUSINESS
UNITED CARPET SDN BHD	No 9, Jalan Ss 21/34, Damansara Utama, 47400 Petaling Jaya, Selangor	Tel: 03-7726 8311	Syilla Christine	Carpet Trading
W ATELIER SDN BHD	Lot 9B-3A Jalan Kemajuan Section 13 46200 Petaling Jaya	Tel: 03-7960 2888	Livvy Lam Chong Wei Lin	Sanitary Wares & Fittings (Toto) And Kitchen (Toto)
WOODTECH DESIGN SDN BHD	1188 Bukit Merah Permatang Pauh 13500 Butterworth	woodtechdesign@gmail.com	Jeorge Yee 019-4432986 Choong Jin Yan 012-7912099	Event Decorator, Manufacture of Furniture, Carpentry Work, Interior Fit Out Contractor

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