



**PAM**  
Pertubuhan Akitek  
Malaysia  
Sarawak Chapter

B  
U  
I  
L  
D  
I  
N  
G  
  
C  
O  
M  
M  
U  
N  
I  
T  
I  
E  
S

INTERSECTION

2/2016-2017 Oct

PPK469/01/2017(034673)

*Early morning start - construction workers building new houses in Bakun (1997)*

# By hand, with heart - building for the less privileged

For the past year, Wong Siew Ling has been building a community with his friends, here is the story in his own words:

At the beginning of last year, I joined a volunteer group to work on a church for an orang asli community.

This village was located at a very remote area. To reach it, we had to travel 5 hours by car on a logging road, followed by another 3 hours on a small dirt track; crossing 2 small rivers. After which, we left our cars, crossed the final wider river on foot and continued walking for another 45 mins. Only then did we arrive.

The community had an existing church, but as the village grew, they aspired for a new one. It would be their regional community centre for about 200 people. Our group of volunteers were made up of people of all ages, from all walks of life with different skill sets. My group was tasked to design the church. We did not want to design from the office, instead we wanted to engage the locals in the design process, and to involve them in the site selection, sourcing of materials, logistics and so forth. In return, they would learn about construction through the design and building process - they do not have a tradition in construction. This way of consultative collaboration opened doors to solutions and relationships that would be hidden from us in a "normal" design process. The biggest challenge was that we had to build the church in our 2 trips to the village, totaling 15 days. We had 40 volunteers for the build, but only 5 had building experience. We used simple construction methods and detailing that could be built and sustained by the community.

With modular construction, with locals and volunteers inspired by the architecture process, with teamwork, and with God's help, we managed to complete the building on time.



"Our focus was not solely on the building, but on the experience shared during the process of building."



The church building was completed after 15 days.



A greater sense of pride from having built their own homes.

Since the completion of the church, we have continued to work in the same way to build houses in the community. The community has a greater sense of pride and ownership in these buildings, having built them with their own hands.

These are photos are from a recent trip. It is my hope that my story will inspire other architects to think about they can help the 90% of our community who cannot afford the services of an architect.

## Mount Hope, Kalimantan

I met Craig Pilcher one afternoon over lunch. He had travelled across the border to buy supplies and to look for an architect for a school he was building for a village in West Kalimantan. He needed someone to draw up plans so that his team of locals and volunteers can extend the primary school in the village. The people here are mostly Dayaks.

Craig is from New Zealand and has spent the last 11 years in this village. He is part of the Mount Hope organisation which had adopted this village to help build meaningful lives through education, training and nurturing. Mount Hope is a ten-minute walk from Balai Karang, which is a 2-hour drive from Kuching. The village boasts the best school (kindergarten, primary, junior high) results in the area, and the school now has a long waiting list. Hence the need to expand the school facilities. Their work is carried out in part by employed staff, volunteers and the locals themselves. It was founded by Sam and Carol Soukotta in 1998.

I asked him how he manages to get funding for the school, the houses, the fish farm, the vegetable garden and livestock sheds. He said "Faith - I wake up each morning and just do what I am meant to do, and know that everything else will take care of itself".



As architects, we often think that buildings will solve all the problems. That's inherently untrue. Ours is simply the hardware, we need the software - people like Craig to make the programme run successfully.

In November, group of local architects and their friends will travel to Mount Hope as volunteers to measure and record the existing school building, and hopefully learn how to be better "software".

Interested persons can contact us at [intersection.editorial@gmail.com](mailto:intersection.editorial@gmail.com)

LYSAGHT®  
360  
SEAM®

STEEL

STRENGTHENS  
TRADITION

Malaysian Academy of Han Studies  
Roofing profile used:  
Lysaght® 360 Seam® & Spandek® Optima™  
in BlueScope's Clean Colorbond® Steel  
Design and Documentation Architect:  
studio505, Dylan Brady and Dirk Zimmermann  
(www.studio505.com.au)

Malaysian Academy of Han Studies (MAHS), is the education centre in Malacca designed based on the village atmosphere of the ancient Tulou clusters in Southern China.

The focal point of the building is the roof, which interprets the Tulou tradition, but also functions to allow natural ventilation and light to flow through the building.

BlueScope Lysaght met the brief to create a cylinder shaped roof of more than 25,000 radial pieces, each of which had to be measured and produced individually using Lysaght's architectural standing seam profile.

The non-conventional roof required a versatile, flexible and aesthetically pleasing material, and the Lysaght® 360 Seam® roofing profile met this objective with its ability to be customised for a pitched, curved and tapered roof.

Made from BlueScope's Clean Colorbond® steel, this lightweight and yet versatile roofing solution provides excellent durability against weathering and paint delamination, perfect for and long-lasting colour stability and aesthetic beauty.

- For enquiry, contact us at:
- Peninsular Malaysia: 1700-81-8688
  - Sarawak: +6082 333 621
  - Sabah: +6088 445 161
  - Singapore: +65 6264 1577
  - Brunei: +673 244 7155



Trusted Partner for Building Systems



Web : 

Download Lysaght App at :

AppStore  Google play 

Follow Us On :  facebook

