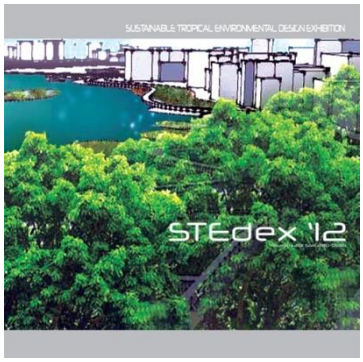
Marine Info Kiosk

Sustainable Tropical Environmental Design Exhibition 2012
http://www.vlmp.upm.edu.my



STEdex'12 –Roslina Sharif, Shafiza Maarof, ***Marine Info Kiosk,Sustainable Tropical Environmental Design Exhibition 2012***, ISSN : 2180-0685, Vol : 4, [142], Faculty of Design and Architecture, Universiti Putra Malaysia

The white sandy beaches and mesmerizing blue sea water of magnificent Pulau Redang providesthe site for the final project for the Year 1 students. A marine park with colourful sea creatures offers snorkelling activities for the visitors to experience and appreciate the marine life. However, without knowledge and special guidance, the activity can be harmful not only to the divers but also to themarine life and the precious coral. The objective of the final project is to design a marine info-kiosk
facility that can promote the awareness of preserving and appreciating the marine and coral life.It also provides a place where visitors can hang around to enjoy the beautiful scenery.

The Student Centred Learning (SCL) approach used in the architecture design class calls forthe design project to be divided into two major parts; the group work where collaboration andcooperation between groups and among each member of the groups and the individual designpart. Peer learning is evidenced in the running of the design project and this further encourageactive learning amongst the students. For the first part, the students worked in groups to conducta site investigation. Four different plots of site were earmarked for the students to investigate whichincluded measuring the size of the site, topography, climatic and environmental factors as well associal factors. They gathered, discussed, analysed those information and made recommendationsor suggestions as to how those site factors might have an impact on their design later on. Experiential
learning is definitely applied in this process, especially when the students are immersed in the actual site study and analyses.

Timber construction is the main construction technique to be applied in this project. Visits to various locations in Kuala Terengganu focusing on the traditional architecture allowed the students toobserve the fine timber detailing and experience the ambiance and spatial qualities of timberbuildings. They also conducted precedent study of the visited locations and similar buildings.Knowledge and data that they have researched on the precedent studies and site visit are to beused in the design of their marine info-kiosks.

The second part of the project, which is to design a Marine Info-kiosk that can cater up to 30visitors at a time is an individual effort. The spatial requirements for the kiosk include an informationdisplay area, information counter, small briefing area, storage area for snorkelling equipment and toilets. An outdoor communal area to accommodate around 20 people is also to be provided.In addition to this, they also have to provide a living unit for a single person, the caretaker of thebuilding, which consists of a living/dining area, pantry/small kitchen, bedroom and toilet.

The integration of knowledge from other courses must also be shown in this design. Thus, besidesemploying the timber construction technique, the application of natural ventilation and naturalday lighting which include the use of sun shading devices must also be evidenced.