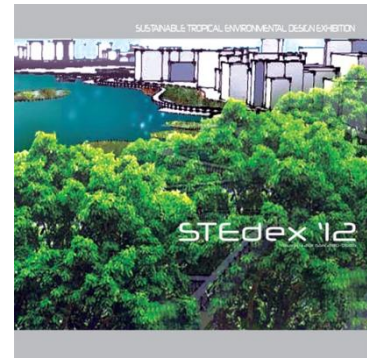


Jury Review - Revitalisation Urban Spaces
Sustainable Tropical Environmental Design Exhibition 2012
<http://www.vlmp.upm.edu.my>



STEdex'12 – Muhammad Hijaz Sanusi, Norliza Mohd Yusof, Kashino Naohiro, Marek Kozlowski, **Jury Review - Revitalisation Urban Spaces, Sustainable Tropical Environmental Design Exhibition 2012**, ISSN : 2180-0685, Vol : 4, [92-93], Faculty of Design and Architecture, Universiti Putra Malaysia

Revitalization of Plaza Pudu

Place and space are the main focus in this design concept. With careful and thorough study of the area, the designer captured the spirit of the place to be manipulated in his design. The proposed project is to create rich experience that is vital to give new meaning to the site which is already busy with lots of activities especially businesses. The design strategy involves combining building, outdoor and indoor environment to refurbish the area without neglecting its genius loci. However, the plant selection in terms of their canopy structures and root systems must be looked into as they will affect the building edges especially when the design involved crucial sites such as in-between buildings and roof top.

The designer's idea is promoting revitalization towards the Pudu Plaza; "spirit of space that able to persist despite of change". It is understood that the designer highlights his/her consideration on the changes of urban fabric at Pudu itself, but unfortunately, no descriptions made to this issue. In addition, the contextual study on urban fabric is not thoroughly explained, even though it is one of important matter for the project site. Another missing factor is a study of human behaviour which is another important aspect that the designer fails to explore since the design aims is to create "human place, living space". It is advisable that the designer strongly highlight the human behavior al pattern in response to the current condition of Pudu Plaza. This vital aspect is left unexplained, and therefore, the design illustration and perspectives are perceived as typical. However, the general graphic communication is fine and presenting a 1:75 scale of section is a good approach to show

details of the nooks and crannies. Taking into consideration the subject matters, this thorough study on urban design and responsive environment is encouraging indeed.

XY Green Building

In general the designer has determined and excellently described the green features for a “green building” effort. Unfortunately, upon reviewing the detail elevations and sections of the developments, the green features failed to be determined because none of the development component emphasis all the aspects listed (highlighted) in the study. For example, in the study identified ‘compost area’ but the designated areas for composting were not shown in the development layout. Similarly, the designer explained the energy saving issues, for instant, using LED lighting, but again, its implementation is not shown in the development area. Apart from the weaknesses to address the green features in the development proposal, this is a good study to integrate landscape architecture with architecture.

Revitalization of Plaza Rakyat

“Abandoned projects are harmful to the city” is not convincingly explained. Why traffic hub? The reason should be deeply analyzed and explained. The site relation with entire city traffic system need more studies for the new traffic hub. The concept tends to be hidden behind the repetition of the word “Bond”. Sustainability seems a subsequent topic and the proposed urban context is well advanced. The designer illustrates a very good presentation although it seems that the Asian/authentic uniqueness quality is not enhanced. The work also displays smooth sequence to lead the story.

This work addresses well the issues of neglected spaces, with good in depth analysis and justification for the project and well stated goals and objectives. The idea to utilize a transport hub by connecting an existing bus system with the LRT system and creating a public space above is a good and innovative design approach. The proposal addresses well the physical pedestrian connectivity to other parts of the city. The ESD principles and detailed landscaping design solutions further strengthen the project. It also shows good design creativity and cutting edge approach aimed at utilizing the neglected urban area around existing transport modes. However, the design should also address the issue of building street interface and is recommended to include active building frontages for all buildings facing the new public space. Overall, the designer shows a very good presentation and the good attention to details clearly communicates the main and detailed ideas of the design proposal.

Transformation as a Living Territory

Storm water management is vital especially in current rapid urbanization and unpredictable climate. Rapid urban development without a proper storm water management system will create flood to an area. This project took the challenge in incorporating the storm water management and green space for the benefit of the people. A good analysis and synthesis of this site provide good foundation and understanding on the site. The objectives and goal are well derived and interrelated. Thus, this well designed and planned project is feasible to improve the quality of life of the residents at the area. The designer has also come out with good presentation to communicate the design ideas.

Am amazed with the study of storm water ecology that is used conceptually as part of landscape features. By reviewing the design concept, illustration and ideas, I believe that the designers had really understood the project contents and transforming it into a beautiful garden. The hand drawn illustrations show the “natural” touch and it is (indirectly) generating the ‘natural’ mood of the proposal. The concept vocabulary “FLUX”; that is focusing on managing and organizing storm water by adopting integration of engineering methods and wetlands system is an excellence work. I believe this transformation is creatively described in all the illustration proposals.