Hulu Tamu Wellness Landscape
Sustainable Tropical Environmental Design Exhibition 2012
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STEdex’12 – Mustafa Kamal Mohd Shariff, Nor Atiah Ismail, Mohd Nazri Saidon & Eng Ooi Tee, *Hulu Tamu Wellness Landscape, Sustainable Tropical Environmental Design Exhibition 2012*, ISSN: 2180-0685, Vol: 4, [120-121], Faculty of Design and Architecture, Universiti Putra Malaysia

Hulu Tamu Hot Springs is situated in Hulu Selangor, Selangor, Malaysia. The small village of Hulu Tamu tucked neatly among the green hills which are part of the Titiwangsa Range – the backbone of the peninsular. The geothermally heated mineral water gushes out of the veins in the ground. Its therapeutic properties are well acknowledged by the local Malay and Temuan communities as well as occasional visitors who knew of its existence. Over the years the local authorities and a few local entrepreneurs took interest in developing the site with a hot pool and a couple of restaurants serving local cuisine. The landscape design brief for this project was to enhance the hot spring and utilizes its available resources into a wellness spa of international standard. However, at the same time the design needs to respect the local topography and culture and brings benefits to the local community.

Ng Ooi Tee’s Wellness Landscape is an excellent attempt at reconciling existing development and natural resources into a world class health spa facility. Ng Ooi Tee’s deep understanding of the site resources has enabled his design to fully utilize the site geothermal uniqueness, topography, hydrology, botany, and culture into a tasteful blend of well crafted artistic delight. Using the indigenous Temuan world genesis as the framework, the design craftily connects various facilities into great story telling of myths and legends. The design caters to various clienteles ranging from day trip visitors who prefer merely to unwind in the pools to those whose therapeutic needs are more clinical and requiring the services of healing professionals. In providing all the services the spa will also conserve and enhance site ecological and cultural resources and improving local economy.

Ng Ooi Tee’s design demonstrated his ability to understand landscape architecture’s philosophy of respecting site resources, uniqueness of place, and sensitivity to local communities and culture. Coupled with excellent graphics, this project is an outstanding piece of work.