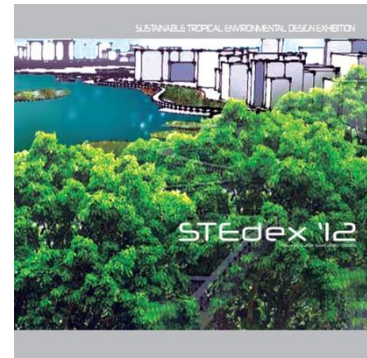


## **Jury Rewiew - Urban Intervention**

*Sustainable Tropical Environmental Design Exhibition 2012*

<http://www.vlmp.upm.edu.my>



STEdex'12 – John Ashraf Lucas, ***Jury Review - Urban Intervention, Sustainable Tropical Environmental Design Exhibition 2012***, ISSN : 2180-0685, Vol : 4, [197], Faculty of Design and Architecture, Universiti Putra Malaysia

Marine + Estuarine Ecology Research Centre, Tanjung Lumpur by Loo Jie Hsin

Loo Jie Hsin's proposal, subtitled a.morphous. Tuarine, is a bold unique structure to celebrate the natural relationship between the built form to house the proposed Marine + Estuarine Ecology Research Centre and the natural world along the land and water interface at the Kuantan River estuary near Tanjung Lumpur. She views the centre as an extension of the natural processes themselves. As a 'breathing organism' which responds and evolves in its changing living environment hence blurring the divide between building and its natural setting. She has achieved a successful solution although being challenged at several different scales and levels.

On a more mundane level the centre is concerned with the development of such institutional (and possibly commercial) activities such as fish breeding and spawning, as well as ecological management of the fringes of the estuary, and monitoring of these activities. Other conventional activities are also included in the project brief for providing facilities that encourage public interactions thus are expected to expose the general public to this unique project, Among them include a fisherman's wharf which encompasses a fish market and a fish restaurant.

The overall approach of the current fashionable 'Biomimicry' has produced a highly exciting scheme illustrating a unique imagery where the supporting structure emulates the elements of the natural root systems of the mangrove. Loo has demonstrated dedication and a sincere desire to produce her special personal approach to design. Perhaps one would acknowledge that although the buildability factor of the scheme is not its strongest point, the quality and scope of the presented work are admirable with such 'Star Wars' imagery. Indeed, she had set herself a mammoth task to make such a complex design unbelievably constructablw and additional technical studies and construction details would certainly help in this aspect.

### Kuantan Expedition Tower by Tan Khang Hung

The origins of the rather unusual proposal for the Kuantan Expedition Tower by Tan Khang Hung can be viewed in the light of the comments he makes about the nature of Kuantan. To him 'Kuantan seems to have everything, but nothing is special'. Thus, the underlying theme of his scheme is to make 'that special place' more than the sum of the various parts which he has combined – a tower, a tourist hub and entertainment and fun for all. He has produced a new typology which is neither quite a tower nor quite a conventional building and nor quite a fun-fair. In a single element where horizontal and vertical planes are treated as one continuous sweeping form, he has created a unique icon for this easy-paced East Coast State Capital. He has produced, in his comprehensive presentation, an outrageous yet well worked out design which combines the tower with a long narrow building on six levels. He has added in a Sculpture Park, a Public Square, and linked them with an innovative inclined lift system. The lift cars gave a funfair experience when they climb up from the horizontal block to become vertical cabs.

The overall image is rather futuristic with the Skywalk and an Expedition Zone being incorporated in the tower proper together with a number of green technologies such as a wind farm, rainwater harvesting and solar collection. Many of the individual components he has combined in his scheme are already proposed in the Kuantan Local Plan, albeit in different locations and in slightly different forms. However, this proposal brings them together on a site which currently houses a collection of soon to be relocated JKR styled State and Federal Government offices. This gives the Kuantan Exhibition Tower an excellent prominent central location. It is adjacent to the State Mosque, the Kuantan and Shariah Courthouses and the Pahang Art Museum, and convenient for transportation and hotels. Contrary to his intent, they become his dilemma because they may cause his iconic building to compete with notable existing iconic places and perhaps the biggest threat is the fact that it is located near the Pahang River where the Local Plan had originally proposed to have the tower.