

Pamela Tan wins TSCSL Architecture Awards 2016

BY HANNAH RAFEE

Pamela Tan Poh Sin, from the University of Greenwich, has been named the winner of the fifth and final cycle of the Tan Sri Chan Sau Lai (TSCSL) Architecture Awards (2016). She was awarded the grand prize of RM25,000.

"My vision for the award was to create a platform for the architectural profession in Malaysia to brand, elevate and introduce outstanding graduates to the industry. Ultimately, we decided on the winner because her project was very well thought through, and the subject matter was unique," benefactor and founder Tan Sri Chan Sau Lai said at the award ceremony on Feb 21.

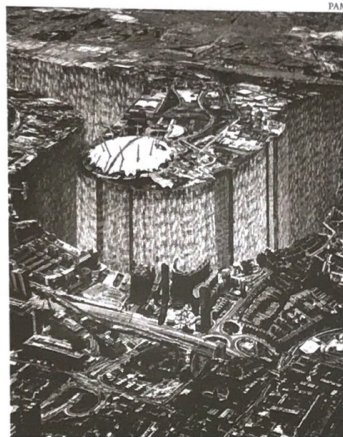
Members of the jury included Chan, co-founder Boon Chee Wee, PAM president Mohd Zulhemlee An, past PAM president Datuk Dr Ken Yeang, architect Dr Tan Loke Mun, interior designer Lai Siew Hong, Indonesian architect Daliana Suryawinata and award convener Amzar Ahmad.

Other recipients were second runner-up Chew Hung Nien of Universiti Teknologi Malaysia; third runner-up Peh Peng Cheong of Universiti Teknologi Malaysia; and finalists Daniel Tiong Wei Wen (Taylor's University), Lau Kar Choon (Universiti Sains Malaysia), Chan Shi Woan (Universiti Putra Malaysia), Lim Min Syn (Universiti Malaya) and Muhammad Naaim Shafiee (Universiti Teknologi Mara).

"The intricate drawings (by Pamela) show a high level of creativity, inventiveness, delightfulness and intensity that are indicators of a world-class talent. The winner has immense talent, but notably she is a very confident person with excellent presentation skills. She has great promise," said Yeang.

Tan's winning project, "Soil City", imagines a society structured around the high value associated with top soil. The project showcases miniature gardens in the vaults of the central soil bank, and workers dredging through domestic organic waste dumping grounds on the periphery of Greenwich Peninsula, in an attempt to speed up the process of the soil production.

"I feel very honoured to have received this award, and it gives me validation for all my



Part of Tan's winning project, Soil City

hard work," said Pamela, 26, who is currently practising at Dr Tan LM architect.

The awards are open to students who have completed a Master of Architecture course (LAM Part 2 or equivalent in the immediate preceding year), in Malaysia or abroad, who are current PAM members.

Each year, the jury shortlists up to eight finalists and interviews them in person or via video conferencing. Finalists are required to make a presentation on their projects. A total of RM50,000 worth of prizes are awarded. The architectural award winner receives RM25,000 and a certificate; the first runner-up gets RM10,000 and a certificate; second runner-up, RM5,000 and a certificate; and up to five finalists, RM2,000 and a certificate.

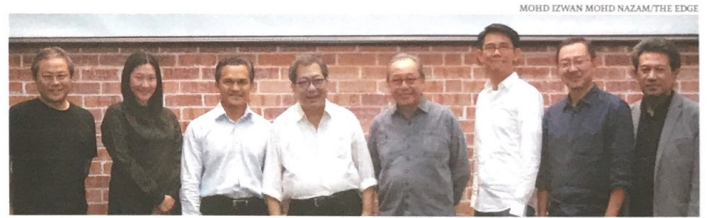
According to the judges, the calibre of submissions by the talents last year has been exceptional.

"We have received some of the most technical entries last year and what impressed is the high level of research done in the projects, especially the shortlisted ones," said Zulhemlee.

"The awards really showcase young talents and what interests them today. Most of the entries



Tan (second from right) receiving the award from (from left) Yeang, Zulhemlee and Chan



The jury (from left): Dr Tan, Daliana, Zulhemlee, Yeang, Chan, Lai, Boon and Amzar

[attempt] to cross boundaries of the practice. Some of them use sustainable technology and materials, such as Chu Hung Nien's 'Algae Culture, Technology and Innovation Centre', which proposes spaces to allow visitors to experience and learn the benefits of algae. These interesting explorations are bold and commendable," says Daliana.

"Over the years, the awards have grown to see more quality entries that reflect the high standard in architecture design. I hope the awards' success continues to make Malaysia vibrant and creative," said Lai.

"The awards augur well for the profession, and I am sure the winners will go on to be 'starchitects' in their own right as they begin their

respective professional journeys," said Dr Tan.

"The recognition conferred by these awards goes a long way in giving the emerging talents the much-needed head start to their careers. Based on the entries we received, it has been eye-opening to observe the freedom some schools are allowing the students [to have their own briefs/site] choices for their submission," observed Boon.

Despite being in its final cycle, PAM plans to continue the awards in a different format. "We have found an interested party to be a benefactor for the coming cycles. Perhaps we would have to reconfigure certain aspects of the awards, but we are confident that this type of programme will be continued at PAM. We will reveal more information soon," concluded Zulhemlee. ■