FUTURARC GREEN LEADERSHIP AWARD 2018

Jurors' Comments

COMMERCIAL

FACTORY IN THE FOREST | PENANG, MALAYSIA

Dr Nirmal Kishnani: *As a form strategy, a large canopy buys freedom: freedom of spatial configuration; freedom from extremes of climate; and freedom from hard boundaries between inside and outside. This industrial development in Malaysia demonstrates all this and more. There is strong command over detail, plus scientific control of glare and thermal heat gain.*

Florian Heinzelmann: *A high-quality design and well-executed project. This project can give an impulse to future factory buildings in (Southeast) Asia, considering the needs of employees. The front roof, albeit being a gesture of defining an almost non-material greenhouse volume, has its reason due to performance aspects and shading the spaces underneath. The sequences of green semi-outdoor spaces in relation to indoor spaces, the terracing and horizontal layering, are well thought-out and in combination with the roof that contributes to the microclimate.*

The shed roof above the factory facilities and light-diffusing elements seem to perform quite well in the provided photos, transmitting sufficient and evenly distributed daylight into the interior. However, the orientation of the openings in relation to location is not sufficiently explained since Penang is close to the equator, having light coming from north and south directions during different times of the year.

Dr Zalina Shari: *This scheme certainly represents leadership in the industry as it pushes the definition of what a Green building is in the tropics. It has set a good example of a Green factory, worthy of following by the rest of the industrial communities. The scheme is obviously powerful in its inclusion of greenery, daylight and air, creating an ecological working environment, inside and out. This biophilic design helps to fulfil the physical, psychological and emotional needs of the users as well as helps to boost the workers' productivity.*

COMMERCIAL

ATLAS HOTEL | HOI AN, VIETNAM

Dr Nirmal Kishnani: *This small hotel in Vietnam draws attention to striations of vertical green, alternating with exposed brick. The real innovation, though, is the way it fits within an irregular site; its form is stretched into a three-fingered shape, with enough space for a pool and a chance to stand back and see that green façade. The shape results in a narrow plan depth for all blocks; each room has access to daylight and ventilation, should guests desire these.*

Florian Heinzelmann: *This project is very well integrated into a rather difficult site condition of seemingly leftover spaces. The double layer façade that integrates the exterior access corridor is a mix between greenery and brick, which not only generates a rhythm of light and shadow patterns but also contributes to the microclimate.*

Dr Zalina Shari: *What makes this scheme stand out above the rest is the fact that it provides a relaxing, cosy, calm and peaceful indoor and outdoor environment within a busy, polluted and dense urban context —a reminiscence of a world of its own—as well as its cleverly and passively planned site on a restricted and awkwardly-shaped site. The façade vegetations do not just soften the hard walls but also act as the first layer of protection from the harsh climatic conditions.*

COMMERCIAL

THE LANTERN-NANOCO GALLERY | HANOI, VIETNAM

Dr Nirmal Kishnani: *A modern two-skin solution is applied to a traditional tube-house typology. The outer skin presents a pattern of ventilated terracotta blocks, often used in Vietnamese vernacular. The inner glass skin, shaded by this veil of terracotta, holds air-conditioned spaces that make up the showroom. The architecture blends into the streetscape during the day, lost in the clutter of Hanoi streetscape; at night, illuminated from within, it comes alive and reveals itself as something altogether new.*

Florian Heinzelmann: *The concept of using local permeable brick elements as exclusive building skin, forming a coherent volume, is strong. This light filtration and shading element work well for the interior. Some decisions such as the sealing of rooms via glass element raise questions. Also, pulling the permeable brick elements around the corner into the narrow alley seems to only make sense from an architectural point of view (volume) rather than from a climatic or daylighting point of view.*

Dr Zalina Shari: *This scheme has successfully proven one thing: when Green architecture is designed sensitive to local climate, ecology and energy efficiency, using locally available materials that could be assembled by local people, the result will naturally convey indigenous character. This gallery portrays true aesthetics of tropical architecture due to its porosity and rhythmic shadows. Being a simple rectangular box built in a typical urban infill context, the scheme has great potential for a broad-based application, not only in Hanoi but also in other Asian cities.*

RESIDENTIAL – MULTIPLE HOUSES

WAH HA ESTATE | HONG KONG

Dr Nirmal Kishnani: *Public housing is not easy to pull off with burdens of limited budget and need for social space. This development in Hong Kong achieves all this within the added constraint of an existing factory building shell. The result is surprisingly credible and coherent. Simplicity and understated-ness are its strengths. It shows how old buildings might be conserved for everyday needs and not simply gentrified.*

Florian Heinzelmann: *Reusing an old factory building and transforming it into a residential building is highly regarded and can give impulse to other cities as an example of how to transform their building heritage (without heritage status) into becoming something useful again. The combination of passive strategies such as eco well, greenery on the roof as well as certain technologies are very reasonable approaches towards energy consumption reduction and increase of liveability.*

Dr Zalina Shari: *This is a unique example of a Green public housing that is built on a grey field site and emphasises reuse and preservation of existing building stock. I am impressed not only with the architectural transformation of the blocks, ecologically and socially, but also with the fact that the project involved community engagement in the process. Specifically, the project brought in the end users not only in the design process but the involvement was carried all the way through to the construction as well as operation and maintenance stages. This way, the project is not only sustainable, but it also provides a better sense of community and place to the local neighbourhood.*

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Jurors' Comments

RESIDENTIAL – INDIVIDUAL HOUSES

MAISON T | HANOI, VIETNAM

Dr Nirmal Kishnani: *This is a beautiful house tucked between two developments and built on a narrow strip of land. It is inspired by the modern and the traditional, a wonderful example of how leftover parcels within a city can be used.*

Florian Heinzelmann: *The lot, being narrow and deep, seems like a typical situation in Vietnam, therefore the project can give an impulse to future projects of this kind. The layers and sequence from the street (public) to the courtyard (semi-public) and to the house (private) is well designed. Bringing sufficient daylight and ventilation into the building due to the limitations of the site appears to work well due to the courtyards, buffer space, top lights, etc.*

Dr Zalina Shari: *This scheme proves that a Green house does not have to mean a sophisticated mansion, built only for an affluent homeowner. Maison T is in fact just a small-scale simple house that fills a gap in Hanoi's city fabric. Yet, it is clever in its responsiveness to the local climate and its fusion with traditional Vietnamese architectural elements. To me, this project is a genuine Green building, not only because it can be appreciated by ordinary people, but also because it offers environmental and social benefits to the communities, if replicated at an urban scale.*

INSTITUTIONAL

INSTITUTE OF INTEGRATED LEARNING IN MANAGEMENT, GREATER NOIDA | INDIA

Dr Nirmal Kishnani: *Brick is handled with great skill and respect. What is equally noteworthy are the permutations of form, solids and voids, that make configurations of indoor and semi-outdoor spaces like a Rubik's cube. The impact of form on microclimate is an astounding 8 degrees Celcius between courtyard and beyond, a significant margin in the summers of north India.*

Florian Heinzelmann: *Combining the programmatic (types) as well as the material (bricks) building blocks into permeable volumes performing on the macro- as well as micro-scale is stunning, and leads to a sequence of differentiated (architecturally and temperature-wise) courtyards and semi-outdoor spaces. However, I would have wished to see more photos of the actual interior spaces themselves.*

Dr Zalina Shari: *The form and massing of the buildings with courtyards, overhangs and verandas as well as the suitable choice of materials and fenestration designs work well with the local climate, culture and architecture. I am so amazed with the temperature differences between fully-enclosed, partly-enclosed and fully-open spaces, as a result of its effectively planned site and articulated architecture.*

SOCIALLY-INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

BE FRIENDLY SPACE | QUANG NINH PROVINCE, VIETNAM

Dr Nirmal Kishnani: *A seemingly random configuration of walls creates spaces that are used by the community in a town in northern Vietnam. This entry won in the socially-inclusive category not just because it is a successful community space, but also for its engagement of community during construction, for which volunteers were roped in, and during the design process that relied on ideas from people in the neighbourhood. Post-occupancy observations suggest that the spaces are well utilised by different groups, at little or no cost.*

Florian Heinzelmann: *The operation to define spaces and their permeability via a meandering band of adobe wall is simple yet elegant. The raised bamboo construction for the roof clad with polycarbonate is well thought-out in serving as the construction and sunshading element simultaneously. The participatory approach during the design and execution phases is highly regarded.*

Dr Zalina Shari: *The scheme has been materialised through community engagements from the beginning of the design process until the construction and operation phases, making it a good example of socially-inclusive architecture. The fact that the community was trained to construct the building using local and renewable materials, while coming up with a climate-responsive passive piece of architecture that can be used by them for free or with a minimal cost, are commendable. Simply put: This project was funded, designed, built and used by the local community.*

INSTITUTIONAL

THE BRITISH SCHOOL | NEW DELHI, INDIA

Dr Nirmal Kishnani: *The façade is a study in porosity linked to solar exposure, which gives it a pattern that is both aesthetic and scientific. The configuration of blocks making up classrooms creates courtyards that offer social space and microclimate. This is an excellent example of how architectural form becomes an agent of performance and social needs.*

Florian Heinzelmann: *The sequence of inner courtyards, with sports facilities, sunken plaza, etc., and the drop in outdoor temperature due to shading, stack effects or evaporative cooling seem to work well and lead to high-quality spaces in terms of microclimate. The pixelated façade made from standardised elements is an intriguing idea, architecturally speaking. However, it is not sufficiently explained how the differentiation of opening sizes is related to building's orientation, functions behind the façade or vertical placement gradually transforming from smaller openings at the bottom to larger ones on top.*

Dr Zalina Shari: *The scheme is unique to India in a sense of materiality and form-making that supports the aspirations of the students as well as local history and place. Although quite modular in terms of its architectural approach, the placement of each block as well as the overall space planning are well formulated to ensure social cohesion among students and protection against the harsh outdoor climate.*

RESIDENTIAL – INDIVIDUAL HOUSES

WOODIFICATION | SOUTH JAKARTA, INDONESIA

Dr Nirmal Kishnani: *The use of wood, much of it recycled, is amazing. The palette, and its environmental backstory, is part of what makes the scheme interesting. What sets this house apart is its approach to form; its massing is tucked in the space between existing trees, resulting in an architecture deeply immersed in site and landscape. The story of sustainably sourced wood, as a means to an end, is amplified, seen against the attempt to conserve the trees on-site.*

Florian Heinzelmann: *There is a strong idea about materiality, specifically in the use of wood in Indonesia, which is in general a public view that it is a problematic construction material due to termites, etc. The project's selection of partly reused ironwood for the exterior and plantation-based rubber wood for the interior makes sense. The building layout is designed according to existing trees, which led to a unique spatial configuration where the form follows plants. Realising this project, despite a lack of qualified craftsmen, makes it even more impressive. The building itself with material and form has a strong symbiosis and embeddedness with its direct surroundings.*

Dr Zalina Shari: *What makes this scheme strong is that it is designed with great care and articulation to protect the surrounding ecosystem and at the same time enhance human wellness. It has elements that contribute to our natural affinity towards a space such as form and massing that respect nature; materials from nature; patterns, textures and colours that mimic nature; and spatial quality that offers visual connections with nature.*