

30 August 2017

## Architects now have eight-storey HQ

The Star, 24 July 2017



Sultan Sharafuddin (in brown suit) signing a plaque at the official opening of the new PAM Centre.

THE Malaysian Institute of Architects (PAM), which started off as a group of architects organising ad hoc meetings in hotel lobbies, has now moved on to open its own brick-and-mortar headquarters, the PAM Centre in Jalan Tandok, Bangsar.

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Although the grouping of Malaysian architects has a history dating back to the 1920s, PAM was first registered only in 1967.

"In the early years, in the 1960s, PAM had meetings in hotel lobbies and homes – we had no funds and no home base.

"But in 1969, PAM rented a room in the Merlin Hotel, now known as the Concorde Hotel, in Jalan Sultan Ismail," said Ezumi, adding that it was a meagre 250sq ft room.

"In 1973, PAM rented the Peninsula Hotel in Jalan Tangsi and then decided to purchase the four-storey building in Jalan Tandok to be developed into an architect-driven centre for contemporary art.

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“The result is what you see now, a minimalist design that is elegant with an efficient solution that is also sustainable,” he said.

He added that in order to set an example for the community and industry, they strived toward, and had achieved, a platinum rating for the certified green building in the hopes of making 3,782sq m built-up area the city’s greenest building.



The elegant but minimalist PAM Centre in Jalan Tandok,

The Sultan of Selangor also witnessed PAM’s launch of a book titled *In the Eye of the Storm* that described the association’s journey in finding a place architects can call their own.

Ezumi then announced the naming of PAM Centre’s council meeting room and roof terrace in honour of former presidents the late Datuk Ikmal Hisham Albakri and Datuk Kington Loo, respectively.