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CONCRETE GLASS STEEL

Hijjas Kasturi, distinguished alumnus of the Faculty, launched an exhibition of highlights from his practice Hijjas Kasturi Associates on 17 March/ →read more

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Editor's Note

Due to popular demand, Atrium will continue to be produced in hard copy format, with a PDF version available online at www.abp.unimelb.edu.au/atrium

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Hijjas Kasturi

visits the Melbourne School of Design

Hijjas Kasturi, distinguished alumnus of the Faculty, launched an exhibition Concrete, Glass, Steel which showed highlights of his practice Hijjas Kasturi Associates (HKAS) in the Atrium of the Architecture building on Monday 17 March. In launching the exhibition he described the path he took from studying in Australia to being an academic in Malaysia and then setting up the successful practice of HKAS.

Mr Kasturi then gave a public lecture titled 'In Search of Identity in Architecture' outlining significant buildings designed by HKAS. He categorized the development of the buildings by HKAS spanning Concrete – characterized by the initial buildings completed in Malaysia, followed by the Metal influenced designs of prize winning buildings in Riyadh, then the more recent Glass constructions.

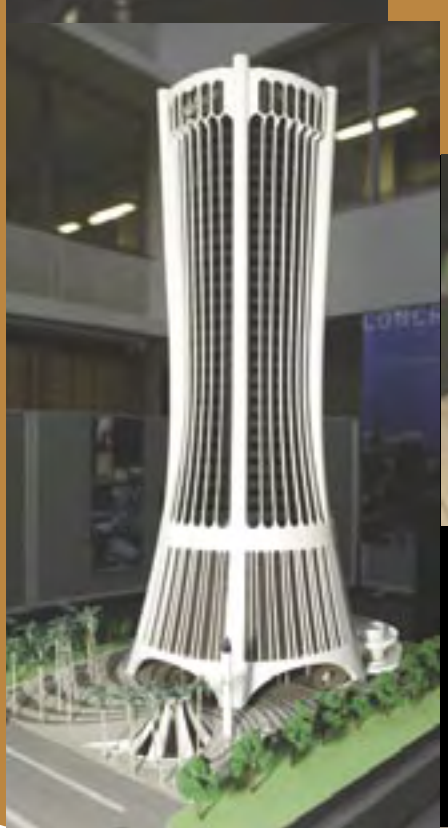
Hijjas Kasturi studied at the University of Adelaide and the University of Melbourne (Bachelor of Architecture 1965, Graduate Diploma of Town and Regional Planning 1966). "Those were the golden years of Australian architecture to me. The times of Robin Boyd, of Roy Grounds and Peter Muller. It was the time when the Olympic Swimming Pool had just been completed - magnificent vanguard buildings, breakthroughs in architecture - such as the beginnings of Sydney Opera House, when the whole world was looking at it. It was a really fantastic time to be a student."

He returned to Singapore in 1966, then moved to Malaysia in 1967, where he founded the School of Art and Architecture at MARA Institute of Technology. He went into partnership in 1969, and then formed the practice Hijjas Kasturi Associates (HKAS) in 1997.

Characterised by the major concerns of architecture, town planning and building, plus the arts-oriented influences of industrial design, graphic and textile design, and fine arts, the practice of HKAS has a unique vision.

Major buildings in Kuala Lumpur such as Menara Maybank (1989), Tabung Haji (1986), Putrajaya Convention Centre (2003) and the 4G11 Tower (2008) currently being built in Putrajaya are a small sample of the influential buildings designed by HKAS.

Mr Hijjas Kasturi's work is recognised internationally. In 1998 he received the Tokyo Creation Award and in 2001 the Malaysian Architect's Institute Gold Medal. He was also awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the Unviersiti Malaya in 2005.



Conversation with Kasturi Deputy Dean and Director of the Melbourne School of Design, Professor Philip Goad spoke to Hijjas about his recollections of study at Melbourne and his thoughts on the industry.
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