

blueprint asia

BI-MONTHLY / MALAYSIA RM18 / SINGAPORE SGD11 (INCL. GST) / AUSTRALIA AUD 12.95 / PHILIPPINES PHP330 / BRUNEI BND11 / HONG KONG HKD65 / OTHERS USD10

ABDEL BOUNANE

C'ARCH

MUJI

GREENHOUSE BY JOOST

K2LD ARCHITECTS

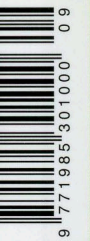
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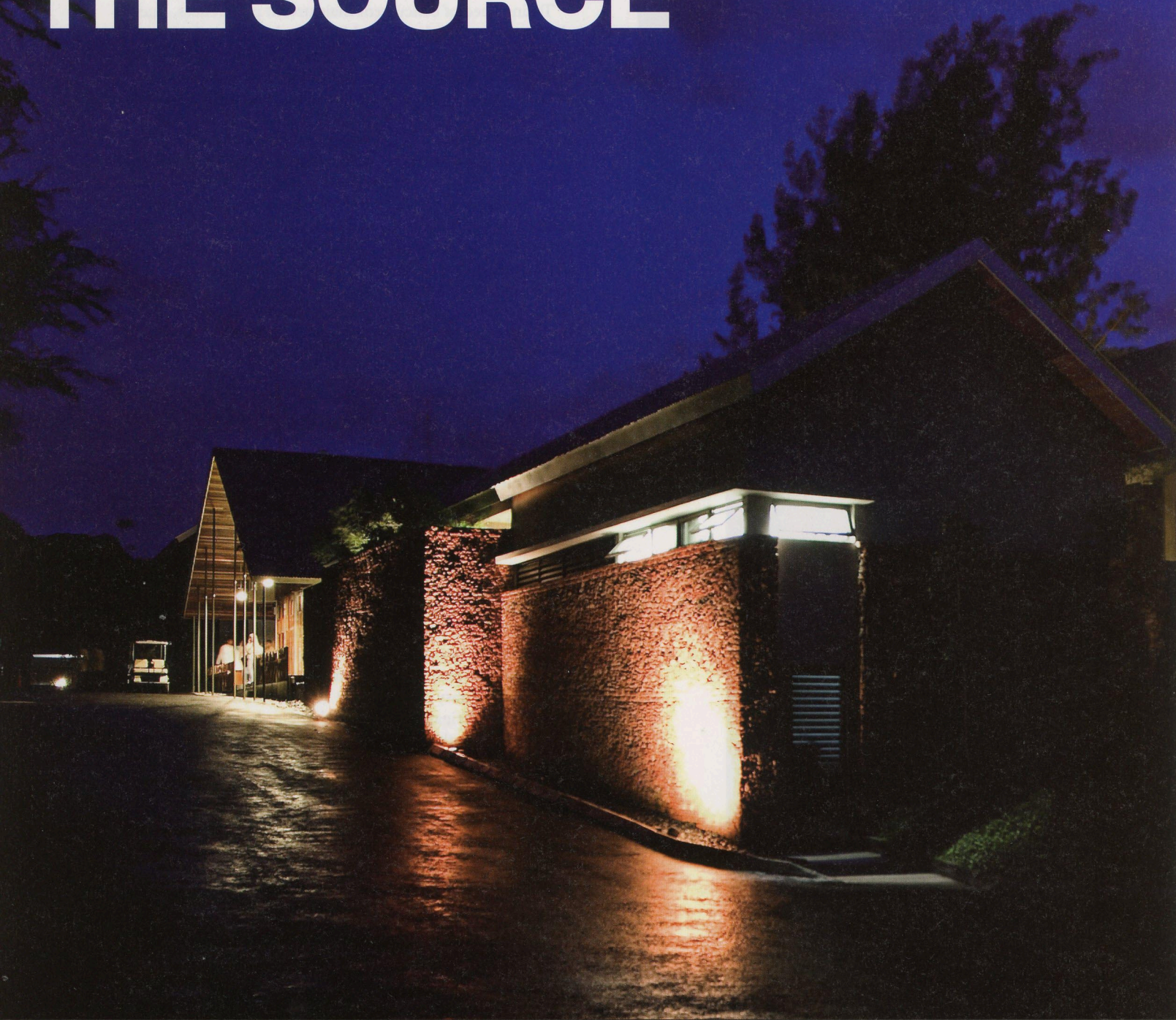
ADVENTURES IN PARADISE: THE NEW CLUB MED BALI

GREEN BUILDING INDEX: MALAYSIA'S ANSWER TO SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS

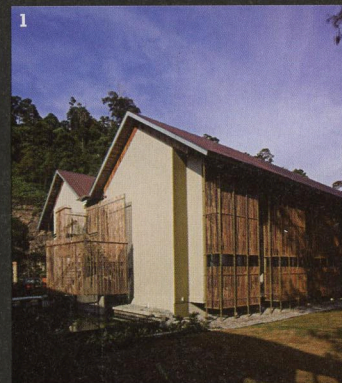
SUPER NATURAL



GOING BACK TO THE SOURCE



For their design of a newly constructed eco resort on Pulau Banding, Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur-based firm C'Arch drew direct inspiration from the site's immediate surroundings: the historic 130 million year old Royal Belum forest.



WHEN C'ARCH FIRST conceived of the initial sketches for the Belum Rainforest, they were by no means merely concerned with aesthetics. Situated within an environmentally sensitive area – an island on Tasik Temenggor, North Perak, Malaysia – it seemed only appropriate that the 70-room resort should emerge as a sustainable development with the aim of comfortably accommodating overnight guests as well as a place where visitors have the opportunity to enhance their awareness of nature and green issues. In addition to intensive consultations with the local and federal government, a sufficient component of the research undergone for the project included gathering respective feedback from environmentalists, academics and concerned NGOs.

Utilizing recycling, sustainability and energy efficiency as predominant themes, C'Arch's design also consciously incorporates a combination of the old and the new by juxtaposing new materials with recycled or existing elements cultivated from



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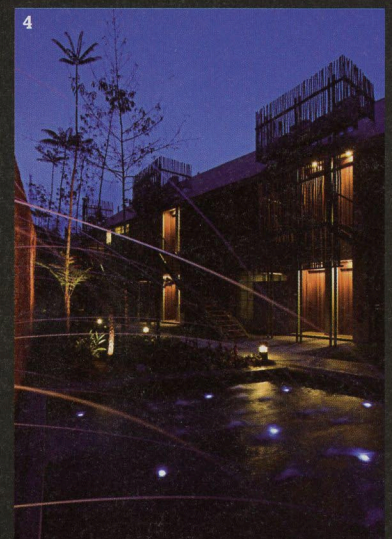
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Digi Planner
- + QUANTITY SURVEYOR
Juru Ukur Bahan (M)
Sdn Bhd
- + MAIN CONTRACTOR
Juterias Sdn Bhd
- + CONTRACT VALUE
RM22,000,000.00
- + PROJECT DURATION
5 months
- + DATE OF COMPLETION
31 March 2008
- + PHOTOGRAPHER
807Studio Sdn Bhd

areas surrounding the site. The designers' resourceful sensibilities are most visually apparent in project highlights such as the structure's heavily textured 'huruhara' (a term meaning 'chaos' in Malaysian) walls constructed with recycled bricks salvaged from the remnants of the previously demolished resort; multi-colored 'sapling' harvested from fast-growing sustainable timbers define the façade of the building and function as balustrades; a 'safari roof' which utilizes a ventilated air-gap as a natural insulating layer; concealed catch-basins for storm-water management and heat recovery systems for hot water from air-conditioning units. The project's overriding emphasis on sustainability and C'Arch's determination to create a building with the capacity to coherently respond to the output of the rainforest invariably meant jettisoning the idea of air conditioning as the default mode of cooling; hence natural ventilation was encouraged via the development of deep roof eaves, fenestrations with screens that filter out the hot sun and layouts which sensibly encourage cross-ventilation to keep the interiors at a cool and temperate level. Finally, as an apt finishing touch, the entire site is enclosed by a carefully orchestrated landscape composed of thematic gardens with specifically planted plots that allude to the medicinal, economic, ritualistic and culinary properties of the local flora and fauna. ▾



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- 1 /
Exterior view of the façade
- 2 /
The façade utilizes 'sapling' harvested from sustainable timbers
- 3 /
A view of the building's interior
- 4 /
Landscape at junction of buildings
- 5 /
One of the resort's 70 rooms



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