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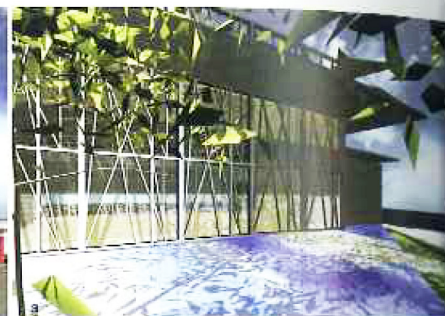
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states of urbanity



cyberia crescent

architect C' arch Architecture & Design Sdn Bhd



The urbanism in Cyberjaya is concocted in the blueprint of the grand parti that is the Multimedia Super Corridor. The canvas of this ambition is bounded by the Kuala Lumpur City Centre in the north, Putrajaya and Cyberjaya in the centre and culminates at the KL International Airport in the south. The Federal Department of Town and Country Planning states that the idea is a "mega" infrastructure spine to attract Information Age businesses to locate their establishments there.

Kuala Lumpur's traffic problems in the 1980's and 1990's rapidly stretched its urban systems to such an extent that it affected the original international airport in Subang. This prompted the relocation of the airport thus giving credence to the relocation of the administrative centre of the government to a place near the new transportation node. This exercise embodied the ingredients and reasons required to re-badge the iconography of the Malaysian government as well as allowing the germination of new developments and commerce on this vast tract of land. In essence this is a brand of new urbanism that is not associated with the nuances of traditional and classical city life; rather, it is a form of planning that is more akin to the monolithic attempts in Chandigarh and Brasilia which suggest a formulae or pattern to urban design. The objects that constitute this urban spine are placed in a fashion bearing no relationship to the manner of growth of classical cities. It may be an intentional experiment in devisable urbanism but such "jungle clearing urbanism" concepts embrace not myth, not history, not sociology and not demography.

In Jonathan Raban's opening chapter of "The Soft City" he suggests that the city 'invites you to remake it, to consolidate it into a shape you can live in'. He suggests that living in cities is an art and therefore you need the vocabulary of art, of style in the relationship between man and material

which participate in the continual creative play of urban living. Cyberjaya plays up to the dichotomy in Raban's urbanism because the contextual associations in the unfolding drama of the city life in this setting, is conspicuously absent. It is also unfortunate that the "mega-projects" are all too obviously mega distant apart to transfer any good bacteria to cultivate the sustenance of the urban milieu. There is no inspired resonance in a setting of bad architectural surroundings and a myriad of strangely conceived "tropical" styled public buildings. The formula and the design palette for a scheme in this area is as inspirational as making a painting of the sky meeting the sea. There is all but a forlorn trust that there will be sufficient infillings for the spaces constructed so that the infillings will eventually spark infusion of urban experiences in a moment in the future. Our role and ambition now is to exact spaces that will afford the opportunity to assemble the human experience of sharing outside the private domain of the apartment unit. It requires explaining that the provision of good public spaces is a marketable concept in the context of a developer's agenda. In the developers' vision of the world, which is a subordination to the demands of real estate, the foregoing of the opportunities to respond to the city's urban needs, is an easy route.

Our scheme empathizes with such necessity to make spaces that will provide perhaps the small opportunities represented in urban interaction. A series of public spaces that could be adapted for varied uses becomes the fulcrum of a livable design. There is perhaps some sanity that can be retrieved in countering the sparseness of life in a "new" city like this by offering a pocket of retreat and the hope that it has the chance and the will to infect the sparseness.

Architect's Statement 

- 1 view of gymnasium from pool
- 2 & 6 townvillas front view
- 3 view of surau garden
- 4 view of surau entrance
- 5 & 7 view of surau prayer hall



project data
location
 Cyberjaya, Sepang,
 Selangor Darul
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client
 Paramoden
 Sdn Bhd
architect
 C arch Architecture
 & Design Sdn Bhd
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 Seng, Hendrick Yee,
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