

Asia Now! - Southeast Asian Cosmopolitan Urbanism

Hosted by the National University of Singapore
27 June ? 15 July, 2011



NUS Architecture Department exchange students visiting the Tun Tan Cheng Lock Centre in Malacca, Malaysia

As an introduction to Southeast Asian cosmopolitan urbanism, the module is specifically designed for students with an interest in the Southeast Asian region and who wish to get a comprehensive in-depth understanding through hands-on and on-site direct learning experience, especially in the area of cultural heritage conservation and management.

This course sets a framework for comprehensive and coherent understanding of cosmopolitan urban heritage ? both tangible and intangible ? through lectures, field work, synchronic & diachronic mapping, critical analysis, and interactive presentation, conducted through intensive daily activities for 3 weeks. Participants will be challenged and encouraged to collect first-hand information from all stakeholders, to listen to voices from the streets, to see beyond facade, to explore unfamiliar territories, to discover fundamental problems, to recognize new potentials, and to deliver innovative ideas. Participants will work together as teams in smaller groups covering different aspects of urban mapping, but will also have to focus on specific individual issues. The output of the course is an integrated visual presentation, consisting of textual & graphic reports, website, video clips, and exhibition panels, for public exposure and exhibition.

The course will mostly be conducted in the cosmopolitan city of Malacca (Malaysia). On 8 July 2008, two historic cities of the Straits of Malacca: George Town and Malacca were inscribed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites, because of their outstanding universal values:

- representing exceptional examples of multi-cultural trading towns in East and Southeast Asia through blending of various cultures and imprinted to the architecture and urban form;
- as living testimonies of the multi-cultural tangible and intangible heritage and tradition of Asia, and of the European colonial influences, as expressed in their religious buildings of different faiths, ethnic enclaves, spoken dialects, festivities, dances, attires, art forms, cuisines and lifestyles;
- reflecting the blend of influences that result in a unique form of architecture, culture and cityscape incomparable elsewhere in East and South Asia, especially through an exceptional range of shop houses and townhouses from differing eras.

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NUS Summer Internship

The National University of Singapore offers a series of research and administrative internship opportunities for IARU students. Please visit <http://www.iaruni.org/internships> for more information. Internships run 23 May - 15 July.

THE BASICS:

Lecturers:

Associate Professor Johannes Widodo (NUS)
Dr. Lilian Chee(NUS)

Field Trip:

Tun Tan Cheng Lock Centre for Asian Architectural and Urban Heritage, Malacca (costs are waived)

Tuition: Waived

Accommodation Costs: Sponsored

Target Audience:

The course is pitched at students in their 2nd or 3rd year of study in a 4-year undergraduate curriculum, though we will accept undergraduates at any level.

Students taking courses at their home universities in fields such as urban history, sociology, geography, urban anthropology, urban and regional planning, architecture, landscape architecture, cultural studies, environmental studies, environmental engineering, or related subjects, can all benefit from this module.

About the National University of Singapore

Founded in 1905, the National University of Singapore (NUS) is Singapore's flagship university which offers a global approach to education and research, with a focus on Asian perspectives and expertise. Its holistic educational approach is supported by its dedication to strategic research in key areas such as engineering, life sciences and biomedicine, social sciences and natural sciences. NUS' cosmopolitan community of students from over 100 countries further provides a diverse social and cultural educational experience. As a globally-oriented institution that strives towards the nurturing of an innovative community amongst students, NUS is an active partner in numerous activities, particularly the Global Summer Program and the Global Internship Program. NUS also spearheads discussions in areas such as global education and the value of research intensive universities. NUS President Professor Tan Chorh Chuan is the incumbent IARU Chairman. For more information, visit <http://www.nus.edu.sg/>

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