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PLUS: PAM-TAN SRI Ar CHAN SAU LAI ARCHITECTURE AWARD







DOUBLE-STOREY BUNGALOW INTERIOR IN CROOKSHANK ROAD

A sustainable living quarter with a sleek timber interior complements its natural, green surroundings.

The house is nestled within a residential neighbourhood close to the Kuching city centre, surrounded by mature trees and natural vegetation. Considering its close proximity to the city centre, the site's unusually tranquil environment is a boon for owners who decided to build their first home in Kuching for their growing family.

After construction had commenced, Integrated Design Consultant was approached

to design the interiors of the house with a focus on the living and dining areas, kitchens, family room and bedrooms. The brief called for the designer to create a cosy living environment that complemented the architecture as well as provide storage for their burgeoning book collection. One of the distinct architectural features of the house is a ramp that connects the ground floor to the first floor – giving the owners a bird's eye view of the natural surroundings as they

travel along the ramp to the upper floor. The house is also designed to be sustainable, and utilises metal screens and timber louvres to encourage natural cross ventilation throughout the house at all times. Natural light is a constant feature in the house as there are ample windows in all the habitable spaces of the house, minimising the use of artificial lighting during the day.

Inspired by the slope of the ramp that connects the house

CLIENT
PRIVATE

LOCATION
KUCHING, SARAWAK

YEAR COMPLETED
FEBRUARY 2014

ARCHITECT (INTERIOR)
INTEGRATED DESIGN
CONSULTANT

ARCHITECT
ANDRA MATIN IN
COLLABORATION WITH
ARKITEK KDI SDN BHD

BUILT-UP AREA
495 SQM

C & S ENGINEER
JURUTERA ALPHA MILE-
NIUM SDN BHD

M & E ENGINEER
PERLUNDING CHL SDN BHD

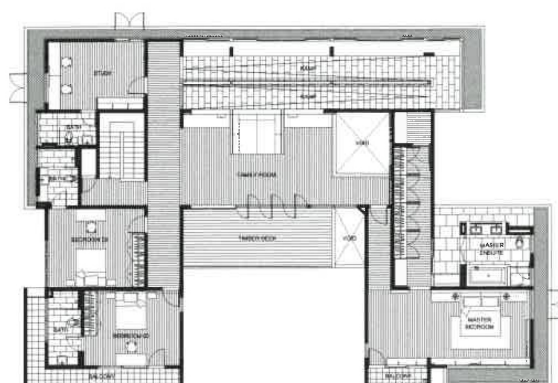
LIGHTING SUPPLIER
JUST LIGHT ENTERPRISE

CONTRACTOR
TEMA MAHIR SDN BHD

**BUILDING MATERIALS
SUPPLIER**
LOCAL LATA PLYWOOD,
TEAK FLOORBOARDS

FURNITURE SUPPLIER
ASEANA GALLERY, FISKE

PHOTOGRAPHY
COURTESY OF INTEGRAT-
ED DESIGN CONSULTANT



on both levels as well as traditional Chinese lattice screens, the designers utilised the wall between the ramp and living space to build custom-designed shelves for the owners' books that still enable natural light and cross ventilation to flow throughout the house. The shelves not only serve the purpose of providing storage for the owners' book collection – they form screens, room dividers, and divans for reading on. They also enable family members to interact with each other even when they are in different parts of the house, as the ramp is a transition space that links the living areas on the ground floor to the family room and bedrooms upstairs.

The designers decided on a restrained palette of materials in order to complement the sleek, modern lines of the architecture. They were carefully chosen to balance the harmony between the architecture and the interiors, and require minimal maintenance for the owners, who wanted the house to complement its natural surroundings. Raw plywood and teak floorboards are used extensively throughout the house not only to create a striking contrast to the whitewashed walls, but also to show how humble materials can create a sophisticated architecture and interiors. Both fixed and loose furniture were detailed out of local 'Lala' timber plywood in keeping with the minimalist aesthetic as well as for its honey-blond colour and fine grain. The use of special plywood also dispensed with the need for additional interior finishes. ❸

BELOW: The various timber furnishings in the interior

