



Retirement & Recovery Village

## Post-Hospitalisation Care & Recovery



ReU offers short-term intensive care programmes, focusing on stroke and orthopaedic recovery for all ages. These programmes are tailored for recuperating after surgery or hospitalisation.

ReU provides a full range of care and a Clubhouse with engaging activities in a luxury hotel environment. The advanced rehabilitative equipment and expertise of ReU include a Traditional Chinese Medicine physician, physiotherapist, dietician, and speech therapist. This combination results in faster and better recovery.

\*Post-op recovery is insurance claimable - please check with your insurance agent/provider.









## **MOCOF**





## SPACE REINVENT

REGAIN AND RECLAIM
YOUR VALUABLE SPACE IN STYLE





















Bangsar Shopping Centre - Lot F117 & F118, Level 1

Setia City Mall - Lot L1-117 & 118, Level 1

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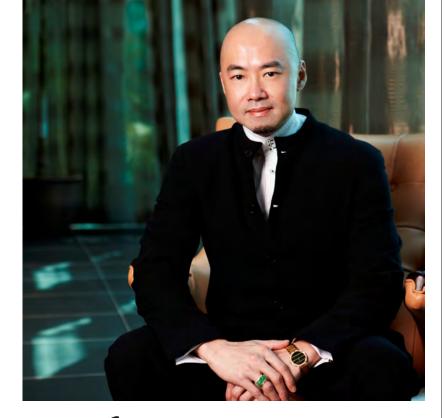
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## Editor's Note

In recent years, the landscape of corporate responsibility and sustainable practices has undergone a profound transformation. The acronym "ESG," which stands for Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance, has become a defining set of principles shaping the way organisations operate and how they are evaluated by stakeholders.

ESG encompasses a wide spectrum of criteria by which companies are judged. Environmental considerations involve a company's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint, mitigating climate change impacts and managing resources sustainably. Social factors encompass matters such as diversity and inclusion, labour practices and community engagement. Corporate Governance, the "G" in ESG, addresses the internal structure and policies that guide a company, focusing on transparency, ethics and accountability.

For this issue, the 25th edition of Berita Tan & Tan, we explore the ever-evolving world of ESG, which IGB group of companies has practiced long before the term gained popularity.

We explore Tan & Tan's Heritage of Greenery and the foundation stones set by from Dato' Tan Chin Nam through to Tan Lei Cheng to Tan Boon Lee and now helmed by Tan Yee Seng. Tan & Tan's wealth of projects have always focused on greenery and landscaping, from Desa Kudalari in the 1970s, Sierramas in the 1990s and Park Manor and Stonor 3 KLCC in the last decade not only set a standard for opulent living but became enduring symbols of verdant luxury. We also showcase GTower, which was Malaysia's first Green & Smart building built by IGB group in 2009. GTower was the catalyst in the green building movement in Malaysia.

We'll also hear from our leaders who are driving this ESG transformation, including IGB Berhad's group chief executive officer (GCEO) Tan Boon Lee and deputy group chief executive officer (DGCEO) Tan Mei Sian.

Finally, we would like to thank the gracious Tengku Zatashah Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah, the first woman to grace our magazine cover. Over the years, the Selangor princess has won over many Malaysians' hearts with her selfless work as an environment activist and philantrophist.

We hope to inspire you with this edition. The climate crisis is real and threatening our fragile planet. We invite you to join us on this journey towards sustainability. It is clear that ESG is no longer just a buzzword but a profound shift in the way we conduct business and the way we interact with our planet and fellow citizens.

We invite you to join us in exploring this exciting and essential landscape as we bid farewell to 2023 and wish for a peaceful New Year.

Colin Ng Director / Chief Marketing Officer Tan & Tan Developments Berhad

## BTT

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VOL 25 2023/2024

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Colin Ng

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## **Urban Rejuvenation** and Innovation for a or a Luture



In January of the year 2023, IGB Berhad received Tan Boon Lee as the Group Chief Executive Officer (GCEO) and Tan Mei Sian as the Deputy Group Chief Executive Officer (DGCEO).

The noteworthy professional backgrounds of both Boon Lee and Mei Sian have significantly contributed to the achievements of IGB in the past. Their adept leadership is poised to further enhance the company's accomplishments.

We will explore Boon Lee and Mei Sian's career trajectories leading to their current executive roles, shedding light on their pursuits beyond the corporate sphere and their perspectives on Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance (ESG).

#### **MAN WITH A MISSION**

IGB Berhad has consistently maintained a position at the forefront of innovation and change, facilitating the group's proactive stance in remaining ahead of industry trends. Group Chief Executive Officer (GCEO) Tan Boon Lee affirms the continuation of this enduring legacy through successive generations.

Boon Lee, the youngest son of the late Dato' Tan Chin Nam, who founded IGB Group and Tan & Tan Developments Berhad, recounts significant milestones in IGB's history, highlighting pioneering endeavors such as Desa Kudalari, the first high-end lifestyle condominium in Malaysia. "At that time, we didn't have any strata laws here in Malaysia, but my father saw these types of condos in Hawaii and was inspired to start his own. Local people were naturally skeptical about it. They had only ever lived in link houses and nobody wanted to live in a block of apartments with somebody above and below you, having to share common facilities! It was quite a challenge to introduce the concept to them. Yet, we managed to sell the idea then, and today, we have a proliferation of strata units in our country."

Boon Lee recounts IGB's numerous other firsts, including MiCasa, the first service apartments, Sierramas, the first gated and guarded community homes in Sungai Buloh, Gleneagles, the first hospital with hotel grade rooms and Mid Valley Megamall, the largest megamall at that time. Emphasizing the family business's commitment to anticipating future trends, he acknowledges the inherent risks associated with such ventures but underscores their notable success.

"These are just some of the products we have led the way with and have proven to be very successful," further explaining that the family business has revolved around looking at future trends, trying to understand them, and coming up with lifestyle products to cater to those demands. "It's high risk of course, but if we get it right, then we take the lead position as a prime mover in the industry. There are obviously risks and rewards in the process but we've done pretty well so far."

"The legacy of innovation, development and keeping ahead of the curve has been passed on amongst family members, as we just kept hearing talk about it, so it became second nature. We all grew up in this sort of environment. Plus, all of us love to travel. When we're abroad, we observe what's happening there and if we feel that the timing is right for a certain product, then we try to introduce it in Malaysia, perhaps tinkering it a little bit because we don't always have the necessary laws to support these products yet."

Assuming the role of GCEO in January 2023, following the retirement of his cousin Datuk Seri Robert Tan, Boon Lee acknowledges the familial continuity of innovation and forward-thinking. With a background in economics from Monash University and an MBA from Cranfield School of Management, he traces his professional journey within IGB, progressing from Executive Director to CEO of subsidiary Tan & Tan Developments Berhad before ascending to the GCEO position.

Addressing the market landscape, Boon Lee underscores IGB's strategic focus on innovation, avoiding saturated markets with thin margins and instead seeking opportunities in areas where land prices are favorable, aligning with Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance (ESG) principles.

Urban rejuvenation and repurposing old buildings emerge as key initiatives in reducing carbon footprint, aligning with the organization's commitment to sustainability. In the past, IGB had done some of these projects overseas, including the restoration of the Queen Victoria Building in Sydney which was turned into a world-class retail and cultural environment offering a broad mix of upmarket boutiques and shops as well as cafes and restaurants.

Reflecting on IGB's vision rooted in creating thriving communities, Boon Lee details the incorporation of green features, such as public parks, solar power utilization, and rainwater harvesting. The organization's core values-integrity, innovation, quality, and sustainability-guide its practices, including energy, water, and waste management.

On a personal note. Boon Lee expresses environmental consciousness, acknowledging limitations in cycling to work due to local conditions but adopting sustainable practices in daily life. He stopped using plastic bags and reminds his children to turn off electrical appliances and air conditioners when not in use. "But these are just little things which I believe every Malaysian does. All of us just want to do our small part."

Looking ahead to 2024, his resolution revolves around practicing moderation in various aspects of life, recognizing the need for balance in eating, drinking, golfing, and work commitments.

#### **DEPUTY WITH A DRIVE**

Tan Mei Sian, in her capacity as Deputy Group Chief Executive Officer (DGCEO) at IGB Berhad, holds a well-defined role wherein she currently oversees the Group's support functions and spearheads the commercial division and leads the investment exco. This newly established body, formed this year, focuses on overseeing the Group's non-core investments and exploring avenues for expansion.

Given prevailing macroeconomic uncertainties and escalating costs, particularly in electricity, Mei Sian's attention has centered on bolstering organizational efficiency through initiatives such as process optimization and sustainable energy utilization.

In her role as DGCEO, Mei Sian articulates her commitment to supporting GCEO Boon Lee from the Group's corporate perspective. She extends gratitude to Datuk Seri Robert Tan and Tan Lei Cheng for their instrumental roles in the company's growth and acknowledges Boon Lee's leadership.

Mei Sian, an alumna of the London School of Economics & Political Science, brings a wealth of experience from her previous position as an engagement manager at Oliver Wyman. Specializing in financial services strategy and risk management consulting, she collaborated with global financial institutions, gaining diverse experiences and emphasizing the importance of continuous improvement.

Growing up, Mei Sian's ambition was actually to become a doctor. "I consoled myself as being a doctor for banks and companies instead."

Reflecting on her journey with IGB, Mei Sian notes her initial role as a nonindependent executive director of Goldis Bhd (later renamed IGB) from 2016 to 2018. Subsequently, she assumed roles in Group Strategy and Risk. Exco Chairman of the Property Investment (Commercial) Division, and serves as an alternate director to Lei Cheng, the non-independent non-executive chairman of IGB.

Highlighting the company's values instilled by her grandfather, Dato' Tan, Mei Sian underscores the commitment to forwardthinking ideas and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles, practiced long before the term gained popularity. Mei Sian highlighted Lei Cheng's forwardthinking approach in building GTower, the first green building in Malaysia, emphasising that investing in a green building was an upfront investment for long-term savings.

Discussing her approach to fostering a collaborative organizational culture, Mei Sian emphasises listening to ideas and feedback,

continuous learning, and adherence to IGB's core values-Integrity, Innovation, Quality, and Sustainability. "My approach is closely aligned with IGB's core values," Mei Sian explains. "We uphold Integrity, which means doing what is right. We value Innovation, which encourages us to learn continuously and not fear making mistakes. Quality is paramount, as we constantly strive for excellence, and Sustainability guides our actions towards long-term goals."

In terms of developing future leaders championing ESG initiatives, Mei Sian outlines the company's efforts in revamping its Group-wide training and development roadmap, emphasizing core training components at every career level, mentorship culture, and investment in in-house trainers.

To position the company as a recognized leader in ESG excellence, Mei Sian outlines key initiatives, including analyzing energy consumption patterns, exploring alternative energy sources, and efforts in urban farming, LED lighting upgrades, digitalization, and building repurposing.

On the social front, the company provides ongoing training for its staff and creates employment opportunities for individuals with high functioning autism. Additionally, retirement and recovery facility ReU Living promotes active ageing. On the governance side, there is the implementation of policies for Anti-Bribery and Corruption (ABAC) and the protection of whistleblowers.

Extending ESG principles into her personal life, Mei Sian practices aquaponics at home and adopts eco-friendly habits, setting an example for her children. Outside work, she practices meditation, enjoys music, reading, and engages in Mix Martial Arts (MMA) during the weekends, reflecting her continuous pursuit for learning.



At home, Mei Sian practises aquaponics



Tan Mei Sian

#### **MOVING FORWARD**

Moving forward, Boon Lee and Mei Sian envision repurposing buildings in alignment with the company's environmental, social, and governance (ESG) goals. The company will continue to focus on reducing carbon footprint through digitization, minimizing paperwork, and considering the integration of solar panels in malls. Initiatives include reducing disposable plastics, hiring individuals with

dyslexia, and engaging senior citizens in parttime roles at aged-care facilities. Governance measures will prioritize combating corruption and protecting whistleblowers.

In its long-term plans, IGB aims to establish an environmentally friendly, low-density eco-resort on Pangkor Island and explore possibilities for a substantial area in Labu, Negeri Sembilan.

# in Time



In the ever-evolving world of horology, Bell & Ross has consistently stood as a paragon of innovation and precision. The NEW BR 03 41MM collection, a timeless embodiment of the brand's aviation-inspired essence, has recently witnessed a remarkable evolution, introducing a new dimension of sophistication and style. The latest additions to this revered collection embody this bold evolution, redefining contemporary elegance in the world of watches.

Bell & Ross' legacy took flight in 1994, inspired by the instrument panels of aircraft cockpits. Since then, the brand has continually pushed boundaries, setting the gold standard for aviation watches. The BR 03 collection, a hallmark since 2006, has upheld this legacy, fusing form and function seamlessly.

The design principles of the BR 03 collection are grounded in aeronautical instrumentation, ensuring exceptional performance, legibility, functionality and precision - essential qualities for professionals navigating extreme conditions.

#### Modern flourish

The BR 03 collection has long been celebrated for its iconic "circle within a square, held by four screws" design - a form reminiscent of cockpit clocks. Continuing in its evolution, the collection takes a step forward, embracing contemporary trends while preserving its distinctive identity.

The newly introduced BR 03 models in Black Matte. Military Ceramic and Copper epitomise this approach. These timepieces, housed within a 41mm case, retain the brand's signature styles while subtly altering proportions, showcasing a design that's both delicate and powerful. The reduction in case size and lug dimensions imparts a newfound rhythm, captivating the eye and elevating the overall aesthetic.

Bruno Belamich, Bell & Ross' co-founder and Creative Director says: "With the new BR 03, we modified the proportions of the collection by respecting its canons. Our goal was to preserve the identity that has made the BR 03 so successful, while adapting it to the new times and maintaining its allure."

The BR 03 collection now boasts an array of models that merge classic sophistication with modern functionality. Powered by the automatic BR-CAL.302 caliber, these watches offer an extended power reserve of up to 54 hours, exemplifying the brand's commitment to reliability.

The BR 03 Black Matte, exuding a resolutely retro look, features a sleek black case and a dial that emphasizes readability. The BR 03 Military Ceramic, with its matte black ceramic case and khaki dial, pays homage to the brand's military-inspired roots, capturing the essence of rugged elegance. While the BR 03 Copper stands as a testament to Bell & Ross' dedication to innovative design. The captivating, galvanised copper dial, complemented by engraved black numerals and indexes, presents a unique blend of vintage charm and modern sophistication.

#### Glimpse into the future

As the BR 03 continues to embrace change, Bell & Ross reaffirms its commitment to excellence and ingenuity. The new collection represents more than just timekeeping devices; it symbolises a continuing legacy. With Bell & Ross, time is not merely measured – it's experienced.



### DEVIALET PHANTOM

IMPLOSIVE SOUND

Distinctive and iconoclastic, a new class of speaker

Atlas Experience - Level 3 - The Gardens Mal Tel: 03-2287 5080 | www.atlasestore.mv

## New Class of





Devialet Mania Sunset Rose

PHANTOM I Black Matte

Devialet is a French acoustical engineering company operating at the intersection of luxury and cutting-edge technology. It is on a mission to elevate sound to its rightful place in people's lives by delivering meaningful audio experiences.

#### **DEVIALET PHANTOM I**

From Devialet, Phantom has been revolutionising the speaker game since its release, and has gone on to become a reference for acoustic excellence.

Highly intuitive and connectable, Phantom I speaker unleashes the physical impact of high-end, ultra-dense sound with more power, clarity and precision than any other wireless speaker.

It packs groundbreaking technologies to deliver an intense listening experience, the kind you feel in your bones and in your soul, for real.

Phantom I's sound in one word? Implosive. 1431 custom parts fire are in harmony to

provoke an internal reaction, both in Phantom and in vou.

From infrabass to ultra-sharp treble, unleash the physical impact of high-end, ultra-dense sound with power, clarity and precision like nothing you've you have ever encountered. You will know it when you feel it.

Every Phantom I comes complete with its dedicated remote to help you take full control of your music or movie afar with utmost precision. All the power of Phantom is at your fingertips.

#### **DEVIALET MANIA**

Introducing Devialet Mania, its Devialet's first high fidelity portable smart speaker with 360° stereo sound. The brand's signature obsession for pure sound has merged with a mobile design.

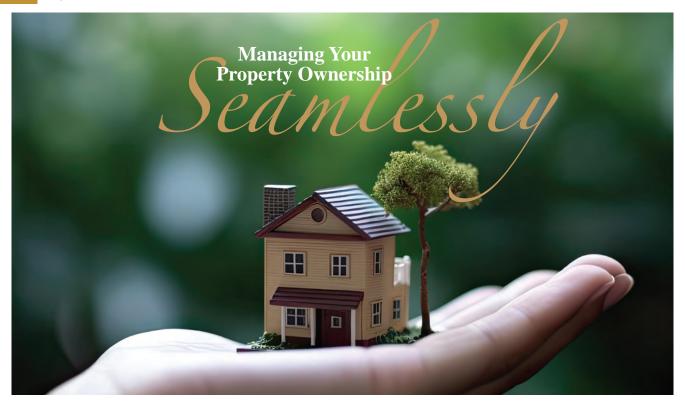
Thanks to its adaptive cross stereo, Devialet Mania portable speaker offers a soundstage that morphs to whatever space it's it is in.

With Devialet Mania, Devialet's iconic aesthetic has morphed into portable speaker form: a handle for ease of movement, an IPX4 splash-resistant rating for resilience. And Devialet's first builtin battery for up to 10 hours of wireless streaming.

So you can experience pure infatuation with augmented listening that leaves a lasting impression.

Devialet Mania boasts visible pushpush woofers and a co-spherical design. A luxurious woven skin swathes its exoskeleton, which in turn protects the technologies held within. Make it your focus, tuck it away, take it outdoors-Devialet Mania was designed to sublimate any setting, any moment.

Drop by Atlas Experience showroom at The Gardens Mall to experience a demonstration. For more information, visit https://www.atlasestore.my/pages/ sales-enquiry



You've just bought a brand new property... congratulations are in order!

However, property ownership comes with an array of time-consuming responsibilities, from managing bills to tenant interactions.

First and foremost, property owners are tasked with the maintenance of their properties. This includes routine tasks like plumbing, electrical repairs, roof maintenance and landscaping, and unexpected repairs.

If you're seeking tenants to occupy your unit, that brings a unique set of challenges. Landlords may encounter tenant issues such as rent arrears, property damage or conflicts. Handling evictions can also be a complex and lengthy process.

Finding suitable tenants can be challenging when property owners have busy schedules and can't always meet potential tenants or attend to sudden maintenance needs.

This is where Tan & Tan Homes (TTH) steps in, committed to simplifying your life! TTH's mission is to make investing in properties as hassle-free as possible.

TTH takes on the role of your property manager, providing comprehensive support to property owners. From vacant to tenanted status, overseeing renovations and conducting property visits, TTH manages it all.

With TTH in charge, property owners can say goodbye to the stresses of property

management. This includes property upkeep, tenant interactions, addressing tenant concerns, handling utility payments and much more.

#### WHAT TTH CAN DO FOR YOU?

TTH offers a comprehensive array of services, including Vacant Unit Management, which encompasses regular monthly inspections and the supervision of owner-requested tasks.

TTH takes care of the financial aspects too, managing payments for property-related expenses such as assessment fees, quit rent and management fees on behalf of property owners.

Moreover, they handle all aspects of tenant management, including coordinating property viewings, securing tenants, arranging routine maintenance, collecting mail and collaborating with real estate agents when owners plan to sell their units.

In the realm of Tenanted Unit Management, TTH efficiently handles rent collection and assists in property handovers to owners after the tenancy ends. This includes conducting meticulous inspections against an inventory list to identify any damages and ensure a smooth transition. They are also quick to address tenant complaints and arrange necessary maintenance services as needed.

#### **SECURE GOOD TENANTS AND COMPETITIVE RETURN**

When it comes to TTH facilitating unit rentals on behalf of property owners, an impressive 80% of the units are

successfully tenanted within a mere threemonth period.

For property owners in the KLCC area, TTH excels in securing rental rates that are on par with prevailing market prices.

This translates to a range of RM4,300 to RM7,000 per month for fully furnished units, ensuring competitive returns for property owners.

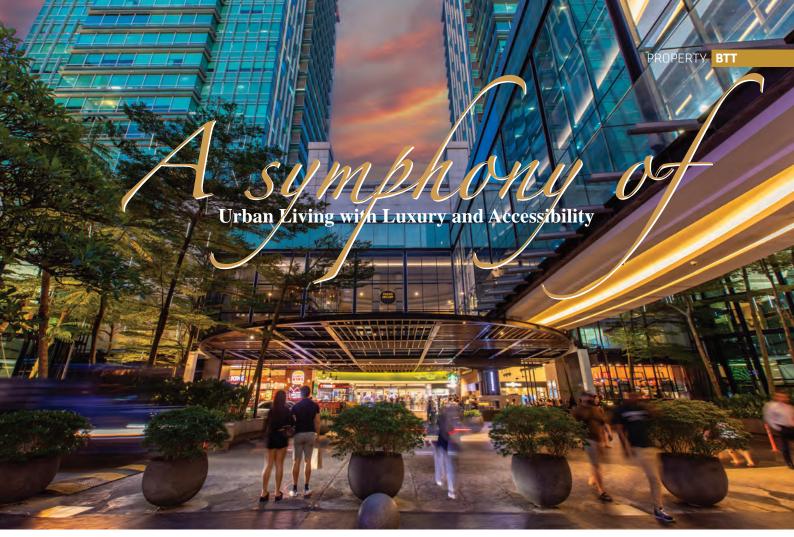
#### WHAT'S MORE?

When it comes to Renovation Management, TTH takes charge of overseeing property renovations. They provide regular updates on the progress, source suitable contractors and furniture providers, guide the renovation process and ensure the work is completed to satisfaction.

For property owners seeking a One-Time Unit Visitation Service, TTH conducts comprehensive property visits and delivers detailed condition reports. During these visits, they undertake tasks such as airing out the unit, checking the functionality of home appliances and ensuring proper water flow by flushing toilets and turning on taps.

In essence, TTH is a highly skilled property management team well-versed in the dynamics of the rental market. They continuously update their skills and knowledge to provide top-notch support to homeowners.

For more information, you can reach them at +6017 357 9027. Your property ownership journey has just been made simpler with TTH!





Step into the extraordinary world of Mid Valley City, where luxury and convenience unite in a symphony of unparalleled experiences! Immerse yourself in a dynamic urban enclave that transcends expectations, offering a one-stop destination for the ultimate lifestyle.

The Gardens Mall, a haven of opulence, featuring prestigious boutiques like Louis Vuitton, Hermes, Bvlgari, Prada, and Burberry. Let the allure of cutting-edge technology and elegant home furnishing stores elevate your shopping experience to world-class heights. Mid Valley Megamall, on the other hand is a bustling hub with over 500 tenants and signature anchor tenants AEON, AEON BIG, and Metrojaya.

Embark on a cinematic journey at the 12-screen Golden Screen Cinemas cineplex, where entertainment meets sophistication in the upscale boutique cinema, Aurum.

But the excitement doesn't end there! Mid Valley Megamall pulses with life on its top floor, hosting events and activities within the expansive 65,200 square feet Mid Valley Exhibition Centre. Feel the energy, embrace the buzz, and be part of the vibrant tapestry of experiences.

For those seeking wellness, Mid Valley City goes beyond expectations. The iHEAL boutique medical centre specializes in heart health, while the International Specialist Eye Centre (ISEC) at Centrepoint excels in ophthalmology services, offering a spectrum of specialized treatments.

Connected at its core, Mid Valley City ensures seamless access to public transportation points, including the Abdullah Hukum LRT station and Mid Valley KTM. Major highways intricately weave through the landscape, linking this urban oasis to every corner of the Klang Valley, just a stone's throw away from the heart of Kuala Lumpur.

As the sun sets, indulge in the allure of three top-notch hotels – The Gardens – A St Giles Signature Hotel and Residences, St Giles Boulevard, and Cititel Mid Valley. These luxurious accommodations not only redefine comfort but also contribute to the vibrant soul of Mid Valley City, making it the epitome of luxury and convenience in the beating heart of Kuala Lumpur. Elevate your lifestyle, embrace the extraordinary – welcome to Mid Valley City!



## REGAINING SPACE WITH INNOVATIVE FURNITURE



Before



Before



After



After

ULISSE 3-in-1 TABLE



ORZO SOFA with real Bed

Murano Bed Series

Discover the transformative power of Murano Wall Bed, Ulisse 3-in-1 Table and Orzo Sofa with real bed in the Spaze furniture collection. Your path to a more organised, creative and comfortable living space begins here, at MOCOF.

#### **MURANO WALL BED SERIES**

These are the reasons why Murano Wall Bed Series from MOCOF is a game-changer:

#### Disappearing Act

Tired of clutter in your home? Your conventional bed takes up precious space, leaving little room for creativity. Imagine a bed that effortlessly vanishes into your wall, allowing you to switch up your space's ambience. Say goodbye to sharp bed edges constantly in your way. The Murano Wall Bed Series offers a range of sizes, from single to king, all designed to disappear when not in use.

#### **Customise Your Sanctuary**

Express your creativity with customisable options. From wallbed doors to panels, shelves and desks, tailor your wall bed to match your room's tone or make a bold contrast. Plus, the washable headboard keeps your stylish bed pristine. Installation and carpentry are handled by us, and you'll enjoy a comfortable 10" Double Posture Coil Mattress. Add some

personality with the charming Miffy Star Light from the MR MARIA collection.

#### **Unparalleled Durability**

Say farewell to cheap materials; our wall beds feature high-quality European mechanisms. Forget hydraulic or spring systems—our compressed air mechanism is exceptionally durable, supporting up to 200KG and 10,000 cycles. Soft opening and closing ensure a smooth experience. And rest assured, we back our premium quality wall beds with up to a 10-year warranty, with a minimum of 5 years for the mechanism.

#### **ULISSE 3-in-1 TABLE**

At MOCOF, meet Ulisse, the 3-in-1 table that stretches beyond expectations:

#### From Coffee Table to Dining Delight

Stretch and adjust Ulisse at will to fit your needs. It effortlessly transforms from a coffee table for two to a dining table for up to 12 people. No need to worry about size or space constraints. Ulisse can handle up to 8000 cycles and 50kg at its lowest, and at its peak, it can host up to 12 people and support 100kg. Coffee Table, Tatami Table, Dining Table—all in one!

#### **Effortless Mobility**

Move Ulisse around effortlessly with its built-in discreet locking wheels. Whether it's

in the corner as a coffee table or the living room as a dining table, Ulisse adapts to your space. Spaze furniture collection embodies minimalism and superior mechanism.

#### **Elegance Meets Functionality**

Ulisse exudes premium design with its sleek dark chrome finishing, resistant to rust and oxidation. Its synchronised opening, adjustable height and gas lifting base ensure a smooth and elegant transformation. Crafted in Italy, it exemplifies quality and sophistication.

#### **ORZO SOFA with real Bed**

At MOCOF, embrace the concept of "less is more" with the versatile Orzo Sofa Bed.

#### **Minimalistic Living**

A minimalist lifestyle can bring tranquility to your space. Orzo Sofa is perfect for studio apartments or when you need an extra bed for guests. This customisable sofa, manufactured in Europe, boasts a savvy mechanical mechanism, effortless transformation, and a wide selection of USA Sunbrella Performance fabrics or leather. With a 5-year warranty, it's a top-tier quality sofa for a welcoming and accommodating home.

For more details about MOCOF, visit <a href="https://www.mocof.com.my/">https://www.mocof.com.my/</a>.



A much sought-after address, Damansara Heights is often dubbed as the 'Beverly Hills of Kuala Lumpur'. Also known as Bukit Damansara, it is a very mature and upscale neighbourhood sandwiched between Bangsar, Desa Sri Hartamas and Bukit Tunku in Kuala Lumpur (KL).

It continues to be a hot and affluent address in the Klang Valley. Besides housing an enclave of mostly established affluent families and government servants, Damansara Heights is adjacent to Istana Negara, the official residence of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, the monarch of Malaysia.

Damansara Heights has the most diverse demography in terms of race and it has been the coveted address and most highly priced area in KL for decades.

While the comparison may evoke images of Hollywood glamour, the parallel between Damansara Heights and Beverly Hills goes beyond superficial similarities.

#### **ACCESSIBILITY AND CONVENIENCE**

While Damansara Heights offers an aura of exclusivity, it remains conveniently connected to the heart of KL. It is situated on the hills that enjoy quiet surroundings, yet located close to the city centre, which is reachable in just about 15 minutes' drive.

When it comes to shopping destinations, its convenience is unparalleled, with Pavilion Damansara Heights, Bangsar Shopping Centre and Bangsar Village in close proximity. Additionally, it's only 4 kilometers away from Mid Valley City and a only 3 kilometers from the dining hotspots of Desa Sri Hartamas.

The area is well served by major roads and highways such as Jalan Maarof, Jalan Semantan, Jalan Tuanku Abdul Halim and the SPRINT Expressway. The MRT Sungai Buloh-Kajang line operational, since 2017, has enhanced the area's accessibility with two stations nearby, namely Pusat Bandar Damansara and Semantan stations.

Easy access to major highways and transportation hubs ensures that residents can seamlessly navigate the city, striking a balance between the tranquility of the neighborhood and the vibrancy of urban life.

#### PRESTIGIOUS REAL ESTATE

At the heart of Damansara Heights' claim to fame



is its luxurious real estate. The neighbourhood is renowned for its upscale properties, including lavish bungalows, elegant mansions and stylish condominiums. These homes are not just residences; they are architectural masterpieces, exuding opulence and grandeur, reminiscent of the prestigious Good Class Bungalow Areas found in Singapore's District 9 and 10 and of course the famed Beverly Hills in Los Angeles. Similarly, the suburban enclave is celebrated for its low population density and the prevalence of low-rise structures.

In recent years, Damansara Heights has emerged as a prominent suburban commercial hub, with areas like Damansara City, Jalan Dungun and the upcoming Pavilion Damansara Heights serving as a new epicenter for various business activities.

Damansara Heights consists of colleges, large multinational corporations, regulatory bodies, government departments and a number of restaurants, cafes and bars. The National Science Centre and the Securities Commission are also within the area.

Mansions and bungalows, terraced houses and condominiums are the main housing types in the affluent housing area which is much sought after by foreign professionals as well as upper middle- and upper-class Malaysians due to its convenience.

#### **EXCLUSIVE GATED COMMUNITIES**

Much like its Beverly Hills counterpart, Damansara Heights boasts a number of exclusive guarded and some gated communities that offer privacy security, and an unmatched sense of exclusivity. These enclaves are home to high-profile individuals and business magnates who value the tranquility and seclusion that Damansara Heights provides.

#### **GREEN SPACES AND SCENIC VIEWS**

Nestled amidst gently undulating hills, this neighborhood offers breathtaking views of KL's skyline and lush green landscapes. Its serene surroundings create a serene and rejuvenating

atmosphere that is the perfect family setting, within earshot of amenities.

#### **CULINARY EXCELLENCE**

Just as Beverly Hills has earned a reputation for its upscale dining experiences, Damansara Heights is a culinary haven. The neighborhood boasts a diverse range of fine dining restaurants, boutique cafes and gourmet eateries. Food enthusiasts can savour a wide array of cuisines, from international delights to local favorites, all within the vicinity of this upscale locale.

#### **EDUCATION AND WELLNESS**

Another aspect that makes Damansara Heights akin to Beverly Hills is its dedication to education and wellness. The neighborhood is home to prestigious international schools, world-class healthcare facilities and wellness centers. Families can rest assured that their educational and healthcare needs are well catered to, mirroring the holistic approach to life found in Beverly Hills.

Within Damansara Heights, there are Cempaka International School and Stella Maris School, while Garden International School, Mont' Kiara International School and French International School are all located nearby. Malls close to the area include The Gardens Mall and Mid Valley Megamall. Meanwhile, one is able to reach the TPC Kuala Lumpur (formerly known as Kuala Lumpur Golf & Country Club) in a less than 10 minutes' drive.

#### IN CONCLUSION

Damansara Heights has earned the distinction as KL's housing prime real estate, exclusive gated communities, verdant expanses, culinary prowess, unwavering commitment to education and wellness, and unparalleled accessibility and convenience. This enclave epitomizes an affluent lifestyle marked by refined elegance, sophisticated living, and a seamless integration of luxury and nature. Damansara Heights serves as a resounding testament to Kuala Lumpur's cosmopolitan allure, embodying the enduring charm of a lifestyle reserved for the discerning few.

## Sustand Unit





A multi-faceted approach is taken by Okamura to product design, focusing on three key principles: delivering products that genuinely benefit customers, creating inclusive designs that cater to a wide range of users and minimising environmental impact through eco-design.

Their commitment to these principles has earned them recognition and numerous awards, both in Japan and internationally. Okamura's dedication to ergonomic product development ensures safety, productivity, creativity and functionality.

In Malaysia, you can find Okamura products at XTRA, located in a spacious 20,000 sq. ft showroom at The Gardens Mall. XTRA exclusively carries renowned brands like bulthaup, Minotti, Poltrona Frau, Varier, Dedon and of course, Okamura.

However, Okamura isn't just a furniture company; it has a rich history rooted in steel production and is a prominent entity listed on the Japan Stock Exchange. In Japan, the company is highly regarded for its unwavering commitment to sustainability, which extends beyond furniture to the entire company.

#### **POTAM**

This truly sustainable Okamura chair designed by British designer Alexander

Hurford features soft forms with lightweight styling to match a variety of interiors and personal styles.

The compact size and shape make it suitable for both office and home use. The combination of functionality comfort and sustainability makes this chair a great choice for anyone looking for an ergonomic and environmentally conscious seating option.

Performance resin from old chairs is incorporated into new legs and the chair fabric features 100% recycled content. such as RENU made from waste from the fashion industry and RE:NET made from recycled fishing nets.

#### **CONTESSA**

Now, let's dive deeper into their flagship product - the Contessa chair, which celebrated its 20th anniversary last year.

In 2000, Okamura joined forces with Turinbased design firm ITALDESIGN to create a world class office chair. Two years later, Contessa emerged, an instant classic.

Contessa's form celebrates contrast. The sheer, transparent tension of stretched mesh across the seat and back provides an elegant counterpoint to the sleek, industrial weight of the aluminum

frame. Iconic and enduring looks, with outstanding ergonomic functionality, have ensured this task chair quickly earned global acclaim. For the past two decades, Contessa has remained a favorite in office seating.

On top of its functions and looks which sets it apart from the rest, the chair is also a symbol of Okamura's dedication to sustainability. This is done through a sustainable version, which showcases a dedication towards environmentally responsible practices. This sustainable variant employs recyclable materials, including fabric sourced from discarded fishing nets, bio-based leather and recyclable shells.

At XTRA, they proudly showcase Okamura's dedication to sustainable living, aligning with their showroom's efforts toward sustainability, where the Contessa and Potam chairs coexist, embodying Okamura's values and commitment to a more sustainable world.

For more on Okamura's extensive sustainability efforts, visit https://www.okamura.com/enap/company/sustainability/sdgs-esg/

For more details, visit https://www. xtrafurniture.com/contessa-20th/ or follow their fb xtrafurniture.

#### **Post Covid-19 Trend:**

## lore Space In Our Homes





The Covid-19 pandemic has reshaped our lives in profound ways, with a notable trend being the increased demand for more space in our homes.

Whether it's for accommodating remote work, promoting health and wellness, enhancing privacy, creating versatile living spaces, expanding outdoor areas or providing better storage solutions, the desire for more space has become a defining characteristic of our post-pandemic homes.

The trend toward more spacious and flexible living environments is likely to persist, making our homes not just shelters but sanctuaries for the lives we lead.

One of the most noticeable changes has been the rise of home offices. With businesses embracing remote work as a viable option, many individuals have had to create dedicated workspaces within their homes. The need for a quiet, functional and ergonomic home office has prompted homeowners to reconsider their living arrangements, often seeking larger spaces or converting existing rooms to accommodate their work needs.

The pandemic heightened our awareness of health and wellness, leading to an increased focus on personal fitness and mental well-being. As a result, many households have started incorporating exercise areas, meditation spaces and home gyms into their homes. These areas require ample space to ensure a comfortable and effective workout or relaxation experience.

Social distancing measures have made us value privacy more than ever before. Families with multiple generations living under one roof or those simply seeking more solitude have sought larger homes or renovations to create separate living spaces within their existing dwellings. These private spaces can serve as sanctuaries for individuals seeking respite from the demands of a crowded household.

Versatility has become a key element in home design post-Covid-19. Families and individuals are looking for ways to maximise the utility of each room. This has led to a demand for multi-purpose rooms that can seamlessly transition from a home office during the day to a family gathering space in the evening. Such rooms require more square footage and adaptable layouts.

Recognising the importance of outdoor spaces for both physical and mental wellbeing, homeowners have increasingly sought properties with larger yards, balconies or terraces. These outdoor areas have evolved into extensions of the home, serving as places for relaxation, dining and even home offices, blending the boundaries between indoor and outdoor living.

With more time spent at home, many individuals have realised the need for better storage solutions. This includes walk-in closets, pantries and dedicated storage areas for hobbies or collections. The desire for organised and clutter-free living spaces has contributed to the need for more square footage to accommodate these storage needs effectively.

#### THE GROWING NEED FOR SPACE

According to "Malaysia Residential Property Sentiment 2022 by Tan & Tan", there was a preference towards 1,201 - 1,500 sq ft units rather than smaller units





More than two-thirds of the survey respondents leaned more towards homes that can comfortably fit a family of four or five people or homes with three to four rooms and two to three bathrooms.

In the same report, more than a quarter (27.2%) of the survey respondents are willing to pay a higher price range of RM1 million and above for own-stay property. This is followed closely by 22.2% opting to pay a mid-range of between RM501,000 to RM600,000, showing they are willing to spend more for bigger units.

In 2021, Tan & Tan successfully sold out Park Manor, signalling a growing demand for spacious living. Nestled in Sierramas, this development boasts 41 expansive 3-storey bungalow villas, sprawled across a 7.88-acre pedestrian-friendly neighbourhood. Enclosed within a secure, gated enclave, the villas offer amenities such as swimming pools, an event pavilion and a linear park.

The remarkable success underscores a notable trend shift, as individuals increasingly prioritise ample living space in their homes.

In essence, the success of Park Manor serves as a testament to the evolving preferences of homeowners, reflecting an undeniable desire for expansive and well-appointed residences. Tan & Tan's commitment to providing a harmonious blend of luxury and space has not only defined Park Manor but has also set a benchmark for future residential endeavours.

### Where Luxury 'ecuru



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In a world where luxury and security harmoniously coexist, Valorforce reigns as the ultimate embodiment of elegance and sophistication. Established in 2007, this renowned brand has continually set new benchmarks in the realm of safes and security solutions, offering an extensive range of impeccably crafted safes designed to safeguard your most cherished assets.

What truly sets Valorforce apart is not merely its exceptional products - including safes, watch winders and jewellery boxes but also its international acclaim, boasting branches across various Asian regions. For those with discerning tastes in luxury and security, Valorforce is the name synonymous with assurance and prestige.

But it is more than just a brand; Valorforce represents a legacy of trust and excellence. Safes bearing the Valorforce name undergo meticulous craftsmanship, adhering to the highest standards and utilising only the finest materials available.

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Step into a world where opulence seamlessly intertwines with adaptability, where your most cherished treasures find a sanctuary tailored to your unique lifestyle. The Revival Series encompasses six distinct options, each carefully curated to redefine exclusivity and cater to your individual needs. This isn't merely about owning safes; it's about possessing a unique security piece that resonates with your distinct style.

Beyond their tangible attributes, Valorforce safes embody a spectrum of intangible values that transcend conventional security, enhancing the overall user

experience. These include the peace of mind and elegance that come with knowing your cherished possessions are securely protected within Valorforce safes. Crafted with precision and special attention to detail, these safes seamlessly blend into your luxurious living spaces, elevating your interior decor to new heights.

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Regardless of whether you're a dedicated watch collector, a passionate jewellery enthusiast, a seeker of opulence, or discerning investor, Valorforce speaks directly to your refined tastes, and transcends its role as mere a security solution.

For an immersive glimpse into the world of Valorforce Safes, please visit <a href="http://">http://</a> valorforce.com or reach out to us via WhatsApp at https://wa.me/60143614914

## Shared Space and Resources at CoLiv@Damai Residence

CoLiv@Damai Residence stands as a beacon of innovation in the realm of coliving. Launched in 2019 by Tan & Tan Developments Berhad, this distinctive residence has emerged as a pioneer in the industry. At its core, CoLiv@Damai Residence is a hub for connections, collaboration, co-working, and, course, co-living. Beyond providing accommodation, it offers a comprehensive living experience, where residents can relish community living, comfort, and a centralized haven for all their living needs.

A standout feature is the commitment to hassle-free living, encapsulated in all-inclusive rental fees covering fullyfurnished rooms, WiFi, water, and electricity. Whether seeking short-term or long-term accommodation (with a minimum stay of three months), CoLiv@Damai Residence caters to diverse needs.

Moreover, the residence exemplifies positive environmental impact through its emphasis on communal living. By promoting space and resource sharing, it actively contributes to reducing consumption and waste, aligning with principles of sustainable living. For instance, departing tenants often leave behind reusable items like bedsheets, blankets, shelves, hangers, and clothing at the designated sharing corner.

#### **FACILITATING MEANINGFUL SOCIAL** IMPACT

CoLiv@Damai Residence excels in cultivating a robust sense of community



its residents. Encouraging engagement, collaboration, and resource sharing, it serves as a powerful antidote to isolation an loneliness, particularly for newcomers to Kuala Lumpur.

In this environment, residents exchange skills, expertise, and passions, fostering a culture of continuous learning and personal growth. The diverse living spaces accommodate individuals from varied backgrounds, cultures, and lifestyles, promoting inclusivity, understanding, and empathy.

#### **CHAMPIONING SUSTAINABILITY**

Commitment to resource efficiency is a cornerstone of CoLiv@Damai Residence's environmental stance. Shared amenities contribute to reduced energy, water, and material consumption per resident, aligning with sustainable living practices.

Additionally, the intelligent utilisation of urban space in CoLiv@Damai Residence plays a crucial role in combating urban sprawl. This contributes to the preservation of green spaces and a more sustainable urban landscape.

Beyond resource sharing, sustainable design elements, efficient insulation, and eco-friendly building materials, minimises its environmental footprint.

CoLiv@Damai Residence epitomizes real estate's potential to deliver profound social and economic advantages. Living in a shared community not only fosters a sense of belonging but actively reduces consumption and waste, resulting in a significant environmental impact.

For more details, visit <a href="https://coliv.my/">https://coliv.my/</a>.







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Ruyi One.Cafe



Fox Paradox



Vitolas



Man Kee Beef Noodle Food and Beverage



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7-Eleven Specialties



Maruki Ramen Cuisine Food and Beverage



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## **ReU Living Provides Post-Hospitalisation**



Recognised for its innovative model of enabling proper recovery posthospitalisation, ReU Living was recently awarded two wins at the 11th Asia Pacific Eldercare Innovation Awards in Marina Bay Sands, Singapore. The prestigious awards ceremony was held as a finale to the World Ageing Festival 2023 (14th Edition).

ReU Living was honoured with the coveted Operator of The Year - Assisted Living award, recognising its contributions to improving the lives of seniors and being placed ahead of models in Australia and Singapore. The accolade acknowledges ReU Living as 'the best operator that enables older persons who need assistance with daily living, supporting them to live as independently as possible'.

ReU Living's CEO Anna Chew was also presented with the Global Ageing Trailblazer Award. This recognition celebrates leaders who have demonstrated exceptional

multi-disciplinary leadership in ageing that inspires change in their home country.

The move from residential homes to creating products that are larger in scale and accessible to the Muslim market, with a focus on quality and luxury is Chew's signature.

Her dedication, innovation and leadership have made a profound impact on the lives of seniors and their families in Malaysia and modernised the face of the eldercare industry in Malaysia.

ReU Living's current facility is housed in MiCasa All Suites Hotel at Jalan Tun Razak, Kuala Lumpur.

On the ground floor is the main Clubhouse with a drop-off/reception area, family area and one of Malaysia's most advanced physio centres, while there are 108 guest rooms in various offerings in studio,

2-bedroom and 3-bedroom layouts on the upper floors. Rooms range from 120 to 373 square feet while the studio units are around 438 square feet.

"Currently, post-hospitalisation care is highly sought-after as we are the only ones providing luxury care by a team of professionals who have delivered on proven outcomes for a lot of our clients. Our Google reviews are proof of our outstanding service delivery. Many of our clients are recommended by friends who have experienced our service or by doctors who know the team's capabilities," added Chew.

According to Chew, ReU Living will continue to revolutionise the senior living posthospitalisation care industry with its individual-centric care, holistic programmes and luxury facilities.

It has introduced a 'Senior Staycation' package to allow families to take holidays













From left: Anna Chew receiving an award; Clubhouse at ReU Living; Post-Hospital Therapy Centre

or short breaks without having to worry about their loved ones who might have a medical condition and need care. Our team can manage end-to-end from ReU to the hospital in cases of emergencies," said Chew.

"It is also suitable for seniors who have no medical conditions, but need some assistance for their daily living. It is a respite for family members who play the role of caregivers, or as a solution for those who do not have a foreign domestic worker or who are waiting for one to arrive."

#### **POST-HOSPITALISATION CARE**

ReU Living specialises in convalescent/ post-hospitalisation care with its stateof-the-art facilities for those undergoing rehabilitation, we have built a reputation in the industry for stroke and orthopedic recovery and senior strengthening.

"Post-hospitalisation care is a very important transition period to enable someone to recover fully or to their optimum. It is a specialised short-term but intense care that cannot be done at home by a family member and involves a team of specialists. ReU Living is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and the team provides round the clock care, which includes professionals within our network such as doctors, TCM Specialists, speech therapists, dietitian and dietitian-endorsed meals. We also offer laundry & housekeeping and daily curated activities. Our recovery protocols are designed in-house to speed up the residents' recovery," explained Chew.

In the context of stroke recovery, a study conducted by Dr. Brian Doctrow in 2021, titled "Critical Time Window for Rehabilitation After a Stroke," highlights a "golden window" of opportunity between 60 to 90 days following a stroke's onset. The path to stroke recovery is most effective when initiated promptly, offering the best prospects for regaining lost abilities and skills.

#### ADVANCED ROBOTICS

The realm of rehabilitation has undergone a remarkable transformation, thanks to the strides made in technological advancements within the field of robotics. innovations have propelled These rehabilitation into an arena of remarkable efficiency and effectiveness.

ReU Living leads the way in the technological revolution, seamlessly blending robotics and advanced technology into its physiotherapy approach. Our intelligent computerized training equipment employs evidence-based exercise concepts, catering specifically to senior exercise, rehabilitation, and overall wellness. A prime example is the HUR intelligent computerized training equipment, tailored to enhance both senior exercise and overall well-being.

The Fourier upper limb rehabilitation robotic machine is a pinnacle of innovation, offering a versatile range of training modes. These encompass passive, assistive, active, and resistive approaches,

ensuring a comprehensive coverage of all stages in the rehabilitation journey.

What also sets them apart is the incorporation of gamified sessions, introducing an engaging and motivating dimension that surpasses the boundaries of traditional manual physiotherapy.

#### STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

At ReU Living, the experience, combined with meticulous protocols and care, can lead to remarkably swift orthopedic recovery (including total knee replacement, total hip replacement and spine surgeries). Stroke recovery milestones at ReU Living are measured monthly, with the twomonth mark providing a good indicator of what to expect in the third month.

What sets ReU Living apart from its competitors is the seamless blend of comfort and warmth akin to a home, coupled with the luxury of a five-star hotel, all under one roof.

Regardless of the recovery option chosen, ReU Living emphasises the importance of investing in post-operative rehabilitation care alongside the surgical procedure itself. ReU Living's programmes are world-class, prioritising both the speed and quality of recovery while ensuring guests enjoy a high quality of life during their stay.

For further information on ReU Living's services, please visit www.reuliving.com.

## A Princess Who Inspires Change hrough her Action

With a bright smile, Tengku Zatashah Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah breezes into Cilantro Restaurant & Wine Bar at Micasa All Suite Hotel for Berita Tan & Tan's cover shoot.

"Good morning!" she chirps, immediately winning over everyone within her orbit. Friendly and down to earth, she has also won over many Malaysians' hearts with her selfless work as an environment activist and philanthropist over the years.

For the uninitiated, Tengku Zatashah is the second daughter of Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah, the current and ninth Sultan of Selangor.

For our photo shoot at the award-winning Cilantro and as the first woman to grace Berita Tan & Tan's magazine cover the Selangor princess has taken time off from her hectic schedule.

Renowned for her unwavering commitment environmental advocacy, Tengku Zatashah continues to be a driving force for transformative change through her actions. Her understanding of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles makes her the ideal candidate to delve into this issue's theme.

Currently, Tengku Zatashah gracefully balances a multitude of roles within the realms of social and environmental responsibility. As a member of the Board of Directors for InNature Bhd, a company that aligns with her core values, she actively contributes to its mission.

Furthermore, she has spearheaded national programs and campaigns, with #SayNo2Plastic and #ZeroFoodWaste, both initiated in 2016, standing out as remarkable achievements.

"Since 2016, I regularly do beach cleanups and underwater cleanups. I noticed the problem of plastic pollution and realised nobody was talking about it, especially in Malaysia," she

"When I discovered Malaysia was one of the top 10 world's worst plastic polluters, that was the critical point that galvanised me to raise awareness on this issue and created my campaign #SayNo2Plastic which has since gone viral."

Leading by example, Tengku Zatashah showed how to stop single-use plastic by bringing reusable containers wherever she went, and conducted many talks to university students about the impact of plastic pollution.

That year, she also initiated #ZeroFoodWaste campaign. It was to tackle the surplus amount of edible food that was being thrown away, which was instead collected to be given to the needy via Kechara Soup Kitchen.

Both of these initiatives are still on-going and they hold a special place in her heart, as they were launched with a clear vision of effecting tangible, positive change.

In 2020, she represented Malaysia at the International Change Now sustainable development forum at Le Grand Palais in Paris.

"It was inspiring to share the same stage with world-renowned environmentalists such as Boyan Slat of The Ocean Cleanup, whom we work with here in Selangor, having two interceptors on Klang River in Klang with The Ocean Cleanup and Selangor Maritime Gateway.

"I also chatted with Tom Szaky, the founder of Terracycle and Loop from the United States which is formidable company recycling and upcycling plastic items," she says.

Asked whether she has seen encouraging changes in these fields. Tengku Zatashah replies: "Yes, I have seen more and more awareness but we still have a long way to go to change mindsets.

"In 2016, nobody was really talking about plastic pollution; things began to change in 2018 when 'National Geographic' and documentaries like 'Blue Planet' were highlighting the crisis.

"However, today I still see a lot of litter and plastic trash on our beaches and in the cities. I created a new campaign in 2020 on World Environment Day when I began to see a lot of masks and PPE litter, so I created #NoMoreLitter #BecauseWeCare in answer to this."

In her opinion, how has the understanding of ESG evolved over the years?

"ESG has definitely gained traction in recent years; so much so that Bursa Malaysia as well as Securities Commission mandated that publiclisted companies must have ESG policies and Sustainability Reports in the Annual Reports.

"I am on the board of public-listed company InNature Berhad, which owns The Bodyshop Malaysia, Vietnam and Cambodia. In 2022, InNature Bhd was officially listed as a constituent of both the FTSE4Good Bursa Malaysia and FTSE4Good Bursa Malaysia Syariah indexes.

"And most recently, we are Certified B Corporation, part of the global movement for an inclusive, equitable and regenerative economic system.

"More can be done by the consumers and general public to reduce waste and they to bring more reusuable containers instead of single-use plastic."

On the innovative ways companies are addressing environmental challenges, Tengku Zatashah brings up an example.

"In 2019, I was invited to be a panel speaker at Wild Digital SEA Conference and I was also the advisor on reducing plastic at this conference.

"I advised that if we really want to hold a plastic-free conference, then we must provide refill stations and no single-use plastic coffee cups. stirrers or plastic water bottles. And our event T-shirts were made from recycled PET plastic bottles. Even the laminates were recycled at the end of the event.

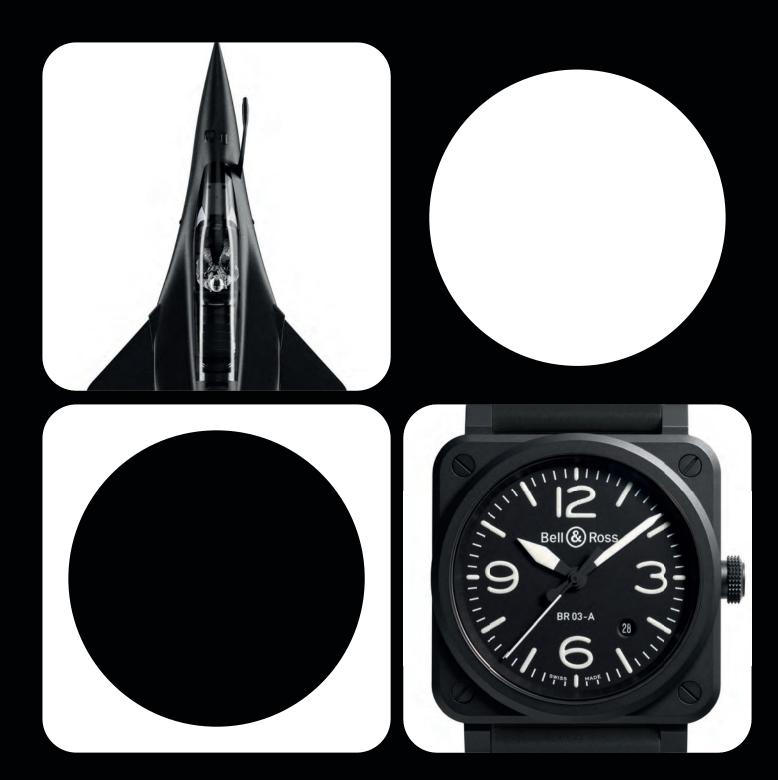
At the panel session, Tengku Zatashah spoke about how tech companies could make a difference. She lobbied that Grab and Food Panda change their default setting of not including plastic cutlery rather than automatically giving them and that vendors should use more bio-degradable options.

"I believe they took note as thereafter, their default setting was changed and now you won't see unneccessary plastic cutlery in your orders," explains Tengku Zatashah.

She also highlighted that supermarkets reduce plastic packaging on their fruits







### NEW BR 03 41MM TIME INSTRUMENT



## **Pioneering** in Malaysia



In the realm of sustainable architecture. GTower stands as a beacon of innovation and commitment to environmental responsibility. Situated at the strategic junction of Jalan Tun Razak and Jalan Ampang in Kuala Lumpur, GTower is not just an eye-catching building but a testament to a future where green initiatives and sustainability are paramount.

In 2008, GTower was awarded the prestigious Green Mark Gold by Singapore's Building & Construction Authority (BCA), making it Malaysia's first fully certified green building. This acknowledgment underscored the meticulous efforts put into design, construction, and operation, aligning with international standards without compromising safety, convenience, or comfort.

The BCA Green Mark scheme, a green building rating tool tailored for the tropics, evaluates buildings for their environmental impact and performance, and helps set high but achievable green KPIs in the real estate market.

Bernama reported at the time that the 30-storey tower boasted a 25% energy reduction when compared with other buildings of similar size and locations, with the adoption of the latest green building technologies.

Looking back, Tan Lei Cheng, who is the Chairman of IGB Berhad, is understandably proud of GTower's accomplishments.

"GTower which stands for Goldis Tower was built by Goldis (IGB Berhad) after Tan & Tan the developer was sold to IGB Corporation Berhad. But the same pioneering spirit, green and sustainable development philosophy guides the planning and construction of the office building," she said.

According to Lei Cheng, GTower is designed as a 24-hour multi use building, as it is wasteful to build a building for just 9-to-5 use. Tenants can choose to start earlier or end later.

The building has a gym and meeting places so that smaller tenants can have facilities without having the extra space and expense. There is also a variety of sizes and even fitted offices to suit the needs of different tenants at various stages of their growth and development.

"GTower was marketed as an A++ building in 2009 with high-speed internet wiring, MSC status and Green certification from Singapore, before green buildings were fashionable in Malaysia.

"We made sure our windows were big enough for natural light but used green certified glass for low thermal transmission to reduce energy cost. Heat from the aircon chillers were used for the pool and water heater in the hotel. We believed plants should co-exist with humans and put them wherever we could," enthused Lei Cheng.

Indeed, right from its inception, GTower had always embraced a holistic approach. leveraging Green Building Technologies to create a sustainable, low-energy and healthy environment. Incorporating green elements from the design stage, the building utilises natural resources intelligently for cooling, featuring a green wall, a green roof and efficient rainwater harvesting systems. These elements not only contribute to energy savings but also mitigate the urban heat island effect

Its construction utilised toxic-free materials with low volatile organic contents (VOC), furthering the commitment towards a greener footprint. Subsequent renovations followed suit, using low VOC and low formaldehyde emission paint. GTower's air-conditioning chiller plant system stands as a pinnacle of energy efficiency, epitomised by doubleglazed windows and LED lighting in car parks, resulting in significant energy savings.

Embracing a proactive approach, GTower subscribed to the Green Electricity Tariff (GET), from February to July 2023, recording a substantial reduction of 686.4 tonnes (t) of carbon dioxide (CO2) equivalent (e) within a few months. Indoor air quality is carefully maintained through regular cleaning and decontamination of air ducts and advanced air quality monitoring systems.

GTower's commitment extends to waste management, ensuring proper segregation and recycling of waste. In 2022, GTower gathered about 16,000kg of recyclable items, thanks to recycling bins which have been strategically placed across the building to encourage ecofriendly habits among the occupants.

Today, GTower holds the esteemed Malaysia GreenRE certification, reinforcing its status as a trailblazer in green building practices.

GTower isn't just a building; it's a bold statement. It's a blueprint for a future where sustainability isn't an option - it's a necessity. GTower showcases that embracing smart sustainability practices isn't a trend but a transformative way forward. It's the future, here and now, inviting us to join the movement towards a greener, cleaner and brighter tomorrow.

# ESG Initiatives with





From left: IGB's properties, like Gardens Mall 2 and Stonor 3, have EV chargers for patrons and residents to recharge vehicles for free, promoting a greener environment (pending relevant authorities' approval in some cases)

Over the years, IGB's diverse array of businesses has exemplified remarkable ingenuity, independently conceiving and implementing a spectrum of initiatives under the broad umbrella of Environment, Social, and Governance (ESG). From groundbreaking ideas to impactful projects, these collective efforts not only underscore their commitment to corporate responsibility but also contribute to a comprehensive suite of initiatives aimed at fostering sustainability across the organization.

Aligned with the United Nations guidelines, the company views sustainability as meeting present needs without compromising the ability of future generations. Importantly, IGB doesn't pursue green technologies solely for the sake of being environmentally conscious; each initiative and action must also boast a robust business case.

IGB has achieved significant milestones in reducing energy consumption, employing measures such as installing solar panels. upgrading chillers, and adopting LED lighting. Waste diversion has improved through widespread recycling bins, and composting initiatives for food waste. Water conservation measures, including rainwater harvesting and efficient fittings, have been implemented across their properties.

Furthermore, IGB is committed to eliminating single-use plastics in their hotels and is actively installing electric vehicle chargers at various locations, including Mid Valley Megamall, The Gardens Mall, Southpoint Residences and Offices, Cititel Hotel Management hotels, and condominiums like Stonor 3.

IGB takes pride in its strong social impact communities, allocating promotional spaces to organizations like Pusat Darah Negara for blood donation drives. The company organizes annual blood donation events and collaborates with NGOs to integrate outreach programs into festivalrelated events. IGB's commitment extends to environmental stewardship, exemplified by initiatives such as cleaning up parts of Sungai Klang, adjacent to the Mid Valley City development, accompanied by the installation of rainwater harvesting tanks and a pollinator tier garden. This not only stops trash from entering the water systems but also can serve as an educational hub for the surrounding community to learn more about sustainability and how we should treat our environment.

Transparency and accountability form the bedrock of IGB's sustainability approach, integrating ESG efforts into projects and ensuring effective measurement and reporting. This commitment is steered by a strong ethos from the Board of Directors and Senior Management.

The following are more ESG initiatives undertaken by IGB businesses showcasing their unwavering commitment to fostering positive environmental. social. governance practices.

#### RETAIL

Mid Valley Megamall stands out as a beacon of sustainability, engaging the community through various initiatives. Notably, it partnered with the Tan Sri Muhviddin Charity Golf Foundation for a blood donation

drive, supporting Pusat Darah Negara. The commitment to community health was exemplified through events like iHeal Jom Sihat, providing free health tests and screenings.

During Hari Raya 2023, the mall extended its reach by distributing essential items to the B40 community and sourcing Giftwith-Purchase items from NGOs, thereby self-sustaining community bolstering organizations. Collaborations with The Body Shop and educational partnerships with Surin International School underscored a dedication to environmental awareness and sustainable education. Mid Valley Megamall's involvement in charity outings, tax assessment events, and the Make-A-Wish Malaysia Annual Charity Golf Tournament further emphasizes its multifaceted efforts in contributing to both the community and the environment.

The Gardens Mall (TGM) underscores its unwavering dedication to sustainability through strategic partnerships and impactful campaigns, particularly during pivotal festivals like Chinese New Year and Hari Raya. In the spirit of CNY 2023, TGM joined forces with the Beautiful Gate Foundation (BGF), seamlessly integrating the sale of BGF crafts and merchandise within the mall. Shoppers were actively encouraged to make contactless donations through eWallets, enhancing the ease of contributing to meaningful causes.

For Raya 2023, TGM extended its commitment by collaborating with the Center for Orang Asli Concerns (COAC). An informative board about COAC was prominently displayed,

offering shoppers valuable insights into the organization's initiatives. To facilitate convenient contributions, TGM provided a DuitNow QR code, streamlining the donation process for shoppers and fostering a sense of community engagement in support of vital

Southkey Megamall Sdn Bhd showcases a steadfast commitment to sustainability through active community engagement. A standout initiative involves a partnership with Again & Again, a social enterprise dedicated to upcycling preloved items and providing essential aid to diverse communities. Notably, Southkey Megamall wholeheartedly supported Again & Again during Chinese New Year and Hari Raya 2023, championing causes such as empowering single mothers and contributing to charitable endeavors, including aid for flood victims and support for the Malaysian Red Crescent.

The commitment to community welfare was further exemplified through a charity outing during Hari Raya 2023, benefiting orphans and homeless children in collaboration with Pertubuhan Kebajikan Fitrah Qaseh. Additionally, Southkey Megamall demonstrated conscientious procurement practices by sourcing Gift-with-Purchase items from NGOs, thereby bolstering self-sustaining communities such as JARO, a rehabilitation workshop catering to differently-abled individuals.

#### **SCHOOL**

IGB International School (IGBIS) underscores its commitment to sustainable energy with the installation of a cutting-edge 341kWp solar panel system, spanning 18,000sqft. This forward-looking initiative is projected to generate approximately 43MWh of clean electricity annually, offsetting a significant portion (25-33%) of the school's electricity needs and markedly reducing its carbon footprint by around 27.477 tonnes each year. In collaboration with Energy Depot, this solar endeavor not only promotes environmentally responsible practices but also serves as an educational example for students, aligning with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 13 (Climate Action) and Goal 17 (Affordable and Clean Energy).

Beyond its environmental impact, the solar panel system is anticipated to yield substantial cost savings, totaling RM1.8 million over 25 years, with an annual saving of RM70,000. More than mere financial benefits, this initiative underscores IGBIS's commitment to being sustainability role models, showcasing a dedication to a greener and more sustainable future.

#### **COMMERCIAL**

IGB Commercial Reit (IGBCR) exemplifies a holistic approach to sustainability in energy management, with a primary focus on optimizing usage and reducing consumption.

Strategic measures, such as transitioning to LED lighting in common areas and incorporating motion sensors in washrooms, have significantly bolstered energy efficiency, resulting in substantial savings. Notably, initiatives like chilled water treatment and the installation of Variable Speed Drives (VSD) at chiller plantrooms and cooling towers further contribute to energy conservation.

A transformative shift from water-cooled package systems to highly efficient chiller systems at Menara Tan & Tan has led to an impressive 40% reduction in energy consumption. Ongoing chiller replacements at GTower are anticipated to bring about a commendable 32% efficiency improvement. The Cooling Tower Optimisation initiative at Hampshire Place Office has set a remarkable benchmark with a 100% efficiency improvement, surpassing industry standards. Routine maintenance activities, including Heat Exchange (HEX) cleaning and gasket replacements, ensure optimal energy transfer, consequently reducing chilled water consumption.

Emphasizing a commitment to continuous improvement, IGB CR proactively engages in energy auditing, exemplified by initiatives

like the SEDA energy audit grant at GTower. This underscores a dedication to identifying and harnessing further energy-saving potential, reflecting IGBCR's proactive stance in advancing sustainability within the commercial real estate sector.

#### HOTELS

Both The Gardens Hotel and Residences and St Giles Hotels prioritize sustainability in their operations. The Gardens Hotel focuses on water and energy conservation, recycling, and eco-friendly practices, while St Giles Hotels in the UK centers its efforts on waste reduction, community empowerment, sustainability certifications, and supporting marginalized individuals.

#### IGB GROUP HUMAN CAPITAL - PEOPLE AND CULTURE

The IGB Group Human Capital department's sustainability initiatives embrace resource-efficient and empowering practices, including:

 IGB Employee Day: A centralized hub streamlining access to vital information from government agencies and FWD Insurance, promoting resource optimization, enhancing awareness, and facilitating informed decision-making. It





highlights inclusivity through targeted briefings for working mothers and diverse employee needs.

- IGB's Backyard Game Series: Fostering employee engagement, offering a refreshing break and showcasing talents beyond work responsibilities.
- IGB Sports Month Event 2023: Bringing together 81 participants for engaging badminton, futsal, and bowling tournaments fostering healthy competition and teamwork.
- IGB Kids Day 2023: A successful event emphasizing family-friendly initiatives and work-life balance through educational activities, insightful parental talks, and an office tour.
- IGB Hari Raya Chill-Out event: A festive celebration fostering unity and cultural appreciation, showcasing IGB's commitment to inclusivity and honoring employees' diverse backgrounds.
- IGB Health Month event (June 2023): A month-long initiative focusing on improving employees' physical and mental well-being through informative talks, health screenings, fitness activities, and nutrition demonstrations.
- IGB Heroes Rowin'Around KKB Water Rafting event: Promoting teamwork, physical endurance, and adventure among participants navigating challenging

rapids, fostering camaraderie and lasting memories.

IGB Heroes Viper Challenge: Featuring participants navigating a challenging obstacle course, emphasizing physical strength, endurance, and teamwork.

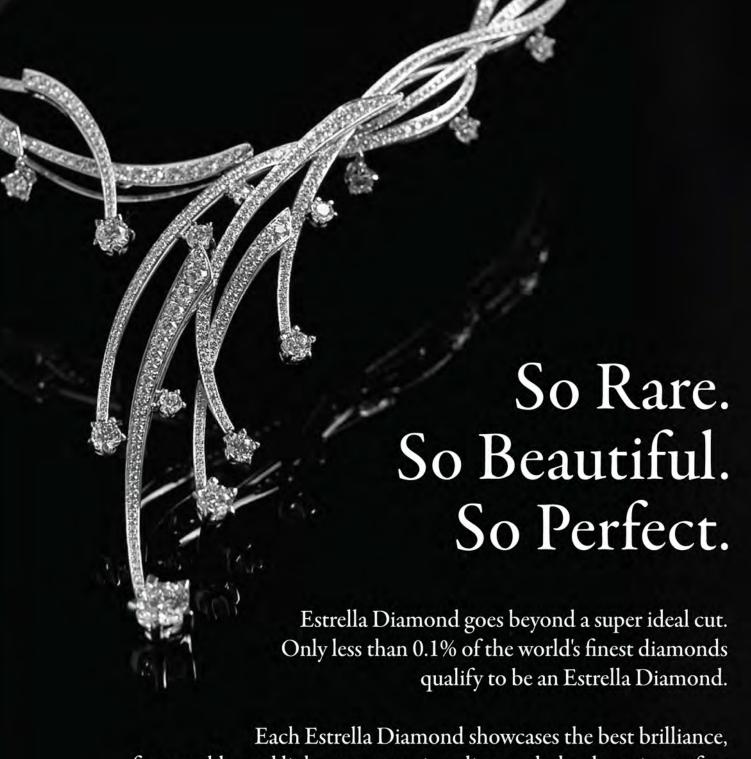
In conclusion, the comprehensive scope of ESG initiatives undertaken by various IGB businesses over the past year reflects a robust commitment to sustainability and positive impact. Each facet of the organisation has contributed to a more sustainable and responsible future. As IGB continues to lead by example, these diverse initiatives underscore not only their dedication to environmental stewardship but also their commitment to fostering a positive and inclusive corporate culture.

From left: IGB International School has installed cutting edge solar panels to reduce its carbon footprint; IGB is passionate about putting into practise its ESG initiatives, and so it always places people's recreational and social needs front and centre









Each Estrella Diamond showcases the best brilliance, fire, sparkle, and light symmetry in a diamond, thanks to its perfect cut and the rare phenomenon of 8 perfectly symmetrical hearts and arrows. It achieves the highest Ultimate 3-Star Light Performance grading, as proven by dual certification.

Exclusively by:





From the inception of Desa Kudalari in the 1970s, followed by Sierramas in the 1990s and later Park Manor and Stonor 3 KLCC in the last decade, these exquisitely landscaped homes have not only set a standard for opulent living but also became an enduring symbol of verdant luxury.

In an era where land grows scarce and urban living spaces become denser, the art of carefully crafted landscaping transcends its conventional role. It evolves into a source of aesthetic satisfaction and a necessary reprieve.

#### **HOW IT ALL BEGAN**

In an intriguing mahjong session with a fellow business magnate, the late Dato Tan Chin Nam received information about the decision of his counterpart to forgo the acquisition of two prime parcels in the Ampang embassy area, next to the Royal Selangor Golf and Turf Club.

Utilising his visionary expertise, Dato Tan carefully examined the terrain and road network, revealing previously undiscovered possibilities. Defying skepticism, he astutely acquired ownership of the land in 1971 at an attractive rate of RM7 per square foot.

Undaunted, Dato Tan embarked on a groundbreaking venture, creating the nation's first condominium on the sevenacre site - Desa Kudalari. Comprising 187 units that offered panoramic views of the prestigious turf club.

Despite initial doubts, Desa Kudalari quickly became a sought-after gem, capturing hearts within a year of its introduction. Today, the matured trees and foliage within its confines have earned it the endearing moniker, "oasis in a concrete jungle," a testament to Tan & Tan's enduring dedication to harmonizing nature with urban living.

Crafted with precision, Desa Kudalari's landscape mirrored the lush opulence of Hawaiian isles, marking the genesis of Tan & Tan's commitment to green-infused properties.

#### THE WOMAN BEHIND THE HERITAGE

In 1978, Tan Lei Cheng, former CEO of the company from March 1995 to early 2000's was tasked with selling the first phase of Desa Kudalari to singles and retirees. "By the time we purchased the land in Sungai Buloh where Sierramas is, Tan & Tan had already established its own landscaping division and there was a general understanding that a percentage of the budgeted development cost should be dedicated to trees and flora."

UK-based landscape agency Aspinwall Clouston undertook the monumental task of crafting Sierramas' landscape. Through

meticulous reforestation process, forest trees and plants were introduced, culminating in an organic and unparalleled landscape.

Beneath this scenic exterior, functional utilities like drainage and electrical lines are discreetly concealed, making way for jogging paths and meandering cycle lanes. Further enhancing the township's allure, gushing gullies replaced unsightly sewers.

The original development concept for Sierramas was to build homes around a 36 holes golf course. But Lei Cheng's children were still young then and she wanted a gated development where they could cycle and walk to friends' houses.

This is when green and sustainable landscaping became part of the development philosophy of Tan & Tan. The planners who were also engineers from Australia were tasked with two constraints: Firstly, minimum cutting of the land and no removal of the earth from the site and secondly a strict zero water discharge policy from the site so that there would not be further load to the inadequate culverts under Jalan Sungai Buloh.

The first gated and guarded homes of Sierramas was born. Gentle slopes and gullies



with pebbled pathways when dry and gentle flowing streams that would soak away into the lush tree filled gullies when it rained. "But the credit for the beauty of the grounds must go to the residents of Sierramas. The well-maintained and landscaped gardens are a joy to behold," explained Lei Cheng.

#### **PARK MANOR**

Tan & Tan's landscaping legacy continued under the stewardship of Tan Boon Lee as CEO of Tan & Tan. The final phase of Sierramas' land, Park Manor was built as a lush sanctuary adorned with mature indigenous and adaptive tree species enveloping the 41 luxurious bungalow villas across the 7.88acre estate. Landscaped paths serve as green arteries, interconnecting homes and leading to the exclusive residents' clubhouse.

Upon entering Park Manor, leafy trees ining the streets create a shaded welcome, guiding residents through an environment deeply intertwined with nature. Inside the three-storey bungalow villas, the living spaces are thoughtfully oriented towards linear gardens, offering splendid views through expansive windows.

With Boon Lee's capable leadership, the rich tradition of greenery within Sierramas, and the broader Tan & Tan brand, continued to thrive and prosper.

#### STONOR 3

In August, Stonor 3 won a Special Award Certificate from DBKL's Jabatan Kawalan Bangunan, recognising it as GreenRE Gold certified residential landmark in KLCC area.

"It may not take much to achieve a green building, but getting a Gold came down to the hard work of everyone involved in the project. I am proud that they put in the effort to accomplish this," said Tan Yee Seng, who assumed the role of CEO at Tan & Tan Developments in 2018, succeeding Boon Lee.

Under Yee Seng's leadership, the commitment to Stonor 3 and Tan & Tan's 'green' heritage continued to evolve and flourish.

According to Yee Seng, Tan & Tan has consistently incorporated eco-friendly elements and concepts into its building designs. This approach not only reduces energy consumption but also enhances comfort and ensures long-term sustainability.

He points out that although Stonor 3 is located in the heart of the city, a profound serenity envelops you from the instant you enter its lobby.

The gentle melody of trickling water and the whispering of leaves within its garden pavilions provide a tranquil sanctuary from the urban surroundings. It boasts a meticulously planned architectural orientation that minimises heat absorption, ensuring optimal thermal comfort.

Launched in late 2019, Stonor 3 represents the inaugural collaboration between Tan & Tan and Japan's Mitsubishi Jisho Residence. This venture seamlessly merges two enduring traditions of excellence between Tan & Tan and Mitsubishi. The result is a harmonious fusion of Japanese-inspired design elements that optimise spatial utilisation while conscientiously reducing its carbon footprint and ecological impact.

At Stonor 3, greenery assumes paramount importance, with gardens and green spaces on the ground level, level 7, and the rooftop serving as natural temperature regulators.

#### PRESERVING GREEN HERITAGE

If Desa Kudalari pioneered landscape integration and Sierramas set the benchmark, Park Manor and Stonor 3 stand as contemporary exemplars - all enduring heritage of verdant living by Tan & Tan.

Asked what her proudest achievements are, Lei Cheng singled out GTower and Menara Tan & Tan. The latter was built and completed in 1993 and now stands proudly beside tall glass, curtain walled skyscrapers.

"It was built during times of power blackouts and has small openable windows in case of power cuts. Fungus resistant paint was used and because of that, it has only been repainted once after 14 years," she said.

"I am proud of both buildings. Although they have not won any architectural awards or broken any height records. I believe they provide good healthy spaces at a reasonable cost for Malaysians to work, be creative, and will continue to stand the test of time."

"Both borrow the art deco language of the original office buildings in the 1930s and eschew the use of too much glass and have openable windows and walkable stairs."



Yee Seng is most proud that all of Tan & Tan's projects over the years have remained sustainable and thriving communities for the owners and occupiers. "The properties are able to hold on to their value for long because of all the ideas and work that have gone into them".

"Being a pioneer also means pushing against existing building and planning laws which were made in a different time when land was more available. Today's reality is that existing building bylaws favour cars over humans. Cars and carparks get more space in development plans than parks and tree shaded sidewalks for humans," said Lei Cheng.

What are her expectations for Tan & Tan's future leaders, when it comes to preserving and advancing the green heritage built over the decades?

"We in Tan & Tan must continue to push against roads in favour of parks, community spaces and tree lined and sheltered pedestrian walkways." She added that since the Tan & Tan logo is based on the yin yang principle, the hard and the soft is forever intertwined.

"We are not just developers of the hardware of buildings but also the software of management systems so that we create the best environment for humans to work, live and play."

"I aspire for the future leaders of Tan & Tan to sustain the pioneering spirit, aiming to convert natural spaces into habitable areas with minimal disruptions to the environment. If there is a need to disturb nature, I hope they allocate space for the well-being of smaller creatures, trees, and shrubbery essential for their survival.," Lei Cheng concluded.

Yee Seng believes that the future will get more difficult for the young leaders but its vitally important to not give up on creating and running sustainable developments.

"A building's life spans many decades and it is more pressing than ever before to make sure they continue to last and have happy and healthy communities in them," he concluded.

With a rich history of innovation, Tan & Tan has consistently introduced groundbreaking residential products to the market. As we enter our sixth decade, we hold unwavering confidence that the foundational principles laid by our founders endure in the hands of current and future leadership. Committed to our enduring legacy, Tan & Tan, as a distinguished developer, pledges to perpetuate a visionary approach, ensuring the continuation of our tradition in crafting environmentally conscious and innovative products.









De Sol Earrings



De Sol Ring



Belleza Earrings

To commemorate Estrella's 20th anniversary, the jewellery brand has announced a truly exceptional celebration.

Here's introducing its exquisite collections, Estrella De Sol and Estrella Belleza, which encapsulate the unparalleled craftsmanship and timeless beauty that have been the hallmarks of Estrella's two decades of service in the diamond industry.

In honour of this milestone, Estrella Diamond unveils two extraordinary starlight collections that embody sophistication, elegance and charm; Estrella De Sol and Estrella Belleza are considered standouts in their own ways.

Each of these collections has been meticulously crafted to capture the essence of extraordinary

radiance and elegance, paying tribute to Estrella's 20 years of excellence in the world of fine jewellery.

At the forefront of its collections stands the De Sol series. "De Sol," translated from Spanish as "Star of the Sun," perfectly encapsulates the grandeur of this collection.

Estrella De Sol represents the radiant brilliance unique to its kind, as this diamond ring embodies luminosity and splendour, encapsulating the very essence of the sun.

Hence, Estrella De Sol has earned many names including "Eternal Guiding Light" and "The Light of My Life." It transcends being a mere diamond ring; it carries the profound commitment to serve as a guiding light for one another in the face of life's challenges.

Designed to complement the captivating aesthetics of the sun, each diamond in this collection is meticulously set within a frame of the finest materials, surrounded by an exquisite halo of smaller diamonds.

Moving on to the next enchanting piece, Estrella Belleza. This piece radiates a floral geometric appearance designed to inspire individuals with a carefree and vibrant spirit.

With its blossoming inspiration and irresistible charm, Estrella Belleza invites you to explore a world overflowing with beauty and excitement. It seamlessly combines serene tranquility with aristocratic elegance, captivating the senses.

Its commitment to delivering unparalleled luxury experiences resonate with Estrella Diamond's loyal audience, evident in each product category within these collections, reflecting unique facets of Estrella's legacy.

As the exclusive luxury brand renowned for its eight perfect hearts and arrows, Estrella Diamond sets a new benchmark for super ideal cut.

It now invites enthusiasts to immerse themselves in the magic, wonder and emotions that it has shared with the world over the past two decades.

Exclusively by Diamond & Platinum, Estrella Diamond is beyond super ideal cut.

Only less than 0.1% of the world's finest diamonds qualify to be an Estrella Diamond, which brings out the best brillance, fire and sparkle simultaneously in a diamond. It achieves only the highest light performance grading, proven with dual-certification. Exceptionally rare, Estrella Diamond explodes with light and perfection.

The Estrella Cut guarantees maximum light performance and true hearts and arrows. It is beyond 4Cs and its diamond's interaction with light is exceptional.

Introducing Sarine Light Performance Report, Estrella Diamond captures other aspects of the diamond's beauty that is not included in the standard grading report.

Estrella Diamond is cut to perfection and has the rare phenomenon of eight perfectly symmetrical hearts and arrows, making it the creme de la creme of all diamonds.

In Malaysia, Estrella Diamond is exclusively available at Diamond & Platinum, which has been in the industry for 24 years.

For more information, visit <u>www.diamondnplatinum.com</u> or Instagram (@ diamondnplatinum) or Facebook (@Diamond & Platinum).

## Are you a Carbon Footprint Cutter? 5 Effortless Ways for the Everyday Environmentalist

In a world brimming with technological marvels and modern conveniences, the responsibility to tread lightly on our planet has become more relevant than ever. Enter the savvy squad of Carbon Footprint Cutters, individuals who embrace eco-conscious choices without sacrificing style or substance. If you're yearning to join this league of environmentally suave individuals, fear not! We've curated a collection of five easy and remarkably chic ways for you to become an everyday environmentalist.

### 1. Gastronomy with a green twist

Gone are the days when going green meant munching on uninspiring kale leaves. Who knew that indulgence and eco-friendliness could go hand in hand? Elevate your culinary prowess by embracing plant-based delights that tantalise taste buds and nurture the Earth. From zesty avocado toasts to mouthwatering lentil curries, your palate will thank you while your carbon footprint shrinks. To take this a step further, why not grow your own edible garden! Take a page out of Chef Takashi Kimura's handbook (see story on P40) and cultivate your own herbs and veggies, thereby trimming down on food miles, packaging waste, and chemical use.

## 2. Sartorial sustainability

Whoever said fashion couldn't save the world clearly missed the memo from the Carbon Footprint Cutters. Unleash your inner fashionista by championing second-hand treasures, reviving vintage glam, and supporting sustainable fashion labels. Picture yourself strutting the streets in an ensemble that's not only en vogue but also ethically sourced. By choosing timeless pieces over fleeting trends, you'll be making a bold statement that leaves a delicate ecological footprint.

## 3. Ethical escapades

Jet-setting without guilt? Absolutely possible, thanks to the Carbon Footprint Cutters' ingenious travel philosophy. Opt for eco-friendly accommodations that pamper you while nurturing the planet. Explore enchanting ecotourism destinations, where lush landscapes and responsible practices intertwine harmoniously. Whether it's a serene mountain retreat or a beachfront haven, you'll be relishing both your journey and the knowledge that your footprint is a feather-light one.

## 4. Gadgetry for a greener globe

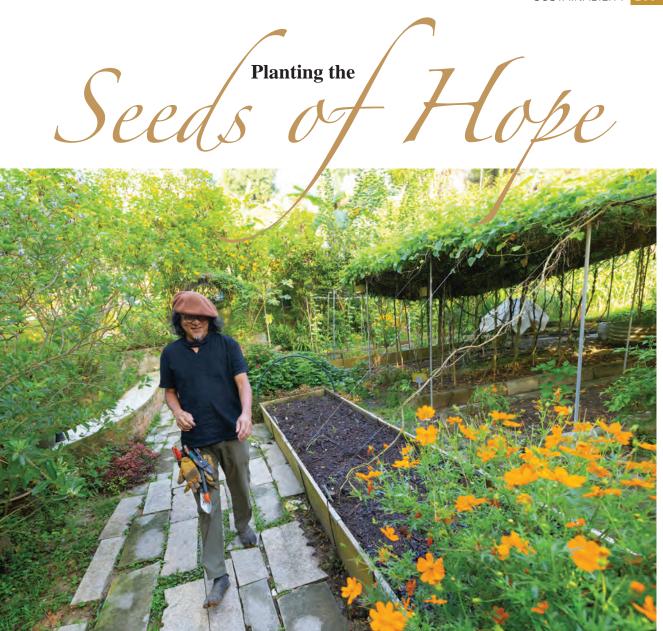
Embrace the intersection of innovation and sustainability by investing in energy-efficient appliances that blend seamlessly into your chic abode. From smart thermostats that dance to your temperature whims to sleek solarpowered chargers that keep your devices humming guilt-free, you'll be proving that tech-savvy sophistication and ecoconsciousness go hand in hand.

### 5. Zen and the art of eco-conscious living

Embark on a mindful journey towards holistic well-being and environmental harmony by embracing practices such as yoga, meditation and mindfulness that reconnect you to nature and your inner self. Create a serene oasis in your living space with potted plants that purify the air and uplift your spirits. As you cultivate a tranquil haven, you'll discover that being in tune with yourself is the first step towards being in tune with the planet.

In a world where eco-consciousness is no longer just a buzzword but a way of life, it's time to tap into your inner Carbon Footprint Cutter and redefine the art of living elegantly and responsibly. By adopting these five simple practices, you too can become an everyday environmentalist. So, raise your bamboo cup to a future where being green isn't just a trend but a timeless testament to your commitment to protecting the planet.





## Discover how landscape visionary Ng Sek San is cultivating a greener urban future through his innovative approach to community gardens.

Climate change and food security are two subjects that provoke Ng Sek San... but in a good way. The landscape designerarchitect-activist self-professed and "troublemaker" enjoys finding creative solutions to these two huge global challenges that lurk on the horizon.

One of the novel ways in which he has begun to tackle them here in Malaysia is by building community gardens - shared

pieces of land where individuals from a local neighbourhood come together to cultivate and maintain plants, vegetables and flowers collectively. These gardens not only promote community bonding, but actively provide fresh produce, and contribute to urban green spaces, enhancing the quality of city life by providing areas for relaxation, recreation and biodiversity.

Sek San's seven-year-old brainchild, Kebun-Kebun Bangsar (KKB), situated along Lorong Bukit Pantai in Kuala Lumpur, is living proof that a community garden does indeed work wonders for its surrounding locale.

"Anyone can come and use this place to picnic, feed the animals or just have a short walk. Cities need this. Especially cities like KL, which have open spaces that have long been neglected. Gardens such as KKB help solve some of the city's problems," says Sek San, who left his fulltime job as a landscape architect in 2013, to go on sabbatical so he could wrap up all the projects he was working on for high-end developers including Tan & Tan Developments.

Sek San had spent 16 years overseas in New Zealand, England and Singapore, gleaning knowledge and experience, before returning to his beloved Malaysia to work some of his "magic" here. Today he has a long list of project accolades to his name - from commercial buildings to condos, townships and parks. Recent Tan & Tan projects include the Seri Ampang Hilir condominium and luxury service residences Stonor 3.

But the pet project that obviously gets a lion's share of his attention is KKB, which he visits every day, often twice a day! While his peers may enjoy an evening walk or jog, or sipping on a coffee at a hip cafe, Sek San says he prefers spending his days weeding at KKB!

With over 30 types of vegetables including hydroponically-grown lettuce, mint, tomatoes and bok choy - and a host of other greenery, flowers, little salt lakes, a corten steel sculpture by artist Muthalib Musa that stands alongside cows, goats, geese and chickens, KKB is an ecosystem brimming with beauty and hope.

Sek San and his Kelab Kebun Bandar team of experts and volunteers have carefully planted the seeds of an idea which has blossomed into a beautiful, natural, pesticide-free, safe space that welcomes all, not just to enjoy and appreciate the garden, but to be a part of its ongoing evolution.

"It didn't start out with a very big idea. It was more like let's do some gardening together. I had seen some organic farms elsewhere and I thought we could try out a model that would work here," Sek San explained, adding that he had already assembled a group of like-minded individuals via a socio-political campaign in 2013.

"But the garden remained an experiment until the pandemic. Prior to 2020, we were really just theorising how KKB could work," Sek San shares, explaining that when the COVID-19 crisis struck, KKB was able to kick in and start feeding refugees who were in dire need of food. Even when there was a shortfall in supply, it was able to inspire resilience in the community and turned into a distribution centre.

"For me, that is what KKB is all about - a movement through which Malaysians are able to feed ourselves and feed those who are less privileged than us. It isn't just about this one garden, but about planting the idea for another 200 of these gardens. To enable and empower others to get onboard and do it themselves by providing them with the right resources, expertise and materials."

Part of the reason Sek San's community garden thrives is because the entire neighbourhood (including nearby commercial malls like Bangsar Village) drops kitchen waste at its doorstep.

"We have hundreds of residents contributing to this, and not just from our neighbourhood. Environmentally-conscious people come from far away too. They even freeze their kitchen waste and bring it to us."

The kitchen waste is then turned into compost. Sek San says: "We try to inculcate recycling kitchen waste to put some carbon back into the ground. It's about bringing the soil back to a healthy state. You'll notice in KKB that the plants flourish because of the healthy soil."

Therefore, the community is given a chance to contribute to reducing its carbon footprint, and then reap the benefits of the lush garden.

There are other advantages. "We are providing a method for people to find recreation in the city. Spending time in the garden is a very healthy alternative instead of spending time in a shopping mall or cafe. It is also free of charge, and this makes it accessible even to those who are marginalised."

Sek San proudly states that KKB has been recognised for its unique model and was earlier this year picked by the reputable German design institute, Vitra Design Museum, for its "Future Of Gardens" exhibition which examined how a space can fill the needs of sustainability and social justice in a community. "They picked six very renowned gardens in the world and we were among them!"





Left: All sorts of young people come to the garden unafraid to get their hands dirty, including refugee youth who make regular visits.

Top: Sek San has been instrumental in setting up Kebun-kebun Bangsar which now has over 30 types of vegetables, for anyone in need.



Sek San reveals that educating the community, especially the younger generation, is another one of his main motivations, and the garden is the perfect hands-on learning environment.

"We are trying to encourage the young to think about climate crisis and how we can make an effort to reduce it. Another very big problem in the world today is food security. We saw how it could affect us in the pandemic when people were running out of food because it was not being distributed along the normal channels."

All sorts of young people come to the garden unafraid to get their hands dirty, including refugee youth who make

regular visits, neighbourhood residents and university students from closeby educational institutions; youth of all cultures and creeds joining hands to grow our future together.

"Many of these students are required to do some type of practical work for their courses. And though gardening might not be their passion, when they come here, they are usually inspired. Many who started out here as learners and newbies have now become leaders, and continue to come in weekly, to train others."

On Sek San's wishlist of things he would like to see in future building projects, is for developers who have resources to carve out corners of land which they don't use

to turn into pocket parks, greenhouses and community gardens.

"Developers can open up some of their grounds. Especially in townships, where there is space; they could then pay for those spaces to be managed and maintained so it is useful for the community."

Teams like the one that built up KKB are here to help add content and build relationships, Sek San says. "People like us – experts in our field of design, architecture and landscaping – will get to interact with developers for the benefit of all, ultimately lifting the community to a higher level. I see this as a win-win-win game ... for the landscape designer, the developer and the community at large."



## Welcome to the delightful world of Chef Takashi's kitchen, where fresh ingredients and great tastes take centrestage.

Committed to preserving freshness and reducing his carbon footprint by prioritising the use of local ingredients, Chef Takashi Kimura enjoys connecting his culinary expertise to the health of our planet.

Chef Takashi was, in fact, one of the pioneers of the farm-totable concept in Malaysia at the restaurant with which he has come to be synonymous, Kuala Lumpur's Cilantro Restaurant & Wine Bar, where he stresses the importance of getting the best ingredients.

"In order to produce good food, we need good ingredients. Good ingredients that are fresh, tasty and aesthetically pleasing," he professes matter-of-factly. "Good farmers are able to produce high-quality crops/livestock with these qualities through a lot of research, care and labour."

At least twice or thrice a week, Chef Takashi visits the local markets to check out what's on offer so he can create and adapt dishes using the freshest ingredients available and reveals that some of his choicest ingredients are caviar from Tanjung Malim, chicken from Penang, and asparagus from Cameron Highlands.



The experienced chef admits, however, that not all ingredients are sourced locally, and some come from as far as France and Japan. "Both places are well known for exceptional produce and products. We also work very closely with our suppliers to determine which ingredient is best to acquire since they are our middleman in procuring ingredients."

Ironically, after accumulating a wealth of knowledge and experience having worked at Cilantro for over two decades, the affable chef says that his food has only become "simpler" over the years.

He clarifies by saying: "Simpler in the sense that we (at Cilantro) are a lot more ingredient-focused now. We want to highlight the original taste of the ingredients without altering too much of it, and without masking the flavour with other ingredients."

Trained in France, Chef Takashi is famous for his fusion menu that uses locallygrown herbs which he cultivates in Cilantro's own backyard.

"Some of the herbs we grow in the garden are mint, basil, rosemary and lemon balm. We mostly use them as an infusion in stocks, but sometimes we use them fresh as well," he says. "Planting your own herbs means you can better control the quality of the produce, and subsequently the final product. It's also a way to ensure freshness. Moreover, having your own herb garden is so much more convenient than having to go out and buy them."

Originating from Japan's Ibaraki prefecture, Chef Takashi embarked on his culinary journey as an apprentice in 1990, and was driven by an unwavering passion for

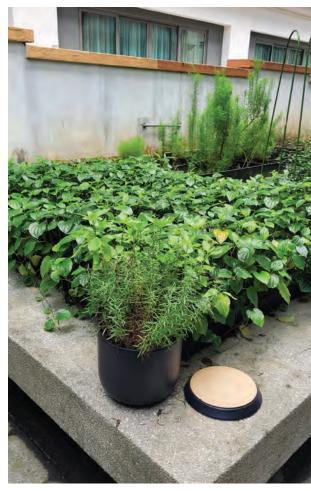
> the art of cooking. His path led him to prestigious Michelinstarred establishments in France, and the Japanese Embassy in West Africa; travels and experiences that allowed him to blend his French culinary expertise with Japanese nuances. creating distinctive and captivating menus. Prior to gracing the kitchens of Cilantro, Chef Takashi held the position of Chef de Cuisine at the Japanese Embassy in Malaysia.

> One wonders if he alters his style of cooking and presentation according to the different times we live in today. Takashi says: "Here at Cilantro, we do not pursue trends. We stay true to our philosophy and to our principles which are: first, to choose the right ingredients, second, to apply the right cooking method and third, to use the right seasonings. I believe that by staying within the perimeter of this philosophy, we can do no wrong."

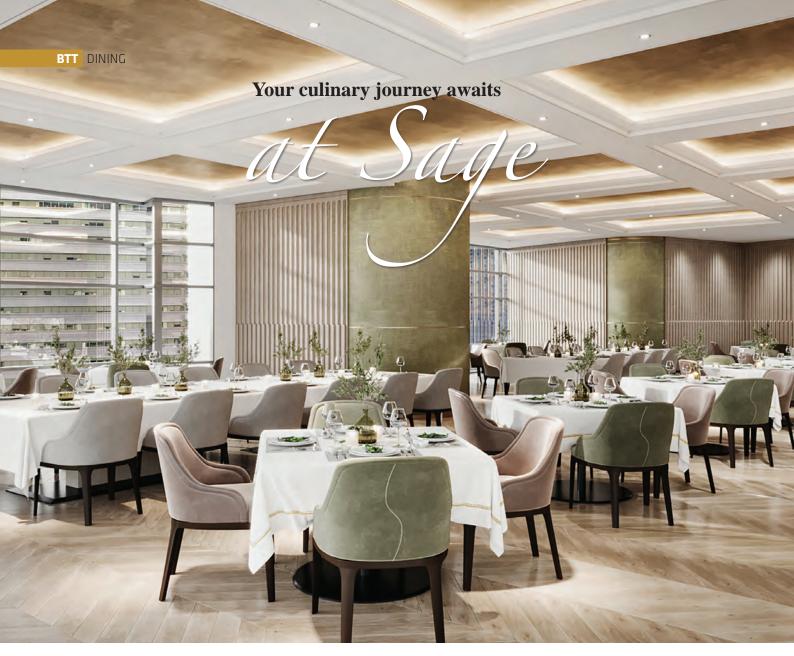
> This doesn't mean the menus are rigid. In fact, Cilantro's menus are changed monthly. "We also have twice-weekly special menus for Wednesday dinners and Friday lunches that we change every week. We are looking to introduce new creations and ideas as well as make full use of what's best in the market." Chef Takashi offers.

> For the home chef, Takashi has this tip to share: "Choose seasonal ingredients. Ingredients in season are more often fresher, best in terms of quality, and have more affordable prices as well. Circling back to my previous point, developing a good working relationship with your supplier is a must. Your supplier will be able to help you choose the best quality ingredients in the market."

> Clockwise from left: Chef Takashi, at Cilantro Restaurant & Wine Bar, where he stresses the importance of getting the freshest and best ingredients. He maintains his very own herb garden, where mint, basil, rosemary and lemon balm are grown so they can be used fresh in his flavourful fusion dishes.







Sage Restaurant & Wine Bar, an epitome of culinary finesse and innovation, is set to reveal its revamped interior, promising an unparalleled and elevated dining experience for all. As a cherished sister restaurant to Cilantro, Sage has previously carved its niche in the culinary scene of Kuala Lumpur, offering an exquisite fusion of French cooking techniques infused with Japanese ingredients, seasonal vegetables and the freshest seafood.

Nestled within the Gardens Residences at The Gardens Mall, Sage Restaurant & Wine Bar has gained fame for not only tantalising taste buds but also for its ability to host larger functions, providing a sophisticated atmosphere, earning its rightful place among the city's top fine dining destinations.

Under the culinary mastery of Chef Don John and his dedicated team of chefs, Sage has consistently delivered delicate flavours, a thoughtful curation of French Japanese fusion, and impeccable service.

In line with its commitment to excellence, Sage has been undergoing extensive renovations after closing its doors in April. The rejuvenated Sage, set to reopen next year, will embrace experimental and modern cooking, placing a spotlight on seafood. Chef Don John is dedicated to finding the perfect balance of flavours while emphasizing simplicity and purity.

With over 18 years of culinary expertise, including a decade in the fine dining scene and training under Cilantro's Chef Takashi Kimura, Chef Don leads the culinary brigade at Sage. He believes that good food is a journey that evokes beautiful memories, and each dish at Sage is a testament to this philosophy.

"The restaurant is shifting its focus towards sourcing a greater amount of local produce, supporting local farmers and fishermen and enhancing its commitment to sustainability," says Tan Ken Meng, IGB Assistant Manager – Hotel Operations.

He adds that Sage aims to set itself apart by leveraging its fine dining expertise and reimagining a fresh and exciting culinary journey. "The establishment will feature a brand new bar, introducing signature cocktails alongside an extensive wine selection. The enhanced menu will be more flexible, highlighting a seafood-centric approach with enticing options for sharing platters."

A key highlight of the transformed Sage is its renovated space, tailor-made for hosting events of up to 80-100 guests. The space will exude a welcoming ambience and offer a range of event packages, making it a perfect choice for special gatherings and celebrations.

Visit Sage Restaurant & Wine Bar on Level 6, The Gardens Residences, The Gardens Mall, Lingkaran Syed Putra, Mid Valley City and embark on a culinary adventure that celebrates the marriage of French and Japanese flavours. As a special token of appreciation, all Tan & Tan privilege cardholders can relish a 25% discount throughout the year. Book your table and immerse yourself in a world of gastronomic delights.









f sagerestaurantandwinebar



Top 20 Restaurants in Malaysia 2022



## where every dish tells a story













Cilantro, located in the heart of Kuala Lumpur, is a gastronomic gem that invites those in search of an exceptional dining experience. Situated in Taman U Thant, this renowned restaurant established in 1997, has become synonymous with culinary finesse and an unforgettable journey for the palate.

Cilantro epitomises artistry, where every dish narrates a tale of creativity and passion. The ambience is an elegant fusion of contemporary chic and timeless sophistication, setting the stage for an unparalleled dining adventure from the moment you step through its doors.

The culinary vision at Cilantro is orchestrated by a team of seasoned chefs led by Chef Takashi Kimura, whose mastery of French and Japanese cuisine forms the foundation of the menu. The result is an extraordinary fusion of flavours, where French techniques embrace Japanese ingredients, bringing to life dishes that are as unique as they are delectable.

Every plate is a canvas, and every ingredient, a stroke of artistry. Just ask the patrons who keep coming back for signature dishes

such as the Cold Capellini featuring Botan Ebi & Sea Urchin which has been capturing hearts for many years.

Dynamic menu offerings also contribute to the appeal - Cilantro's Wednesday Dinner and Friday Lunch menus change weekly, ensuring a unique dining experience each visit. Amidst these changes, one factor remains unwavering: its commitment to quality. Over the years, patrons have come to trust that Cilantro never compromises on the excellence of its culinary creations, making consistency an integral part of its dining legacy. And the wine selection here is as diverse and carefully curated as the menu itself!

Cilantro also goes the extra mile by catering to the individual preferences of each diner. Whether you seek an intimate dinner for two, a celebration among friends, or a corporate gathering, the restaurant is skilled at making every occasion memorable. Reservations are highly recommended to secure your place at this culinary haven, where the team is dedicated to ensuring your dining experience is flawless from start to finish.

And now, you can step into Cilantro during the day and be transported to the romantic streets of Paris. Introducing L'Atelier by Cilantro - a new lunch concept inspired by fine French bistro cuisine. Launched this year and well-received by patrons, L'Atelier offers a more casual lunchtime experience, serving French Bistro Classics at a lower price point.

Indulge in handcrafted menus that capture the essence of French cuisine, featuring classics like Duck Confit and Cog au Vin, prepared with the finest ingredients. Experience a carefully curated set menu of appetizers, entrées, and desserts for an exquisite lunch experience.

Rest assured that you'll get more than just a meal if you choose to drop by. Cilantro is a journey through taste, texture and technique, consistently exceeding expectations and making it a sought-after destination for locals and visitors alike.

Secure your table by calling 03-2179-8082 or book online at cilantrokl.com; Tan & Tan privilege cardholders can relish a 25% discount throughout the year.



Curated ingredients, skillful cooking, and a tasteful ambience make up the unique French - Japanese dining experience.







Tues - Thu, Sat & Sun 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM

\*Tan & Tan Privilege Cardmembers enjoy 25% discount for L'Atelier Ala Carte order

## cilantrokl.com



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## Cilantro Restaurant & Wine Bar



McLaren joined forces with Malaysian artist Jaee Tee and Japanese artist Mitsuhiro Higuchi to breathe new life into the Artura.

## A Pursuit of

McLaren, the British luxury automaker renowned for its high-performance sports cars, has taken a significant step towards sustainability with the introduction of its hybrid supercar, the Artura.

Breaking away from its tradition of producing purely internal combustion engine sports cars, the Artura marks McLaren's pioneering foray into the realm of electric propulsion. This cutting-edge supercar retains McLaren's iconic curved design language while being propelled by a formidable combination of technologies.

At its heart lies a potent 3.0-liter 120°-angle twin-turbo hot V6 petrol engine, joined harmoniously by an E-motor integrated into

the rear axle, all managed by an advanced 8-speed dual-clutch transmission (DCT). This meticulously engineered configuration empowers the Artura to unleash a staggering 680 horsepower and 720 Newton-meters of torque to the rear wheels.

For McLaren, this electrifying addition not only represents an exciting boost in performance but also underscores their commitment to environmental responsibility. The electric motor's torque delivery ensures instantaneous and consistent power whenever it is summoned, enhancing both performance and efficiency.

In a recent collaboration, McLaren joined forces with talented Malaysian artist Jaee

Tee and Japanese artist Mitsuhiro Higuchi to breathe new life into the Artura, drawing inspiration from the majestic Tiger of the Chinese Zodiac.

Named after the fusion of 'Art' and 'Future,' the Artura provided the perfect canvas for Tee and Higuchi to seamlessly integrate Augmented Reality into their artistry, capturing the Artura's futuristic essence.

This remarkable unveiling took place at the McLaren Kuala Lumpur showroom and served as a heartfelt tribute to the shared values of courage and bravery symbolised by both the Tiger and the McLaren brand. It also poignantly acknowledged McLaren's historic 1974 F1 Championship victory, aligning beautifully with the Year of the Tiger.

Much like the fearless jungle cat. McLaren has always been a trailblazer in the world of motorsports, championing innovation, performance and an unwavering pursuit of excellence. The artists behind this project drew deep inspiration from the noble qualities of courage and valor that unite the Tiger and McLaren's indomitable ethos.

"Collaborating with McLaren has been an incredible journey, fusing art and innovation, while adding significant corporate value to this iconic brand," enthused Tee.

Much like luxury brand Louis Vuitton's partnerships with iconic artists like Takashi Murakami and Yayoi Kusama, McLaren has forged alliances with artists on a global scale.

In Dubai, the talented British artist Nat Bowen, renowned for her vibrant resin creations, collaborated with McLaren to craft an exceptional Art Car. In Germany, the Berlin-based abstract artist Cevin Parker unveiled a one-of-a-kind Artura.

Thus far, McLaren maintains a discerning eye for selecting its artistic collaborators.

So it marked a distinct honour that Tee has been chosen for this project marking her third high-profile showcase as an artist, as well as for Higuchi, whose creativity knows no bounds.

"Creating art often involves a lot of materials." and I'm mindful of the impact they can have on the environment," said Tee, touching on the Artura's sustainability ethos.

According to Tee, she carefully selects materials with minimal negative environmental impact. Also, during the cleaning up process, she cleans her brushes thoroughly before rinsing them to prevent any paint from getting into water bodies.

"When it comes to disposing of acrylic paints, I wait until they've solidified. This way, the pigments are locked in, and they won't harm the environment when I dispose of them.

"It's a small effort, but collectively, these practices can make a big difference.I'm also committed to reducing waste in my artmaking process by reusing materials and minimising excess," explained Tee.

"Collaborating with McLaren on the Artura

project, a symbol of green innovation, aligns perfectly with my commitment to sustainability in both my work and life," mused Tee.

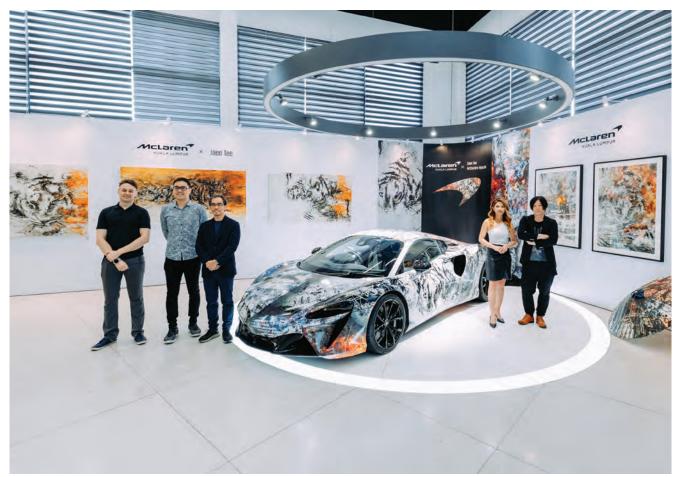
This project also involved the participation of Heritouch Gallery, which represents Tee and an array of other exceptionally talented artists.

Richie C of Heritouch Gallery aptly remarked: "Behind every artwork lies a unique story and a unique artist. We are not just an art gallery; we are an artist management corporation. We focus heavily on artist and IP management, and we bridge art and conventional business activities together."

As the representative gallery of Jaee Tee, Heritouch Gallery serves as an exhibition space, an art trading platform and an exclusive private club for art collectors, located at One World Hotel in Petaling Jaya.

"In the fusion of art and commerce, we discover the essence of innovation and the soul of a brand, to magnify the intrinsic core values," added Richie C.

For more information, <a href="https://www.">https://www.</a> heritouchgallery.com/



Tee and Higuchi were joined at the Artura unveiling by Chris Germaine, chief community officer of Nscape, Richie C, founder and managing director of Heritouch Gallery and Marcus Chye, dealer principle of McLaren Kuala Lumpur.

In a world that's increasingly focused on conscious consumer choices, sustainability has emerged as a guiding principle, shaping our approach to fashion, beauty and lifestyle products.

This commitment entails selecting products crafted from natural and organic ingredients, devoid of harmful chemicals, and produced in environmentally responsible ways.

Globally, as well as in Malaysia, this ecoconscious way of living has become a mainstream trend, in line with the prevailing Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles. It's a journey that involves not only rethinking the products we use but also the people who create them.

Let's look at local fashion and beauty brands that have embraced this green ethos

## COMMODITE

Commodité, a homegrown personal care brand, has taken up the mantle of sustainability.

Their range includes gender-neutral scented sanitizers featuring lavender, patchouli, eucalyptus and geranium leaf. Their offerings extend to home fragrance, pillow mist, hand and body lotion, hand and body wash and body fragrance.

Founder Kho Yit Wee emphasizes: "Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) isn't just a framework; it's a reflection of our values and how we operate."

Commodité's commitment to the environment involves engaging local manufacturers, prioritizing sustainable raw materials and continuously exploring ecofriendly packaging.

Additionally, the brand takes a hands-on approach by personally testing products before laboratory assessments to ensure ethical practices.

From a social perspective, Commodité places paramount importance on the wellbeing of its team members, incorporating fair labor practices and ethical sourcing. The company fosters a compassionate workplace, offering flexibility to cater to individual needs.

Transparency in labeling is another key social responsibility embraced by Commodité, ensuring customers are well-informed about their choices.



Kho Yit Wee

"On the governance side, despite being a solo venture now, I envision a future Commodité with a diverse board and workforce, ensuring compliance with evolving regulations. It's not just about ESG for us, it's about building a business that cares for its community and the world around it," said Kho.

Sustainability lies at the core of Commodité's product philosophy, evident in ethical sourcing, responsible production, and the use of eco-friendly materials. Their dedication extends to sustainable

procurement of raw materials, avoiding contributions to deforestation and wildlife endangerment.

This commitment carries over to the use of eco-friendly materials like glass and recyclables, minimizing ecological impact and promoting recyclability. The brand considers energy efficiency when selecting suppliers and manufacturers, focusing on technologies such as solar panels and LED lighting to reduce the carbon footprint.

The brand also practices a unique approach when it comes to packaging. "For instance, when sending out bulk or custom orders, we opt for reusable Ikea PP shopping bags.

"While some may find it amusing, most customers appreciate having a durable, reusable bag that serves various purposes. This choice aligns with our observation that traditional packaging, like boxes, is often not reused and ends up in the trash area." Another example of Commodité's sustainability efforts is the discontinuation of a product containing endangered cedarwood Atlas. Despite attempts to find alternatives, the discontinuation reflects Commodité commitment to ethical sourcing and environmental conservation, encapsulating a dedication to principles that go beyond profitability.

Asked whether people are more receptive nowadays to 'green' personal care products, Kho enthused: "Absolutely! In recent years, there has been a noticeable trend, driven by increased environmental awareness and concerns about health and safety.

"Consumers actively seek alternatives with natural ingredients and sustainable packaging, reflecting a broader commitment to sustainability and a healthier lifestyle."

## EARTHOSKIN

Earthoskin, a beauty brand, was born from the belief that everyday essential products should be safe and nature-friendly. Its



DÔME Cafe Malaysia's Go Green merchandise

name, a play on "Earth to Skin," reflects the founders' vision of harnessing the goodness of nature to create quality natural products.

"The founders Macy Lim and Pin Lee Chin started this journey when their kids were little," explained Earthoskin director Daniel Soo, championing the brand philosophy to harness the goodness of nature.

"They were looking for quality natural products and found that the market lacked options.

"With their science and engineering backgrounds, they spent months perfecting a liquid castile soap recipe that later became Earthoskin's flagship product," added Soo, who is Penang-based.

One of their flagship products is liquid castile soap, designed to nourish the skin while leaving it feeling clean and moisturized. Earthoskin challenges the perception that all soaps are drying and bad for the skin by retaining and enhancing the naturally moisturizing elements of the soap-making process.

Among the challenges faced by Earthoskin as a 'green' brand is the need to raise awareness about their products in a highly competitive market. Their efforts are dedicated to ensuring that customers understand the unique value of sustainability they bring.

## (Si) ALWAYS

By founder-designer Krystle Ho, (Si) Always places sustainability at the heart of its brand identity. The flagship product, The Ingenium Bag, exemplifies commitment by seamlessly integrating science into daily life, using the abundance of natural element silicon (Si) found on Earth.

To Ho, sustainability transcends mere rhetoric; it's a profound belief in forging a harmonious synergy between innovation, science and responsible design.

"The Ingenium Bag is a living testament to this commitment. It doesn't just serve a function; it symbolises our unwavering dedication to crafting products that not only fulfill their intended purpose but also steer us toward a more sustainable and responsible future," she said.

The Ingenium Bag challenges the idea that sustainability requires a compromise on style. It encourages consumers to embrace a chic and eco-conscious approach to fashion.

These bags are constructed primarily from silicone with minor parts made of polycarbonate for durability, reducing the need for frequent replacements. The brand focuses on minimalist design, promoting enduring style over seasonal trends and reducing the urge for fast fashion consumption.

Ho emphasizes the importance of optimizing the production process to minimize waste and uphold ethical labor practices. Consumer awareness is increasing, and recent studies have shown a growing demand for sustainable products, making 'green' products a preferred choice for responsible consumers.

## DÔME

Though not a fashion brand, DÔME Cafe Malaysia places sustainability at the heart of its brand identity. - which has an outlet at The Gardens Mall - is making noteworthy strides in sustainability.

They've introduced a range of Go Green merchandise featuring jute fabric shopping bags, tote bags, tumblers, mugs and T-shirts. The cafe also offers

biodegradable compost containing used coffee grounds, promoting composting and garden fertilization.

significant shift for DÔME is their transition from plastic bottled drinking water to water packaged in environmentally-friendly biodegradable Tetrapak cartons. They use biodegradable waste bags at their outlets, segregating waste into wet and dry categories, and their takeaway cup sleeves are crafted from recycled paper.

These brands reflect a growing awareness and commitment to sustainable living, showing that eco-conscious choices are not only responsible but can also be stylish and practical.

The trend toward sustainability is expected to continue, shaping a healthier and more sustainable future for all.



(Si) Always places sustainability at the heart of its brand identity



Bodycare set from Commodité







Renowned Portuguese fashion brand Sacoor Brothers embarks on a captivating journey that seamlessly melds timeless style with contemporary leisure.

Introducing their Autumn Winter 2023 collection, meticulously crafted in Portugal, this collection embodies the ethos of 'reset & care'. It is a celebration of creativity and inclusivity, offering versatile pieces suitable for everyday wear.

Embracing a culture of care, this collection encourages a mindful approach, akin to the art of slow travel. Each meticulously crafted piece reflects an unwavering commitment to longevity and enduring quality, transcending fleeting trends and underscoring the brand's dedication to fostering a culture of care.

By selecting garments from this collection, you are not merely making a fashion statement; you are embracing a culture that prioritises durability.

At the heart of Sacoor Brothers' Autumn Winter 2023 collection lies a celebration of

pastel shades, reminiscent of the gentle hues that grace a countryside cottage. Soft blush, serene lavender and delicate mint colours harmonise to create a tranquil palette, perfect for those seeking serenity in their wardrobe.

Inspired by the beauty of flowers, the new collection features romantic floral patterns and luxuriously soft sweaters and knitwear for comfort. Dresses adorned with floral motifs add a touch of charm, bringing a hint of the countryside to your urban lifestyle.

The collection also boasts versatile pieces that seamlessly transition from day to night, catering to various occasions. It offers a range of garments in bold pops of colour and classic all-black options, making them essential additions to your wardrobe.

From sleek suits to elegant outerwear, these selections expertly blend exquisite craftsmanship with modern flair, ensuring you look and feel your best, regardless of the event.

Sacoor Brothers provides a comprehensive array of choices, from satin shirts and stylish statement pants to refined cardigans and flattering jeans. This collection embodies the essence of a culture that values connection and inclusivity, catering to diverse style preferences and needs.

Within the collection, the Indigo Soul segment reimagines denim and cotton, offering a unique collection that resonates with those who appreciate deeper colours. Indigo Soul features a meticulously curated assortment of modern designs in dark winter tones, from jackets with subtle detailing to well-cut blazers.

The latest arrivals also include the Everlasting Capsule, a versatile range of basics designed for back-to-the-office comfort. Crafted in soft, breathable fabrics, these pieces transcend seasons and trends. Available in neutral shades, the Everlasting Capsule offers endless mix-and-match possibilities.

Discover the new collection at all Sacoor Brothers stores in Malaysia.

# Crafting sustainability: L'ANSTOYMETS, tiles and textiles





From left: Chang's Traveller, Hidawati's Panas Hujan Tak Jadi and (next page) Nor Tijan's Girl With The Pearl Earring.

In a world where environmental consciousness is at the forefront of global concerns, three remarkable Malaysian artists are paving the way for a new era of creative expression. Nor Tijan Firdaus, Alice Chang and Hidawati Amin are harnessing the power of recycled materials to create art that not only captivates the senses but also seamlessly aligns with Environmental, Social and Governance themes.

In their studios, discarded objects find new life as intricate sculptures, vibrant artworks and thought-provoking installations. These ladies are weaving a rich tapestry of innovation and sustainability into the fabric of Malaysia's contemporary art scene.

Take Nor Tijan Firdaus for instance. Hailing from Nilai, Seremban, Nor Tijan began actively exhibiting her works made



Nor Tijan Firdaus

from e-waste in 2015, after completing her masters degree in Fine Art. She carefully pieces together components like circuit boards, transformers and transistors, as well as discarded plastics and other material, which she collects.

"As an artist who often looks for ideas to create, I like to collect materials that I believe will be useful for my work in the future," she says.

By piecing these discarded components together, Nor Tijan gives trash a new lease of life in eye-catching recreations of classics such as Johannes Vermeer's Girl With The Pearl Earring, Gustav Klimt's The Kiss and Vincent van Gogh's Starry Night.



"My purpose is to create an awareness in the observer, whether conscious or subconscious. Art can be a powerful means to convey these messages to a wider audience, because it is present in a form that can be seen and felt," she says. "I like to touch on themes of the environment and consumerism, and I hope that my works provoke people to think about the world around them. I also

## Tile away

KL-based artist/sculptor Alice Chang finds pleasure in giving broken tiles and ceramics a second life by creating elegant, and sometimes quirky, sculptures with them. For the last half decade or so, Chang has been steadily carving out a unique niche for herself by making mosaic sculptures that have gotten public attention all over downtown Kuala

Lumpur, including The Lady in Kwai Chai Hong, and Tiger Family which can be viewed at Bamboo Hills, off the DUKE Highway. In September 2023, Chang exhibited Traveller at the Kita Orang Art Fair in a local mall three gorgeous white mosaic whale tales which were inspired by her own travels to Greenland and Iceland.

Chang says that as an artist she believes she has a responsibility use available resources: "When I am able to upcycle things that are thrown away into something useful, these items will be kept out of landfills. What's more is that if my art can inspire or create awareness about our environment and our planet, I am happy."

Chang is constantly building up on her stash of broken

tiles and ceramics, so she has enough material to use. She often conducts pop-up classes on how to make mosaics. Chang's art, including oil paintings, can be viewed at the Lai Lai Art Gallery + Studio in Ampang, Selangor.

## Tailor-made

Hidawati Amin, a senior lecturer from Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) with a doctorate in Creative Art, uses an unconventional medium – textiles – to create art. Hidawati "paints" with needle and thread, and finds pleasure in stitching and embroidery. Her excellence in craftwork has earned her as many as 12 awards, including the Piala Seri Endon.

It was only five years ago, however, that the KL-born artist switched from using any fabric to discarded textiles as her medium. "Using recycled material was not something new to me," she says. "I had been collecting stuff like plastic, magazines and even wax from batik waste which I would actively use in my teaching and project work. So I decided I would start recycling textiles as well. I feel this is an artist's contribution, not just producing work that has aesthetic value, but which educates and conveys a message."



Save Me

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Hidawati Amin

strongly believe that by transforming materials that are thought of as trash, I am able to make a positive contribution to the environment."



Alice Chang's mosaic The Lady



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