

PROPOSAL

LIVE DESIGN DISCOURSE

FUTURE CULTURE

TERENGGANU

RECONNECT | REVIVE | RE-DEFINE | RENEW



1.0 BACKGROUND

The Live Design Discourse (LDD), initiated by Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM) and endorsed through the Tri-Nations dialogue convened in Bangkok, is an annual regional platform that bridges architectural education and professional practice. Since 2017, it has brought together students and emerging practitioners from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand to promote cross-cultural exchange, collaborative learning, and regional professional networks within Southeast Asia.

The LDD is a structured regional design charrette that integrates workshop, discourse, and design production, culminating in a final presentation reviewed by a panel of invited practitioners. It provides a platform for participants to engage in intensive, collaborative design exploration within a real and contextually rich environment.

The 2026 edition marks the first time the programme is hosted on Malaysia's East Coast, in Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu. Jointly organised by PAM and the PAM East Coast Chapter (PAMEC), the location offers a compelling context of heritage, waterfront urbanism, and evolving socio-cultural landscapes that inform place-based design inquiry.

Through mentorship, discourse, and collaborative teamwork, the programme cultivates critical thinking, practical design skills, and socially responsive architectural approaches.

2.0 OBJECTIVES

1. To produce four (4) design proposals addressing underutilised waterfront conditions in Kuala Terengganu
2. To facilitate cross-national collaboration among emerging architects within Southeast Asia
3. To generate context-responsive design strategies rooted in local culture and identity
4. To simulate real-world design processes within a compressed and intensive timeframe.
5. To strengthen mentor-student engagement bridging academia and professional practice

3.0 EVENT PARTICULAR

Location	: Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu, Malaysia
Event Space	: Primula Beach Hotel, Kuala Terengganu
Accommodation	: Primula Beach Hotel, Kuala Terengganu
Date	: 13 - 19 July 2026 (Monday - Sunday)
Participant	: 20 Participants (Student) 4 Mentors

4.0 PARTICIPANTS

The programme will compromise a carefully curated group to ensure meaningful engagement, effective mentorship and high-quality outcomes.

- 20 Architecture Students
- 4 Practitioner Mentors

STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

Student participants will be selected from accredited schools within the participating nations-Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand-ranging from Year 3 to Master's level.

PRACTITIONER MENTORS

Practitioner mentors shall be registered professional architects in their respective Countries and aged 40 years and below.

This criterion reflects emerging voices in contemporary architectural practice, enabling dynamic engagement with participants while fostering mentorship that is both relevant and relatable.

Participant Selection Principles

Participants will be selected based on :

- Academic merit and design capability
- Balanced representations across participating nations
- Demonstrated interest in regional architectural discourse
- Ability to contribute to collaborative and cross-cultural environments

5.0 PROGRAMME OVERVIEW *(Further details in Appendix A)*

The programme is structured as an intensive five-day design charrette combining site exploration, collaborative studio work, interim critiques, and final presentations.

6.0 PROJECT BRIEF *(Further details in Appendix B)*

The design exercise focuses on an underutilised waterfront site in Kuala Terengganu, located at the perimeter of Pasar Payang and directly opposite Kampung Cina.

Participants are required to develop design responses addressing:

- Urban disconnection between heritage and commercial zones
- Underutilisation of reclaimed waterfront space
- Gradual loss of local architecture identity (genius loci)

Participants will operate within a conceptual design framework, without strict regulatory constraints, but must demonstrate sensitivity to site context, scale and feasibility.

7.0 EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The programme will generate:

- Four (4) collaborative design proposals
- A1 digital presentation boards
- Presentation slides (PPT/PDF Format)
- Optional short video documentation

Submissions will be reviewed by a panel of invited practitioners based on:

- Design clarity and coherence
- Contextual and cultural responsiveness
- Innovation and creativity
- Feasibility and spatial quality

Selected outcomes may be compiled for:

- Publication
- Exhibition
- Reference by local authorities, including MBKT

8.0 STRATEGIC PARTNERS

- PAM East Coast Chapter (PAMEC)- Programmer coordination and regional liaison
- Majlis Bandaraya Kuala Terengganu (MBKT)- Site coordination and local authority engagement
- Department of Tourism Terengganu- Cultural and tourism insights

This collaboration strengthens the integration between design discourse, local governance, and cultural development.

9.0 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK - “RENUNG”

The theme of this discourse is inspired by the Malay poem “Renung” (Reflection), which invites a contemplative and critical engagement with place. Grounded in the notion of reflection, the discourse advocates a balanced approach between:

- Preservation of local wisdom, cultural heritage and socio-economic context
- Adaptation to contemporary and future spatial needs

Design Interpretation Framework

The theme is translated into four key design strategies:

- Re-Connect: Re-establish spatial, cultural and urban linkages
- Revive: Activate underutilised and neglected spaces
- Re-Define: Reinterpret traditional architectural and urban typologies
- Renew: Introduce contemporary interventions responsive to future needs

Participants are expected to translate these principles into coherent spatial, architectural, or urban design proposals.

10.0 TASK & METHODOLOGY

Participants will be divided into four (4) groups, each assigned a sub-theme through a selection process.

Design Stages

STAGE	DESCRIPTION
Stage 1	Documentation & Observation (Photography Journal, Travel Log)
Stage 2	Urban Appraisal & Site Analysis
Stage 3	Concept Development & Design Defence
Stage 4	Final Design Proposal

Scope of Work

- Site observation and urban analysis
- Optional engagement with the local community
- Identification of site opportunities and constraints
- Development of design strategies and spatial interventions

Deliverables

- Presentation slides (maximum 15 minutes)
- One (1) A1 digital poster (landscape format)
- Optional 5-minute video
- Documentation of design process and site engagement

14.0 CONCLUSION

The Live Design Discourse Terengganu 2026 positions Kuala Terengganu as living laboratory for architectural exploration, bridging heritage, community and contemporary design thinking.

Through regional collaboration and immersive design engagement, the programme aims to generate meaningful, context-driven proposals that contribute to the ongoing discourse on waterfront revitalisation and cultural identity.

CONCEPTUAL NARRATIVES

(DECIPHER THE RYHMES)

RENUNG

*Syahdan aku berhenti di hadapan waktu,
merenung sisa yang pernah gugur,
nan hilang bukan lenyap seluruhnya,
cuma menunggu saat dipanggil pulang.*

*Dalam diam, yang layu bernyawa semula,
disiram sabar, disusui makna;
yang pudar tidak dipaksa bercahaya,
namun dipujuk agar segar seadanya.*

*Yang terpisah oleh jarak dan masa,
dirungkai bukan dengan paksa,
melainkan dengan ingat dan insaf,
bahawa asal tidak wajar dilupa.*

*Lalu yang kasar tidak dibuang,
hanya diraut dengan teliti dan budi;
kerana indah bukan pada sempurna,
tetapi pada usaha memperhalusi diri.*

*Maka dalam renung yang panjang itu,
aku belajar:*

*yang lama tidak semestinya usang,
yang baru tidak wajib melupa asal,
dan yang retak masih bererti
andai dijahit dengan hikmah.*

APPENDIX A

PROGRAM TENTATIVE

Day	Time	Event	Venue	In-charge
Day 1 13/7/2026 (Monday)	7:00pm	Arrival of Participants to Kuala Terengganu Airport [TGG] /Primula Hotel	Airport Kuala Terengganu [TGG]	PAMEC
	8:30pm	Welcoming dinner for all participants	PRIMULA Hotel	Facilitators
	9:30pm	Project Briefing		Facilitators/ Convenor/Mentor

Day	Time	Event	Venue	In-charge
Day 2 14/7/2026 (Tuesday)	8:00am	Breakfast	PRIMULA Hotel	Individual/ Facilitators
	9:00am	To return to PRIMULA Seminar Hall		PAMEC secretariat
	9:15am	Welcome Address by PAMEC Chairperson		PAMEC Chair
	9:20am	Opening speech by Ar. Dexter Koh Yew Peng		Ar. Dexter Koh Yew Peng
	9:25am	Briefing of Site History & Project Brief by Co-convenor		
	10:00am	Proceed to Project Site (Pulau Warisan - Kampung Cina / Kampung Pulau Duyong)	[Pulau Warisan - Kampung Cina/ Kampung Pulau Duyong]	Individual team / Facilitators
	10:15am	Walk-about at Project Site		Convenor/ Facilitators/ Individual team
	1:00pm	Lunch [food hunting concept]/Merewang	Kampung Losong / Kampung Cina	Individual / Facilitators
	2:15pm	Archirace [urban sketch+ video documentation]		PAMEC secretariat
	4:00pm	STUDIO SESSION 1 (brainstorm & to present findings)	PASAR PAYANG	Individual team / Facilitators
	4:30pm	Team presentation		Individual team / Facilitators
	5:00pm	Archisea	Jeti Losong	All
	6:30 PM	Rewang and Kenduri	Kampung Losong	All
	7:00pm	Proceed back to hotel	PRIMULA Hotel	All
	8:00pm	Dinner	Warung Kenangan	All

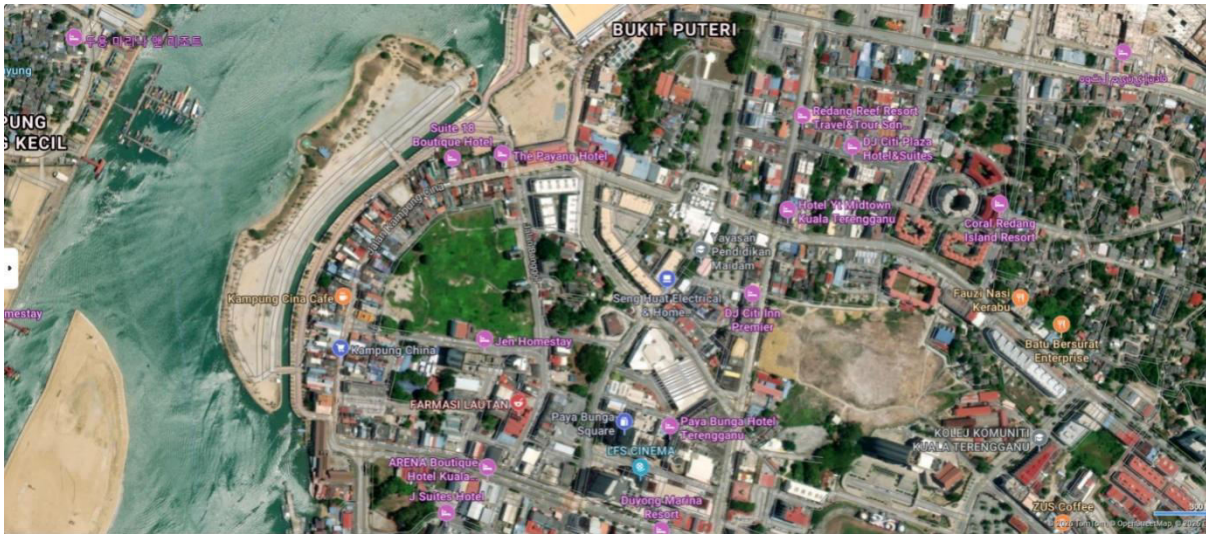
Day	Time	Event	Venue	In-charge
Day 3 15/7/2026 (Wednesday)	8:00am	Breakfast	Umami Restaurant	Individual team / Facilitators
	9:00am	Sharing session by mentors [Design Forum] - CPD POINT APPLIED	PRIMULA Hotel	All
	11:00am	STUDIO SESSION 2 (Ideation)		Individual team
	12:30pm	Lunch		PAMEC secretariat
	2:00pm	STUDIO SESSION 3		Individual team
	4:00pm	Tea Break		PAMEC secretariat
	4:30pm	STUDIO SESSION 4		Individual team
	6:30pm	Dinner	Various	Individual team
	7:00pm to 9:00pm	STUDIO SESSION 5 (Optional)		Individual team
	10:00pm	Proceed back to hotel	PRIMULA Hotel	Individual team

Day	Time	Event	Venue	In-charge
Day 4 16/7/2026 (Thursday)	8:00am	Breakfast	PRIMULA Hotel	Individual team / Facilitators
	9:00am	STUDIO SESSION 6 (Wrap-up)		Individual team
	12:00pm	Lunch		Individual team / Facilitators
	1:10pm	Registration		Facilitators
	1:30pm	Address by Co-convener		
	1:40pm	Presentation by the 4 teams		
	3:00pm	Reflection & sharing by the mentors		Mentor / Ar. Dexter Koh Yew Peng
	4:00pm	Presentation of participation certificates		PAMEC secretariat
	4:15pm	Closing speech by Ar. Dexter Koh Yew Peng, PAM Deputy President & PAM LDD Advisor		Ar. Dexter Koh Yew Peng
	4:20 PM	Rewang and Kenduri	Kampung Losong	
	6:00pm	Proceed back to hotel / after parties	PRIMULA Hotel	Individual

Day	Time	Event	Venue	In-charge
Day 5 17/7/2026 (Friday)	8:00am	Breakfast, Free and Easy	Various	Individual
	12:00pm	Check-out from hotel	PRIMULA Hotel	Individual
	various	Departure of Participants from Kuala Terengganu Airport [TGG]	Various	Individual team / Facilitators

APPENDIX B

PROJECT BRIEF



THE SITE

The proposed site is located at the perimeter of the renowned Pasar Payang Floating Market, within the historic enclave at the centre of Kuala Terengganu. Positioned directly opposite Kampung Cina, the site forms part of a large reclaimed waterfront area intended to enhance the image of Kuala Terengganu as a vibrant waterfront city (Bandaraya Pesisir Air).

This reclaimed forecourt was developed as part of a broader urban transformation initiative aimed at strengthening Kuala Terengganu's role as a business and tourism hub. However, despite its strategic location and significant spatial potential, the area currently remains largely underutilised. The reclaimed open space appears inactive and neglected, accommodating only minimal commercial activities and functioning primarily as an open surface car park.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF KG CINA & PASAR PAYANG

Kampung Cina is one of the oldest urban settlements in Kuala Terengganu, located along the Terengganu River waterfront and historically functioning as a commercial enclave for the Chinese trading community. Historical accounts indicate that Chinese merchants had already established a settlement in the area by the 18th century, due to Kuala Terengganu's strategic position within regional maritime trade routes connecting China, Siam, and the Malay Peninsula.

The area developed as a mixed residential-commercial district, characterized by rows of two-storey pre-war shophouses, clan houses, temples, and trading premises. Chinese merchants played an important role in trading local products such as pepper, forest produce, and textiles, while also introducing imported goods from China and Southeast Asia. Today, Kampung Cina remains a significant heritage precinct that reflects the multicultural trading history and urban morphology of Kuala Terengganu.

Pasar Payang, formally known as Pasar Besar Kedai Payang, has long served as the primary traditional market and trading centre of Kuala Terengganu. Located near the Terengganu River, the market historically functioned as a key node for the exchange of goods brought by fishermen, farmers, and traders using both riverine and coastal transportation networks.

The market became well known for the sale of fresh seafood, agricultural produce, traditional food items, and locally produced handicrafts such as batik, songket, and brassware. Over time, Pasar Payang evolved into an important economic and cultural landmark, attracting both local communities and visitors. Its proximity to Kampung Cina and the riverfront reflects the historical relationship between trade, water transport, and the development of Kuala Terengganu as a coastal trading town.



PROJECT SUMMARY

From an architectural and urban design perspective, a key issue identified at the selected site in Kuala Terengganu is the gradual erosion of its *genius loci*, largely resulting from processes of urban segmentation and the spatial disconnection between the area's commercial anchors and its historic heritage enclave. The development of reclaimed land has disrupted the intrinsic relationship between the river and the traditional riverfront business activities, while much of the vernacular architectural character has been replaced by generic contemporary styles commonly found in other urban contexts.

This transformation appears to be driven by the dynamics of modernization within the evolving township, which tends to prioritize adaptability and responsiveness to current development trends. Nevertheless, the area retains significant latent potential in terms of cultural heritage. The richness of its vernacular and traditional architectural typologies each with distinct environmental performance and cultural expression offers valuable references for reinterpreting contemporary architectural and urban design approaches that are rooted in local identity and place specificity.

THEME

The theme of this design discourse is inspired by the Malay poem "*Renung*" (Reflection), which invites a contemplative and critical engagement with place. Participants are encouraged to explore architectural and urban design approaches within the contextual setting of Kuala Terengganu.

Grounded in the concept of *Renung*—reflection—the discourse advocates a symbiotic vision of urban revitalisation that balances two interrelated dimensions. On one hand, it emphasises the integration of local wisdom, cultural heritage, and the socio-economic landscape of the community. On the others, it responds to the evolving demands of contemporary and future spatial and functional needs. This dual approach aspires to generate design solutions that are

both contextually rooted and forward-looking, reinforcing a meaningful sense of place while accommodating progressive urban development.

TASK

Participants will be divided into four (4) groups. Each group will receive a scroll containing a poem structured into four distinct sub-themes. The groups are required to interpret and decipher the underlying meanings of the poem, with each paragraph corresponding to a specific theme.

The assigned sub-theme will serve as the mandatory design approach in addressing the identified issues and guiding the development of their proposals. The allocation of themes will be determined through a draw conducted by each group leader. The sub themes are Re-Connect, Revive, Re- define and Renew. The process will be divided into four (4) stages as below;

STAGE	ACTIVITY
Stage 1	Photography journal for monograph
	Video travelog
Stage 2	Urban Appraisal
	Site Analysis
Stage 3	Design defence and pitching session
Stage 4	Design proposal

Tasks Distribution

- Urban appraisal, site visit and observation site analysis;
- Interviews with local communities (optional);
- Preparation for travel log & Photography Journal
- Group discussions to share the results of site visits, identify opportunities and obstacles based on the selective design approach.
- Establish the program and project brief
- Architectural initiatives - site plan / buildings / structures / extensions / temporary installations / programs. The initiative can be as big or as small as you want, it doesn't have to be a single building but it has to have a spatial presence.

Results

- Slideshow in PPT/PDF format (maximum presentation of 15 minutes);
- Digital Poster (A1 size, landscape orientation 300 dpi);
- Maximum of 5 minute video teaser for their proposal (optional); and
- Video recordings of field visits, interviews, and presentations.

Equipment

- Participants are required to prepare their own equipment and tools, which may be, but are not limited to, the following:
- Stationery for sketching/ brainstorming (e.g.: pens, pencils, markers, sketchbooks, grease paper, rulers, etc.); and Laptop