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ART FROM THE HEART

At Artotel Jakarta-Thamrin, a group of avant-garde Indonesian artists find a welcoming showcase for their work

DESIGN NIGHT OUT

Perspective welcomed designers from all walks to Design Night Out in Hong Kong — check out our photo gallery inside and online at www.perspectiveglobal.com



HK\$48
US\$18
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Of the people, for the people and by the people

Text: Alex Yu Photography: Courtesy of RCKa, Ioana Marinescu and Jakob Spriestersbach

In the London borough of Lewisham, the RIBA award-winning TNG Wells Park Youth Venue proactively puts the younger generation first



Clean lines and dramatic open spaces aid security through natural surveillance

presentations at community days, local political assemblies and stakeholder groups to on site festival replete with street dancing, steel bands and barbecues.

Kleiner is adamant that “architecture should not be precious — it should engage and delight through use”. Thus, at TNG, the diverse facilities require dynamic spatial arrangements for gaming, learning, performing or simply gathering. “One should never expect a building’s use to remain static; it has to be flexible and adaptable,” he says. “We call it ‘event scenario testing.’”

To achieve the design solution for the performance venue, for example, the RCKa architects put themselves into the shoes of the targeted under-25 users. ‘What if more than three events take place simultaneously?’, the team asked themselves. In response, they widened the bottom flight of stairs so it could be used as a place for a DJ decks or a performance in the café.

Elegant coffered ceilings and wall finishes, along with exposed structural timber forms, are selected for their natural warmth — but the construction was not without its challenges. Kleiner recalls that changing structural timber systems had unexpected knock-on effects:

walls shifted and surfaces became misaligned simply due to panel thicknesses changing, requiring weeks of redesign to make the end result seem effortless.

“One feels incredibly connected to all the activity of the centre, and the quality of light is wonderful,” he says. “It is fantastic to experience the central entrance and circulation space when it is buzzing with lots of young people.”

One of these young visitors, he said, was involved in the design process from the start and was later quoted in a local newspaper as saying “we designed the building”.

“It is central to us is that those who use and experience our buildings feel a sense of ownership,” Kleiner asserts. “Young people simply want to be included, and their voice is incredibly important.”

“I guess the site could inspire youngsters’ interest in architecture, but it is less about the building and more about providing a positive space that encourages other things to happen — for people to feel safe and welcome, and have access to opportunities to improve their lives whether through training, education, advice or just friendship and support.”

Below from left Large windows allow natural light to enter, ensuring a light, bright ambience • The external cladding is unified by a gently undulating profile that casts vertical shadows across curtain-like elevations



London-based architecture studios may have a hard time surviving in the intensely competitive creative capital, but the success of the TNG Wells Park Youth Venue (TNG) proves that for architectural practice RCKa, commitment to communal place-making mean it is entirely possible.

“Young practices are more nimble, and often better suited to projects that require a greater depth of stakeholder understanding than large commercial behemoths,” explains Dieter Kleiner, director of RCKa. “It is

frustratingly difficult to be taken seriously, but tenacity and persistence are powerful tools.”

This begins with “dialogue through sketches and physical models, in order to have an understanding of what it is we are trying to achieve before and while we are realising it physically and spatially” — so that “every project is the same and different if possible”, he muses.

Under the 2008 Big Lottery Fund initiative Myplace, the TNG centre came into being with the neighbourhood involved in “anything and everything from standard

This page The facilities are matched by a range of flexible, undefined spaces to encourage users to appropriate the building in creative and innovative ways



年青力量

撰文: Alex Yu 攝影: 由RCKa、Ioana Marinescu及Jakob Spriestersbach提供

榮獲英國皇家建築師學會獎項的倫敦Lewisham青年中心
TNG Wells Park Youth Venue，目標為服務年輕一代

要

在倫敦這個競爭激烈的創意之都脫穎而出絕非易事，但對建築事務所RCKa憑藉以人為本的設計，讓社區參與地方營造的決策，當中TNG Wells Park Youth Venue (TNG) 就是一項成功證明。

RCKa董事Dieter Kleiner解釋：「年輕建築公司處事更加靈活，而且對於一些需要接觸群眾的項目，相較大型企業往往更會理解社區需要；雖然資歷較淺，想希望獲認真對待實在比較困難，但韌勁和毅力都是良策。」

這份認真從草圖和模型開始，再清楚空間或實際設計的需要，確保每個項目都既源出一轍又大放異彩。

TNG中心根據2008年獎券基金Big Lottery Fund的Myplace計劃展開設計階段後，曾舉辦多次開放各種活動蒐集意見，無論是正式介紹、團體集會到現場節目包括街舞、樂隊表演和燒烤等，均讓整個社區參與其中。

Dieter堅持建築設計不應該是尊貴在上的，只能透過開放參與才能讓用戶開心。因此在TNG中心，多樣設施無論是遊戲、學習、表演或者純粹聚腳，都需要特別的空間安排。他解釋，人們不應該假設建築物保持靜態，必須能靈活適應不同需要，我們稱這些測試為「event scenario testing」。

RCKa建築師特別針對25歲以下的用戶所需，例如就著表演場地提供相關的解決方法。設計小組會代入用家身份，先假設超過三項活動同時進行，再決定擴闊樓梯底部以便加裝DJ台，又或者在咖啡廳提供地方表演。

優雅的鑲板天花與牆身飾面配合外露的支撐木材，選料自然，感覺溫暖，但當中的施工並非沒有挑戰。Dieter憶述，改變木結構產生了意想不到的連鎖反應，移位導致接觸面厚度不一，木牆的錯位需要重新設計，渾然天成的效果彷彿輕而易舉。

Dieter介紹：「來到中心會感覺參與這裡的所有活動連繫一起，而且光線充足，特別在中心門口與通道地方就體驗一流，有年輕人使用空間時更份外熱鬧。」

中心的其中一位年輕用家就從一開始曾參與設計過程，後來當地報紙引述：「我們一起設計建築」。

Dieter斷言：「我們希望所有蒞臨使用中心建築的訪客都有獲賓至如歸的體驗；年輕人希望意見獲包客接納，而且他們的聲音是非常重要的。」

「中心的設計或許會引發青少年對建築的興趣，但重點卻不應是大樓本身，而是要提供一個生氣勃勃的空間，讓他們感到安全舒適、賓至如歸；無論是來這裡參與培訓、聽取意見，或者來交個朋友、尋求支持，都希望他們會在這裡找到各種機會，去改善自己的生活。」 ●

A climbing wall is one of a long list of facilities which include a multi-use games area, pop-up cinema, roller skating rink, recording and rehearsal studios