

The Leaf [Kuala Lumpur] HIGH TECH ARCHITECTURE & NATURE COMES TOGETHER

Located 45 kilometres north from Kuala Lumpur and sitting calmly 2000 feet above sea level amongst a serene jungle setting is the perfect weekend home escapade. Designed by LNL Sendirian Berhad in collaboration with MK Looi Architect, this unique architectural proposition sets a contemporary and ultra-modern direction in design while not neglecting its architectural context of natural environment and lush tropical greenery.



■ FACT SHEET

- TOTAL SITE AREA
1 Acre
- TOTAL COMBINED FLOOR AREA
4500 sq. ft.
- DESIGN ARCHITECT
LNL Sdn. Bhd.
- ARCHITECT
MK Looi Architect
- MAIN CONTRACTOR
WT Renovation & Construction



Aptly named 'The Leaf', in deference to the jungle qualities of the site, the 2-storey bungalow is situated on a hill slope and sited upon a 1 acre plot. With a total of 4,500 square feet of habitable area, the bungalow's built form is overtly inspired by tree elements and its transparent quality sets an ideal stage where conditions of manmade interior and natural exterior are seamlessly woven together. The conceptual imperative of visual and physical transparency is also clearly embodied within the interior spaces where movement is very minimally limited in between the various functions of the bungalow and allowing for a more organic flow to happen through the 2 levels of the bungalow.

With ideas gleaned from the living styles of outback Australia and combining it with the client's lifestyle and local context, the bungalow's spatial arrangement of the living hall, dining & kitchen are designed within an open space setting made possible by long span steel structures. This construction strategy allowed for the spaces of the house to remain column-free as well as for ease of construction and significant savings in construction time. The lightweight steel-structure approach is also an additional advantage when one is constructing a building on a difficult and remote sloping site.



The strong physical connection between inside and outside is constantly made through an external corridor, gracious in width and length, that connects the spaces of 'The Leaf' together. Cantilevered off the main primary structure, the external corridor allows the owners to embrace and immerse themselves with the cool outdoor climate and captivating forest views. Extensive full-height glazing and huge sliding doors maximizes the visual connection to the surrounding forest environment while allowing the penetration of natural light as well as permitting cross ventilation to happen and cool the interior of the bungalow passively. The application of similar species of timber floor decking within adjacent external and internal spaces, appropriate for bungalow's forest locale, blurs the edge and perception between two disparate conditions.

Construction material and finishes are rendered primitively, both internally and externally. Plastered external walls, with their natural grey and earthy character, allow 'The Leaf' to blend well with the forest environment with the extensively sized of iron leaf-roof mimicking the forest canopy. The spirit of re-cycling is also clearly evident in the use of a tree trunk as part of the finishing and decorative item of the toilet. The close-to-nature feeling can also be experienced within other spaces of the 2-bedroom bungalow such as the powder room as well as the toilets, where a full height glass walls and roofs opens up to views of nature outside and the distant mountains beyond.

'The Leaf' has created itself an interesting and dramatic context from which it exists in. Contemporary in design and constantly in contact with nature, 'The Leaf' has allowed for its owners to achieve what they have always dreamed of having – an architectural masterpiece sitting on a hill and surrounded by lush greenery. 🌿



