REDEVELOPMENT AND RENOVATION OF PISA

From a tattered state, the Penang Indoor Sports Arena or PISA, has undergone a refurbishment to emerge as a worthy complement to ambitious future development in the area.

CLIENT
PENANG STATE GOVERNMENT (MPPP)

DEVELOPER
ECO MERIDIEN SDN BHD

LOCATION
JALAN TUN DR AWANG , BAYAN BARU, PENANG

YEAR COMPLETED
SEPTEMBER 2013

ARCHITECT
BYG ARCHITECTURE SDN BHD

SITE AREA
102,887.78 SQM

BUILT-UP AREA
25,159 SQM

PROJECT PRINCIPALS
Ar BEN YEOH GUAN BENG, Ar MICHAEL ONG CHIN KEONG, Ar TEO CHU KHWAI

DESIGN ARCHITECTS
Ar MICHAEL ONG CHIN KEONG, TAN CHIEW HOON

PROJECT TEAM
LEE K JIN, TAN CHIEW HOON

C & S ENGINEER
ARUP JURURUNDING SDN BHD

MECHANICAL ENGINEER
GH CONSULTANTS SDN BHD

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER
GH TAG CONSULTANCY

QUANTITY SURVEYOR
LANGDON & SEAH (M) SDN BHD

LIGHTING
RP DESIGN

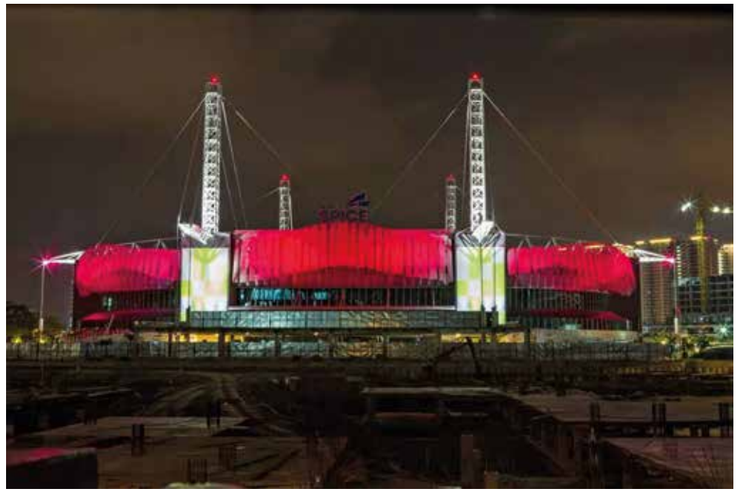
LANDSCAPING
LANDARCH ASSOCIATE

INTERIOR DESIGN
QUILL INTERIOR SDN BHD (FOR LEVEL 3)

CONTRACTORS
PLM INTERIOR SDN BHD, TENSIONED FABRIC STRUCTURES SDN BHD

PHOTOS CREDIT
COURTESY OF BYG ARCHITECTURE SDN BHD

BELOW, FROM TOP: Existing PISA with water feature in front of entrance; existing PISA before facelift and upgrading works; backyard of existing PISA without loading ramp

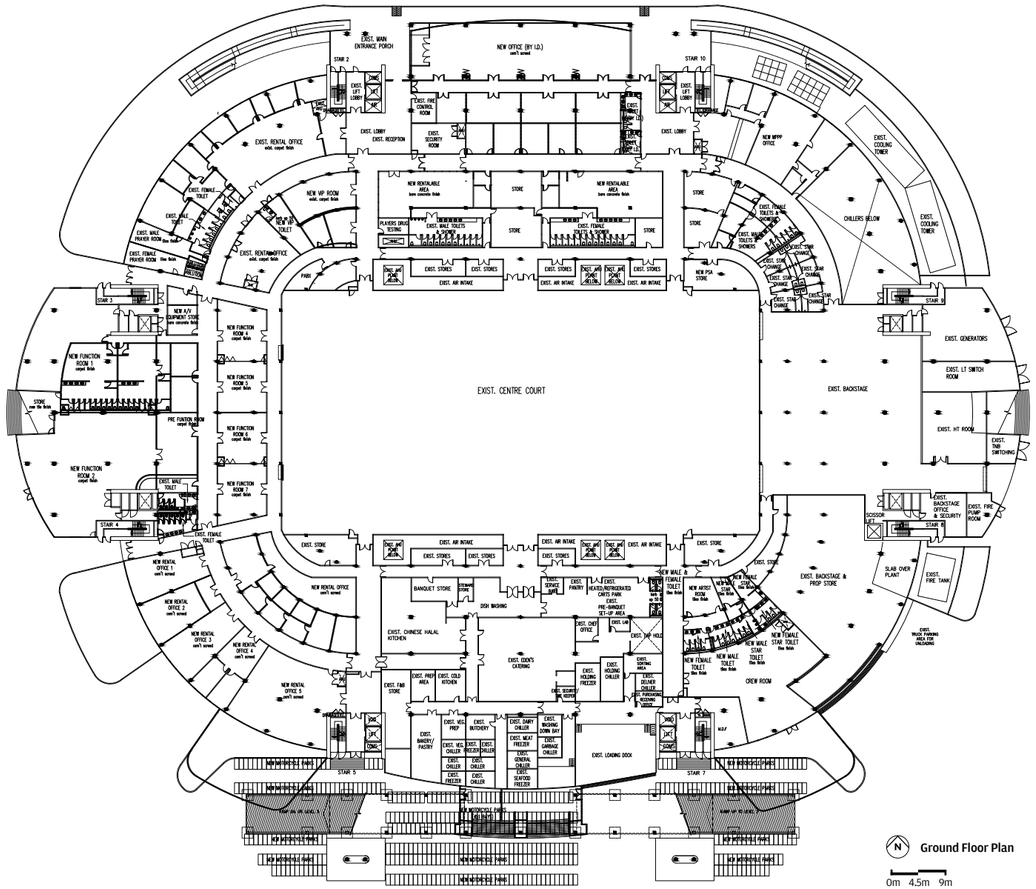


FROM TOP: Interior perspective for Level 3 concourse after renovation; colour changing LED light gives different ambience to the facade

Pisa is an existing indoor stadium that houses multiple game courts such as badminton, volleyball and basketball. The stadium is also a popular exhibition space, banquet hall and concert arena in Penang. In recent years the building had fallen into an unkempt state with leaking roofs, moulded walls and poor air-conditioning.

With the newly proposed "subterranean Penang International Convention and Exhibition Centre" aptly known as sPICE, which was mooted by the State Government and successfully tendered by Eco Meridien Sdn Bhd; PISA has, since the award of the Built Operate and Transfer contract, been the first Phase of construction for the overall project. To complement sPICE, the interior of the building had to undergo a major refurbishment and adaptive reuse exercise whilst an extensive facelift was introduced to its exterior to co-exist and integrate with the overall Master plan. The project brief also called for works to be carried out without disrupting events that have been booked throughout the course of construction. The result is a painstaking and methodological construction which requires micro-scheduling of works by sections over an extended construction period.

PISA is designed in contemporaneous with sPICE which is 'state of the art' in functionality as well as outlook. The completed project now boasts of a new layer of metal roofing built over an existing one which addresses the leakage of the original roof. A new concrete ramp is built to access the first floor of the building which is the location of concourse area that doubles as exhibition space whilst modern finishes such as tiles, ceiling panels and



New guard house have been built for entire PISA development

wall claddings are introduced to create a fresh new environment in replacement of the old ones. New function rooms and offices are also created to complement the convention hall for breakout spaces for talks, seminars or workshops.

The facelift of PISA exudes dynamism where a thin layer of steel framed light tensile fabric panels which connotes frozen movement are installed all along the perimeter curtain walls. This skin layer also functions as sun shades that directly filters sunlight and heat into the concourse of the building. At dusk the subtle lighting behind the randomly sized panels radiates a hue of warm lights that further accentuates the rhythm of the frozen movement.

PISA is seen as a significant part of sPICE as it connects sPICE with the original PISA and the Aquatic Centre. The original essence of PISA is very much intact, even though an extensive refurbishment had been undertaken. The architect sees the project as a true epitome of a success story where an existing structure has been respectfully refurbished and successfully face-lifted to serve as a catalyst for an entire Masterplan. ▪