



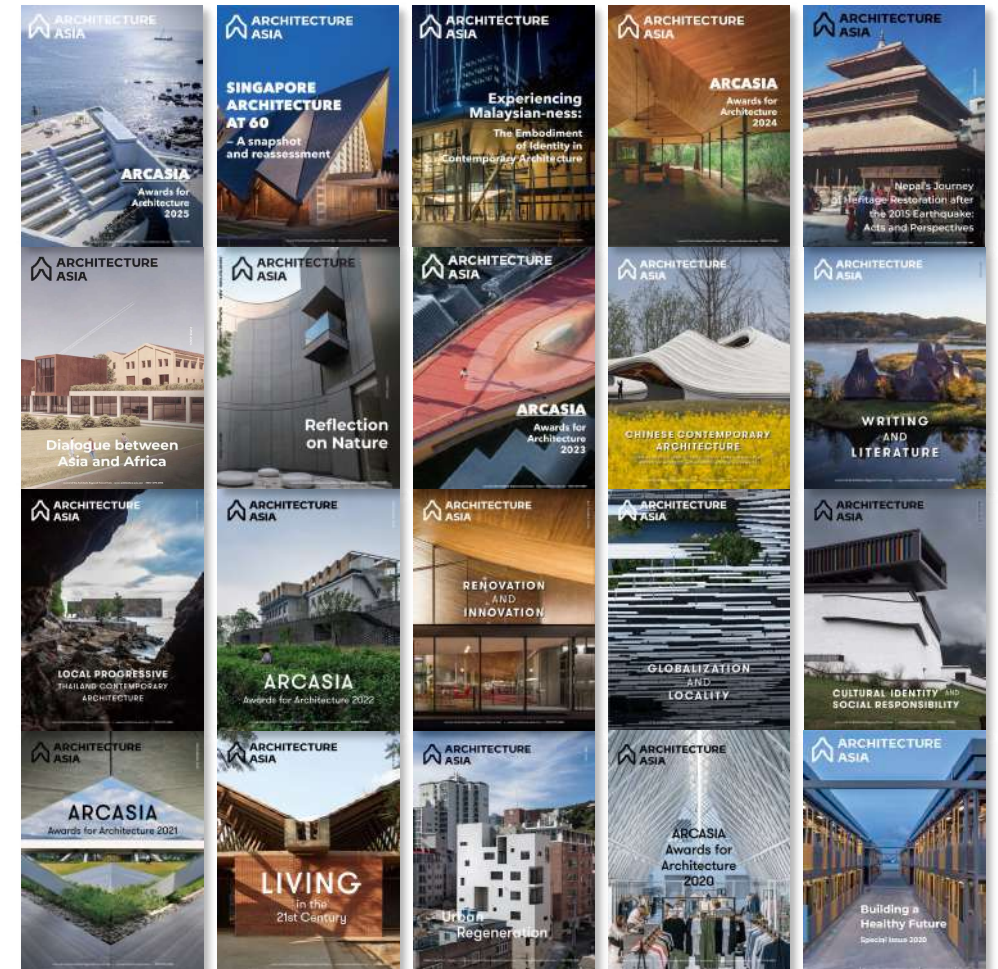
Bid for *ARCHITECTURE ASIA*

Architectural Society of China, ASC

What We Achieved in the Past Five Years

- AA has published 20 issues, including 14 themed issues and 5 special issues on AA Awards, featuring contributions from more than 70 scholars and 300 architects from 18 ARCAISA member institutes.

	March	June	September	December
2020				COVID-19 Special Issue 2020: Building A Healthy Future
2021	ARCASIA Awards for Architecture 2020	Urban Regeneration	Living in the 21st Century	ARCASIA Awards for Architecture 2021
2022	Cultural Identity and Social Responsibility	Globalization and Locality	Renovation and Innovation	ARCASIA Awards for Architecture 2022
2023	Local Progressive Thailand Contemporary Architecture	Writing and Literature	Contemporary Architecture by ASC, HKIA and AAM	ARCASIA Awards for Architecture 2023
2024	Reflection on Nature	Dialogue Between Asia and Africa	Conservation of Architecture in Nepal	ARCASIA Awards for Architecture 2024
2025	Experiencing Malaysian-ness	SINGAPORE ARCHITECTURE AT 60 – A snapshot and reassessment	ARCASIA Awards for Architecture 2025	



What We Achieved in the Past Five Years

Exploring Asia Issues ¹

From the exhibition of architectural design works to the in-depth discussion of Asian architectural academics

Guest Editor Network ²

From the discussion of architectural topics to the focus on the member countries of ARCASIA

Social Media Platforms ³

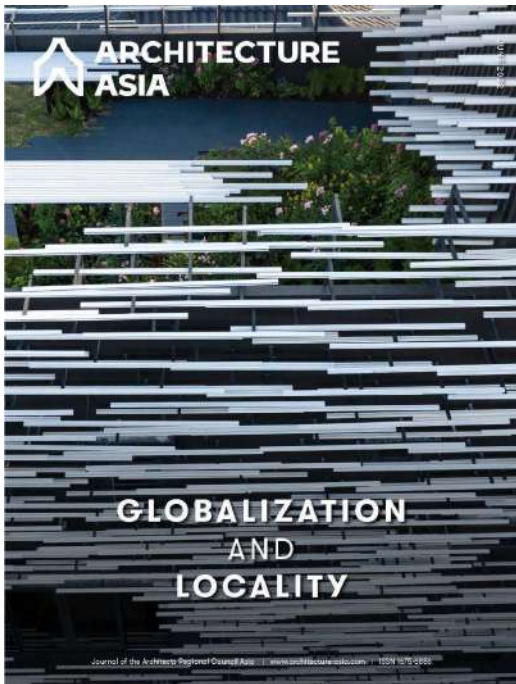
From traditional paper publications to multi-platform architectural media

Architecture Asia Forums ⁴

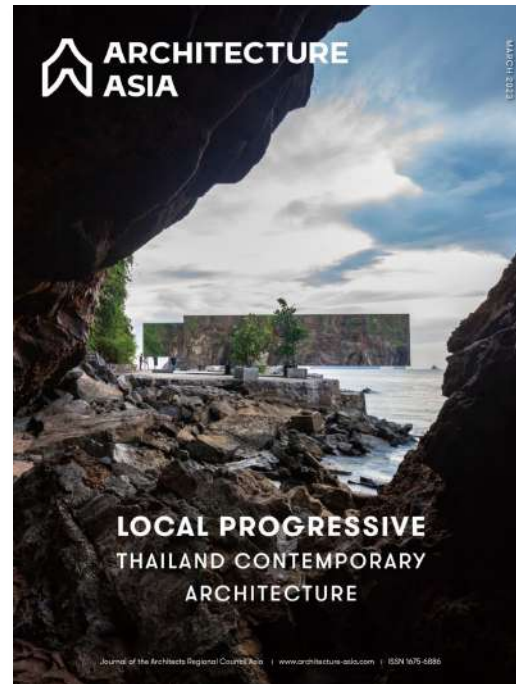
From one-way information dissemination to multiple forms of meeting expansion

Exploring Asia Issues

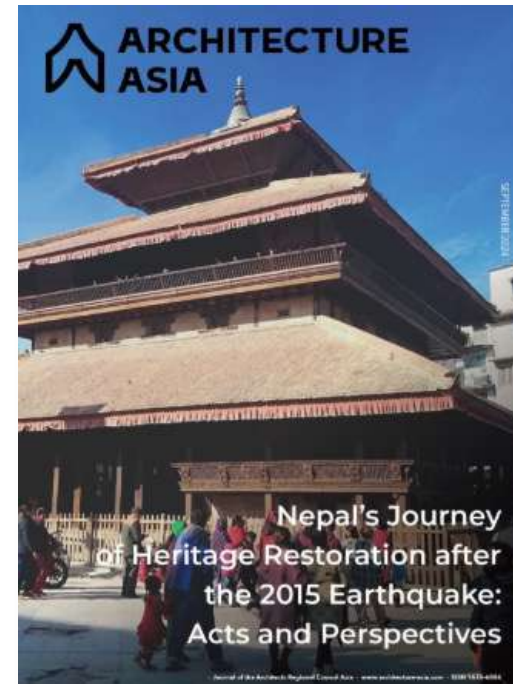
- AA continues to explore cultural contexts, social impact, and future development trends in Asian architectural practice.



2022 Jun.
Globalization
and Locality



2023 Mar.
Local Progressive Thailand
Contemporary Architecture



2024 Sept.
Conservation of
Architecture in Nepal



2025 Mar.
Experiencing
Malaysian-ness

Exploring Asia Issues

- AA has expanded its structure to include academic articles, architectural projects, and most recently, the architect interview section.



Contents

Editorial¹

ARTICLES

Cities Within a City: Notes on Neoliberalism and Kuala Lumpur's Neoral AMUAR

Responding to Place through Making in Architectural Practice¹⁵
Phenice JAMES

Reaching New Heights: The Story Behind Merdeka 118 — Interview
Ahmad Farid Baharuddin²⁰
David ICH and Fakis ICHOK

Experiencing Malaysian-ness The embodiment of identity in Place
Jin-Ping LEE

PROJECT

Rambut Rambut / Temple of Togetherness¹⁴

Mick Abdullahi HPMI

Women's Aid Organization Shelter Home²⁶

Syuh KAMARUDIN

URMU @ Bukit Bintang³⁸

SAH LEE MUN

Sama Square⁴⁵

Rhen TAN

Sentul Works⁴⁹

Doric ONO, Poo LUNG

Oculus House⁵⁶

WONG Ick Kiang

GDP Campus⁶²

IGAP Architects Sdn. Bhd.

Factory in the Forest⁶⁸

John BULLOCK, CHN Kuan Chong

The Expansion of Bagan Specialist Centre¹⁰⁰

WEE Hsiao

MERDEKA 118¹⁰⁴

Phenice NICHOLSON and RSP Architects Sdn. Bhd.

Reaching New Heights: The Story Behind Merdeka 118 Interview with Dato' Teng Ab. Aziz and Ar. Ahmad F Baharuddin

DATO' TENGKU AB. AZIZ TENGKU MUHAMMAD (TA), CEO OF THE MERDEKA VENTURES, AHMAD FARID BAHARUDDIN (FB), PRINCIPAL OF RSP ARCHITECTS — SHARE THEIR INSIGHTS AND PERSPECTIVES OF MERDEKA 118 AND THE SUSTAINING PRACTICES.
Interview by David ICH and Fakis ICHOK
Merdeka, 2nd March 2023, 09:00 am - 03:00 pm, Richards Road 90, Merdeka 118
Photography by GertPG

Rising 618 metres above Kuala Lumpur, Merdeka 118 is the world's 4th and a striking new symbol of Malaysia's ambition. Developed by a subsidiary of Permodalan Nasional Berhad (PNB) — a state-owned — the tower contains a 1,000-plus premium on the historic site of Merdeka Square, Malaysia where the nation's independence was declared. Heritage, public spaces, retail, hospitality, and workplaces, Merdeka 118 is a new chapter in the city's vibrant story.

The architect of this tower, on the other hand, is a collaboration of architecture studio behind landmarks such as the Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur, one of Malaysia's leading architectural practices, and a local firm. Together, they have combined a lot of expertise with local insight, creating a tower that is both technically sound in its construction.

In this feature, we speak with Dato' Tengku Abdul Aziz, Managing Director, and Ar. Ahmad Farid Baharuddin (AFB), Principal, about their insights on this landmark project and its surrounding conversation on the design team (D) and Ar. Ahmad Farid Baharuddin (AFB).

PROJECT

Rambut Rambut / Temple of Togetherness

From above the building

Landscape Architectural Firm: Burjur
Design Architect: Mick Abdullahi HPMI
Design Team: Mohamed AHMAD, Aqibwan AZHAR, Nik Nur AZLIN, and four other students/enthusiasts / volunteers
Location: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Area: 1,000 sqm
Completion Date: 2021
Photographer: Syarifuddin, Aqibwan

A temple at a place of identity and devotion, created specifically for the act of worship. It serves as a sacred space where individuals seek solace, reflection, and connection, and only with the divine but also with one another. In this spirit, Rambut Rambut (Temple of Togetherness) emerges as a unique architectural intervention that celebrates and honors the essence of togetherness, a celebration of unity, diversity, and mutual understanding among people.



From above the building

INNOVATION

DT: What do you deem to be the major innovations introduced in the project? Can you give some examples that were new to Malaysia?

FB: We as engineers played a crucial role. We conducted extensive field testing to optimize the design and reduce material loads. The tower's unique design helped boost its speed, making the structure more durable.

We also introduced advanced fire suppression systems, instead of relying on fire for emergency relief, we designed a stepped evacuation plan that allows people to move safely in the event of an emergency (only 100kg) before proceeding further down. This system is based on international best practices and was validated by fire engineers from the LGS.

URBAN CONTEXT

DT: How do you see this tower in relation to the urban context and the surrounding neighborhood?

FB: This tower is located in the heart of KL, a bustling street, one of Kuala Lumpur's most famous tourist spots, and it's right next to the main square and the main square, and the main square, which are important urban landmarks. It is also part of the Golden Triangle, the heart of the city's modern business and shopping district. Chikara is located on the main square, featuring modern, unique shapes and textures that make them stand out and look like a modern building.

FB: The tower is a kind of bridge between these two areas, the old and the new, connecting the old and the new. It is a modern view of the business district, bringing them together with a prominent new tower like this one will help shape a more connected and dynamic urban space for the city and it continues to grow and develop.

DT: Does the tower draw inspiration from the local context or architecture?

TA: The Merdeka 118 project features several key innovations in design, engineering, and sustainability. It integrates advanced building technologies and sustainable solutions, some of which are new to Malaysia, ensuring efficiency and the overall experience for the visitors and those based in the tower.

Designed with a forward-thinking approach, Merdeka 118 remains relevant in decades after its inception, demonstrating how architectural vision can stand the test of time. It is also built with sustainable and resilient features, including an innovative fire system designed for fire safety emergencies, a first of its kind in the country. Merdeka 118 tower is now LEED Platinum certified and is actively seeking ISO 14001 and ISO 50001 certifications, reinforcing its commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility.

FB: Yes, the design of the tower seamlessly incorporates elements of local architecture, reflecting deep connections to the region's culture and heritage. The building's unique form, inspired by traditional motifs, particularly the intricate complex motifs, which features traditional and geometric patterns. This design language extends throughout the interior, including the main foyer, where traditional patterns are also evident. The main reception desk in the lobby, drawn from the traditional motifs of the Petronas Towers, is a nod to the rich history of traditional Malay architecture, but uniquely shaped to modern design in Malaysia. Its sweeping, curved shape has become a symbol of cultural identity and plays an essential role in the history of Malaysia and the region.

During the recent 100th anniversary of Malaysia's independence, the tower's iconic form was inspired by the image of Tunjau Ratu, a traditional Malay architectural element. This iconic form is a nod to the rich history of traditional Malay architecture, but uniquely shaped to modern design in Malaysia. Its sweeping, curved shape has become a symbol of cultural identity and plays an essential role in the history of Malaysia and the region.

FB: In the Declaration of Independence, it was officially proclaimed that this country is a fully sovereign state. However, this independence has inspired the public imagination, sparking widespread discussion. As a result, it has created a sense of pride and ownership in the country, especially given its proximity to the main square and its connection to the history of our first Prime Minister.



From left to right: Dato' Tengku Abdul Aziz, Dato' Tengku Abdul Aziz, Dato' Tengku Abdul Aziz, Dato' Tengku Abdul Aziz, Dato' Tengku Abdul Aziz

Cover & Content

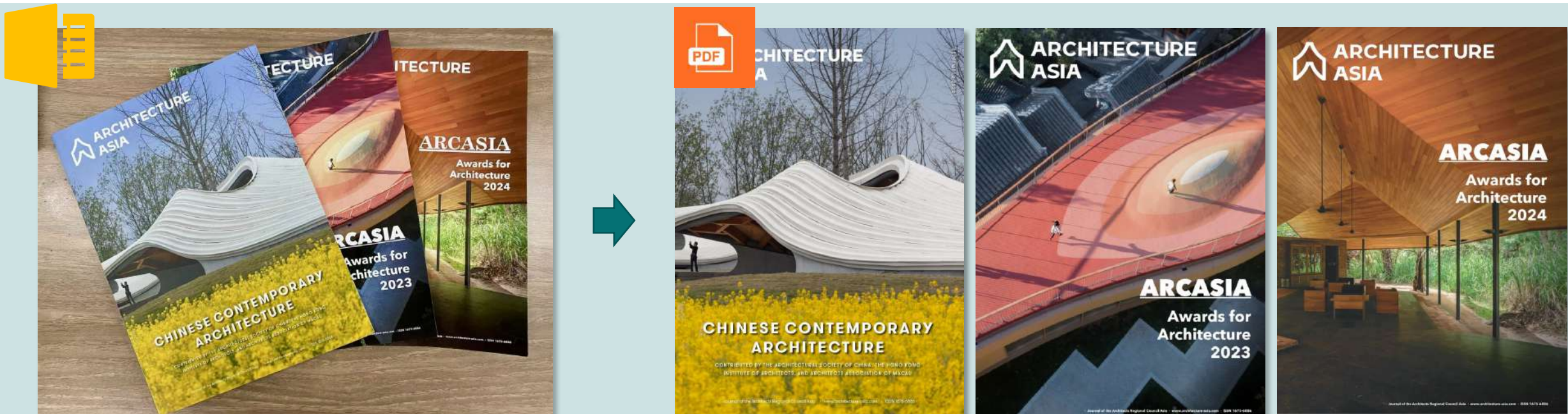
Articles

Projects

Interviews

From Print to Digital Publishing

- AA has been continuously exploring publishing models to expand the journal's reach.
- Since 2021, AA had partnered with **The Images Publishing Group**, a world-leading publisher of books on architecture, art, photography, and design, to streamline the editorial process and distribute globally through platforms like Amazon and ACC Art Books.
- In late 2023, to enhance the journal's timeliness, AA transitioned to **digital-only publication**. PDF versions of the latest issues are emailed to members, the board, authors, and readers upon release. Each issue is also **available for free on the website**, with **downloadable watermark-free PDFs**.



Social Media Platforms

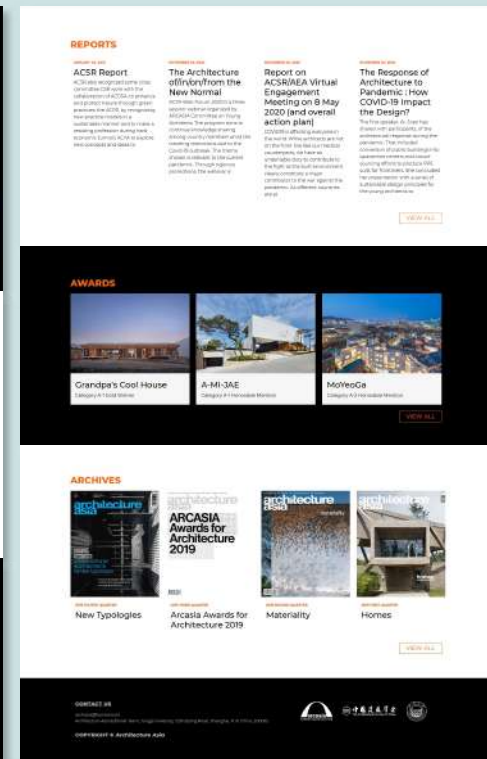
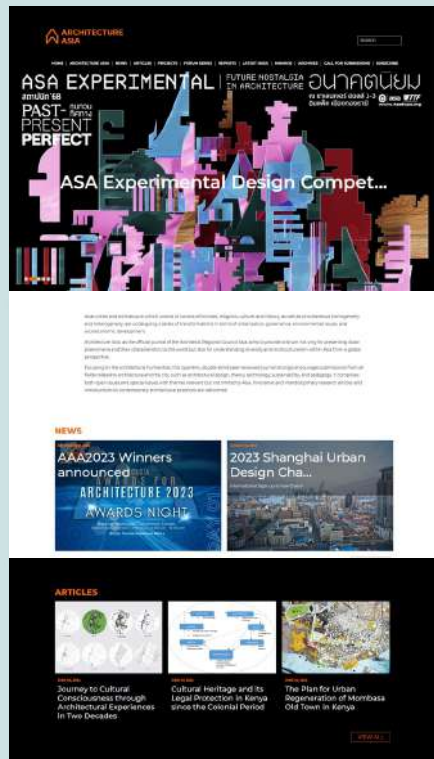
- AA has expanded its digital presence by refreshing its logo, redesigning the official website, and upgrading its page layouts.

- 1 Different Colours
- 1 Opened Book - Magazine
- 1 Pitched Roof - Architecture
- 2 Letter 'A' - AA magazine

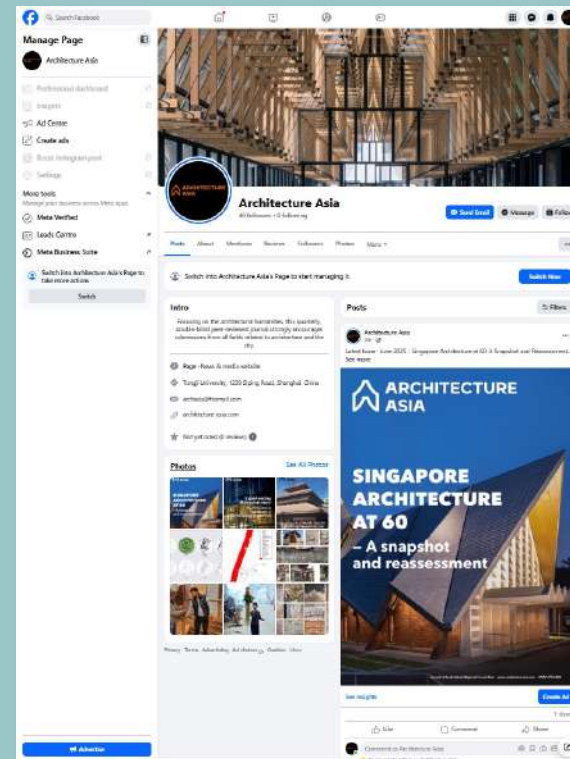


Social Media Platforms

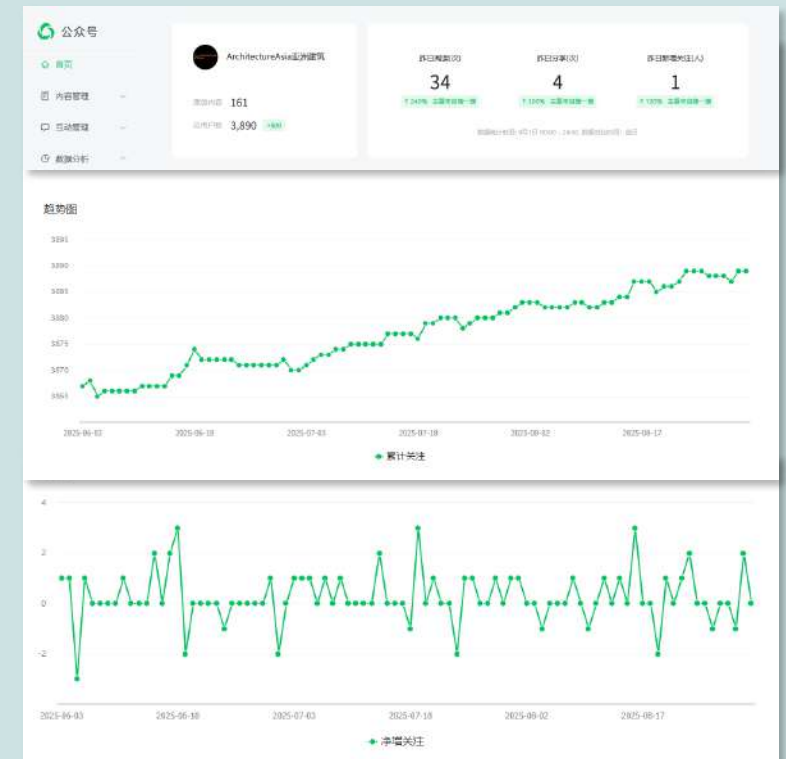
- AA established an official website, Facebook page, and WeChat account, reaching around 4,000 followers and continuously sharing updates on ARCASIA and AA magazine.



Official Website
<http://architecture-asia.com/>



Facebook
Architecture Asia

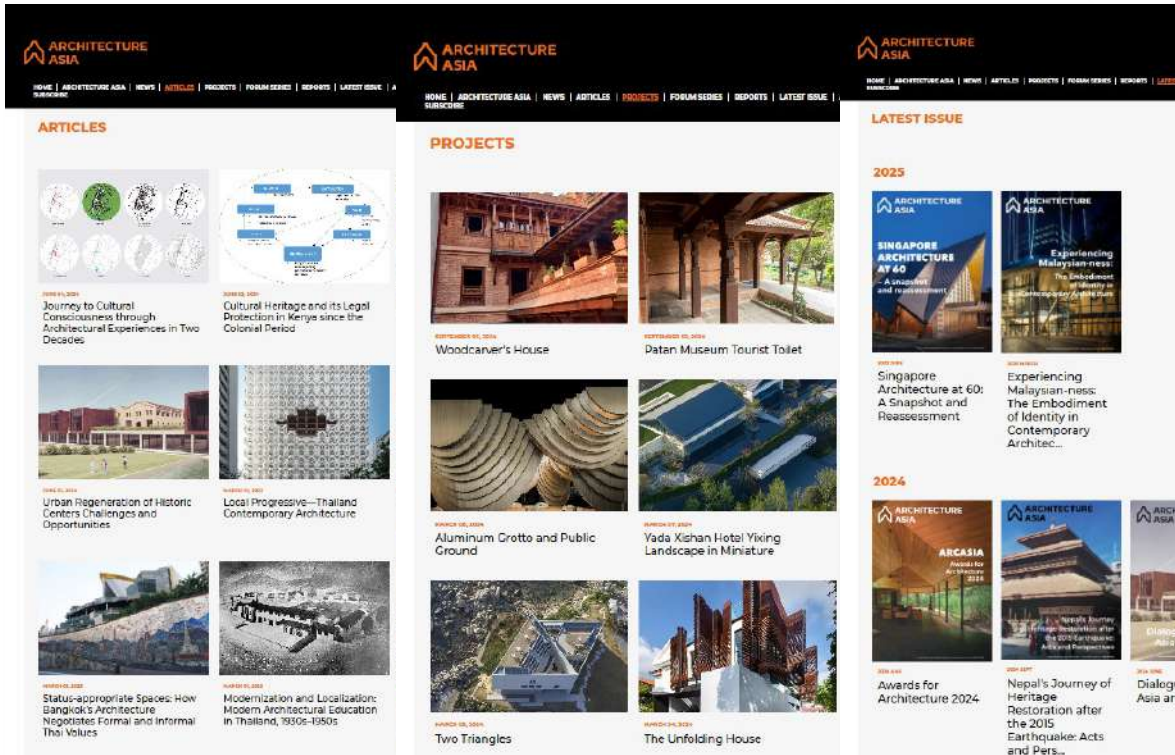


Wechat Account
Architecture Asia 亚洲建筑

Digital Publication

- Through these platforms, AA regularly publishes new issues, forums, and newsletters from member institutes. We welcome contributions from **MORE** member institutes.

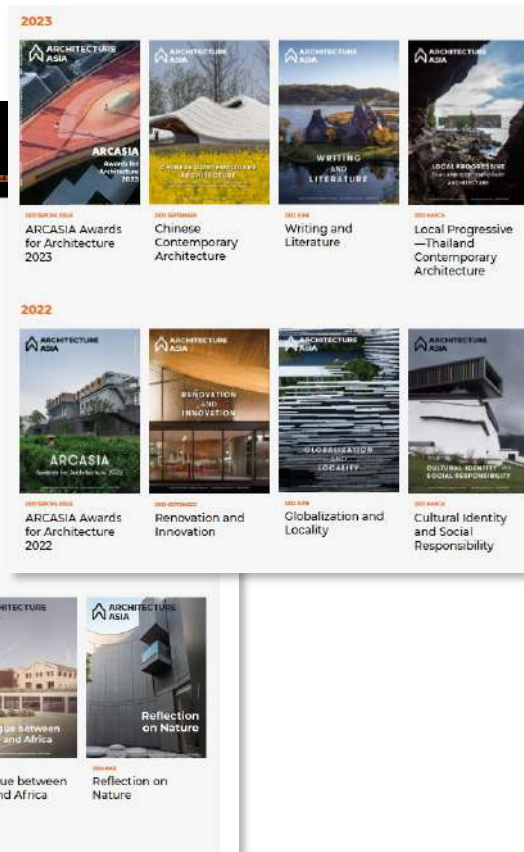
Website Publications



Articles

Projects

Latest Issues



Wechat Account

Facebook



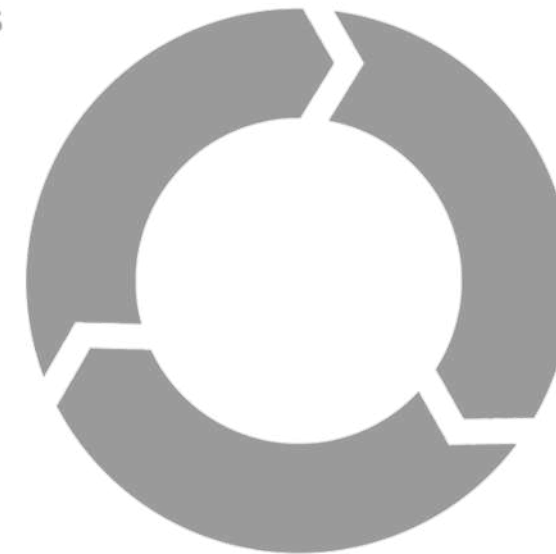
Connect to ARCAISA Member Institutes

- AA has established a model combining journal publications, architect networks, and the AA Forum series, successfully connecting institutes such as IIA, SONA, ASA, PAM, SIA, AAM, ASC, HKIA, and KIRA.



Architects
Network

Journal
Publication



Architecture Asia Forum Series

Guest Editor Network

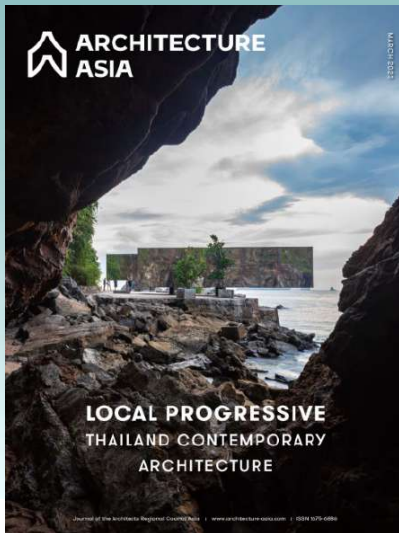
- AA sets up the guest editor network with the recommendation from member institutes. The guest editors led national or regional issues, highlighting each institute's visibility and showcasing diverse developments across Asia's architectural professions.



2023

Mar.

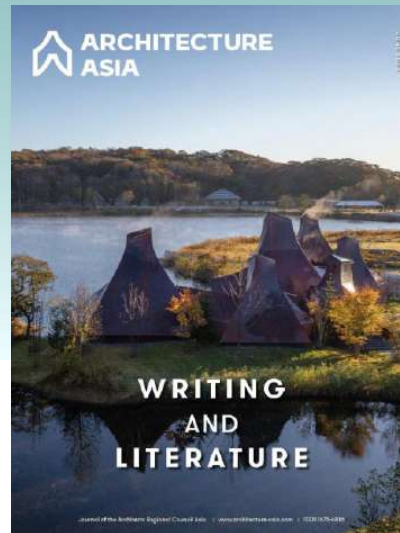
Kulthida Songkittipakdee (right),
Jenchieh Hung (left) , ASA



2023

Jun.

Apurva BOSE DUTTA,
IIA



2023

Zhu Xiaofeng,
ASC

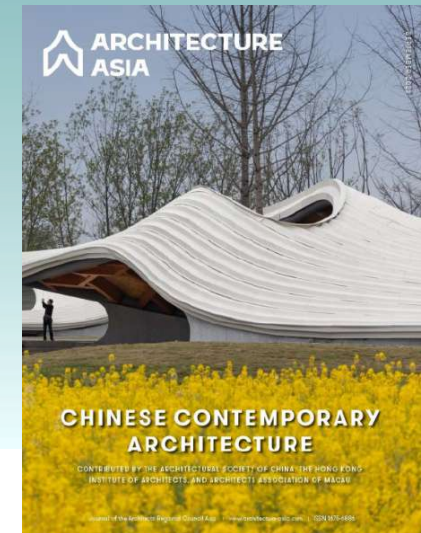


Nuno Soares,
AAM



Sept.

Zhong Hongliang,
HKIA



Guest Editor Network

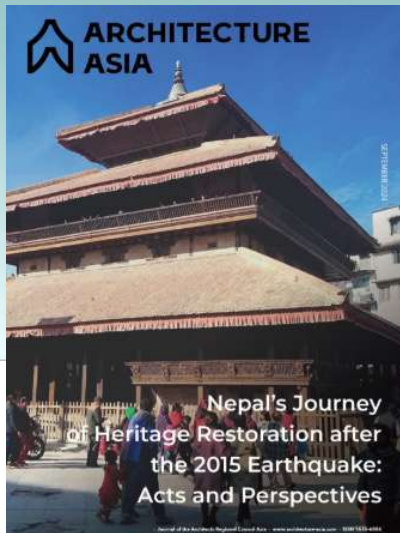
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2024

Sept.

Padma Sundar Maharjan,
SONA



2025

Mar.

David Teoh,
PAM



Veronica Ng Foong Peng,
PAM



2025

Jun.

Fong Hoo Cheong,
SIA



Architecture Asia Forum

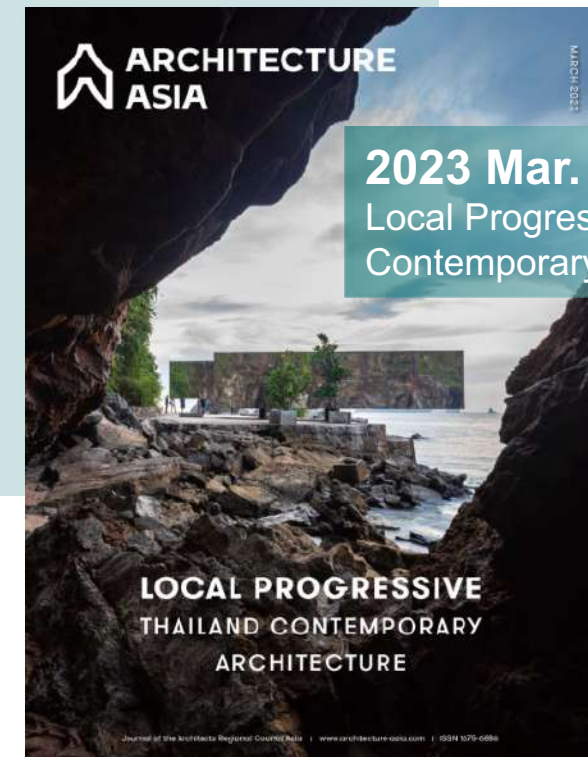
Thailand Contemporary Architecture Forum (Dec 3, 2022, online)

- Attracted nearly 5,000 attendees worldwide.
- Addresses by ARCASIA President Ar. Abu Sayeed M. Ahmed and ASA President Ar. Chana Sumpalung.
- Broadcast via YouTube, Bilibili, and WeChat.



2022.12

Thailand
Contemporary Architecture Forum



Architecture Asia Forum

Contemporary Architecture of HKIA, AAM, and ASC Forum (Dec 10, 2023, Shenzhen)

- Nearly 15,000 online participants and 120 in-person attendees.
- ARCASIA President Ar. Abu Sayeed M. Ahmed delivered the opening address online.
- Presidents of HKIA, AAM, and ASC attended on-site and gave opening remarks.



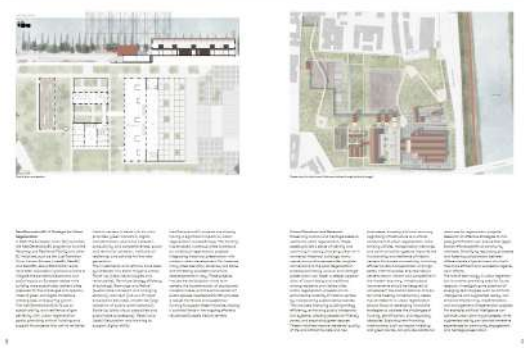
2023.10

Contemporary Architecture
in Macau, Hong Kong, and Mainland China Forum

Architecture Asia Forum

Dialogue between Asia and Africa Forum (June 2024)

- ARCASIA Vice President (Zone C), Ar. Thomas Cheung gave the opening remarks



2024.06

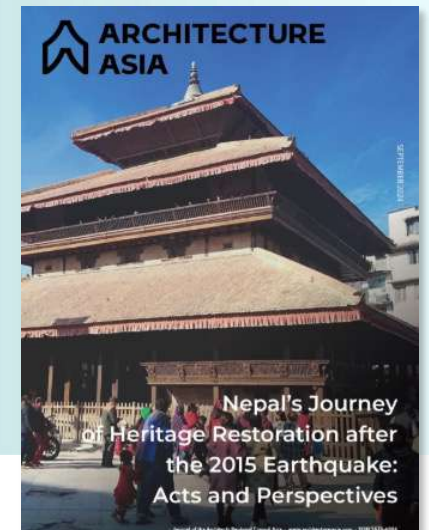
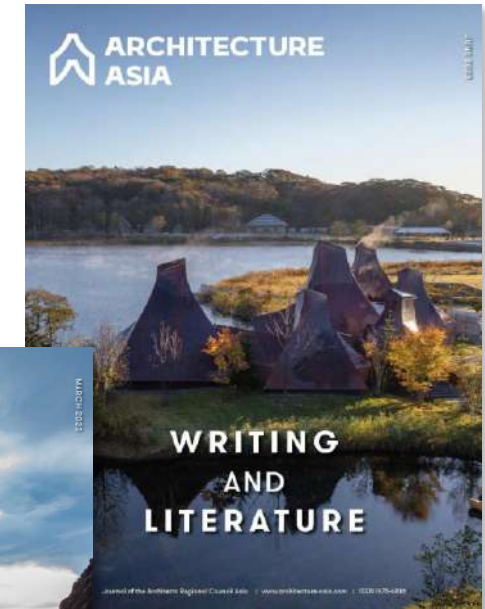
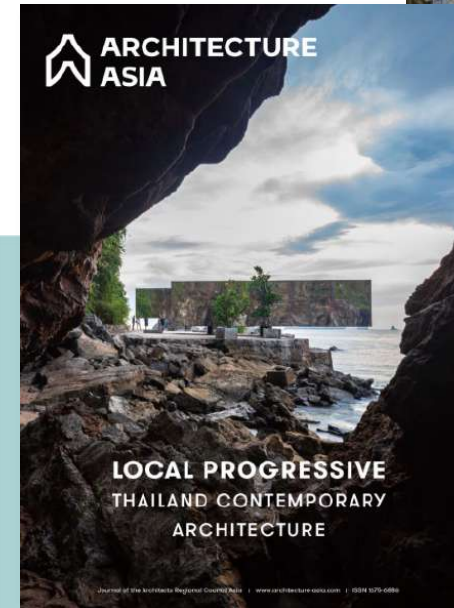
Global and Local
Heritage Conservation and
Urban Regeneration Forum

FUTURE PLAN 2026-2030

Expand the Theming Focus

- AA will place greater emphasis on “Asian Issues”, addressing diverse social, cultural, and environmental transformations, while aligning more closely with ARCASIA’s mission and committee fields.

- Sustainable Urban–Rural Built Environments
- Professional Practice of Young Architects
- Regional Culture and Contemporary Transformation
- Digital Technology and Innovation in Construction
- Architectural Education and Knowledge Systems
- Asian Cultural Heritage and Preservation



Selection Guide of Guest Editor

- To make the guest editor model more accessible, we will further develop work rules and procedures, circulate documents among member institutions for feedback, and invite broader participation.

Selection Criteria of Guest Editor

- a. Guest editors must be permanent residents of the member country or region of ARCASIA.
- b. Nominations must have at least five years of active engagement in architecture or related fields. Eligible backgrounds include, but are not limited to, practicing architects, faculty members from schools of architecture or research institutes, independent researchers, architectural critics, curators, or publishers.
- c. Nominations for guest editor positions must come from the respective member institutes of ARCASIA. Each nomination cycle may include multiple candidates, and an official letter of recommendation must be submitted.
- d. The nominating institute must provide the candidate's curriculum vitae, which includes information on their educational background, professional experience, institutional affiliations, and notable achievements.
- e. All nominations will be reviewed and approved by the Editorial Board.
- f. The nominating institute is responsible for overseeing the guest editor's work throughout the process to ensure the authenticity and timeliness of the content.

The plan on the selection of guest editors

The editorial team of the journal includes permanent editors, who will collaborate with guest editors to produce each issue. Guest editors are responsible for planning and coordinating issues dedicated to the countries or regions. Throughout the member institutes' nomination, they work closely with the journal's editorial team, managing the entire process from theme development to final publication. Their main responsibilities include:

- a. Proposing themes that reflect the unique characteristics of the architectural profession in the specific country or region, ensuring both academic value and relevance to professional practice.
- b. Preparing a thematic proposal that includes background information, scholarly significance, target readership, anticipated contributions, a list of potential authors, and a proposed timeline.
- c. Leading the solicitation of manuscripts by inviting prominent scholars, practicing architects, and other experts through personal academic networks or professional platforms.
- d. Assisting authors in understanding the journal's formatting requirements and scholarly standards, offering topic-specific suggestions or writing guidance, and ensuring the quality of submissions.
- e. Organizing the accepted manuscripts, integrating content, and composing the editorial introduction for the special issue.
- f. Collaborating with the editorial team on language, graphics, and content review to ensure compliance with publication standards and maintaining communication with authors until the issue is published.
- g. Participating in academic activities related to the special issue, such as organizing online lectures, scholarly dialogues, or social media outreach, to enhance the journal's visibility and impact.

Working with AA Awards Team

- Drawing on experience with the AA Awards and recent collaboration with KIRA, we are also preparing a work manual to streamline production of the AA Awards issue.
- The key challenge lies in the short timeline between the final jury review and the September award ceremony, which requires proactive communication between the Awards team and the AA editorial team.



Working with AA Awards Team

- Strict adherence to the agreed timeline is required from both parties.
- Coordination by the ARCASIA Secretariat is crucial to ensure that all parties are aligned with the workflow in advance.

Mid-June, within 3 days after the conclusion of the judging process

The host will provide the editorial office with the list of award recipients and project materials, including low-resolution images from the application website.

Early August

The editorial office will deliver the first layout draft.

The host verifies all information and provide feedback, after which the editorial office will adjust the layout accordingly.

Around 20 August

The final proof is completed, and the editorial office provides the host with an electronic version for promotion at the awards ceremony. If printed copies are needed, the responsibility for printing is on the host.

Jun. Final Review

End of June

The host prepares a profile of the convenor, profiles of the jury members, and an editorial authored by the convenor.

The host contacts the award recipients to request high-resolution images and a project description (300 words) that meets the journal's requirements, along with signed copyright agreements.

All materials must be submitted by the end of June, and the editorial office will then begin editing and layout immediately.

Early September

After the awards ceremony, the editorial team releases the special issue via email, the website, and social media platforms.

Sept. Award Ceremony

Annual Budget

- The total annual magazine expenditure, combining these three components, is estimated to be approximately 81,360 USD.

Editing	Item	Unit Cost	Quantity	Cost	Total
	Remuneration for Guest Editor	1,400	2	2,800	13,800
	Author Manuscript Preparation	400	15	6,000	
	Printing Fee	25	100	2,500	
	Mailing Fee	50	50	2,500	

Labor	Position	Hourly salary	Annual working hour	Salary	Total
	Editor in Chief	70	120	8,400	53,760
	Managing Editor	40	180	7,200	
	Executive Editor	28	420	11,760	
	Assistant Editor	15	1440	21,600	
	Assistant	10	480	4,800	

Travel	Expense Category	Round-Trip Flight	Accommodation	Other	Total
	East Asia	1,800	2,250	900	13,800
	South Asia	1,500	1,050	600	
	Southeast Asia	2,400	2,100	1,200	

Ongoing Work

- Editing work for the December issue, 2025.
- Special issue on Korean young architects, accompanied by a forum and field trip, scheduled for 2026.
- AA Forum of Malaysian Contemporary Architecture



HWANG
HYEONHYE,
SHIN
JUYEONG

Name: 홍현혜, 신중영
Year of birth: 1984
Place: Busan
Gender: Female, Male

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JEON
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LIM
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Name: 전재보, 임근영
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Gender: Male, Female

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Place: Seoul
Gender: Female

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2025
The Dec. issue
of 2025



2026
The special issue
of Korea



Thank you

Architectural Society of China, ASC