

**Shah Alam, November 16, 2011** – Lim Min Syn did Malaysia proud by bagging the Platinum award of the Nippon Paint Young Designer Award (NPYDA) 2011. He beat close to 400 Malaysian submissions to win the Malaysian Gold award, and then a close fight against the Gold award winner from Thailand to also walk away with the coveted regional title of Platinum Award – Top Young Designer of the Year in the Architecture category.

His submission titled “Strata” is a community library with earth-berned architecture that was designed as the perfect solution to the decreasing availability of land in cities and suburban areas. Its earth-sheltered architecture allows the maximisation of space while maintaining increasingly precious public green lungs on ground level. A sunken courtyard was incorporated to reflect natural light while greenery above and around the building lowers its thermal mass and reduce the need for mechanical cooling.

The 23-year old architecture student of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) quipped, “I’m delightfully surprised! Although I had confidence in my design skills, I strongly believe my passion drove me the extra mile. I feel that apart from complying with the competition brief, it’s important to sincerely know what you want to do for society. Then you are focused on giving your best and winning or not no longer takes centre-stage.”



The exciting event saw more than 400 interior design and architecture student talents from across the region converge in Malaysia for a full day of interaction, networking and exchange of ideas and

knowledge. Running for the fourth consecutive year, the NPYDA 2011 themed “*Eco Design for Better Living*”, was an opportunity for interior design and architecture students to propose creative and innovative ideas that integrate sustainability into our evolving lifestyles, to promote environmental responsibility and improve the quality of life.

This year, the Nippon Paint Young Designer Award opened up to overwhelming response in the region, receiving a staggering total of 707 submissions from Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam and Thailand. In Malaysia alone, submissions poured in from 502 aspiring interior designers and architects from a total of 43 colleges and universities nationwide, marking an increase of close to 50 per cent from last year. Each entry reflected cutting edge innovations, creative interior and architecture designs of outstanding quality.

The winning design in the Interior category came from Lim Chee Hong, while Chai Wan Ni won the silver award. Both are students from the Malaysian Institute of Art. Nor Hasni Bin Ahmad of Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) received the silver award in the Architecture category.

Speaking during the awards ceremony, Ms. Gladys Goh, Nippon Paint (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd’s General Manager said, “The objective of the NPYDA has always been to give Malaysian talents in the interior design and architecture industries an opportunity to showcase their creativity and ideas. Year on year the increasing quality and creativity of submissions affirms our belief that Malaysia houses truly remarkable talents and has the potential to be an eco-design hub.

This year we took the award regional, opening up to students from Singapore, Vietnam and Thailand. And we are further encouraged by the overwhelming response. I am pleased to say that we have created a platform not only for supporting and nurturing student talents, but also for regional exposure by facilitating interaction, networking and the exchange of ideas and knowledge among talents from across the region,” she added.

Themed “*Eco Design for Better Living*”, students were evaluated on the successful use of materials based on minimised resources and renewable energy usage that would increase efficiency, minimise life-cycle and environmental impact, enhance indoor environment quality, optimise operational and maintenance costs and ultimately improve the quality of life and environment.

Commenting on the green theme, Ms. Gladys Goh said, “We believe that green is the only way forward for the industry and it is important for industry talents to hone their skills in accordance with evolving lifestyle needs. Depleting resources and human impact on the environment has put an

increasing spotlight on sustainability and our next generation of designers can contribute greatly to improving this condition by designing responsibly.”

The gold winners of the Nippon Paint Young Designer Award 2011 each received RM3,000 in cash prize and a MacBook Pro 15" 2.536GHZ, while the silver winners from each category each received RM2,000 in cash prize. The honorary mentions in both categories each received RM1,000 in cash prize. In addition to boosting the student's profile and portfolio, all winners of the Nippon Paint Young Designer Award 2011 will each receive employment opportunities with an Interior Design or Architect firm.

The Platinum award for the Interior Design category was awarded to Luong Thi Thanh Binh of Vietnam. In addition to RM3,000 cash prize, a MacBook Pro 15" 2.536GHZ and career opportunities with an architecture firm, Platinum winner for each category walked away with the Regional Grand Prize of USD3,000.

The Nippon Paint Young Designer Award also recognised the efforts of colleges/ universities and lecturers for tirelessly guiding and nurturing these talents. The gold award for Lecturer went to Ooi Ai Eng, Daniel Chong and Sundaresan of the Malaysian Institute of Art for the Interior Design category and Ar. NurAkmal Goh Abdullah from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) in the Architecture category. The Gold award for College/ University was awarded to Malaysian Institute of Art and UKM for the respective categories.

The Nippon Paint Young Designer Award 2011 also included a learning module. More than 400 participants attended a workshop to equip them with useful skills in preparation of their transition into the industry. The event also created a platform for participants to mingle, connect and exchange culture, ideas as well as knowledge.

Aimed at nurturing budding interior design and architecture talent, the Nippon Paint Young Designer Award was first launched in 2008. It is the only competition in Malaysia that recognises interior design and architecture students, and receives the support of Pertubuhan Aritek Malaysia (PAM), Institut Perekabentuk Dalaman Malaysia (IPDM), Malaysian Society for Interior Designers (MSID), Malaysia Green Building Confederation (MGBC), Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia (MOHE) and the Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water Malaysia (KeTTHA).



## Nippon Paint Young Designer Award 2011

### PLATINUM – TOP YOUNG DESIGNER AWARD 2011

Awards	Winner	College/University	Prize
Architecture	Lim Min Syn (Malaysia)	Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)	USD3,000 cash prize
Interior Design	Luong Thi Thanh Binh (Vietnam)	Ho Chi Minh City University of Architecture	USD3,000 cash prize

### MALAYSIA

#### Interior Design Category

Awards	Winner	College/University	Prize
Gold	Lim Chee Hong	Malaysian Institute of Art	RM3,000 cash prize + MacBook Pro 15" 2.536GHZ + Job placement opp
Silver	Chai Wan Ni	Malaysian Institute of Art	RM2,000 cash prize + Job placement opportunity
Honorary Mention x 2	Lim Meng Yeu Quah Paik Choo Bernadette	KBU International College	RM1,000 cash prize + Job placement opportunity
Gold – College/University	Malaysian Institute of Art		RM1,000 cash prize + RM1,000 Nippon Paint Voucher
Gold – Lecturer	Ooi Ai Eng, Daniel Chong and Sundaresan	Malaysian Institute of Art	RM1,000 cash prize

## MALAYSIA

### Architecture Category

<b>Awards</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>College/University</b>	<b>Prize</b>
Gold	Lim Min Syn	Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)	RM3,000 cash prize + MacBook Pro 15" 2.536GHZ + Job placement opp
Silver	Nor Hasni Bin Ahmad	Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)	RM2,000 cash prize + Job placement opportunity
Honorary Mention x 2	Muhammad Qhawarizmi Bin Norhisham Asyraf Bin Azmi	Universiti Tecknologi MARA (UiTM) Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)	RM1,000 cash prize + Job placement opportunity
Gold – College/ University	Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)		RM1,000 cash prize + RM1,000 Nippon Paint Voucher
Gold – Lecturer	Ar. NurAkmal Goh Abdullah	Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)	RM1,000 cash prize

## SINGAPORE

### Interior Design Category

<b>Awards</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>College/University</b>
Gold	Jason Tan	Temasek Polytechnic

## VIETNAM

### Interior Design Category

<b>Awards</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>College/University</b>
Gold	Luong Thi Thanh Binh	Ho Chi Minh City University of Architecture

## THAILAND

### Interior Design Category

<b>Awards</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>College/University</b>
Gold	Phansa Buaphaichit	Silpakorn University of Thailand

## THAILAND

### Architecture Category

Awards	Winner	College/University
Gold	Kiattikhun Nimcharoenwan	Chulalongkorn University of Thailand

## COMMENTS FROM MALAYSIAN WINNERS

### **Lim Min Syn, 23**

#### **Gold & Platinum awards, Architecture category**

“I’m delightfully surprised! Although I had confidence in my design skills, I strongly believe my passion drove me the extra mile. I feel that apart from complying with the competition brief, it’s important to sincerely know what you want to do for society. Then you are focused on giving your best and winning or not no longer takes centre-stage.

Currently, I see that the amount of research and innovation of our generation is lacking so what most are doing is repeating same old concepts and competing in terms of how beautiful the 3D images are. I think we should explore more on predicting what the future needs and what would happen in 20 or 30 years as well as in the centuries ahead of us.”

### **Lim Chee Hong, 24**

#### **Gold award, Interior Design category**

“I felt like everything around me froze and time stopped. Apart from the excitement of winning this award, the entire experience has been inspiring. I also got to meet and exchange knowledge and innovative ideas with the young people all around this region.”

### **Ar. Nur Akmal Goh Abdullah**

#### **Gold Lecturer, Architecture category**

“This is my second time receiving this award the last one being in 2009. We really proved that our students have the ability. I always encourage my students to participate in competitions because it is an important way to build confidence as well as their portfolios. Apart from that it’s also the perfect platform to market themselves, to the top firms in the fraternity no less.

Even renowned architects often participate in competitions, which brings them to the forefront of the industry across the world. The NPYDA never fails to add value to our architects to-be, preparing them for the future.”

## **COMMENTS FROM MALAYSIAN WINNERS (cont')**

**Daniel Chong, Ooi Ai Eng, Sundaresan  
Gold Lecturer, Interior Design category**

"I agree that the quality of the submissions are increasing year-on-year, with very good efforts put in by the students. I encouraged my students to join because environmental issues and the green culture is a definite way forward and through this competition they can hone their skills incorporating sustainability into their work.

This is our fourth year participating and we have been very confident. Besides talent, we feel passion is important and we strongly encourage students to enjoy the process of their work. Two-way communication between students and lecturers is also vital because ultimately our aim is to inspire them to achieve their full potential."

For more information on Nippon Paint Young Designer Award 2011, log on to [www.youngdesigneraward.com.my](http://www.youngdesigneraward.com.my)