

# BANGUNAN INGENIEUR (THE IEM BUILDING) (PART 1)



by Dato' Ir. Pang Leong Hoon

*This is a compilation of articles under the Sub-Committee on Documentation and Recording of IEM Historical Events under the chairmanship of Datuk Ir. Prof. Dr Ow Chee Sheng. Committee members comprise Y.Bhg. Dato' Ir. Dr Andy Seo Kian Haw, Ir. David Lai Kong Phooi, Ir. Prof. Dr Lee Sze Wei and Ir. C.M.M. Aboobucker*

## BACKGROUND

In the early days, the Institution had no building of its own and it had to squat on borrowed premises – homes and offices of the various Hon. Secretaries and, later, Station Hotel (K.L) Malayan Railway. From 1st October, 1970, the NEB (now TNB) was generous enough to allow part of the NEB store in Jalan Timor, Petaling Jaya, Selangor, to be used as the IEM Secretariat office until the IEM Building was completed in May, 1976.

As early as 1961, the IEM Council realised there was a need to start a Building Fund with the aim for IEM to have its own building one day. During session 1962/1963, the Council set up a committee to consider ways and means to raise funds. Later, the committee's function was extended to include the search for and to identify sites suitable for the proposed IEM Building.

When the site for proposed IEM Building was finalised, the Council, at its 140th meeting held on 13 July 1970, appointed the Institution Building Committee to come up with the design and planning of the building. The Committee Members comprised:

- Encik Abu Zarim bin Haji Omar (Chairman)
- Mr. Chan Weng Chu
- Mr. Chan Kee Pok
- Encik Mohd. Hassan bin Abd. Wahab
- Mr. Chester Ho Hong
- Mr. Thean Lip Thoung
- Mr. Lee Boey Huay

Over the years, the composition of this Committee went through some changes.

After the contract of the Building was awarded, the Council appointed the Building Supervision and Management Committee for the proper supervision and management of the contract and construction of the building.

## THE BUILDING SITE

During the search for sites suitable for the proposed IEM Building, the Council was informed that the Petaling Jaya Authority had earmarked a few pieces of land in the New Town area for such a purpose.

Accordingly, steps were taken to find out more details. After some delays, the Petaling Jaya Authority submitted IEM's application to the State Government for consideration

and approval. This was recorded in the Minutes of the 56th Council Meeting held on 16 March 1964. As reported by the President at the 5th Annual General Meeting on 11 May 1963, an application had been made to obtain and purchase two lots of land (Lot No. 60 & 62) at Jalan 52/4, Petaling Jaya, Selangor. These two lots (57ft x 75ft) covered 4,275sq ft of commercial land.

In mid-1964, the Petaling Jaya Authority informed IEM that the Selangor State Government had approved IEM's application for the land and that the total cost was RM20,485.50. At its 64th Meeting held on 8 August, 1964, the Council considered and approved the payment of the quit rent and other fees in the form of a RM3,000 deposit. With the site and land settled in 1965, the next stage was the planning and design for the proposed IEM Building.

With the two lots of land in Petaling Jaya secured, the Council was informed in late 1966 that land was also available in Kuala Lumpur beside the new "Through Road". Attempts to apply for the land was not successful or we might also have had a building in Kuala Lumpur today!

## THE EARLY DESIGN / TENDERINGS

For 5 years, from mid-1964 to mid-1969, the Council tried hard to get volunteers to do the design and drawings for the proposed building. The response was very good and a number of Council Members came forward to render their services in preparing the design and drawings for the approval of the PJ Authority. Tenders were called based on basic details available then. Fourteen contractors were invited to submit their bids and eight tenders were received, ranging from RM288,000 to RM321,000. The tender sums were considered too high and were rejected (Ref. 133th Council Meeting held on 8 December, 1969).

During Session 1970/1971, the design and drawing were refined and detailed Bills of Quantities were prepared. Tenders were invited in August 1970 and five tenders were received. Again, the tender sums were high and beyond the estimated cost. They were also rejected. (Ref. Report presented at the 12th Annual General Meeting held on 25 June, 1971).

After the two unsuccessful tendering processes, the Council decided to commission a well-known Malayan architect to design a building to serve the interests of the Institution. It would have a distinct character and stature

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both internally and externally as befitting a national body (Ref. Bulletin No.4 Nov 1970). At the 144th Council Meeting held on 9th November, 1970, the Council decided to commission Encik Baharuddin Abu Kasim of Architect Team 3 (Jurubena Bertiga) to redesign the proposed IEM Building. The Terms of Reference of the appointment were given in Bulletin 1970/1971 No. 5 of December, 1970.

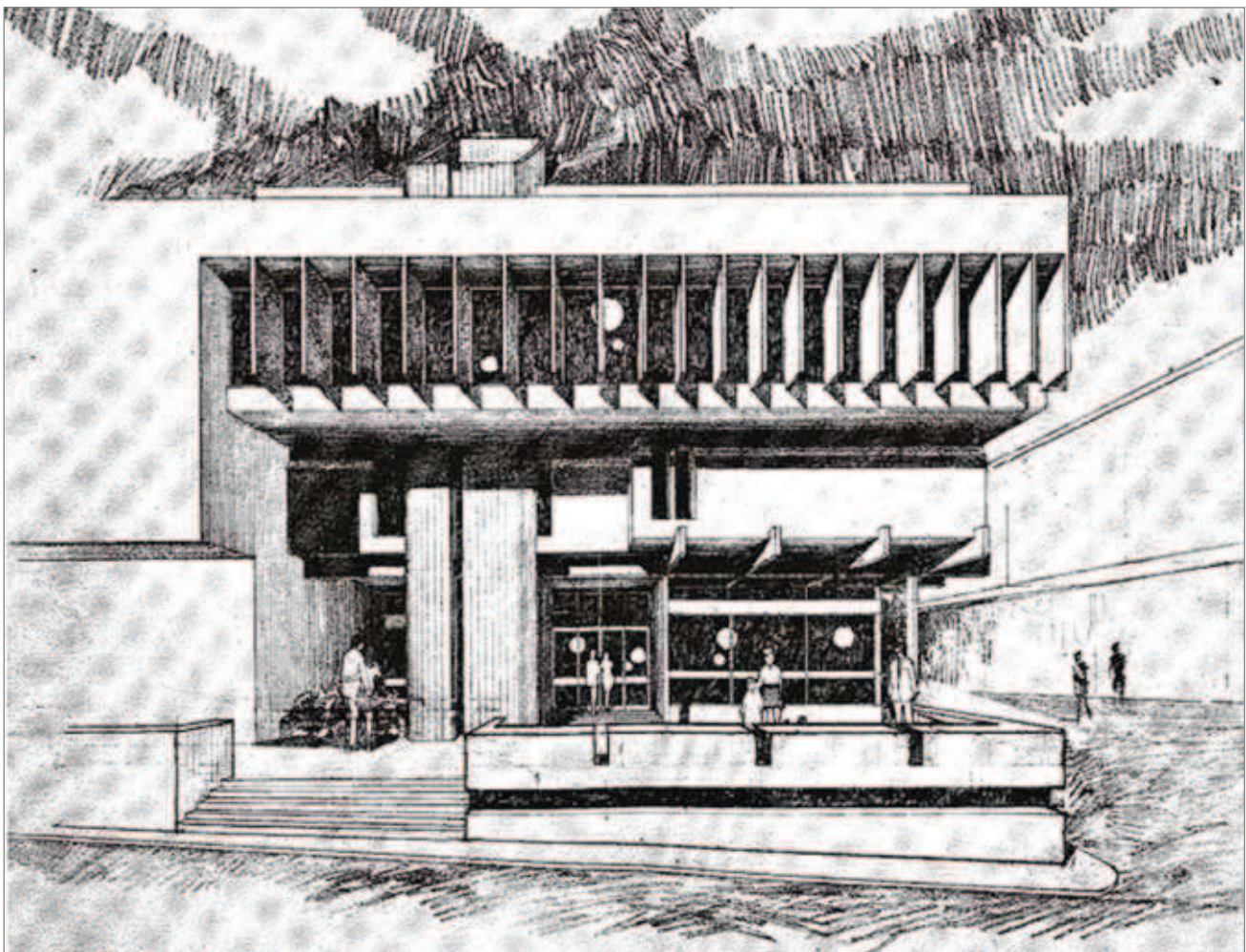
Apart from the appointment of Architect Team 3 for the purpose, engineering consultancy service and design would also be required. IEM was very fortunate in that it had many dedicated members who were willing to volunteer their services. These were:

- Ir. Chan Weng Chu – Structural Design
- Ir. Wong Kon Nam – Supervision of Structural Construction
- PCR dan Rakan-rakan – Acoustics and Electrical Consultant
- Ir. Dr H.C. Huang – Air-conditioning and Mechanical Consultant

- Ir. Dr Ting Wen Hui – Overall Project Supervisor and Co-ordinator

Following the appointment of Architect Team 3, various preliminary designs were prepared for the consideration of the Council. These were followed by several design sketches showing the perspective views of the proposed building. Eventually, it presented a design that was acceptable to the Council. The design sketches showing perspective views of the proposed building were displayed at the 12th Annual General Meeting of the Institution (25 June 1971) for members' inspection. The proposed building had a basement, elevated ground floor, first floor, second floor, a penthouse and roof garden. The design gave the building character and strength that blended well with its immediate surroundings. Details of the proposed IEM Building were given in Bulletin Vol 1972 No. 2, February, 1972. ■

*(Next month: Part 2)*



*Proposed IEM Building structural design*

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