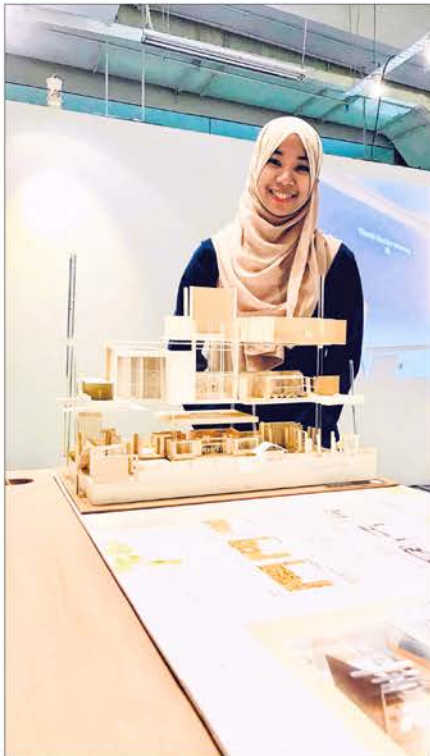


**Gah!** Gaya Hidup • Artistik • Hiburan



**MASYARAKAT SENTIASA DI HATI:** Cik Muahid Amran, yang menghasilkan reka has rumah peralihan yang mesra masyarakat dan memudahkan bekas penagih mencapai keseimbangan antara ruang privasi dengan bersama masyarakat umum, memeringkan peranan sosial dalam setiap kerja seninya. - Foto-foto BH oleh HARYANI ISMAIL.

Jauh daripada menjadi belia yang melupakan amanah kepada masyarakat, tiga gadis ini memastikan projek yang diusahakan di Maktab Seni Lasalle boleh dimanfaatkan orang ramai. Wartawan HARYANI ISMAIL (haryani@sph.com.sg) mencungkil kisah mereka yang menjayakan pameran projek tahun akhir kursus diploma dan ijazah 'The Lasalle Show', yang berlangsung hingga 30 Mei.

# Reka ruang khas bantu bekas penagih

HAMPIR sedekad lamanya Cik Muahid Amran bersekolah di Dubai dan Arab Saudi. Waktu itu, bapanya bekerja sebagai jurutera projek bangunan pencakar langit Burj Khalifa di Dubai. Namun, sejak empat tahun lalu, gadis itu kembali ke Singapura dan selanjutnya mengikuti kursus ijazah kejuruan dalam reka has dalam Maktab Seni Lasalle. Selain menyesuaikan diri kembali dengan budaya belajar dan kerja berdaya saing di Singapura, Cik Muahid, 24 tahun, menyimpan impian menghasilkan hiasan dalaman yang dapat membantu masyarakat. Lantaran itu, bagi projek tahun akhirnya di Lasalle, beliau mengemukakan rekaan ruang rumah peralihan dengan menggunakan Rumah Peralihan Pertapis sebagai model. Matlamat utama projek ini adalah menyepadkan semua bekas penagih dadah dalam masyarakat menerusi pembahagian ruang yang dimanfaatkan sepenuhnya bagi kegiatan membina. Sebagaimana jelasnya tentang projek yang diberi nama *Intersis* itu: "Banyak perkara tentang ketagihan dadah yang bersangkut-paut dengan peralihan psikologi, melebihi bahan dadah itu sendiri. "Saya mengemukakan konsep diri atau 'Me, Myself and I', di mana ia mencabar tanggapan mencari privasi dalam rumah peralihan. "Dalam pada itu, kita perlu akur bahawa rumah peralihan ini mempunyai jadual harian dan undang-undang yang perlu dipatuhi.

"Maka, tidak banyak kebebasan bagi bekas penagih yang menjalani rawatan pemuliharaan ini mencari ruang privasi." Keseimbangan antara ruang yang membantu mereka menyekolahkan diri sendiri dan ruang bagi mereka bergaul dengan masyarakat menjadi antara keutamaannya. Beliau menjadikan ruang makan, bilik solat dan bilik kaunseling sebagai tiga kawasan utama yang ditiadakan bagi peralihan. Dalam kunjungan ke Rumah Peralihan Pertapis, beliau mendapati terdapat banyak ruang kosong yang boleh dimanfaatkan sepenuhnya bagi bengkel merah kemahiran baru. Bengkel sebegini, tambahnya, akan memberi kesan riak tambah pada keyakinan diri penghuni rumah tersebut. Katanya: "Atas cabaran terbesar saya ialah peringkat awal, di mana saya perlu menghubungi pihak Pertapis dan menyakinkan mereka tentang projek yang saya kendalikan buat Lasalle. "Sebagai wanita, pastinya sukar memasuki kawasan yang rata-rata didiami penghuni lelaki. "Alhamdulillah, selepas sahar menanti, saya diberi kebenaran menjalankan wawancara dengan pegawai rumah peralihan itu serta meminjam ruang di situ. "Pihak Pertapis juga banyak membantu membesarkan projek ini. Saya melihat susunan ruang dan tangga dalam bangunan itu yang boleh diubahsuai kegunaannya.

"Secara tidak langsung, ia membantu proses bekas penagih kembali ke pangkuan masyarakat." Cik Muahid menyifatkan masyarakat dan sumber manusia di Singapura sebagai nadi setiap projek reka hasnya. Beliau bahkan pernah memenangi Anugerah Perak (Kategori Reka Has Dalamani) dalam pertandingan Anugerah Peraka Muda Asia dengan kerjasama jenama cat Nippon Paint. Projek bertajuk *Industrial Revolution* itu memayangkkan kawasan di King George Avenue sebagai bengkel studio kitar semula bagi pereka muda beratus tenaga mengubah benda lama menjadi baru. Ruang itu juga boleh digunakan sebagai perpustakaan bahan terpakai dan hab pereka berlimpun serta mengumpul pengalaman. Mereka juga boleh berkolaborasi mahir dan menampilkan projek masing-masing dalam sekateran berbilang disiplin. Ditanya tentang anugerah yang dimenangi, beliau berkata: "Anugerah Perak yang diterima berperanan sebagai galakan bagi saya terus memikirkan isi kemasyarakatan dalam setiap projek reka has yang saya bangunkan." ► Pameran 'Lasalle Show' berlangsung dari 12 tengah hari hingga 8 malam di pelbagai ruang pameran sekitar Maktab Seni Lasalle, 1 McNally Street. Dibuka Isnin sampai Ahad hingga 30 Mei ini.

## Gabungan kasih puisi ibu, lukisan bunga sang anak

APABILA ditawarkan peluang meraih bimbingan seniman berpengalaman Justin Lim, Cik Amirah Raudhah Razali bersyukur. Ini memandangkan program yang disertai itu berterus kemasyarakatan dan memperkasa kemahiran golongan istimewa. Cik Amirah, 23 tahun, pelajar ijazah seni halus Maktab Seni Lasalle, akan bekerjasama dengan badan seni bagi masyarakat berkeperluan khas Very Special Arts. Program Bimbingan Seni Kemasyarakatan yang dikendalikan Lasalle dengan kerjasama Majlis Seni Kebangsaan (NAC) itu secara khusus membolehkan kemahirannya dengan anak autistik. Ketika ditemui *Gah!* di Lasalle baru-baru ini, Cik Amirah, anak bongsu dalam keluarga tiga beradik, berkata: "Inilah projek yang saya nanti-nantikan untuk menyumbang semula kepada golongan memerlukan. Saya yakin kemahiran seni asas yang mereka raih boleh dijadikan seperti terapi dan wadah berhubung dengan orang lain." Hal masyarakat dan kehidupan menjadi teras kerja seninya, dengan projek tahun akhir menampilkan lukisan gabungan bunga disisip puisi ibunya. Puisi tersebut ibarat dialog antara dirinya dengan ibu Fayzah Osman, 53 tahun, pereka hias majlis perkahwinan, tentang kematian. Kata Cik Amirah: "Tidak banyak orang suka menyentuh tentang kematian dalam perubahan hartanah. Kematian perkara yang ditakuti atau suatu larangan dalam setiap sesi sembang, walau bersama keluarga. "Namun, saya dan ibu rasi ini topik per-

ting dibincangkan sebagai persiapan akan datang. Kita tidak tahu bila ajal menimpa. "Saya menghasilkan gabungan bunga ini sebagai cara menggabungkan hasil kerja tangan ibu, yang juga pengubah bunga. Itulah lakaran gabungan bunga kegemaran saya. "Ibu pula menghadihkan saya kuantuman puisi sebagai memberi saya kata-kata amatlah seandainya beliau pergi dulu - apa yang boleh saya lakukan bagi teruskan kehidupan tanpanya." Cik Amirah senang susunan kata-kata indah dan kerap kali menggunakannya bagi kerja seninya, baik bagi kegunaan di Lasalle ataupun bagi pameran yang disertai. Ditanya mengenai rancangan masa depannya, beliau ingin menyiapkan lebih banyak kerja seni yang mencerminkan masyarakat atau boleh membantu orang sekeliling. Beliau juga ingin mengikat jejak langkah bapanya, Encik Razali Subir, 57 tahun, pegawai bomba, yang berjaya mewujudkan masyarakat atau boleh membantu orang sekeliling. Mereka melanjutkan temu bual di kolong blok atau lapangan. Jiran yang ditemui perlu mengisikan nota berwaras. Mereka perlu mencatat secara ringkas tentang diri mereka, kegiatan kegemaran dan apa yang disenangi tentang estet itu. Cik Nur Faleyna, 22 tahun, berkata: "Saya dapati kebanyakan daripada kita



**SENI AJAR KEHIDUPAN:** Cik Amirah Raudhah Razali menghasilkan kerja seni berupa lukisan gabungan bunga dan surat puisi daripada ibu yang seakan-akan berdialog tentang kematian.

"Kerja seni boleh dijadikan jentera dalam belia mendekati masyarakat kurang upaya sekali gus memperkasa mereka dengan kemahiran bermilai. Menerusi seni, kita juga boleh menyampaikan pesan tentang kehidupan dengan lebih berkesan." - Amirah Raudhah Razali.

**IMPIKAN KEJIRANAN MESRA:** Cik Nur Faleyna Zulkifli menghasilkan projek yang membolehkan mereka mendekati dan mengenali jiran tetangga kawasan kejiranan Keat Hong.



## Rakam semangat jiran Keat Hong menerusi karya seni

KISAH kerukunan tetangga dalam suasana kampung yang kaya dengan semangat gotong-royong sering menyentuh perasaan Cik Nur Faleyna Zulkifli. Beliau sering memikirkan mengapa semangat sebagai puyah atau jiran wujud dalam estet perumahan Lembaga Perumahan dan Pembiayaan (HDB). Atas kesedaran itu, Cik Nur Faleyna, pelajar tahun akhir kursus ijazah sarjana muda sastera (kepujian) bidang komunikasi reka bentuk, mengemukakan projek yang bertujuan memupuk semangat ingin tahu tentang siapa jiran anda. Projek itu membawanya dan keluarga, terdiri daripada ibu bapa dan dua adik, mengenali jiran di estet Keat Hong secara lebih mesra. Mereka menjalankan temu bual di kolong blok atau lapangan. Jiran yang ditemui perlu mengisikan nota berwaras. Mereka perlu mencatat secara ringkas tentang diri mereka, kegiatan kegemaran dan apa yang disenangi tentang estet itu. Cik Nur Faleyna, 22 tahun, berkata: "Saya dapati kebanyakan daripada kita

tidak begitu mengenali jiran dalam blok sendiri mahupun blok bersempiran. "Walhal kita mungkin selalu bertembung dengan mereka di perhentian bas atau sewaktu ingin pergi ke kedai. "Dengan melakukan tinjauan rambang mengenali jiran tetangga ini, saya dapat tahu juga mengapa mereka keberanian bertembung dengan penduduk di estet sendiri. "Ada yang kata mereka malu atau terlalu sibuk dengan kerjanya hingga tiada masa bersembang atau melakukan kegiatan bersama." Gadis kecil molek yang sebelum ini belajar dalam aliran sains Maktab Rendah Jurong (JJC) menghasilkan rekaan yang bertujuan mencungkil perihal masyarakat dengan melibatkan mereka sekali gus. Beliau gembira seisi keluarganya bersedia membantu, dengan mereka sendiri keluar daripada zon selesa untuk bersembang dengan jiran yang tidak dikenali. Ada juga selesa hingga menjadi teman. Dek kesuntukan masa, Cik Nur Faleyna tidak dapat melibatkan secara rasmi Jawatankuasa Penduduk (RC) daerah itu.

Beliau akur antara cabaran yang dihadapi ialah cuaca hujan yang mengesat membuatkan penduduk. Terdapat juga rasa teragak-agak dalam kalangan penduduk mahu menjawab soalan kerana mereka tidak pasti maklumat itu kemudian disalurkan ke mana. Namun, Cik Nur Faleyna memberi jaminan segala foto dan bitran kisah yang dikumpulkan akan didokumentasikan buat rujukan penduduk tentang jiran sekeliling mereka. "Memandangkan saya bekas pelajar sains di JJC, saya dapat gunakan kemahiran menjalankan kajian dalam kursus komunikasi reka bentuk ini. "Saya memang tiada asas melukis atau mereka kerja seni grafik. Namun, saya didorong minat menyumbangkan semula kepada masyarakat setelah menerima bantulaan biasiswa daripada badan bantu diri seperti Mendeki. "Harapan saya, selepas tamat pengajian di Lasalle, saya boleh mendapat pekerjaan dalam firma rekaan yang memperjuangkan hak sosial," ujarnya.

Far from being youths who have forgotten the community's trust in them, these three young ladies from LASALLE College of the Arts are ensuring their work can benefit the public at large. Journalist Haryani Ismail spoke to these individuals who are part of The LASALLE Show Exhibition, a showcase of final year diploma and degree students' projects, which will continue until 30 May.

Image: Society always in her mind. Muafah Amran designed a halfway house for ex-drug addicts that achieved a balance between private and communal space, thereby facilitating their rehabilitation back into society.

### **Specially designed space helps ex-addicts**

Muafah Amran was attending school in Dubai and Saudi Arabia for the past 10 years because her father, back then, was a project engineer for the Burj Khalifa in Dubai. However, four years ago, she returned to Singapore and embarked on a BA(Hons) Interior Design programme at LASALLE College of the Arts. The 24 year-old has nursed a life-long dream of creating a space that could be helpful to society.

Therefore, in her final year at LASALLE, Muafah worked on designing a halfway house using Pertapis Halfway House as her model. The main aim of her project, *Inverse*, was to integrate ex-addicts back into the community through clever segmentation of spaces that allowed for various constructive activities.

She explained: "Through in-depth research, I discovered that drug addiction usually stems from psychological factors, and not the actual drug itself. Currently, many halfway houses have their own daily schedules and regulations that residents have to adhere to. In this sense, there is not much freedom for an ex-addict, who is undergoing rehabilitation, to seek a private space for himself. My concept of 'Me, Myself and I' challenges this."

In her design, the provision of private spaces will enable ex-addicts to focus more on themselves. The presence of communal areas where they can mingle, such as dining and prayer rooms, also allows them to gently ease back into society.

In a visit to Pertapis Halfway House, she found many empty spaces that could have been maximised as places for workshops where new skills could be learned. Such activities, she added, will help build the self-confidence of the residents.

"Among my biggest challenges was when I had to contact and convince management at Pertapis about the value in my project. As a woman, it was indeed difficult to gain entry into an area that was completely over-run by men. After waiting patiently though, I was given permission to carry out interviews with officers at Pertapis, as well as to explore the environment

there. I looked at the arrangement of spaces and noted which were under-utilised so that they could be reconfigured to aid the process of ex-addicts reintegrating back into society,” Muafah shared.

To Muafah, she regards society and citizens as the heartbeat of each of her design projects.

In fact, she has won Silver in the Interior Design category at the Asia Young Designer Award 2017 that was organised by Nippon Paint. Her entry, *Industrial Revolution*, envisioned an area in King George’s Avenue as a recycling workshop for young designers to collaborate, turning old objects into new. The space also doubled up as a resource library.

When asked about her win, she said, “The award is an encouragement for me to continue to reflect on social issues in each design project that I develop.”

### **A collection of poetry from a mother, a child’s painting of a flower**

When she was offered the tutelage of seasoned artist Justin Lim under the National Arts Council’s (NAC) Community Arts Mentorship Programme, Amirah Raudhah Razali was grateful as it enabled her to work with special needs children.

Amirah, 23 years-old, is a BA(Hons) Fine Arts student at LASALLE, and the youngest of three children in her family. She told Gah! that, “I have always wanted to work on such a project that directly assists those in need. I hope that the creative skills they learn can serve as a medium of therapy and communication with others.”

Social issues and life are the main thrusts of her artworks, as exemplified by her final year project which showcases a floral display and poetry written by her mother. The work functions as a dialogue between Amirah and her mother, Fayzah Osman, about death.

Amirah observed: “Not many people talk about death in their everyday conversations. Death is something that is feared or considered taboo, even among family members. However, my mother and I felt that this topic was important to discuss as it prepares us for what is inevitable because we never know when death might strike. I made this floral arrangement and sketch of her favourite flower to depict her handiwork as a wedding decorator. She, in turn, gifted me her poems as a bequest should she go first before me, and they describe what I can do to carry on in my life without her.”

Amirah treasured her mother’s arrangement of lovely words and often used them as a foundation of her art pieces.

When asked about her future plans, she hopes to create more art that can help people. This vision of being a service to society stems in large part to her father, Mr Razali Subir, 57, who is a fire fighter.

“Art is, by nature, refined. If I can touch people’s hearts and bring about a mindset change, I will be very happy. A piece of art can become a driving force for youths to approach the disabled community, while simultaneously empowering those less abled with valuable skills. Through art, we can deliver powerful messages about living life more meaningfully. In organising the programme for autistic children, some of my friends from other disciplines came to support and get more involved in community work,” said Amirah.

Image: Learning about life through art. Amirah Raudhah Razali produced an artwork that was a dialogue, between her mother and herself, about death.

### **Capturing the spirit of neighbourliness in Keat Hong**

Image: Dreaming of a friendly neighbourhood. Faleyana Zulkifli worked on a project that enabled her to get closer to her neighbours in Keat Hong.

The story of harmonious neighbours in a kampong, rich with the spirit of cooperation, often touched Nur Faleyana Zulkifli. She pondered over why such a scene was so difficult to come by in Singapore’s public housing estates. The final year BA(Hons) Design Communication student therefore decided to create a project that inculcated curiosity about one’s fellow neighbours.

This project has since enabled her family to get to know their neighbours of Keat Hong more intimately. This was accomplished by conducting interviews at common residential spaces, where neighbours they met had to fill up colourful forms that included brief details about themselves, their favourite activities and what they loved about the estate.

The 22 year-old noted: “Many of us do not know our neighbours living in the same block, much less those living in nearby blocks, even though we often bump into them at the bus-stop or when we go to the shops. By conducting this random survey, I discovered that people were reluctant to talk to one another because they were either shy or too busy with their own careers such that they did not have time to chat or do activities together.”

This petite girl, who used to be in the science stream at Jurong Junior College, has a penchant for producing work that is aimed at delving into social matters while getting members of society involved at the same time.

She was glad that her whole family was ready to help her with this project, going out of their comfort zones to chat with neighbours they never knew before. Some were so comfortable that they soon became fast friends.

Faleyana acknowledged that one of the main challenges she faced was the uncertainty on the part of the residents to answer questions because they were unsure where their responses would be channeled. However, she assured them that each photograph and response collected would be documented only for the reference of the residents and the neighbours around them.

“I used my background in scientific inquiry to conduct research in this design course. Even though I am lacking on the drawing front, I have encouraged myself to contribute back to society after receiving scholarships from groups like Mendaki. My hope, after completing my studies at LASALLE, is to be able to work in a creative design firm that prioritises the social rights of individuals,” she shared.