

PALACE

ASIA'S ELITE PROPERTY SHOWCASE

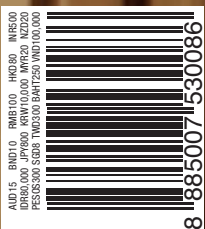
MARINA BAY SUITES
SINGAPORE

ST REGIS RESIDENCES, BANGKOK
EDEN ON THE RIVER, MELBOURNE
YOOPUNE, INDIA | SONG SAA, CAMBODIA

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INSIDE HOLLYWOOD'S
CELEBRITY HOMES

KOICHI TAKADA'S INSPIRED ARCHITECTURE
STYLISH BESPOKE FURNITURE | INTERIORS BY
MARCEL WANDERS | HONG KONG'S UPPER HOUSE





JAKARTA, INDONESIA

by Katrina Balmaceda

TANAH TEDUH

GOING AGAINST THE GRAIN WITH INSPIRATION,
SURPRISE AND AN EYE ON SUSTAINABILITY

OPPOSITE PAGE

The Light+Light house makes optimal use of sunlight and shade from trees

THIS PAGE L-R

Ironwood gives the Tree House an exotic façade

Residents can enjoy a 'floating pool' surrounded by the pond



"THE FIRST
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An upward-sloping, grass-lined path that turns out to be a roof. A forest painting that, on second glance, reveals itself to be a wall of mirrors reflecting the leaves and branches of a cottonwood tree. These are not fantastical museums or shopping mall gimmicks. These are actual houses in Tanah Teduh (Land of Calm), South Jakarta, Indonesia.

When house hunting in Jakarta, one is likely to encounter sky-high towers and clusters of homes set in a massive development designed to draw traffic with offices, dining outlets and retail shops. Tanah Teduh is the antithesis of all this. "The first thing I decided when I began working [on Tanah Teduh] was to keep as many original trees as possible, and to make an optimal use of the land contour," says principal architect Andra Matin, who had been asked by young Indonesian entrepreneur and developer Ronald Akili to head the project.

Matin chose eight of the country's respected contemporary architects and gave each a plot of land to work on. The result was 20 houses that used up only 20 per cent of the two-hectare

land, with the remaining space left for gardens, playgrounds and ponds. Of more than 70 trees standing on the site when Akili chanced upon it in 2006, only a few were cut down to make room for the road into Tanah Teduh.

And the rest? They became elements of surprise within houses. But they also played a role akin to a devil's advocate — by creating a unique challenge for each site, the trees forced the architects to get even more creative and ingenious. As Wendy Djuhara described her Split House design predicament: "Sitting on one of the smallest lots, with setback lines on three sides of the site, a sloping contour, plus five existing trees that could not be removed, the site provided enough challenge for this little house." The solution was to make the grassy sloping contour part of the house, using it as a roof for parts of the ground level rooms. An inner courtyard made space for a tree, while the upper level living, dining and kitchen areas looked out to a giant *randu* (cottonwood) tree through glass walls.

Glass is commonly used in Tanah Teduh to maximise views and allow light into rooms, thus lessening >>

Common features in Tanah Teduh houses include earth tones, wooden furniture and glass for optimal lighting

OPPOSITE PAGE

Although it is not far from the CBD, peaceful Tanah Teduh feels like a world apart from busy Jakarta





>> electric light usage during the day. Light+Light House features glass walls in both the upper and lower floors, but also takes advantage of the shade from fruit trees on the site. For Terrace House, with its second-storey living room extending out to the front deck above the ground-level carport, “the magnificent view of the pond in front is the best reward for all that effort,” says architect Zenin Adrian. But his true motive for the design was to revive the Indonesian tradition of sitting out on the terrace to people-watch and greet one’s neighbours.

The houses paid homage to Indonesian heritage not just in their designs but also in the materials used — all building materials were Indonesian-made. A dominant feature throughout Tanah Teduh is *kerawang*, perforated tiles. To build the Tree House, architect Adi Purnomo took the ‘no-cutting’ mandate further and avoided using forest timber, using instead ironwood from a knocked-down pier in Samarinda, East Kalimantan, Indonesia. Known for its durability and resistance to the elements, ironwood

also has an exotic look, which led to the decision to use it in blocks without sawing off pieces.

“The different atmospheres inside the house can be enriched through the use of such natural materials as stones, bricks, wood or even bamboo,” says Eko Prawoto, designer of the Kampong House. “With such a variety, the building will not become solid and monolithic... It is a space full of sensations, but resists being trendy.”

Trendy Tanah Teduh is not, but its makers certainly hope its concept is replicated all over Indonesia, especially Jakarta. Akili hopes that this “revolutionary neighbourhood would stand as an example of how Jakartans can use architecture and simple, effective use of natural elements like trees, sunlight, wind, land contour, and a natural drainage lake to create an environmentally friendly neighbourhood” — one that promotes Indonesia’s heritage and natural resources. It may perhaps even make a name for Jakarta as a liveable city where architecture is made beautiful by its marriage to nature. 🏰



This Garden House features inner courts and views of hibiscus trees

FACT SHEET

Name of property

Tanah Teduh

Developer Ronald Akili

City / Country Jakarta, Indonesia

Specific location Jati Padang, Pasar Minggu, South Jakarta

Number of houses 20

Principal architect Andra Matin

Other architects

Adi Purnomo, Ahmad Djuhara, Antony Liu, Eko Prawoto, Ferri Ridwan, Tan Tik Lam, Wendy Djuhara, Yori Antar, Zenin Adrian

Special features

Entrance security, playground, green park area, clubhouse, jogging track, swimming pool, barbeque area, lake

*Floor plan and rental price vary for each house.

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