News Release
For Immediate Publication

BLUWATER STUDIO & TAYLOR'S COLLEGE BAG GOLD AWARDS AT MIID REKA AWARDS 2015

MIID NIPPON PAINT REKA AWARD 2015 RECOGNISES MALAYSIA'S TOP INTERIOR DESIGNERS

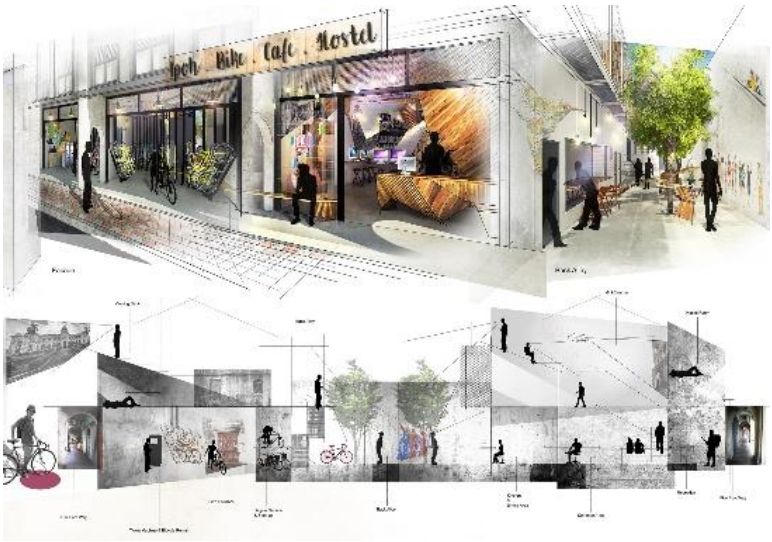
Kuala Lumpur, XX November 2015 – Malaysia's sole representative of the Interior Design profession, the Malaysian Institute of Interior Designers (MIID) together with the No. 1 coatings solution provider, Nippon Paint Malaysia Group, recently announced the winners of the MIID Nippon Paint REKA Awards 2015 ('REKA Awards').

This year's REKA Awards presented only 2 Gold Awards, from a total of 111 entries received this year. One of the Gold Awards was received by Blu Water Studio for its design of Scoop at Menara Dion under the 'Food & Beverage (Restaurant & Bars' category. Lai Siew Hong, Founder and Chief Executive Designer of Blu Water Studio said, **"I am extremely proud of the team for coming through this far. Creating purposeful designs have always been on our hearts and it is accomplishing to be able to share our passion with our peers from the interior design industry. "Scoop" truly represented our aspiration to turn an ordinary F&B to one which is elegant yet offers a refreshing concept – depicting sections of the press room with clever plays of typography and excerpts."**

Gold Award
F&B Category - Restaurant & Bars
Scoop, Menara Dion by Blu Water Studio

(L-R) Alex Yoong (Asst GM, Nippon Paint), Ar Chris Yap (President, MIID), Tan Fang Fang (Representative from Blu Water Studio) and Ar Lim Pay Chye (REKA Awards Organising Chairman)

The other Gold Award was in the Students category, won by Siau Chee Yung from Taylor's University. She conceptualised the interiors for the Ipoh Bike Café Hostel, preserving the original façade of a 1900s townhouse whilst introducing an element which seeks to enthuse travellers to discover Ipoh through cycling.



Gold Award - Student's Work
Ipoh Bike Café Hostel by Siau Chee Yung from Taylor's University

Attended by more than 800 interior designers, architects and other industry professionals, the premier interior design award was presented to winners of 14 various categories. **"The REKA Awards has established itself as platform for interior designers in Malaysia to gain their well-deserved recognition and accolades. Indeed, the journey is challenging but the immense sense of satisfaction to receive an honour of excellence among peers of the same profession is immeasurable. Indeed, great talent deserves great recognition. We hope with each REKA Awards, Malaysian interior designers will ascend the international platform of Interior Design Excellence to a higher level progressively. Once again to all the winners, congratulations for a job well done,"** commends Ar. Chris Yap Seng Chye, President of MIID.

Malaysian Institute of Interior Designers President, Ar Chris Yap S C delivering his welcoming speech at the recent MIID ANNUAL BALL AND AWARDS 2015, held on 30th October 2015 at Sime Darby Convention Center, Kuala Lumpur

Other notable winners include the Silver Awards for Macaroni at Faber Tower, KL by Room Interior Design (Food & Beverage - Restaurant & Bars category) and PDI Studio 21 Office by PDI Design & Associates (Corporate Offices category). Bronze Award winners include Toh Yuen Restaurant at Hilton PJ by Blu Water Studio (Food & Beverage - Restaurant & Bars' category), Dye & Scissors Barber Shop by Chaos Creative (Retail & Exhibition category), 23 Terrace by DRTAN LM Architect (Residential – Houses category), Chaos Hotel by Chaos Creative (Adaptive Reuse category) and Truth or Dare Bar by Leung Jia Yee of Taylor's University (Student's Work category).

[Please see accompanying Awards Booklet]

The REKA Awards judging panel comprises of four experienced professionals in their field of design – Ar. Chris Yap Seng Chye, Chief Judge and President of MIID; Ronnie Choong, immediate Past President of MIID; Gloria Soong, Head of Nippon Paint Malaysia's Colour Studio and Past President of PAM/Past President of Architecture Asia (ARCASIA), Ar. Tan Pei Ing. The entries were judged based on creativity (design concept, space planning and space utilisation) and buildability (in the creative use of materials and sustainability or environmental consideration).

"There is an overall improvement in terms of the number of entries and quality of work submitted for this year's competition. I was looking for winning entries that managed to marry uniqueness with a good, purposeful design. I was pleased to see some very outstanding submission," says competition judge Ronnie Choong. Another competition judge, Ar. Tan Pei Ing further commented, **"The usage of different materials, textures and colour combined with a high level of detailing are evident in most of the works submitted, making it harder to select the finalists and winners."**

(L-R) Alex Yoong (Asst GM, Nippon Paint), Ar Zulhemlee An (PAM President), Ar Tan Pei Ing (Immediate Past President ARCASIA), Ronnie Choong (Immediate Past President MIID), Ar Chris Yap (MIID President) and Ar Lim Pay Chye (REKA Awards Organising Chairman)

MIID Council Members at the MIID Annual Ball & Awards 2015

"Nippon Paint is honoured to be a collaborating partner in yet another prestigious instalment of the REKA Awards. Indeed, interior design plays a big role in our everyday lives. I truly applaud their talent both in the professional as well as the student categories – and I hope these recognitions will further inspire other up and coming professionals to set another new level in terms of standards and creativity. Once again, we applaud MIID's efforts and initiatives in constantly pushing the interior design industry to reach a level that's on par or as competitive as its peers in the region," said Alex Yoong, Assistant General Manager (Marketing) of Nippon Paint Malaysia Group.

The REKA Awards is an annual premier interior design awards event of Malaysia, created to further enhance and elevate the standards of interior design by acknowledging and honouring excellence in the profession. The recognition from this established platform reinforces their propitious career in the field of interior design, by further building their reputation in the Interior Design Industry in as well as outside Malaysia.

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About MIID

The Malaysian Institute of Interior Designers (MIID) or Pertubuhan Perekabentuk Dalaman Malaysia (PPDM) is the national institute representing the interior design profession in Malaysia. It is an amalgamation of two previous bodies namely, Interior Designers Institute of Malaysia (Institut Perekabentuk Dalaman Malaysia or IPDM) and the Malaysian Society of Interior Designers (MSID).

The vision of the institute is to develop a sophisticated society of Malaysians who are conversant and appreciative of the creative world of interior design. To this end, the institute conducts various programmes throughout the year to educate, promote and foster better ties between the public and professional members alike.

The activities include:

- A lecture series where leading practitioners are invited to share their ideas, experience and visions for the future.
- Exhibitions highlighting members' work and other subjects of current interest.

- Workshops, seminars and conferences to provide a platform for discourse and discussion.
- An official design magazine to showcase members' work plus the design world at large.
- Social media i.e. a website for MIID and a Facebook page.
- Developing since 1989, an education policy with academic programmes geared towards training interior designers for design excellence.
- Providing an advisory role between the Malaysian interior design profession and statutory/professional bodies e.g. Board of Architects Malaysia (Lembaga Akitek Malaysia), Fire Department (Jabatan Bomba), etc. via the Architects Act 1967 of the Laws of Malaysia (Act 117).
- Actively engaging with international and regional design bodies e.g. International Federation of Interior Architects/Designers (IFI), International Design Alliance (IDA), Asia Pacific Space Designers Alliance (APSDA), etc. to promote and develop the interior design profession.

For more information, visit www.miid.org.my

About Nippon Paint Malaysia Group

The Nippon Paint Malaysia Group ("NPM Group") is currently Malaysia's No. 1 Total Coating Solutions provider, enjoying its market leadership position since 2008. The NPM Group is part of the Nippon Paint Group, which is currently Asia's No. 1 coating manufacturer spanning 15 countries, built on a heritage of over 130 years dating back to 1881 in Japan.

Established in 1967 as Nippon Paint (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd., the company has since grown in leaps and bounds, and today, has emerged as a significant regional player within the coatings industry with presence in countries such as Pakistan, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Thailand and Indonesia.

The NPM Group places strong emphasis in Research and Development (R&D) activities, which remains a core priority to its success in product innovation. As a global leader in coating technologies with a database of more than 10,000 paint formulations, the NPM Group prides itself in being a Total Coating Solutions provider with a multi-segment portfolio of offerings ranging from Architectural, Automotive, Industrial, Protective to Marine coatings.

The Group has won consumer choice awards such as the Reader's Digest Trusted Brand Awards (2006-2015) and Putra Brand Awards (2010-2015), as well as received industry accolades such as the Best Company for Leadership in Paint Technology Asia by IAIR in 2014 and Frost & Sullivan's Paint & Coatings Company of The Year in 2011. In its concerted effort to champion sustainability towards a greener footprint, the Group has received the Green Label Certification (by the Singapore Environment Council), EcoLabelling Certification Licence (by SIRIM QAS International) and several Green Excellence Awards by Frost & Sullivan.

For more information on Nippon Paint Malaysia:
Website: www.nipponpaint.com.my
Facebook: www.facebook.com/nipponpaintblobbies
YouTube: www.youtube.com/NipponPaintMalaysia
Toll free no: 1-800-88-2663

Issued by Perspective Strategies. For media enquiries, please contact:
Tel: 03 - 7491 3138, Fax: 03 - 7733 3138

Joshua Lim, Mr
Email : joshua.lim@perspective.com.my
Mobile : 012 – 773 8433

Sam Jo Lene, Ms
Email : jolene.sam@perspective.com.my
Mobile : 016 – 4833 801

Tan May Lee, Ms
Email : maylee.tan@perspective.com.my
Mobile : 012 – 2928 611