NATURE'S CATALOG GAZEBO, TAMAN TUGU NATIONAL FOREST PARK
GARIS ARCHITECTS IN COLLABORATION WITH GADE DESIGN WORKSHOP

KUALA LUMPUR

One of the winners of the Greenovation Gazebo Design Competition, the Nature's Catalog Gazebo was constructed for the newly opened forest trail in Taman Tugu National Forest Park.

Gazebo in the Forest

The narrative of Nature's Catalog is to be sensitive to nature's pluralities yet directional, to frame moments and the metaphor surrounding the tropical setting. It is a place for trackers to rest, meditate, and extend its character as a gazebo into an observation tower amidst the tropical forest. The design also complements its surroundings. The way in which people experience the gazebo is paramount.

Engulfed within a thick foliage, the gazebo stands as a geometric analogy to provoke interactions and contemplation through the articulation of massing and planes. With the brief calling for a nine square meter gazebo, the proposal consists of three box frames that interlock vertically, creating multi-level platforms to adapt to the sloping site condition topographically. The gazebo framing configuration is expressed in a vertical manner, allowing public enjoyment of the tropical canopy view, which is otherwise inaccessible.

As the site is located deep in the tropical forest, the 'skeletal steel frame' materials of the gazebo were all hand-carried and assembled on-site to reduce any disruption to the existing landscape, ensuring that each tree and plant were carefully marked and preserved. The cantilever frame box acts as a 2.1m x 2.1m meditational cube that faces the sloping forest; for visitors to rest and also as a structural 'keystone', which ties the rest of the steel frames into a singular element.

A scissor staircase connects the lower level of the slope (secondary entrance terrace for trackers) to the middle platforms (meditation spaces) and highest level (observation deck). The upper entrance is designated as a sunken courtyard that adapts to the slope level and to cater for trackers of bigger groups. The cat ladder access to the observation deck conveys playfulness, and allow adults public enjoyment of the tropical canopy, which is otherwise inaccessible.

There are multiple platforms in this tight configuration, which accommodates different usage, such as terraces, courtyards, reading areas, a meditation cube, and an observation deck. Each of these platforms vary in height, adapting to the site topography levels. The heights in-between platforms vary, with some spaces requiring an adult to duck and approach carefully, whereas children can play freely in these spaces. With the limitation of spatial allowance, the platforms function as adaptive elements – acting as a table for reading, cantilever seating along the slope, meditation box and cat ladder as a metaphor of a treehouse in the forest. The materials of the main enclosure are perforated to ensure plants and the ecosystem beneath the structure are able to grow and turn the cube into nature's foliage over time.

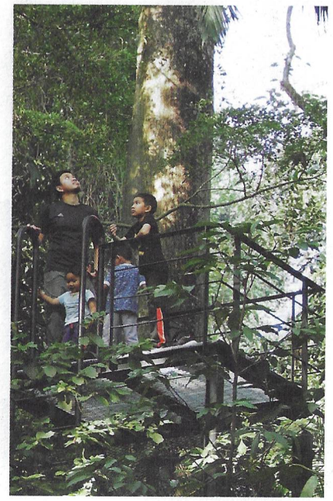
Ultimately, the gazebo is an outcome from site specificity to enable appreciation of different sceneries, geographical context and environments. Both active and passive uses are integrated into the space. The awareness of utilising the gazebo as a resting place in the forest offer a variation of perspectives and heighten the relationship between man and nature. AM

TEXT BY THE ARCHITECT

Children climbing up the treehouse

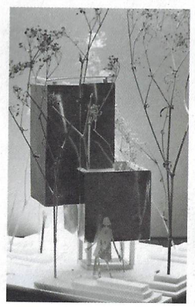
RIGHT PAGE, TOP
Letting trees and roots grow through the structure

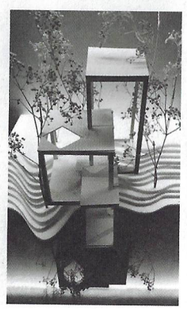
RIGHT PAGE, BOTTOM FROM LEFT **Inviting external elements into the space / Observation tower / Vertical interaction between trackers**



ABOVE **Multiple platforms for sitting and activities**

RIGHT **Model studies of the gazebo on a sloping hill, flat ground, and on a cliffside**





LOCATION
TAMAN TUGU NATIONAL FOREST PARK, KUALA LUMPUR

CLIENT
KHAZANAH NASIONAL BERHAD

PRINCIPAL USE
GAZEBO

ARCHITECT FIRM
GARIS ARCHITECTS IN COLLABORATION WITH GADE DESIGN WORKSHOP

PROJECT PRINCIPAL
AR TANG HSIAO SEAK, AR STEVEN NGU

PROJECT TEAM
ALBERT CHUA, DANIEL TIONG

DESIGN PERIOD
SEP–OCT 2017

CONSTRUCTION PERIOD
SEP 2018

DATE OF COMPLETION
SEP 2018

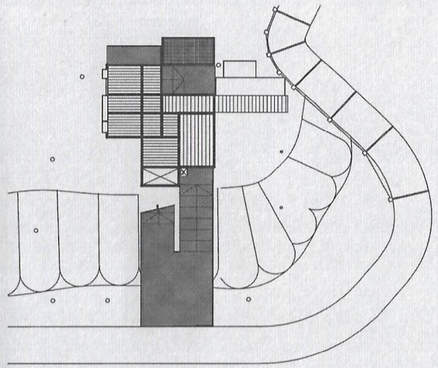
SITE AREA
15SQM

FLOOR AREA
9SQM

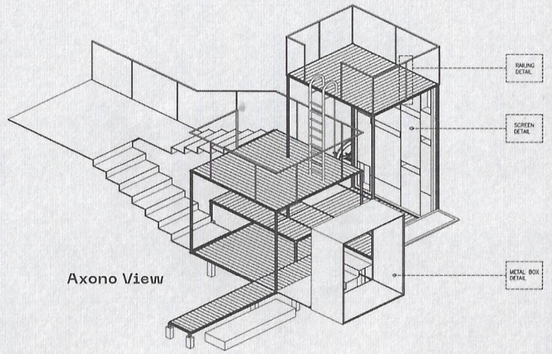
PROJECT COST
UNDISCLOSED

CONTRACTOR
FOREST HOUSE SDN BHD

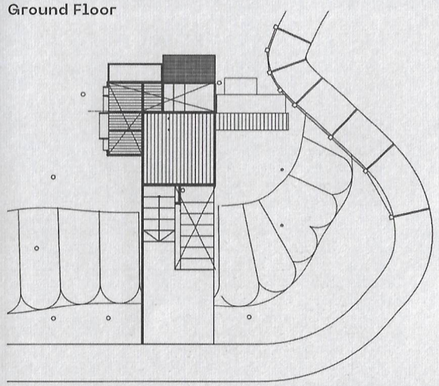
PHOTOGRAPHY
STEVEN NGU, DANIEL TIONG



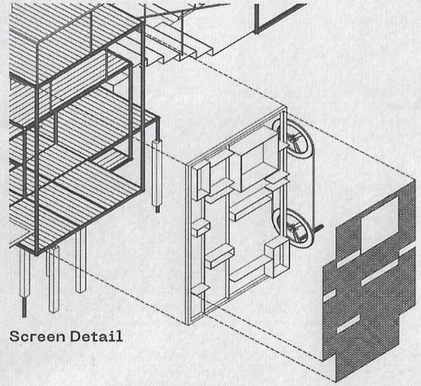
Ground Floor



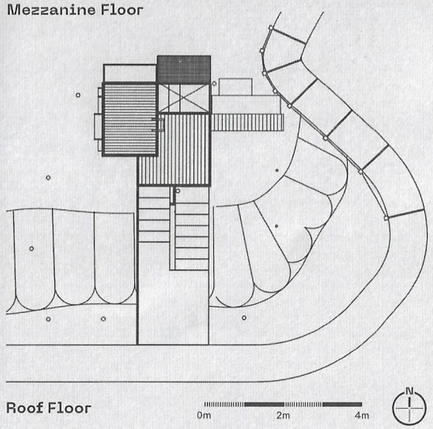
Axono View



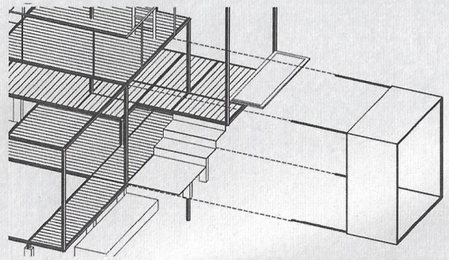
Mezzanine Floor



Screen Detail



Roof Floor



Metal Box Detail