

FORUM 1: Architect's Act

TOPIC: Interior Design Licensure

ABSTRACT: An interior designer's work is not simply beautifying an interior space; it includes a blend of art and scientific studies in order to achieve a pleasant and functional space based on the users' needs. It is a work of field which requires professional practices and training; however, a drastic quantity of unlicensed interior designers and firms can be found in the society nowadays. This can lead to doubts regarding the importance and the rights of having a license.

Is a license really a necessity for practicing interior design?



SUMMARY:

In my opinion, accreditation for practicing Interior Design is not necessary as it depends on your own commitment in practicing professionalism.

Education may have provided a more proper training for students to pave their paths into becoming a professional Interior Designer but it's with proof that working experiences are the keys that locks the clients' faith into using your Interior Designer services. Yes, I agree that there's no doubt that an unlicensed interior designer might receive misconceptions about having lower understanding about building systems security or lack of clarity in terms of applying the ergonomics, fire safety etc, which are important to be taken into account for the sake of well-being and safety of people.

The legal certification definitely serves as a uniform standard in differentiating between people who have worked tremendously to earn the legal acknowledgement and people who do not sit for the examination but it doesn't mean that every unlicensed Interior Designer should be misjudged that he/she doesn't possess the same skill sets as a licensed Interior Designer would have. It's also true that the Act 117, Clause 33 (e) exists to protect people from suffering the consequences from malpractice, impersonation or misinterpretation under Architects Rule. However, as long as the production is cross-checked properly with the necessary laws and regulations, it's alright for one who doesn't hold the title to flourish in the interior design field.

Nevertheless, having a legal license could better earn your clients' trust in your professionalism at first glance. In spite of that, I still believe that certification can be optional in this industry.

FORUM 2: UNSDG

TOPIC: United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

ABSTRACT: The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) serve as a high-level platform for collective policy creation and decision making. There are a total of 17 goals in the UNSDG and it consist of factors such as ending poverty, quality of education, economic growth, gender equality etc. These 17 goals are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all". The 2030 Agenda launched in the 2015 is aimed to end poverty and hunger, realize the human rights of all, achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women, and ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources.

Discuss its importance and how it impacts policy makers, architects & interior designers. How can you play a role?



Human Rights-Based Approach



Leave No One Behind



Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment



Alignment with int. norms and standards



Equality and non-discrimination



Active and meaningful participation



Robust accountability mechanisms

SUMMARY:

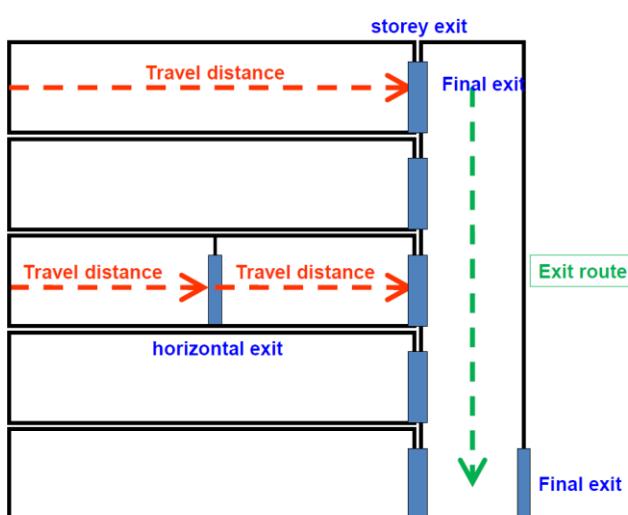
The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) has set out 17 goals whom work hand in hand with the 2030 Agenda Universal Values, which are meant to tackle world happening issues such as poverty, discrimination, economic growth, gender inequality etc. People should wake up from these false fantasies and ridiculous manipulation in singing praises for the so-called race superiority or males as domineers in various industries or fields, whether it be political, educational or economical wise for own selfish and short-sighted needs. Starting off with policy makers, equal distributions of policy human rights should take into account of fairness in protecting the whole humankind without bias in terms of races, status and such. Female leaders' feats should be sung worldwide and more women should be included in decision making phases and given bigger opportunities or prospects to take charge in areas that weren't used to accommodate for women's voices. It's definitely a false claim that only males work better on the top management compared to women so in terms of architectural or interior designer firms, fair competition are necessary for women to acquire the same treatment and benefits as a man would receive. In light of future developments of commercial/ residential and such, architects and interior designers should not only prioritise profitable projects that go into own pockets, but also take an active role in contributing back to the society by participating in government or NGO's plan in catering for the underprivileges so that we can reduce the financial/ human rights gap of the people for the better future. Also, GBI index in buildings are not to be neglected as architects/ interior designers should put an effort in designing a green, sustainable buildings to provide better environments in terms of energy, water, material or resources usage for the sake of health and environment. Everyone should try their best to adhere to the goals and visions set out in attempting to create a utopian world that is not just a baseless daydream anymore.

FORUM 3: UBBL Fire Safety

TOPIC: The extent of responsibility of a designer regarding fire safety

ABSTRACT: Ultimately, fire protection design in buildings is provided to protect users in an event of a fire or to reduce the risk of property and human-life loss. However, if the public users do not have a clear understanding of the design, or are unable to perform as designers' expectations in an emergency, will the design serve its best purpose? For instance, a public user who does not fully understand how a fire extinguisher works, or users who failed to understand instructions during an emergency. In other instances, public users who lack knowledge or do not follow the rules on fire safety, therefore resulting in great harm. How much can a designer do to ensure the safety of the public? In fact, fire safety design can only reduce risk, and it requires public cooperation to work effectively.

On one hand, strict UBBL-laws are important for designers to follow strictly, on the other hand, should public users' understanding of fire prevention and awareness to follow rules strictly need to be strengthened? Let's discuss.



SUMMARY:

Undoubtedly, designers take a huge responsibility role in ensuring that fire safety precautions are taken in placed in the designed perimeters of the buildings. Such examples include provision of compartment walls, input of fire doors, fire detection system (smoke detector, fire alarm, manual call points), fire safety evacuation route (smoke lobby, exit door, smoke control system, wet riser, dry riser, fire lift etc). All of these by-laws are significant to be complied as these are the first-handed determiners of reducing the fire hazard risks of the building itself. Designers are to shoulder the responsibility if the building fails to adhere to these regulations and therefore, putting the occupants in great danger as it impedes the evacuation to take place. However, the public should not only rely on the structures and emergency plans but having self-awareness of how to escape using the correct route, as well as, possessing the basic knowledge of using fire stopping equipment that are already in place if a fire takes place. Hence, the public should be educated wisely about the obligations that are need to be done when a fire breaks out and correct ways of using the fire equipment available. These include not being nervous and reckless by pushing others while evacuating through the fire staircase and understanding how to use the fire extinguisher and wet riser system while the fire engine is on the way so that the fire damage could be reduced and ensuring everyone's safety evacuation to the assembly points set in certain places.

PDW: 6 Seminars (Week 8)

1) Keynote: “Employability in a Post-Peak Pandemic Covid-19 World”

Date: 17.5.22 (Tues)

Time: 10am-11am

Speaker: Mr. Chen Fong Tuan, Group Head, Human Resources of Berjaya Corporation

Picture for Attendance:

Graduate Employability
Observations post-peak pandemic - my views and recommendations

Chen Fong Tuan
Group Chief People Officer, Berjaya Corporation
17 May 2022

Main drivers of graduate employability post-pandemic

- Graduates from universities are the requisite soft skills
- Organisations are not actively looking due to glutum
- Career Services are not operating as usual due to exceeding demand
- Organisations are still willing to pay at competitive levels for fresh grads
- Covid-19 in 2020 and 2021 increased overall unemployment rate by 3.7% making it more competitive for job seeker than pre-pandemic graduate
- Excess of supply does not impact pay but tightened unemployment rate by 3.7% making it more competitive for job seeker than pre-pandemic graduate
- Professionalism and activities
- Performance
- Education
- Experience
- Volunteer
- Skills
- Accomplishments
- Posts

Covid-19 has accelerated new way of working and the need to hone new skill sets

10 Must-Haves

1. Photo
2. Headline
3. Summary
4. Featured
5. Education
6. Experience
7. Volunteer
8. Skills
9. Accomplishments
10. Posts

75% of hiring managers look at LinkedIn profiles to learn about candidates

My closing advice on employability

- GET THE BASICS RIGHT
- VOLUNTEER FOR DIFFICULT PROJECTS
- COURAGE TO FAIL & NEVER GIVE UP
- ARTICULATE & COMMUNICATE WELL

Summary:

Employability means meaningful employment, not just based on the employability rate in 6 months after graduating. Graduates in the post-pandemic nowadays are lacking the requisite 'soft skills', especially communication skills and team ship. Covid-19 has prompted us to operate in a fully digital environment, developing cognitive skills, strengthening social and emotional skills and building adaptability and resilience to thrive during COVID-19 aftershocks and beyond. These skill sets can be obtained mainly from Internship, Volunteering (character development) and Extra- Curricular activities. Top talents are identified through having energy and enthusiasm, curiosity to inquire, agility to learn, inclusivity to listen, responsibility to commit and integrity. Use LinkedIn to increase employability by building our own brand and getting hired and 10 Must-Haves in LinkedIn profiles include photo, headline, summary, featured, education, experience, volunteer, skills, accomplishments and posts. In the future, wrap up the interview by asking questions which show that you have enthusiasm in the company, like "How has the pandemic affected the work culture here?" Overall, it's a very enticing speech that speaks the truth of what the employers are having in mind and it definitely helps us to be more aware of developing the skill sets that the market wants in the future.

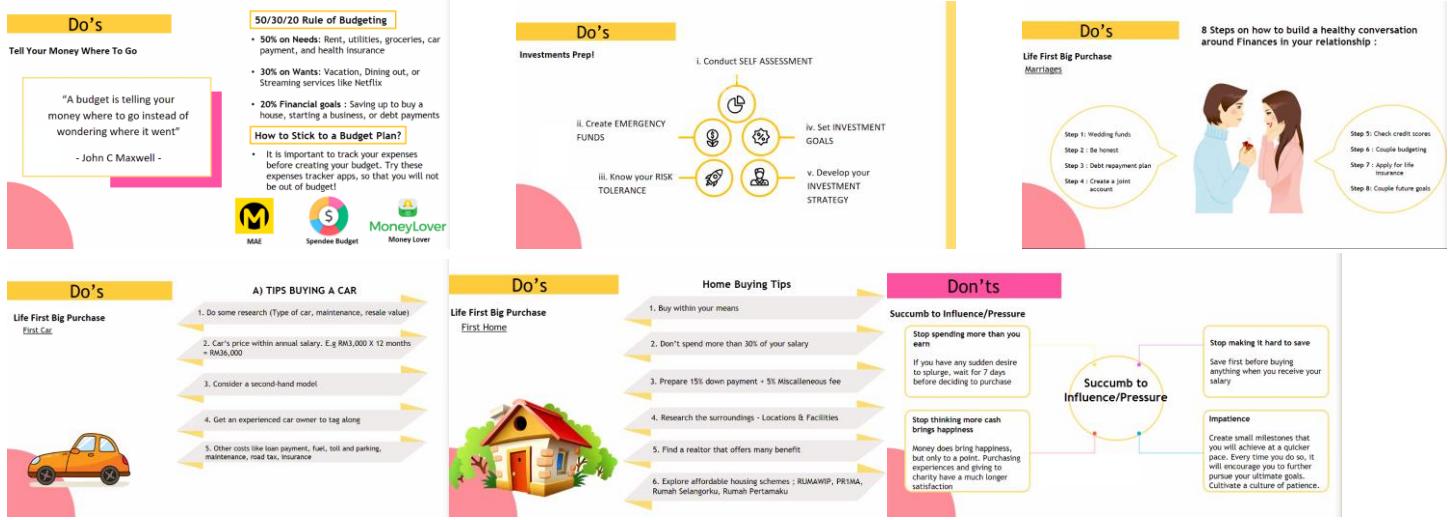
2) Maybank: "Financial Literacy for Fresh Graduates"

Date: 17.5.22 (Tues)

Time: 2pm-3pm

Speaker: En. Mohamad Fairuz Izwan Basri, Head, Youth Marketing, Mass Banking, Community Financial Services

Picture for Attendance:



Summary:

Financial Literacy is important as fresh graduates and there are 3 main points that we should do to keep our money intact. Firstly, Tell Your Money Where to Go (50% Needs- rent/utilities/groceries, 30% Wants-vacation/dining out/Netflix, 20% Financial Goals- savings to buy house), however as fresh graduates, it is more advisable to track your expenses first and then plan out detailed. Secondly, Investment Prep which includes Conduct Self-Assessment (cash flow, debts, expenses, extra money); Create Emergency Funds (6-12 months' worth of salary for singles, >12 months' worth of salary for married), Know your Risk Tolerance (Where, When, How); Develop your Investment Strategy; Set Investment Goals. Thirdly, Life First Big Purchase: Marriage (to establish honest communication and normalize money talk, personal and joint accounts); First Car (Research type/maintenance/resale value, Car's price within annual salary, Consider 2nd hand car, Get experienced car owner to tag along, Other costs (loan payment, fuel, toll & parking, maintenance, road tax, insurance)); First Home (Never spend more than 30% of salary, Prepare 15% down payment & 5% Miscellaneous fees, Research surroundings like locations & facilities, Find a Realtor that offers many benefits, Explore affordable housing schemes such as RUMAWIP, PR1MA, Rumah Selangorku, Rumah Pertamaku)

On the other hand, advices that we should also heed are as per followed: stop spending more than you earn; stop thinking more cash brings happiness, instead utilize the money to purchase experiences and contribute to charity; stop making it hard to save; control your Impatience and instead, create small milestones that are achievable and lastly. avoid unwise use of Credit Card and it's advisable to get Islamic Credit Card because it comes with no compounding fees. In conclusion, it's very helpful to know these tips on starting out our life as fresh graduates which are not taught in schools but still, very crucial information to deal with life expenses.

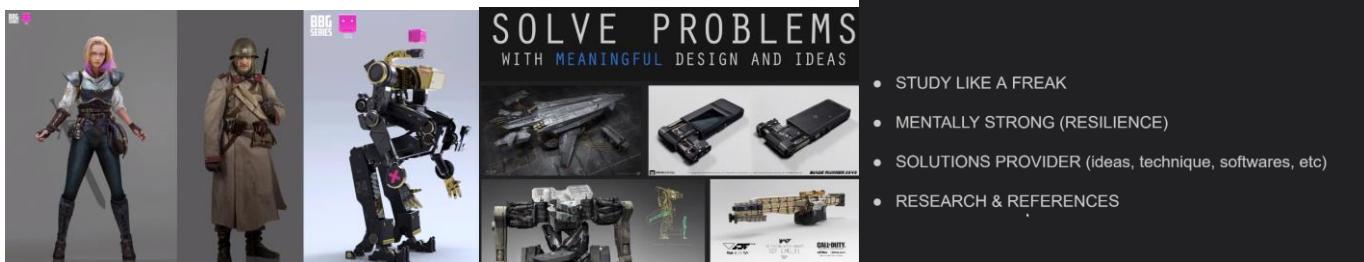
3) Passion Republic: “Working on World Class Projects in Game & Entertainment Industry”

Date: 17.5.22 (Tues)

Time: 3.30pm-4.30pm

Speaker: Mr. Lum Siew Hong, Lead Concept Artist

Picture for Attendance:



Summary:

Creating designs that make sense is important. The process is all about using lighting, color grading & storytelling to replicate and manipulate human emotions for the audience and basically starts off with Sketching, Modelling, Photorealistic rendering, Perspective angles selection, Scaling sizes, Graphics styling and polishing up the 3D models. Another clarification to make is that Storyboards include camera panning and zooming in but Story Images are still key frames of the stories. Both require in-depth research and imagination from scratch through resilience in visioning game settings such as environments in apocalypse or cult rebels. Initial phase of game creation would involve taking pictures of streets, signboards, houses, environments as reference and then making designs modular and grouping them up to throw onto the map. To sum up, it discloses a very fascinating work flow of game creation from start to finish through sleepless nights of dedication.

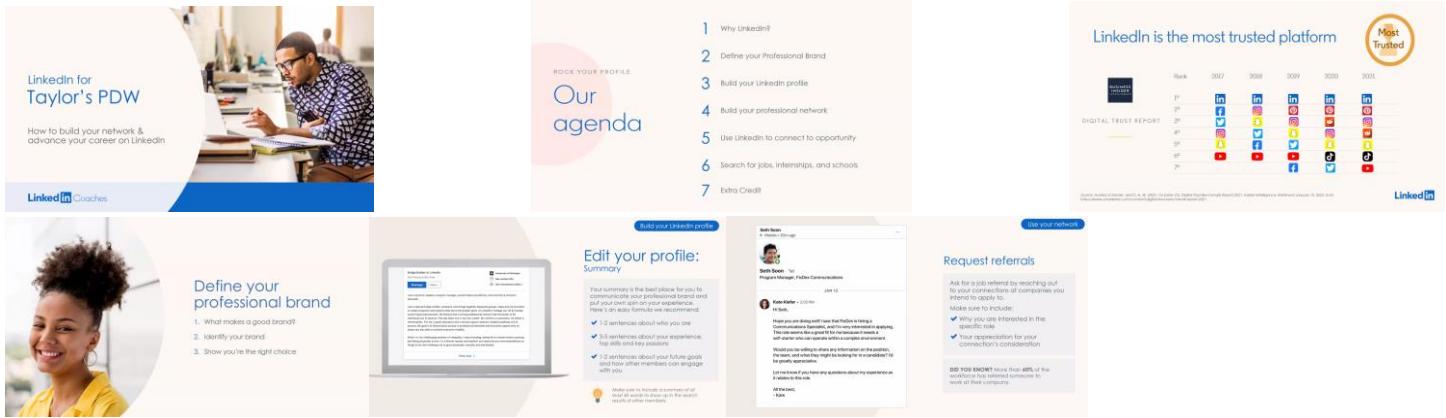
4) LinkedIn: “Best Practices & Personal Branding Strategy using LinkedIn”

Date: 18.5.22 (Wed)

Time: 10am-11am

Speaker: Ms. Aegene Ong, Account Director, Talent Solutions for Malaysia

Picture for Attendance:



Summary:

LinkedIn is a professional networking platform that is the most trusted median for job opportunities. A brand is a company's promise to its customer as it tells what products and services are offered, to make you stand out from the crowd. Your brand is your promise to those surrounding you. When applying for a job, we need to think about what our brands show in terms of skills, network and information, also including our lifelong values and goals to attract employers to consider employing you. Building your LinkedIn profile starts with setting up your account. The difference between profile and resume is that our LinkedIn profile speaks to all potential employers and goes into more detail with skills, projects, certifications etc that allow other professionals to contact you.

Next, a great profile picture has to use a non-distracting background besides dressing for the job desired, smile and have a friendly expression and make sure our face takes up a majority of the frame. Add as much information as you can in your profile, such as location & industry, education & certifications, work & internship experience, volunteer experience, skills and program or organization. Never underestimate the importance of the headline because it's the first thing that people see that represents us. Meanwhile, the summary should include a little introduction to who we are, our experience and future goals in short paragraphs.

Also, build your professional network by discovering existing connections (friends, family, current/ former colleagues and managers), searching for new connections (by name, company, location and keyword & add a little personalized note to show why you are reaching out would be good) and expanding your network strategically (think about what we have in common such as with people with a job that interests you and begin with telling who you are, how you came across their profile and how they can help you).

Why use your network on LinkedIn? To message connections, ask for informational interviews (gain advice on career path, learn more about the industry you are interested in, learn about a specific company you'd like to work for and establish a professional brand), request referrals (why you are interested in the specific role and appreciation for the connection's consideration), request recommendations (current/former managers, colleagues) and add value and engage (invest time in connections, like and share things that people in your network care about and post, join groups and exchange insights with school/ program alumni, give testimonials and recommendations to others). Show recruiters you're #Open To Work by clicking "Get Started" to add job titles, types etc. Undoubtedly, this talk has been beneficial for us to set up our LinkedIn profile professionally as our first stepping stone to get the job we desire.

5) Veritas: “Best Practices in Curating Architectural Design CV”

Date: 18.5.22 (Wed)

Time: 11.30am-12.30pm

Speaker: Mr. Alif Arif, Group Principal & Director of Veritas Design Group

Picture for Attendance:

Summary:

One common mistake that we should avoid while crafting a resume is putting too much information in one page. First page of the resume writes about your background and qualifications, the second page about our project work while the third page is about your skill sets etc. Exclude the colors to avoid distraction in the resume. Tips on how to catch the recruiter's eyes? Include a mission statement/ objective at the top of your resume with a clear flow of appropriate title & heading size and bulleted accomplishments.

The Resume Guideline is made up of 4 rules, which are: Rule 1, keep it simple as in keeping your resume only 1 page and noting down marketable skills and relevant experience for bullet points besides focusing on the past 5-10 years work and using pictures of your best projects. Rule 2, utilize the words in the Job Description Keywords based on job description and check for spelling mistakes. Rule 3, design your resume to position and be tailored to specific skills. Rule 4, focus on specific accomplishments by using specific samples such as increased sales by 45%.

There are 2 types of portfolios, which are Resume & Interview Portfolio. For Resume Portfolio, It has to be a short & simple hardcopy with main focus on our roles, unique graphic skills, nice visual composition, concise descriptions, images and enough white spaces limited up to 10MB. Most importantly, attach your resume portfolio with your sample portfolio. Meanwhile, several checklists that need to be adhered to while preparing the Interview Portfolio includes putting your Best Student Work at the Front & Second-Best Work at the End, focusing on what you did in A3 size print copies that are not limited to the number of pages. Not to mention that the Student Portfolio should be placed first and then your Work Experience.

Besides, it's essential that you should know your audience before the interview by spending a few hours learning about the company. We need to get a sense of “who” the company is and how to embody a similar personality during the interview and network with current and previous employees you can talk to. If possible, get a list of people you're about to meet before the interview to learn about the type of behavior that might intrigue or turn them off. Anticipating the interview questions is also equally important and the most common question they will ask is “Tell me about yourself”. As a matter of fact, the seminar provides us good insights on how we should prepare our portfolio which best represents our branding and hard work to be appealing to the employers.

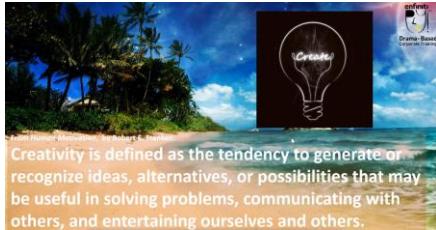
6) Enfinti: "Enhancing Your Business Acumen through Creative Arts"

Date: 18.5.22 (Wed)

Time: 2pm-3pm

Speaker: Ms.Joanna Bessey, Head of Enfinti Academy

Picture for Attendance:



WHAT HAVE THE CREATIVE ARTS TO DO WITH BUSINESS?

Business acumen:

- Having good judgement
- Ability to make quick decisions
- Ability to understand business issues

CREATIVE ARTS BASED TRAINING TO HELP BUSINESSES:

- Experiential FUN LEARNING
- Harness CREATIVITY
- Change WORK ATTITUDE
- Genuine HUMAN CONNECTION
- Increase TRUST
- Increase MORALE & YOUR BOTTOM LINE

Notes:

How creative arts help success in any business in the corporate sector. Human creativity should not be underappreciated as small businesses get to survive by changing their operating system in the pandemic through creativity. Creativity is defined as the tendency to generate or recognize ideas that may be useful in problem solving. Human traits that cannot be replaced by technology or AI is creativity as we imagine the non-existent and make them come into reality. Hence, creativity is the use of imagination to create something while imagination is the ability to form pictures in the mind. Business acumen is a key characteristic for leadership. We have to be able to possess good judgment, adaptability, agility and understanding business issues through the lens of creativity to bring out solutions with empowering charisma and emotional intelligence. Ultimately, creative arts help to develop and exercise all these skill sets and also relieve stress through harnessing creativity, changing work attitude, generating genuine human connection, elevating trust and engender experiential fun learning. In short, the seminar has been fun and insightful in identifying the importance of applying creativity in our lives despite what majors we are studying in.