

SYMPOSIUM

30 August 2019

Symposium: 3.30 pm

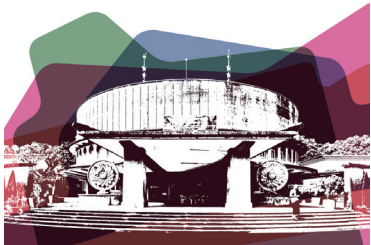
Afterwards reception: 9 pm

TAK at Aufbau Haus Berlin

encounters with southeast asian modernism



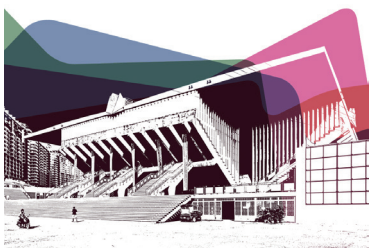
jakarta
indonesia



phnom penh
cambodia



singapore



yangon
myanmar

The year 2019 marks the 100th anniversary of the Bauhaus. During a period of radical change after the First World War, the famous German school for art and architecture provided the aesthetic and architectural program for the country's new democratic state with its agenda of social reform and cosmopolitan politics. After the Second World War, the Bauhaus and modern architectural concepts served as guiding principles for reconstruction and new beginnings. Their consequences still shape the image of cities today.

In many countries of Southeast Asia, the mid-20th century likewise marked the start of a new era as former colonies gained their independence. Young states such as Burma (today Myanmar), Indonesia, Cambodia and Singapore were faced with the task to establish themselves as new nations and defining their own postcolonial identity in an international context.

Their efforts often included the use of architecture and urban planning to express this new beginning. The architectural language of international modernism offered an open, contemporary form that reflected their expectations of progress and prosperity, while signaling their emancipation from former colonial rule. Local approaches were created that combined universal design ideas of modernism with specific cultural references and an understanding of the climatic challenges of building in the tropics; they continue to constitute urban landscapes to this day.

Encounters with Southeast Asian Modernism

sheds light on the history, significance and future of modernism in selected cities of Southeast Asia in the context of the Bauhaus centenary 2019. With partners in Jakarta, Phnom Penh, Singapore and Yangon, *Encounters* explores the impact of modernism at the crossroads between early globalisation, local conditions, and the search for an own identity, starting with the period of upheaval that accompanied the transition to independence after colonial times.

SEAM Spaces – South East Asian Modernism Spaces – in Jakarta, Phnom Penh, Yangon and Singapore form the core of the project. These are open spaces for working, for presenting ideas and collected materials, and for dialogue and discussion. A travelling exhibition brings together contributions from the four cities and serves as the framework for the SEAM Spaces.

Symposium

As a public prelude to the project *Encounters with Southeast Asian Modernism* in the Bauhaus centenary, the symposium in Berlin brings together international curators and experts to explore the history and the presence of modernism in Southeast Asia in the four selected cities.

Starting from the historical upheavals and postcolonial situations, the symposium will investigate the inter-connections between architecture, urbanism and social development in the context of independence. Furthermore, architectural concepts and their spatial adaptations will be addressed in terms of their relevance for contemporary urban society.

Each of the four locations will be examined in terms of the respective framework conditions and models of social development, raising questions such as:

- How did local modernisms emerge in Southeast Asia, what role did international discourse play in their development, and what concepts do they offer today?
- What promises can be found in the architectural concepts, what values and ideas underlie them, and what narratives are inscribed in the design?
- How do architecture and urban design that developed from modernist concepts reach beyond the local context to impact the broader, global discourse?

FURTHER DATES

SEAM Space Phnom Penh

10 – 13 October 2019

Exhibition until 3 November 2019

SEAM Space Jakarta

21 – 27 October 2019

Exhibition until 15 November 2019

SEAM Space Yangon

20 – 23 November 2019

SEAM Space Singapore

28 November – 1 December 2019

Artistic direction
Sally Below, Moritz Henning, Christian Hiller and Eduard Kögel

Project partner
stadtkultur international ev

Encounters with Southeast Asian Modernism is funded by the German Foreign Office as part of the *100 Years of Bauhaus* programme.

www.seam-encounters.net

sbca



100 years of bauhaus

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MODERATION

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VENUE

TAK at Aufbau Haus
Prinzenstraße 85 F
10969 Berlin

The symposium will be held in English.

After the symposium reception in the courtyard of the TAK.

Admission is free. Please register until 28 August.

Contact for further information and registration:
mail@seam-encounters.net