



Every year, Malaysian International Furniture Fair (MIFF) recognises creative excellence among exhibitors and emerging talents in Southeast Asia's largest and most global furniture trade show.

Yesterday, MIFF's annual awards presentation ceremony took place in a packed Gallery at MITEC (Malaysian International Trade & Exhibition Centre) where individuals and companies were honoured with awards in three categories – The Furniture Excellence Award (FEA) for most outstanding products, the Best Presentation Award (BPA) for best booth design and the highly coveted Furniture Design Competition (FDC) for new designer talents.

The prizes were presented to the winners by the chief judge of the respective category, namely Zilahi Imre (FEA), Roberta Mutti (BPA) and Dr Eric Leong (FDC).

This year's MIFF FDC challenge was to reimagine the most essential piece of furniture of all time under the theme "Chair-Volution", in celebration of innovation and design marking MIFF's 30th anniversary.

Freelancer Toh Wei Hang, 26, scooped the RM5,000 top prize for Mu-shi (wood-stone in Chinese) with his Flintstone vibe statement piece, fitting together four slabs of smooth solid wood to resemble a natural boulder seat. His concept to celebrate the idea of relaxation, resting and "to enjoy the luxury of leisure time in these busy days" won over the panel of international judges.

Coming in second for the RM3,000 prize was Sitti Mehran Yasmine of University of Malaysia Kelantan for "Kumbu Lounge Chair" while the third prize of RM2,000 was bagged by Muhammad Shafitri Aiman of UITM Mela Campus Alor Gajah for "Ura Chair", a lounge piece with storage space.

For the first time, a Special Mention award was given out. It went to a whimsical upholstered sofa "Mifor" inspired by the MIFF logo and designed by Ong Chia Yong from Southern University College.

Siti Nurul Diana Sukri of University of Malaysia Kelantan was named the Best Mentor with a RM2,000 prize, while UiTM Melaka Campus Alor Gajah was announced the Best Institution.

The MIFF FDC received strong response again with 203 entries from over 30 design institutions and private design firms. Twenty were shortlisted by the judges for the final round and their works are exhibited at MIFF.

"The judges thoroughly enjoyed themselves, we were very surprised at the designs which were very contemporary and truly a celebration of creativity. I must thank the mentors for guiding their charges, they were more confident in making their presentations before the judges," said Dr Eric Leong who headed the seven-member jury.

On the trading floor, Johann & Joann Concept lifted the Best Presentation Award for their most creative and eye-catching booth and display. In second place was Florence Bed and third, Luxury Sleep Products.

For the Furniture Excellence Award for household furniture, the Platinum Award was bagged by Infab Classics Industries, the Gold Award recipient was Sinhuiwan Furniture and Silver Award to TMH Furniture Industries Sdn Bhd.

In the office furniture category, Oasis Furniture Industries was the proud winner of the Platinum Award while the Gold Award went to Cenith Projects Technology and Silver Award to Foshan Yizhong Furniture. The Judges' Commendation Award was presented to Yun Ming Wood Industries. All the first prize winners received RM8,000 cash rebate vouchers.

In his speech, Zilahi Imre said while Malaysian furniture producers are continuously improving their production technologies, he encouraged them to take a more bold approach in adopting innovative materials, accessories and construction methods for their furniture.

"Living in our global digital village, the lifestyle models and design inspirations are more or less the same for clients living in around the globe. To achieve a higher level of functionality for the furniture, every producer must prioritise staying connected to the sources of new technologies," he said.

Roberta Mutti commended exhibitors with very interesting booths, paying attention to materials, lighting, and other details.

"They emphasise the products that are most prominent and, overall, convey a highly consistent message. In today's competitive world, a well-designed and attractive booth can make a difference," she said.

Ms Kelie Lim, General Manager of MIFF, congratulated all the winners and said MIFF has always been devoted to supporting creative excellence to inspire exhibitors to stay fresh in the design and innovation of their products. She added that MIFF FDC is also a big part of this because we are investing in the designers of tomorrow for the furniture industry.



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EXCELLENCE

JUDGES' COMME AWARD

YUN MING WOOD INDUSTRIES SDN BHD

AWARD



PLATINUM AWARD INFAB CLASSIC INDUSTRIES SDN BHD OAHU MODULAR SOFA

Office Furniture



OASIS FURNITURE INDUSTRIES SDN BHD SENNA



SINHUIWAN FURNITURE SDN BHD IRELIA SOFA SET



ZENITH PROJECTS TECHNOLOGY SDN BHD FLOW V2 WORKPOD



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GOLD AWARD

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SILVER AWARD

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JUDGES' COMMENDATION AWARD

RM 4,000 (cash rebate voucher) + Trophy + Certificate







An enlightening industry seminar entitled: **'Canadian Perspectives in Interior Design'** was held yesterday featuring a group of interior design professionals from Canada.

Presented by the Interior Designers of Canada (IDC), the seminar was moderated by Enrico Cleva, EC&CO (Italy) and he was joined by Trevor Kruse, CEO of Interior Designers of Canada (IDC), Abby Aiyeleye of Clavis Studio, Daniel Meloché of Danial Meloché Design, and Ann Squires Ferguson from Western Design+Build.

IDC's CEO Trevor Kruse gave the audience some information about the association, which has been in existence since 1972 and represents over 5,000 interior designers and manufacturers in Canada who work in all sectors of hospitality, healthcare, institutional and residential around the world. He said Canadian interior designers are proud and fortunate to be working in one of the most open, welcoming and multicultural countries in the world.



He then passed the time to the presentations by his fellow IDC members who discussed their design perspectives and their respective award-winning interior design projects from the culturally rich and diverse design landscape of Canada.

Abby Aiyeleye spoke on technology platform in interior design. Her company Clavis Studio has vast experience not only in project and product management and design, but also in generating Al and spatial computing to help create an ecosystem for the industry.

"We empower design professionals to design spaces using different types of technology, high quality regulators for client proposals and for client results," she said, adding that Clavis design spaces, render, source products and manage their business from design to marketing, all from within a platform.

The company is focused on collaborating and having an immersive experience for their clients, by having one cloud-based platform that is easily accessible anywhere in the world. She then showcased example of projects that the company created design render on cloud platform.

Meanwhile, Ann Squires Ferguson, who runs an all-women design and construction company, gave the audience an overview of what their company does - a fully integrated commercial interior design + build studio that provides solutions rooted in reality, that accommodate clients' budget and schedule constraints from the outset.



A believer in practising collaborative process, she has been mentoring her team in building a relationship with their clients first and in supporting every phase of the project and that includes immersing themselves in the industry and get to know what their client cares about.

"Unless the client trusts us and lets those ideas move into construction and actualisation, there is no future for design. So it is really about a trusting relationship with our clients," she stressed.

Daniel Meloché, whose company specialises in designing for the hospitality industry, presented to the audience an eclectic variety of interior design works of hotels and restaurants that they had designed.

As a closing remark, all of the speakers said they were impressed and inspired by the exhibitors at MIFF 2024, in particular the diversity and variety of materials that are featured in the exhibition, many which are not found back in Canada.

They were amazed by how Malaysian manufacturers are using their materials in very creative ways, by having modern takes on traditional materials such as wood. They believe that the uniqueness in these designs can inspire what Canadian designers and manufacturers can do with their own materials. They also praised how logistically prepared are the local manufacturers in shipping their products overseas.





MY FAVOURITE iNternational Design Award

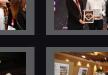
MIFF - MFID Designer Soirée

Taking place last evening at the Novel Ballroom of MITEC, the MIFF - MFID Designer Soirée was a celebration of innovation and excellence, uniting esteemed interior designers from across the globe











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KUMBU LOUNGE CHAIR By Sitti Mehran Yasmine Binti Abd. Naddin University Of Malaysia Kelantan



URA CHAIR By Muhammad Shafitri Aiman Bin Shafee UiTM Cawangan Melaka Kampus Alor Gajah



JUBILANCE CHAIR By Wong Jie Ming The One Academy



MIFOR CHAIR By Ong Chia Yong Southern University College

By Zulhilmi Bin Mokhyidin UiTM Cawangan Melaka Kampus Alor Gajah

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KERUSI BUJANG By Nabil Bin Mustafa Parti Design Awangar





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RELAXUS CHAIR By Wong Lilie Universiti Sains Malaysia



1-4 March 2024 | Hall 2 Foyer, MITEC

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