

DESIGN DECODED 2021 : ART EXHIBITION



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visual creativity*

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ISBN 978-967-2948-13-1

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Printed by

Sinaran Bros. Sdn Bhd (No. 3968-X)
Percetakan-Offset-Digital-Penjualan
5-3-18, The Promenade,
Permaisuri Mahsuri,
11950, Bayan Baru,
Pulau Pinang, Malaysia
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Abu Hanifa

Rabung Table

Rabung is the ridge of houses' roof tops. It is also known as the highest point on a roof. In Malay traditional houses' roof constructions, it plays an important role as a split point of rain, to avoid leaks and also to reduce impact from heavy rain pour. The ridge of the traditional house is supported by a kekuda or truss, a triangle design of structure under the roofs' ridges, which support the weight of the roofs and hold the ridge in place. At the peak of the triangle is where the rabung or ridge is placed.

Perahu, a Malay traditional boat, also uses this concept of rabung and kekuda. Although it uses an inverted version where the peak of the triangle structures faces the bottom of the hulls. In Malay traditional boat design, the hulls of boats are supported by the long curved wood known as keel or tulang perahu. This part plays an important role as the backbone of the boat structure and holds the hull or dinding perahu. At the front end of the keel, there is an extended wood known as kepala perahu. The kepala perahu acts as the direction point, while navigating the boat forward. Tulang perahu and kepala perahu helps the boat to split the water flow to the side, reduce impact from incoming waves and keep the boat in its path.

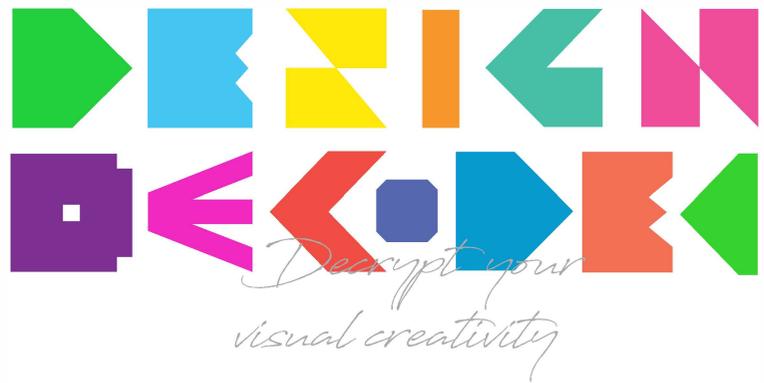
These characters of wood craftsmanship; rabung, kekuda, perahu, kepala perahu have influenced the designer to produce ideas for a conceptual table; the Rabung Table. The design mainly focuses on the influence from the craftsmanship of woodworking in traditional Malay houses and boats. Starting with the kekuda, which can be seen on the legs design and bottom structure of the table. The Kepala perahu inspired the design of the table top support. Additionally, the shape and arrangement of the wood planks on the table top represents the perahu shape and character. The designer has chosen a 1:7 scale model to represent the actual shape of the table. The designer started with a rough sketch which was then refined digitally. Then using the wood sticks as a main construction material to represent the wood planks. In this design, the designer intends to capture the distinctive looks of Malay traditional craftsmanship in woodworking that has faded into the modernism of nowadays material and technology. However, the shape and structural techniques of traditional house roofs concept are still relevant until today.



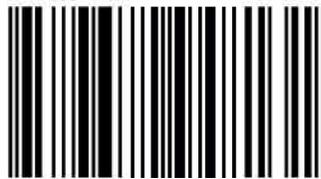
ABU HANIFA AB. HAMID
Rabung Table

Wood stick
6 x 4 x 8 inches (L x W x H)
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ISBN 978-967-2948-13-1



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