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[Home](#) / [2025](#) / [June](#) / Rimbun Dahan as Classroom: UiTM Architecture Students Engage with Legacy and Landscape

SINERGI

16/06/2025 / [RIMBUN DAHAN AS CLASSROOM](#)



KUANG, 14 APRIL 2025 – A group of 61 students from the Bachelor of Architecture (CFAP243) programme, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Puncak Alam, had the rare privilege of visiting Rimbun Dahan, the personal residence and architectural sanctuary of Professor Emeritus Ar. Hijjas Kasturi and Pn. Angela Hijjas. Organised under the AAA450 Design I course, this academic excursion was initiated through a special invitation received from Rimbun Dahan to the Studies of Architecture prior to Ar. Hijjas's formal appointment as UiTM's Professor Emeritus. The visit was curated by studio coordinator En. Ahmad Zharif Ahmad Zahir, aligning with his teaching ethos of integrating experiential, site-based learning with architectural heritage and reflection.

Located on a lush 14-acre tropical compound, Rimbun Dahan is a living archive of Malaysian architectural ideas—featuring restored Malay timber houses, contemporary concrete studios, an underground art gallery, and native landscape design. Students were welcomed by Pn. Angela Hijjas, who personally led a two-hour ecological and spatial tour of the property. She introduced students to the site's layered history, architectural transitions, and the ecological principles behind its design and maintenance.





The students were then encouraged to explore the site through open-air sketching and reflective observation. The visit culminated in a rare opportunity to engage with Professor Emeritus Ar. Hijjas Kasturi, who delivered an informal but deeply personal talk inside the

gallery space. He shared reflections on his career, philosophies on tropical modernism, and his hopes for the future generation of architects.

“I don’t just build buildings—I build experiences,” he told the students. “As designers, you must understand the life of a place before shaping its form.”

The students responded with enthusiasm, documenting their impressions through both drawings and words. Nur Humaira Binti Zainuddin reflected, “The architecture at Rimbun Dahan isn’t just seen—it’s felt. It teaches you to listen to silence, light, and space.” Another student, Muhammad Khaleel Husairi Bin Khairuddin, added, “I now understand that architecture can be soft and powerful at the same time. It was like walking through someone’s philosophy.”

Studio coordinator En. Ahmad Zharif expressed that the visit embodied the spirit of reflective studio learning: “In an academic climate often preoccupied with digital outputs and surface visuals, this visit grounded our students in the tactile, the ecological, and the ethical. It was a full-body learning experience.”

The School of Architecture intends to compile a digital publication of student sketches and reflections as part of its ongoing commitment to experiential-led pedagogy and collaborative teaching with industry figures. This initiative not only supports UiTM’s vision for integrated learning but also marks a significant gesture of knowledge exchange between generations.



Tags: [Fakulti Alam Bina \(FAB\)](#), [Rimbun Dahan](#), [UiTM Kawangan Selangor Kampus Tunkang Alam](#), [Universiti Teknologi MARA \(UiTM\)](#)



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