



Talk on the architectural history of Kuching Courthouses

Courthouses in Kuching

Speaker: Dr. John Ting, Assistant Prof of Architecture, University of Canberra



When: Tuesday 15 November, 7:30pm

Where: Chinahouse @ the Old Courthouse

free & open to the public, the talk is in English
no registration required

This talk discusses how the development of governance under all three Rajahs can be viewed through the development of their Courthouses from 1841 to 1942.

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The location of James Brooke's original court in Kuching followed Malay tradition by being located in a Malay nobleman's house, built for him by Sarawak's Bruneian governor in 1841. He began to develop the court as an institution when he established his first courthouse across the river, on the commercial side of Kuching in 1847. Three different courthouses had been constructed on this location. The third courthouse was then extended four times during the reigns of Charles and Vyner Brooke before World War II, resulting in the building we know today. Dr. Ting will explore how the Rajahs adopted and changed indigenous spatial practices as part of their diverse approaches to governing, and how the development of their courthouses reflected their governance.

The talk will be based on Dr Ting's 2012 paper "*Courts in Kuching: the Development of Settlement Patterns and Institutional Architecture in Colonial Sarawak, 1847-1927*", which can be accessed on the "Resources" pages of the SHS website.

Dr. John Ting is an Assistant Professor of Architecture at the University of Canberra. He has also taught tropical design and Southeast Asian architectural history at other Australian architectural programs. In addition to his PhD in Architectural History from the University of Melbourne, he has a degree in architecture from RMIT University and is a Registered Architect in Australia. He is currently also the consulting architectural historian on the Old Sarawak Museum Conservation project.