

ORIGINS OF THE CARPENTRY

OF THE BROOKE RAJAHS' TIMBER FORTS IN SARAWAK
26TH NOVEMBER 2023 BORNEO CULTURES MUSEUM
2PM - 4PM | SUNDAY GRD FLOOR, FUNCTION HALL

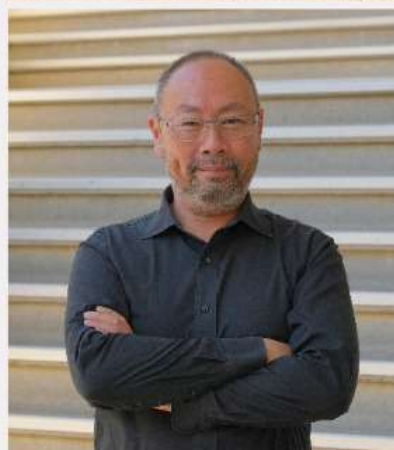
The timber frames of Sarawak's forts in the second half of the nineteenth century were prefabricated before being shipped out to remote locations and erected there. Vernacular approaches are evident in the roof framing as their intermediate roof beams suggest the involvement of Malay carpenters. The wall framing uses crossed top plates and scarf joints, common in colonial-period timber buildings constructed by ethnic-Chinese carpenters in Southeast Asia. These joinery details can also be seen in Australia – flat-packed 'Singapore Cottages' were originally imported from Singapore during the 1850s to address Melbourne's housing shortages. It has been suggested that it is a Chinese tradition due to Chinese carpenters being used to erect the Cottages and forts. However, the Cottages and forts' details and construction contrast with Chinese carpentry, suggesting complex origins. This presentation is informed by new research that expands the forts and Cottages' carpenters and carpentry origins.



Fort Alice in Sri Aman Photographed by Dr. John Ting

Registration Link:

<https://forms.gle/zhZPmZGG4qCo1Gv46>



Speaker:

DR. JOHN TING

Dr. John Ting is an architect, researcher and educator at the University of Canberra, Australia. He is also a registered architect, delivering modern, environmentally responsive and adaptive residential and heritage projects in Australia and Malaysia. He researches Sarawak's architectural and construction history and prefabricated timber buildings in nineteenth century colonial Southeast Asia and Australia.

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