



ADELA ASKANDAR (L) and FARAH AZIZAN

STUDIO BIKIN: DESIGN BY OPPOSITES

Interview by Ali Imran K.

If there is one case of opposites attract, none could be exemplified better than the double minds behind Studio Bikin. Together, Farah Azizan and Adela Askandar have been responsible for many commercial and residential projects about town, two of which are 'Hit & Mrs' as well as the 'Tenggiri House'. Farah, whose design aesthetic is to 'pit a bit of wilderness against precision', says that she could never work with someone like her as they would literally drive each other mad.

"There are certain things that I can't do, that Farah is very good at and there are things that she can't do, that I am able. So in that way, we complement each other and we understand our limitations" says the other half of the duo, Adela Askandar. Having launched Kedai Bikin in the Art Row of Publika, a shop which features a range of loose furniture, light fittings and accessories, Studio Bikin has added much colour to the contemporary design scene of Kuala Lumpur.

WHAT ARE YOUR DESIGN AESTHETICS?

FARAH: Personally, raw and sparse with the odd bit of gold thrown in for a touch of unprecedented luxury.

ADELA: I love to pit a bit of wilderness against precision, until I get the

right balance. So imagine the two combined, it's a play of our personal tastes.

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU ABSOLUTELY WOULD NOT DESIGN?

FARAH: A kettle or a 50,000 sq ft bungalow would be unnecessary

ADELA: Anything dishonest: fake rocks or trees, Corinthian columns on condos, Arabic domes on tropical houses.

COMPLETE THIS SENTENCE: "DESIGN SHOULD BE..."

FARAH AND ADELA: ... less elitist and more socially engaging, by getting down to the ground level and getting your hands dirty, experiment with trial and error.

PROUDEST MOMENT(S) WITH STUDIO BIKIN?

FARAH AND ADELA: When we launched our little Kedai Bikin at the Art Row in Publika to showcase our line of bespoke furniture. We were proud to feature our line of Malaysian designed, Malaysian made goods, which we worked together with artisans and craftsmen who were proud of their heritage and handiwork, and also serve as a platform to our other designer friends to launch their own products.