

PRESS RELEASE



The “Dipl.-Ing. Arsitek: German-trained Indonesian Architects from the 1960s” Project Launches Book



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On Wednesday, 1 February 2023, twenty days after the exhibition, “Dipl.-Ing. Arsitek: German-trained Indonesian Architects from the 1960s”, a book carrying the same title was launched at the GoetheHaus Jakarta.

Jointly curated by a German-Indonesian team, the project illuminated the lives and work of Indonesians who studied in Germany and graduated in the 1960s with the degree of *Diplom-Ingenieur* (Dipl.-Ing.) in architecture. After graduation, many of the newly trained architects returned home and became protagonists of modern Indonesian architecture. Some of them, however, remained in Europe, settling in Germany, Switzerland, or the Netherlands.

At the GoetheHaus Jakarta, the German and Indonesian curators of the project, Avianti Armand, Moritz Henning, Sally Below, and Setiadi Sopandi, provided insights into the research on which the project and the exhibition were based and presented the now published book on the subject.

The book provides multi-faceted insights into this little-known aspect of German-Indonesian relations. In-depth portraits are given of the architects Bianpoen, Han Awal, Herianto Sulindro, Jan Beng Oei, Mustafa Pamuntjak, Soejoedi Wirjoatmodjo, Suwondo Bismo Sutedjo and Yusuf Bilyarta Mangunwijaya. In this launch, representatives of the architects' families attended and received the book symbolically.

“In addition to documenting selected exhibition contents, the book provides more detailed information on architectural development in Germany in the post-war period and in Indonesia after the attainment of independence. The environment of the students at the German universities and biographical aspects are presented in depth. The book is rounded off with texts and lectures by some of the architects covered, which provide an insight into the architectural discussions in Indonesia in the 1960s and 70s,” said Moritz Henning, one of the editors.

Many of the cited plans and documents come from the architects' personal archives. Fifteen exemplary buildings, such as the former CONEFO building, the Faculty of Literature at the University of Indonesia in Depok, or the Holy Cross Catholic Church of Cilincing Parish in Jakarta, are documented in their current context in new photographs produced for this project, highlighting their unique characteristics and qualities.

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The book is expected to be available in spring 2023 and can be ordered via the publisher's website:
www.dom-publishers.com/collections/grundlagen/products/dipl-ing-arsitek.

“Architecture and urban planning shape our quality of life and have a direct impact on our perception of culture and nation. The fact that through the encounter depicted here, protagonists of the *Neues Bauen* such as Hans Scharoun have left their mark on the cityscape of Jakarta shows the close interweaving of our cultures. Remembering and processing this knowledge emphasizes our mutual cultural affinity and remains a task for the present and the future,” said Dr. Ingo Schöningh, Head of Cultural Programs at Goethe-Institut Indonesien.

Previously, the exhibition was held from 12 December 2022 to 12 January 2023 at Taman Ismail Marzuki, Jakarta. The exhibition showcased historical documents and previously untapped archival materials that allowed for an intensive examination of the work of these architects against the backdrop of the architects training in Europe, particularly from Germany.

“Dipl.-Ing. Arsitek: German-trained Indonesian architects from the 1960s” is funded by the German Federal Foreign Office on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Indonesia in 2022.

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