



A Tribute to
Architect Gabriel P. Formoso

Fellow, UAP

As The Recipient of the

LIKHA AWARD

and

GOLD MEDAL

Conferred by the
United Architects of the Philippines

October 20, 1990

UNITED ARCHITECTS OF THE PHILIPPINES
To All Who Shall See These Presents

GREETINGS

Know Ye, that

ARCHITECT GABRIEL P. FORMOSO
Fellow, United Architects of the Philippines

For his strict adherence to the principles of the Architect's Code of Ethics, standing out as a man of highest singular integrity and honesty for which he has been known in the industry, with sheer determination and inspiration this principle has been handed down to his architect-associates and partners who had worked with him and are now independently practicing the same principles in their own right, for his professional engagements that are marked with grave social and civic responsibility towards the public it serves, his relationship with the client was always in good faith, safeguarding the interest of both the owners and contractors, treating the building materials suppliers as source of technical aid rather than being imbued with vested interest, and inspiring the loyalty of his colleagues and subordinates through his exceptional and unselfish professional behaviour;

His monuments which are a product and testaments to his genius since he started his professional career in 1939 continuing up to the present time, speak eloquently for themselves, his distinct preference for masculine-looking rubble walls and bold-lined fascias treated in his own inimitable way reflecting a unique style for fine suburban homes in the early fifties — such features were largely to identify his other works, thus these edifices that are offsprings of his imagination and which now constitute our pride in architectural symmetry, elegance and beauty are a tribute to his artistry and architectural ability which undoubtedly has earned admiration and respect from various sectors of society;

His behind-the-scene contributions and deep concern for the advancement of the architectural profession as well as his support to the United Architects of the Philippines has earned him the trust and confidence of his colleagues, placing in his hands the Chairmanship of the Kanlungan Foundation for Architects, his being adjudged as the Architect of the Year by the Professional Regulation Commission on Arts and Culture, are some of the recognition bestowed upon him;

His humble gesture in conceiving and founding the Architectural Center Club, Inc., and successfully pursuing it to realization with continued, untinted and unselfish support of its interest through generous contribution of facilities and services, and his vision to bring about a forum in fostering closer ties among the design and building professions and the industry;

His indefatigable efforts and unwavering commitment to serve his community, untiring support in building the Simbahan ng Ina ng Buhay, Damong Maliit, Novaliches as a gift of the community to the Blessed Mother on her 2,000th Birth Anniversary and as a gift to the People of Novaliches, for his benevolent assistance in the construction of Sta. Rita Formation Center, Sta. Rita de Casia Parish, Gingoog City, and for his magnanimous help towards endowing a Professorial Chair in the Humanities in honor of Rev. James F. Donelan, S.J. at the Ateneo de Manila University, thus his enduring contribution to the cause of Christian formation of the Filipino and the development of the country;

and for all these distinguished achievements worthy of emulation and deserving the most exalted recognition, and upon recommendation of the UAP Committee on Awards, the UAP National Board of Directors;

unanimously approved, the bestowal of the highest distinction upon a Fellow of the United Architects of the Philippines in accordance with the UAP By-Laws, the

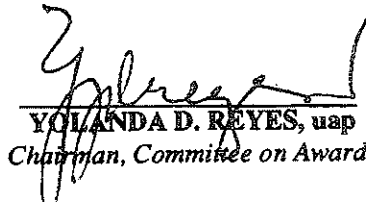
LIKHA AWARD and GOLD MEDAL

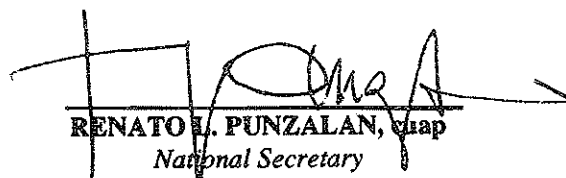
this twentieth day of October in the Year of Our Lord, nineteen hundred and ninety and that of the UAP, the sixteenth.

In witness whereof, are hereunto affixed the Seal of the UAP, the signatures of the National President of the United Architects of the Philippines, Chancellor of the College of Fellows, Chairman of the Committee on Awards, and attested by the National Secretary.


RICHETO C. ALCORIDO, fuap
National President


FROILAN L. HONG, fuap
Chancellor, College of Fellows


YOLANDA D. REYES, uap
Chairman, Committee on Awards


RENATO L. PUNZALAN, fuap
National Secretary



UAP BY-LAWS, ART III – SECTION 5

Likha Award. The highest distinction that may be bestowed by the National Board upon a Fellow of the United Architects of the Philippines is the Likha Award. This award shall be given as a recognition of his having achieved the highest standards of ethical conduct and excellence in the practice and service of the architectural profession and for his distinguished contribution and service to the UAP organization and to his community, his government and country.

BIOGRAPHY

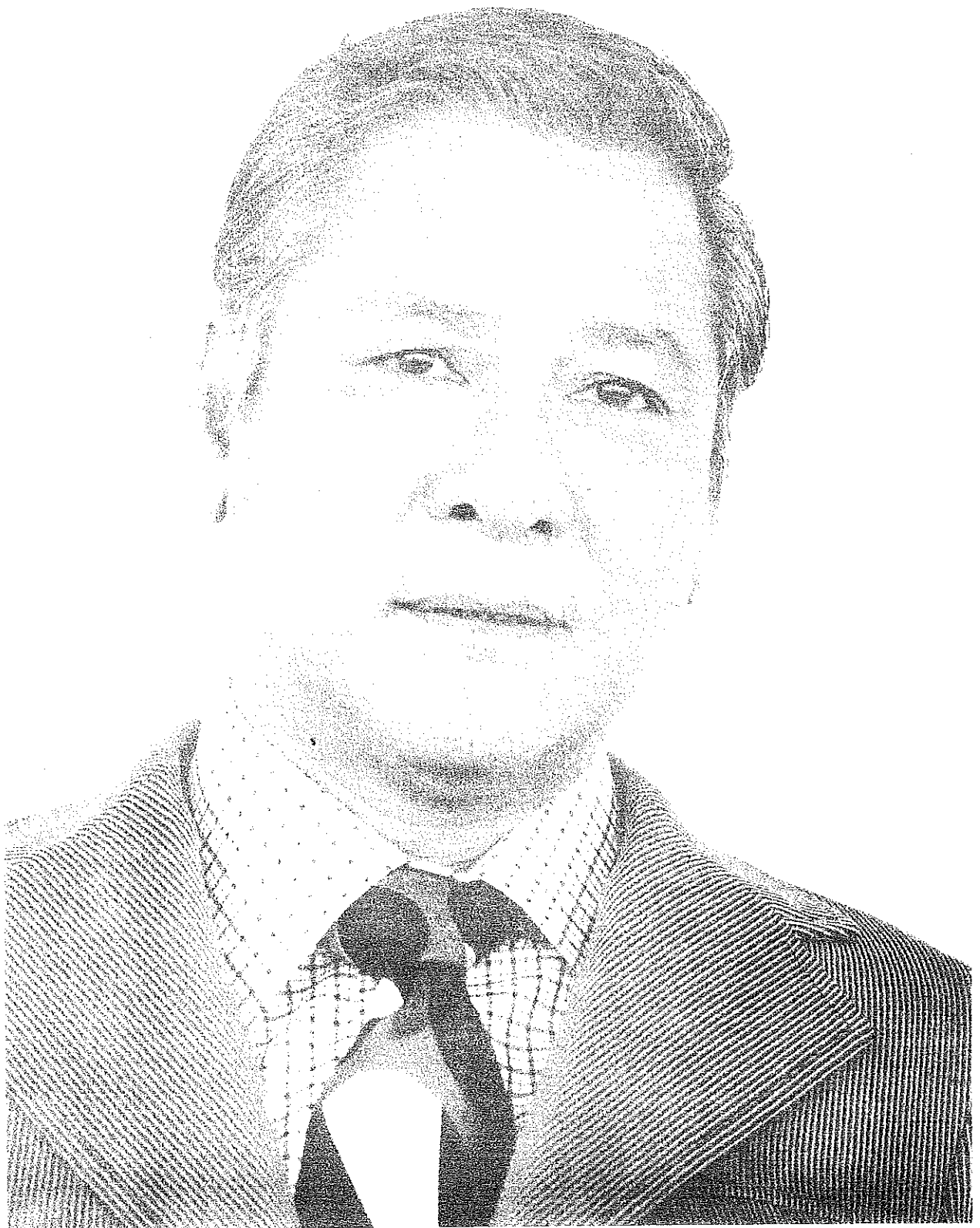
ARCHITECT GABRIEL P. FORMOSO – Fellow, UAP Third UAP LIKHA AWARDEE

Architect Gabriel P. Formoso was born in Manila on April 9, 1915. His early elementary education were spent in his hometown in Ilagan, Isabela and later in the Ateneo de Manila where he finished high school. Arch. Formoso graduated from the University of Sto. Tomas with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Architecture in 1937 and became a full-pledged Architect in 1939 with registration no. 99.

Arch. Formoso's work experience include an apprenticeship with the office of Architect Andres Luna De San Pedro and with the office of Architect Pablo Antonio Sr., where he has accumulated a wealth of diversified experience—a vital asset in the government examination for Architects. A partnership with Architect Luis Araneta signalled the start of his professional career before finally initiating his own private practice. He is presently Managing Partner of the firm GF & Partners, a duly registered architectural partnership.

In his desire to broaden his knowledge and skills in new trends in building construction, Arch. Formoso has undertaken extensive travel and world observation tours in Europe, U.S.A. and Southeast Asia from 1952 up to 1988. Some of these travels were undertaken in conjunction with his clients—the Central Bank of the Philippines and the Development Bank of the Philippines for observation study on banks and terminal markets respectively, complemented with business trips for foreign commissions.

The designs of Formoso are highly acknowledged to be among the finest architecture created over forty years of his active professional practice. The Central Bank of the Philippines Office Building Complex in Manila Bay smites the eye and the spirit with its interplay of institutional and individual forces. The Central Bank of the Philippines Security Printing Plant, Mint and Gold Refinery Complex is an imposing land mark in Quezon City. The Food Terminal Market Building Complex compliments function and form. The trio of hotels, the Nikko Manila Garden, the Manila Peninsula and the Regent, represent a world of ideas translated into a world of feeling. The Valley Golf & Country Club in the green foothills of Antipolo, the Alabang Golf and Country Club, the Development Academy of the Philippines on the foggy ridge of Tagaytay speak—loud and clear—of internal and external logic, of substance transmitted into forms. The Bank of America—Lepanto Office Building, the Pacific Star Office Building, both in Makati, and the Philippine National Bank Main Office Building in the reclamation area, are a delightful fusion of structure into atmosphere. The many handsome residences he has designed are, in fact, some of the brightest moments on the Philippine landscape where Formoso is a household word.



His outstanding works have gained for him, professional citations, notable of which is his being cited by two first ladies, Mrs. Eva Macapagal for his meritorious services rendered to the National Parks Development Committee and Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos for the Nayong Pilipino Project. An Award from Vice-President and Secretary of Foreign Affairs Emmanuel Pelaez for his invaluable services as over-all architectural consultant of the Department of Foreign Affairs, outstanding professional accomplishments in architecture and the allied arts given by the Philippine Arts and Architecture, Award of recognition for having pioneered in the field of architectural profession in the Philippines as one of the first 100 registered architects, and a special citation from the late Gen. Carlos P. Romulo for his outstanding works.

Among the notable awards he has received are the "Outstanding Architect of the Year" award in 1979 from the Professional Regulation Commission, the "Patnubay Ng Kalinangan" award in Architecture for 1977 from the Commission on Arts and Culture, "The Most Outstanding Alumnus for Architecture" award in 1974 from his alma mater – the University of Sto. Tomas, and an "Honorary Life-Time Individual Membership" in the Architectural Center Club, Inc.

Through his quiet support and personal commitment to the accredited professional organization for architects – the United Architects of the Philippines, he has unselfishly contributed to the upliftment of the profession. He was Founding Chairman of the Kanlungan Architectural Foundation of the Philippines – organized by a group of UAP Fellows. He also founded the Architectural Center Club, Inc. creating a forum for the allied professions as well as the building construction industry. Arch. Formoso also did his share in the recognition of the UAP as a National Section of the Union Internationale des Architectes.

Arch. Formoso has made significant contribution and distinguished service to several civic/community based organization, among them are: the Sta. Rita de Casia Parish, Ina ng Buhay Parish, the Philippine Tuberculosis Society, Inc., the Manila Jaycee Senate, the Ateneo de Manila University, the UST Atelier Alumni Association, and the UST Alumni Association.

Arch. Formoso is happily married to Celia Araullo, a former beauty queen from Manila, and they had four children. After 52 years of married life, they are now blessed with thirteen grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

My Architectural Philosophy

BY: GABRIEL P. FORMOSO, fuap
UAP LIKHA AWARDEE

This is the first time I have put into words what architecture means to me. I have been content to let my works speak for themselves. For they stand, easily legible, against the horizon, forming a kind of sierra skyline, a personal signature. What is it that they say? What do they reveal about the architect whose signature they are.

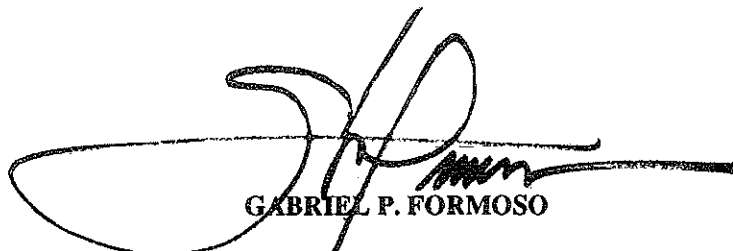
I would hope they say three things.

First, that architecture is, first of all, and above all else a fine art, and, like all the fine arts, it is essentially linked to beauty. It is the function of all art to communicate a significant human experience, an insight into life, by aesthetic means, through the beauty of its material medium, color, stone, marble. When a building achieves this, whether it is a nipa hut or a towering skyscraper, it is architecture.

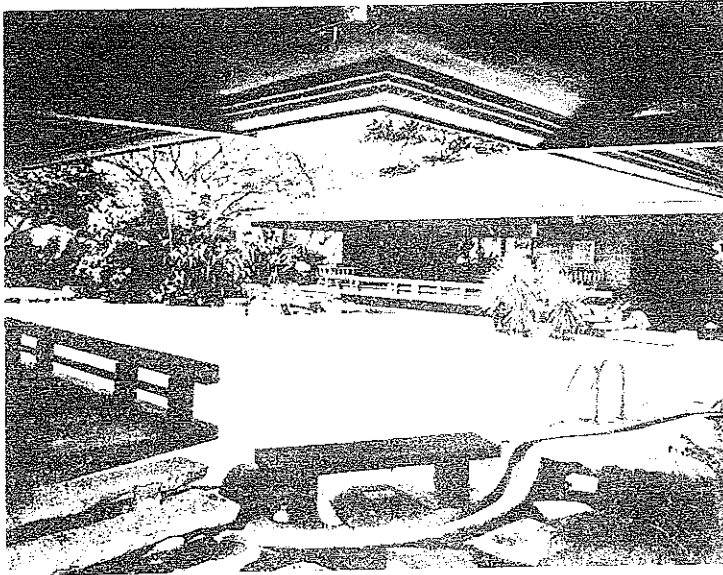
Secondly, I hope that my works reveal the social nature of architecture. No other art form is as closely interwoven with society as architecture. They are inseparable. One can, if he or she so chooses, refuse to look at a painting or a sculpture, to listen to a symphony, or watch a ballet, or even read good literature. But man cannot avoid looking at a building. Because of this close relationship between architecture and society, the architect has a responsibility no other artist has.

He cannot treat a building as if it was an aesthetic abstraction, a self-sufficient entity, but rather as one element in a complex civic or landscape design. No building exists in a void. It functions as part of a greater whole and can be seen and felt only through dynamic participation in the whole.

Thirdly, I hope that society would find my work characterized by a certain simplicity. The critics write about the masculinity of my buildings, their logic, their intellectual and creative integrity. All these qualities flow from the original simplicity of the artistic idea and ideal which I have tried to translate into stone and steel, wood and glass. It has been the goal of my life to achieve this simplicity in all the buildings I create.



GABRIEL P. FORMOSO



THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE

This house exemplifies my concept of tropical architecture for a residence. It was originally designed for the family of Primo Santos and is now the US Ambassador's Residence.

It is an informal, sprawling layout on 6,000 s.m. of land along McKinley Road. Very wide media aguas protect the house from the heat of the sun and from strong rains.

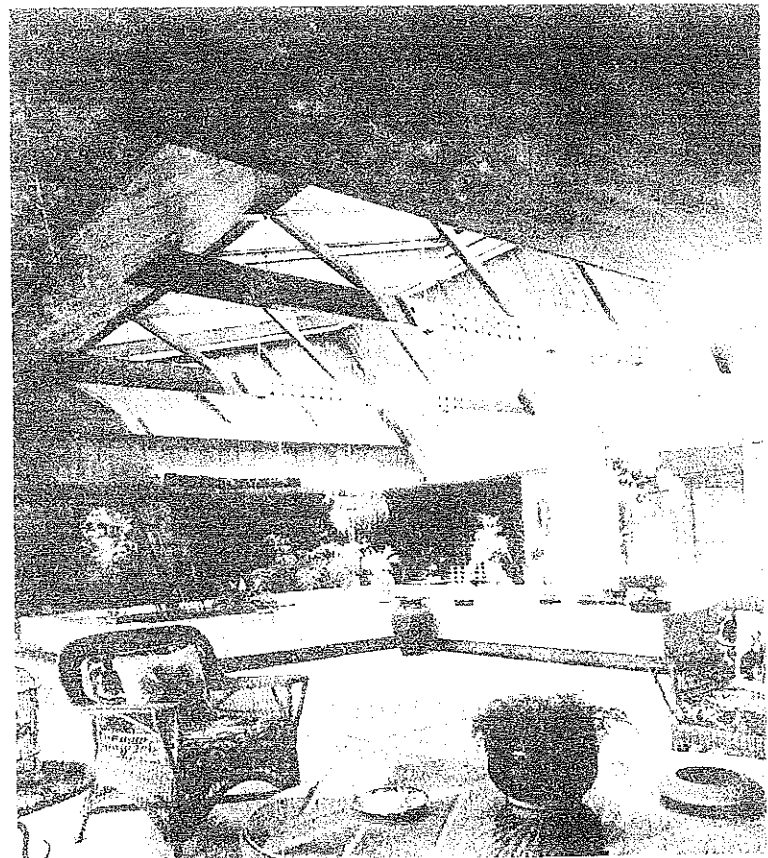
Landscaped garden courts, lush with greenery, weave in and out of the living, dining, lanai and other areas of the house.

I have always liked the use of rough adobe blocks for the residences I have designed, and even in some of my buildings, Adobe gives a show of strength and texture and lives the walls almost maintenance-free.

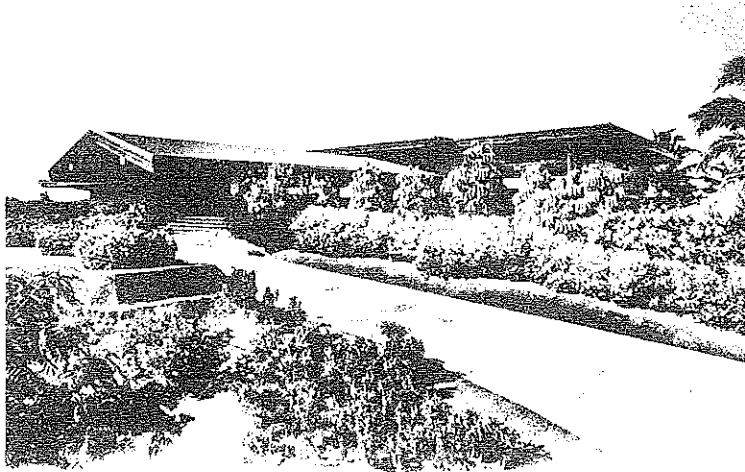
I used adobe extensively on the walls of the Eugenio Lopez residence together with large piedra china granite blocks for the floor.

As in all houses I have designed, I study my clients' needs and then come up with a plan that would suit his individual lifestyle.

In this house, I have endeavored to bring a pleasant continuity of the gardens into the living spaces.



EUGENIO LOPEZ RESIDENCE



MR. & MRS. ANTONIO MARTEL RESIDENCE

Situated on the foothills of Antipolo, what to me is one of my distinct works where I found much joy and fulfillment as an architect, is the Valley Golf Club.

I won the commission to design the project in a design competition.

The plan is a unique structural form, a golf ball resting on a tee.

The curve of the veranda with an encompassing view of the fairways forms the shape of the golf ball, and the clubhouse proper is the tee.

Source of water is a huge water tank also built along the same design theme.



THE VALLEY GOLF CLUB

This house exudes a tropical, Polynesian feel. The style is very casual and open.

Working together very closely from the onset of the project, it shows in its fine details and flowing landscape the coordinated efforts of the architect, the interior designer (Wili Fernandez) and the landscape architect (Chitong Santos) successfully meeting the client's needs.

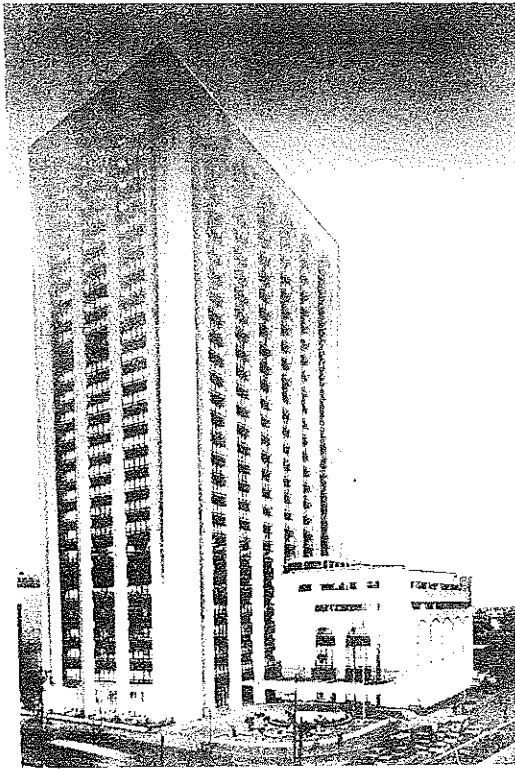


DONA NARCISA DE LEON BUILDING

Even in buildings, I find it of definite importance to provide media aguas to protect the building from the strong tropical sun and rain.

In the Dona Narcisa Building on Paseo de Roxas, the strong horizontal lines of the media aguas helped create a balance against the vertical massing of the abode wall.

The coconut trees put in the landscape by Chitong Santos keeps the tropical ambience and softens the setting for the building.



PACIFIC STAR BUILDING

My client, President Hammer de Roburt of Nauru intimated to me his desire to have the tallest building with a distinct architectural motif.

That gave impetus for me to design a 28-storey high rise complemented by a 5-storey low rise structure on the corner of Makati Avenue and Gil J. Puyat Avenue Extension. By setting the major building back on its allotted site, a landscaped plaza with a fountain as its focal point was created. Now, both buildings and passersby gain from what has become a precious urban luxury - open space.

The tall white arches visually magnify the height of the building and focuses on the Pacific Star emblem on its crown.

To project an Asian regional appearance was a design criterion which I endeavored to satisfy. It was to possess an Asian or Philippine theme.

The solution came in the form of the *molave* bandejas, an idea borrowed from the Filipino ancestral houses of the Spanish Era.

The planning of the case room facilities for graduate studies, the students residence, library, administration, chapel, and cafeteria revolves about a central garden court, designed by landscape architect Chitong Santos.



ASIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT



CENTRAL BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
Roxas Boulevard, Manila

Time was of the essence when I designed the building complex for the Central Bank of the Philippines under Governor Licaros.

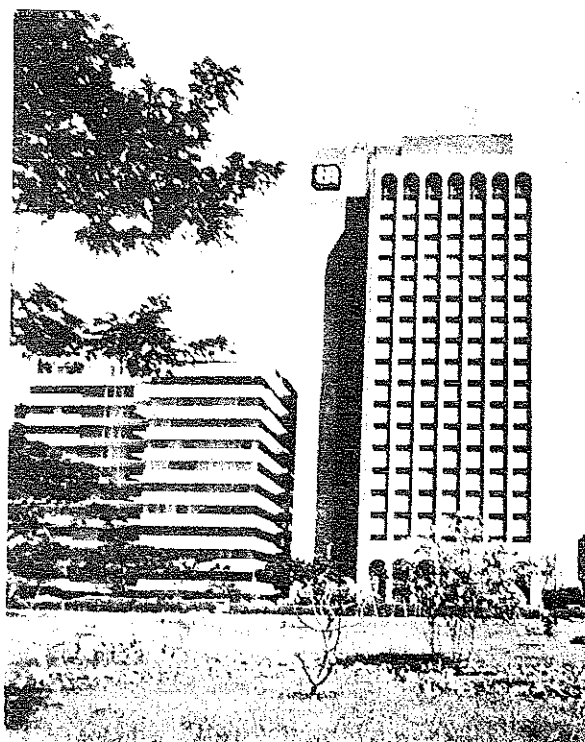
The old Central Bank Building in Intramuros was damaged by a strong earthquake and the huge banking complex needed a new building immediately.

I had to design a very straightforward and functional building in the shortest possible time. No effort was spared to meet the deadline.

Rising beside the Dona Narcisa Building, the 18 storey structure was designed for three clients - Bank of America, Lepanto Consolidated Mines and P.L. Lim.

In this building, we endeavored to rid the interiors of columns to allow maximum flexibility for office space planning.

The facade carries a series of tall arches with adobe clad walls on both sides.



BA-LEPANTO BUILDING



NEPTUNE ORIENT LINES BUILDING (SINGAPORE)

This building was planned and designed for a shipping company. Our firm did the preliminary concepts and the rest was completed by Architects 61 of Singapore.

It illustrates the Filipino architectural contribution to the Singapore skyline along Alexandria Road.

It is an eye-catching landmark because of its maritime motif. The building rises from the ground like the proud mast of a sailing ship.



UNITED ARCHITECTS OF THE PHILIPPINES

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