



The entrance door is intricately carved



Lobby area



Khat painting/exhibition area

# WORK OF ART

The Restu Foundation in Selangor is a renowned Islamic Arts centre.

Many people will tell you that Islam is a unique religion. Its teachings have attracted billions of people in the last 1,400 years. Muslims gave Islam another type of uniqueness when they established Islamic Arts, one of the most amazing fields of arts in the history of the world. The style of Islamic arts is distinguished by the novelty and amazing quality of techniques used in the making of different artistic works.

“Realizing the importance of Islamic Arts and the need to preserve it, the Restu Foundation was established. Restu Foundation also seeks to revive Islamic arts in South East Asia and other parts of the world, to educate people about such art and to spread its techniques to the entire world,” chairman of Restu Foundation, Dato’ Abdul Latiff Mirasa says.

The Restu Foundation was established in 1988 as a non-profit organization under Companies Act 1965. It aims to spread the message of Islam throughout the world, to strengthen the faith of Muslims and revive the field of Islamic arts.

In 1994, Restu Foundation made history in Malaysia by being the first foundation in the country to develop and copy an al-Qur’an manuscript, something that was never accomplished since the fall of Malacca 500 years ago.



A traditional instrument called the Beduk



## Arts and Heritage

To date, the Restu Foundation has spent more than RM1.8 million on research work covering the arts of copying and illuminating al-Qur’an as well as on Malay culture and Islamic cultures worldwide.

The Restu Foundation dedicated itself to compile and record the traditional cultural motifs of the Malays that are clearly influenced by the Islamic culture for every state in Malaysia.

Restu Foundation launched a series of exhibitions on the art of al-Qur’an in 1998 within and out of Malaysia to expose

Muslims to Islamic arts and the creative work carried out by the foundation. A few years ago, the foundation began its own exhibition and production centre known as Selangor Islamic Arts Garden Complex (Riyadh Fannil Islam), located in the Selangor state as well.

The Restu Foundation was able to supersede its expectations and was able to create a diversified range of products and services incorporating various elements of the Islamic arts. The Restu Foundation has already produced six fully copied, illuminated and coloured Qur’ans and thousands of other products related to the Islamic arts.



**The Arts Garden**

The Foundation is looking forward to establish cultural as well as educational ties with other Islamic countries and Islamic organizations.

The fruits of labour and the support the foundation receives from the Federal Government of Malaysia urges the foundation to continue exploring more fields related to the Islamic arts. The complex currently hosts more than eleven different fields related to Islamic arts including an Islamic arts college.

**International Arena**

The Restu Foundation has had its fair share of international recognition with a number of exhibitions held on the international level. In October, 200, the foundation held an exhibition on al-Qur'an Mushaf Malaysia at Yala Islamic College, Thailand. In October 2003, The Restu Foundation held an Islamic Arts exhibition at Christchurch and Wellington, New Zealand.

The Restu Foundation has held an Islamic Arts exhibition at Abu Bakar Tafewa University, Bauchi State, Nigeria as well as in Singapore and Iran. The Restu Foundation has also held an Islamic Arts exhibition in Brunei in conjunction with the birthday of the Sultan of Brunei, Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah.

**Restu College**

Restu College came into view after Project al-Qur'an Mushaf Malaysia was completed. The project has successfully gathered sufficient information, exceptional skills and talents concerning the Islamic arts, especially the Mushaf art, calligraphy and illumination. Naturally, Restu College became an extension of Mushaf Malaysia project.

The Restu College is a unique and unrivalled Islamic Arts college. It is not merely a college where students learn the principles of Islamic arts but a holistic experience of how artistic products are created. Restu College specialises in Islamic architecture and

interior design, craft, calligraphy, illumination, colouring, computer generated design and Malay visual art.

This exceptional college is located under one roof with Selangor Islamic Arts Garden Complex. This complex resides at the heart of Shah Alam, Selangor and is surrounded with many Islamic buildings and organizations. As the complex hosts ten different centres of Islamic arts, the college became a place where students build real-life, sound experiences and skills in the field of Islamic arts while at the same time study the required subjects. In other words, studying arts at Restu College is a unique journey of invaluable knowledge, both theoretical and practical, ensuring a promising future to students.

For instance, a student studying the calligraphy subject will be able to interact with the calligraphy centre, gain knowledge from the experienced calligraphers and witness how professional calligraphers

put their skills on paper and various other mediums. Meanwhile, a student studying the colouring subject can visit the colouring department and observe how artists carry their work. In doing so, he can also practically learn how designed art pieces are coloured, which colours to be used and the required colouring tools. Similarly, a student of Qur'anic illumination will be able to interact with the conceptual designing department and witness the various ways designs are applied to objects. In fact, as students take walks in the galleries, they may regard the exquisite beauty of the art pieces on display as an exemplary work for their course of study.

Upon graduation, students shall be able to fully copy, illuminate and colour a whole Qur'an without great difficulties and with high level of precision and skills. In addition, they shall be able to produce different artistic products based on the principles of Islamic arts such as crafts, art masterpieces, calligraphy work and much more.

In addition, the college is registered with

Malaysia's Ministry of Higher Education and its curriculum recognised by Ministry of Education. The college is establishing relations with foreign universities to allow graduates from the college to further their education abroad for bachelors degree.

The skilled lecturers as well as use of technology in teaching ensure high quality of education and produce highly promising and qualified artists. Restu College currently offers diplomas, certificates and short term courses in Islamic arts.

Students who graduate from Restu

College can work as calligraphers, colouring artists, designers, illumination artists, craftsmen and Islamic arts teacher. Restu College provides the following facilities: study room, studio, workshop, auditorium, visual room, library, computer lab, art gallery, prayer room, hostel and cafeteria.

Restu College is open for people from around the world and have currently students from Nigeria, Indonesia and Malaysia. The college has the capability of delivering its courses in Malay, English as well as Arabic languages.



*Khat paintings by Japanese artists*



*Modern Khat paintings on display*

The complex is open seven days a week from 9am till 5pm and will be closed for a week during Hari Raya Puasa. During the fasting month, the complex is open from 9am till 10pm. The Islamic Arts Complex is opposite the "Blue Mosque" in Section 10, Shah Alam. There are many signboards in Shah Alam to assist first-time guests to the complex. Entrance is free. For more details, call 03-5511 9001/9002/9003 or fax: 03-5512 3788/3780.

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