



MAUNG HLA THAUNG @ MRA THAUNG

On the 10th of August 1961, Hla Thaung (Mra Thaung) was born in Sittwe (Akyab) of Arakan. From childhood he had a sense of fondness to Arts and Nature. After finishing High-School at Sittwe (B.E.H.S-4) in 1979, he continued his studies at Regional College of Sittwe for a year. Thereafter, 1980 through 1984 he studied Civil engineering in A.G.T.I in Insein, Yangon.

Hla Thaung worked as a freelance builder till 1988 in Yangon, And further worked as an Arts & Crafts Designer in Thailand and Guangdong Province China from the year 1988 to 1995. Then he later returned to Myanmar and established Idea Woodsmith at Yangon in 1999.

Idea Woodsmith began as a carpentry workshop for restoring old furnitures in its early times. Later produced customized woodworks with excellence craftsmanship using reclaimed timber for the purpose of conserving rainforest , Hence a good reputation among the community of wood lovers with the care for the environment.

Along his work at Idea Woodsmith, He also further studied on subjects such as Ecology & Environmental Science and lectured young students in the community during his free times.

Hla Thaung's passion for making designs, his care for the environment and his previous experience as a freelance builder got him invited to work as an Architect by the Metta Development Foundation for Building a Farmer Field School. And he continued his work as an architect ever since.

In his Architectural works, Hla Thaung has always highly valued on the use of natural materials for the environment and the health benefits of the building users. And also making designs with " User-based participatory design process" which ensured the most functional and satisfactory benefits.

From 2014, Hla Thaung has been working as a community-based Architect. He also worked on multiple Conservation & Renovation projects in Yangon collaborating with groups of Specialists from England and Germany. Occasionally developing awareness to the community and young Architects the importance of Nature, Function, Space and Design Process as well as creating learning opportunities.

Working and Learning together with young Architects, Hla Thaung Founded "Studio PyinKadoe" , An Architecture Firm specializing the uses of traditional building methods and natural materials (such as timber, lime & earth), which made numbers of prominent designed Community Centers ,Schools ,Ecology Centers in rural areas. Also designing Resorts , Villas and Restaurants for commercial uses all around myanmar.

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