Think City Institute

Cities around the world are undergoing an unprecedented period of physical, social and economic transformation. Past solutions are quickly proving inadequate and outdated, and new approaches are required. With global events spurring an urgent need for advanced urban policy and solutions, we have consolidated our expertise into a learning institution based in Penang, Malaysia to deepen the capacity of citymakers in the region.

Over the past 10 years Think City has been working throughout Southeast Asia building the region’s knowledge in culture-based urban regeneration, social inclusion and resilience — providing policy thinking, management and implementation of urban solutions, as well as education and advocacy.

The Think City Institute which builds on a decade of knowhow, experimentation and expertise derived from our knowledge networks will involve a combination of accredited coursework, research fellowships and publications, with focus on our four main practice areas – Placemaking, Resilience, Analytics and Conservation & Adaptive Reuse.

Course modules include week-long courses in Heritage Management, Placemaking and various labs or solutions-based clinics, some of which, will be co-presented by our partners including the Getty Conservation Institute, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, Project for Public Spaces (PPS) and the International Network of Traditional Building, Architecture and Urbanism (INTBAU).

The Institute will also offer tailored capacity-building courses for mayors and department heads, senior managers and emerging talent in the public and relevant private sectors. Based out of a Category II heritage building in the heart of George Town’s UNESCO Site, fellows and participants will have the opportunity to examine Think City’s work in conservation, adaptive reuse and placemaking in nearby sites firsthand. This will be supplemented by outreach programmes in complex urban environments throughout the region.