ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:
RELIshING THE CHALLENGE
OF CONTINUOUS LEARNING
Arman Bin Aman
Executive Manager, Building and Construction Authority
Diploma in Interior Design, 2005

Embracing Versatility and Continuous Learning

Striving to be a “jack of all trades,” SP Alumni Arman Bin Aman enjoys the challenge of learning new skills and solving problems by examining them from different perspectives.

How SP shaped his way of thinking

Arman’s fascination with architectural elements and a desire to nurture his creative skills led him to apply for Singapore Polytechnic’s (SP) Diploma in Interior Design. The course was the ideal platform for exploring different design styles and enhancing user experiences. It allowed him to showcase his creativity without the traditional constraints of architecture.

When reminiscing about his time in SP, Arman highlights two lecturers, Mr Liang Lit How and current Architecture & the Built Environment (ABE) Senior Director Mr Faris Akbar who have left a lasting impression on him. Mr Liang would emphasise how staying professional despite the pressure from client interactions would help shape one’s career. Mr Faris often shared design philosophies, giving students a broader understanding of how things work while pushing them to think outside the figurative box.

In one of the SP modules, Arman applied this deconstructed way of thinking when tasked to design an innovative sports store. “I focused on including user experiences in the shop. A key part of the design was a running track, where customers can try out the shoes and run within the shop.” This creative approach garnered praise from his lecturers, and Arman has since incorporated this way of thinking into both his personal and professional lives.

The sky’s the limit

Post-graduation, Arman embarked on a six-year venture in the private sector. George Santayana’s quote, “only the dead have seen the end of war,” inspired him to jump straight into jobs within the interior design industry.

How he interprets and applies this quote to his career is “Always pursue new things in life, where the only time you end the process is when you pass on.”

With this guiding principle, he tried out various industries, from event management to scuba diving instruction. “During those 6 years, I learnt many skills, from customer management, event management, how to train others in safety procedures, managing a store, and many more people skills.” This particular set of skills would later prove to be very useful for his career after his move to the public sector.

Finding stability in architectural regulation

In his late 20s, the lack of long-term career progression opportunities that resulted from industry-hopping started to gnaw at him. He decided to take the leap and exit from the private sector, by joining the Building and Construction Authority (BCA). Initially, Arman’s department was very versatile, dealing with multiple different projects at the time. “There was a broad range of tasks to cover, so the work was different day to day. I am used to doing things which are not fixed, so learning on the job was nothing new to me and this ability to be versatile helped me navigate my new roles better.”

Now 12 years in, he has worked on various projects at BCA and his unique skillset honed in the private sector helped immensely. “One of the key skills I carried over from the private sector are my social skills, which help me interact with management confidently and present my ideas to various stakeholders.”

Embracing the future of work

Today, Arman oversees BCA’s collaboration study with SP on granite fines—a by-product of quarrying—with the aim of finding sustainable uses for this material. This project showcases the potential for academia-industry partnerships in addressing real-world challenges and advancing industry trends.

He also recommends that all businesses and statutory boards tap into the research potential of SP students. With the ever-changing needs of every industry, he explains how many businesses stand to benefit from highly-trained students with the relevant skills to increase productivity and reduce costs in the workplace.

One example is how quickly SP students grasp Robotic Processes Automation (RPA) skills and apply them to their work. “By getting exposure to RPA during their school years, these graduates require less training when they later enter the workforce. Companies can benefit from lower training costs and graduates also benefit by being able to secure a job faster.”

Never Stop Learning

To future SP alumni, Arman advocates a commitment to continuous learning. “Stay humble, recognise the value in every individual’s knowledge, and seize different opportunities for growth.”

In a world where change is constant, Arman’s philosophy of being a “jack of all trades” reminds us that versatility is a valuable asset, and the pursuit of knowledge is a lifelong endeavour.

How SP shaped Arman’s career

Arman Bin Aman, SP Alumni, is an Executive Manager at Building and Construction Authority. His journey from SP’s Diploma in Interior Design to his current role is a testament to the value of continuous learning and embracing versatility. Through his experiences in both the private and public sectors, Arman has honed his skills in areas such as customer management, event management, and safety procedures. His ability to adapt and learn quickly has been instrumental in his career progression.

Arman acknowledges the significant influence of his lecturers at SP, Mr Liang Lit How and Mr Faris Akbar, who emphasized the importance of staying professional and thinking outside the box. These lessons have stayed with him, enabling him to approach challenges with a fresh perspective.

In the private sector, Arman applied his creative thinking to design an innovative sports store, where customers could try out shoes on a running track. This project showcased his ability to think outside the traditional constraints of architecture. His experiences allowed him to develop a range of skills, from managing events to training safety procedures, which he now leverages in his role at BCA.

At BCA, Arman has been involved in projects that require versatility and a broad range of skills. He has moved between different projects, each offering new challenges and opportunities to learn. This adaptability has been crucial in his career development, allowing him to navigate both personal and professional changes effectively.

Arman’s story highlights the importance of continuous learning and adapting to new environments. His successful transition from SP to the professional world demonstrates that by embracing versatility and staying open to new experiences, one can achieve great things in their career.

Follow Arman on LinkedIn to learn more about his journey and stay updated on his latest projects and initiatives.
First Malay woman to become a commercial pilot, Farhain Abu Bakar is now Captain

The first Malay woman to become a commercial pilot in Singapore, Farhain Abu Bakar, was promoted to Captain for Scoot Airlines. Her promotion holds extra significance as the aviation sector is a male-dominated one. At 29, seven years ago, Ms Farhain was featured in the local newspaper, The Straits Times, as the first Malay female commercial pilot in Singapore. According to Farhain Abu Bakar,was promoted to Captain for Scoot Airlines. Her promotion holds extra significance as the aviation sector is a male-dominated one. At 29, seven years ago, Ms Farhain was featured in the local newspaper, The Straits Times, as the first Malay female commercial pilot in Singapore. According to the report, she received her private pilot’s license from the Singapore Youth Times, as the first Malay female commercial pilot in Singapore.

Not letting past failures determine his future

With his GCE level ‘N’ results, Mohamed Nazrudeen Abdul Rahman could only enroll in ITE to pursue mechatronic engineering. However, determined to succeed, Nazrudeen excelled and obtained a GPA of more than 3.5 points there. This result secured him a place in the second year of Singapore Polytechnic’s Diploma in Mechanical Engineering. Thanks to his hard work, he was given the opportunity to continue his studies part-time at a local university. Now 32, he works as the operations manager at Applied Materials Southeast Asia, managing a team of 24 employees.

Students exchange views on regional growth issues at Youth Model ASEAN Conference

Hosted by Singapore Polytechnic (SP), this year’s Youth Model ASEAN Conference took place from October 2 to 4, gathering 160 local and foreign students to discuss issues affecting the development of the region. Themed “Promoting Inclusive Growth in ASEAN”, the simulation conference provided a platform for young people to discuss different topics and better understand the cultures of ASEAN countries, explained SP Diploma in Biomedical Sciences student Deng Min (22) who served as the secretary-general.

8th WinGD & SMA Technical Night 2023

On 7 September 2023, over 180 industry guests and alumni attended the 8th WinGD & SMA Technical Night 2023, held at Singapore Polytechnic’s LTIA. Jointly organised by the Singapore Maritime Academy, Singapore Polytechnic (SMA/SP) and Winterthur Gas Diesel Singapore (WinGD), the event saw both industry professionals and academia sharing and discussing the theme of the night, “Future of Sustainable Shipping.”

SP Civil Engineering Alumni Engagement

The annual Singapore Polytechnic (SP) Civil Engineering Alumni Engagement took place on 14 September 2023. Held at SP Graduates’ Guild (SPGG), SP alumni and staff gathered for a fruitful sharing session, covering recent developments, changes to the course, latest trends and happenings in the Built Environment industry. Over lunch, SP alumni reminisced about their school days. They revisited heart-warming memories while networking and discussing potential academic and industry collaborations, such as internship placements, Integrated Projects, and prize sponsorships. SP looks forward to the fruition of such partnerships and to holding similar events in the future that benefit students, staff, and alumni.
On-Campus Privileges

**SPORTS FACILITIES**
Alumni access hours:
**GYM@POOL**
Weekdays: 12pm - 4pm | 6pm - 9pm
Saturday: 9am - 7pm

**SWIMMING POOL**
Weekdays: 9am - 4pm
Saturday: 4pm - 7pm

Please note your SP Alumni e-card and any form of identification is required for verification purposes. SP Sports Facilities may be closed due to curriculum or events without prior notice.

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**THE KETTLE GOURMET**
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**TUAN YUAN**
5% discount when you spend above $50 before GST
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10% discount for ala carte menu at SPGG F&B outlets (SPGG Coffee Hub & The Restaurant)
Terms and conditions apply

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10% off the usual retail price
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Email SP: contactus@sp.edu.sg with subject 'Requesting for Counselling'