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METRO Society

EXCLUSIVE!

Learn how Senator Loren Legarda together with Kultura Filipino furthers her advocacy on Indigenous Peoples

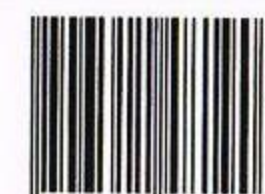
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Greener on this Side

AS THE PHILIPPINES EXPERIENCES GREATER URBANIZATION, PROFESSIONALS LOOK TO SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

by ANNA M. ROSETE



From left: LEED-certified Architect Liza Crespo is the founder of Liza Crespo Ecotecture. (Photograph by Lilen Uy). With offices in Manila and New York, she advocates sustainability to augment green design. The Mañosa siblings, Architect Gelo Mañosa (seated), Interior Designer Bambi Mañosa, and Dino Mañosa take the helm at Mañosa Properties, recognized for championing traditional Filipino design modeled after the 'bahay kubo.' (Photograph courtesy of Geiser-Maclang). For Architect Jason Buensalido green design is a standard. (Photograph by Jovel Lorenzo)

“**G**oing green” is an expression that refers to a prevailing movement in architecture, construction, and interior design, where strides are being taken to care for the environment by increasing a space’s energy efficiency and decreasing the amount of waste that its systems generate. This approach can be augmented by looking into a space’s sustainability through a consideration of the materials used to make it. These must meet the needs of present-day users without harming the resources of future generations.

“It’s not easy being green,” sings Kermit the Frog, but in the Philippines, efforts towards “going green,” are being made, one project at a time. Now, more than ever, the country is experiencing a building renaissance, as condominium developments, malls, and office buildings proliferate. Urbanization is unceasing, and Filipinos are becoming more conscious of the effects of drastic urbanization and building in the country. With this awareness comes the mindfulness, which produces an inclination for green buildings.

Three leaders in initiative share their thoughts on green design with Metro Society.

Liza Morales-Crespo, Ecotecture

Architect Liza Morales-Crespo was one of the first Filipino architects certified as a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) professional. With practices in New York and Manila, she has worked on a range of projects, from residential and commercial, to resorts.

Architect and author Bill McDonough is her role model, and her firm’s green advocacy begins with educating her clients first. “It is important for the client to realize that the decision to go green is a commitment, thus the initial dialogue with the client is crucial in setting up the hierarchy of wants, needs, and priorities. Surprisingly enough, most of the clients that we talk to already have a clear vision of what they want their home or building to be,” she says. “It is our job to translate this vision three-dimensionally. A lot of the interventions that we introduce to make a project sustainable are specific to the site or location, so we need to get ourselves fully acquainted with it.