

THE MAN CALLED MADE

PAST PRESIDENT OF
PERTUBUHAN AKITEK MALAYSIA
DR TAN LOKE MUN PAYS
TRIBUTE TO HIS FRIEND, THE
LEGENDARY MADE WIJAYA

MADE WAS AN extraordinary man. Larger than life in many aspects. He was certainly more than a garden designer or landscaper. He had a keen eye for good design and was equally adept in art, architecture and interiors. His writing and photography on Balinese life, architecture and tradition bear testimony to a man who, though an outsider, was in many ways more Balinese than most. To his honour, his Balinese friends never saw him as a *bule* (foreigner) but referred to him as a true Bali Aga — the original Balinese, no less.

I got to know Made in the late 1990s while working in Bali. He had just completed the gardens of the Four Seasons Resort in Jimbaran. The project was outstanding and a masterclass in colourful, luxuriant resort planting. But it was his 1999 bestseller, *Tropical Garden Design* that introduced him to the world.

We got along well and collaborated on several projects as well as in our tropical shop, Teaktree House, in Malaysia in the early 2000s. I recall our conversation the morning after the devastating Bali bombing in 2002 and the concluding note that "Bali had just lost its innocence". The following months were very tough for the Balinese as business was badly affected. We pooled

our resources together to see his office and large team of garden workers through the lean period. His office, PT Wijaya Tribwana International, survived and subsequently thrived, with projects all over the world.

Almost every architect of my generation practising and doing good work in the region had met or collaborated with, been influenced by (or fought with) Made in some way or other. Such was the influence of his larger-than-life presence in Bali over the last 40 or so years.

It was a very sad Monday morning (Aug 29, 2016) when I received news of his passing from his long-time personal assistant, Sri Sudewi. She was crying. I shed a tear too ... and I am sure that Bali wept that day for the loss of one of her great sons.

Truly, a legend died that day. ■



At Teaktree House 2001, (from left) Ar Dr Tan Loke Mun, Nyoman Mijoga (Made's trusted assistant designer), Made Wijaya, Peter Tan and Ar Lim Wei Hong