Herb Feith Foundation Seminar Series 2015

Looking back at Jakarta, 1950s – 1960s

Three speakers look back at the changing urban environment of Jakarta in the 1950s and 1960s which was very different from the modern metropolis of today.

Charles Coppel

Gang Wadja VI/7, 1968 – 1969

Charles Coppel left his practice as a barrister fifty years ago to devote his professional life to the study of Indonesia. His Monash PhD was supervised by Herb Feith and Jamie Mackie and he carried out fieldwork in Jakarta 1968-1969. Charles taught and researched on Indonesia at Melbourne University for thirty years until his retirement in 2002.

Hugh O’Neill

Arriving in Jakarta as a volunteer graduate in 1958

In 1953, as an architecture student Hugh applied for employment as a Volunteer Graduate after hearing Herb Feith talk about working in Jakarta. Arriving in mid-1958 he designed housing for pegawai negeri and taught with the Ministry of Public Works and Power, in Jakarta and Bandung. Active participation with OSB, AVA and AVI until the 1990s helped bring great enjoyment and a broad context to his academic work from 1961.

Hugh O’Neill was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2013, for distinguished service to architecture, through contributions to tertiary education and the fostering of relations with Asia, particularly Indonesia.

Scott Merrillees

Herb and Betty Feith’s Jakarta of the 1950s