

## Reaching out from a shoebox

Written by straits-mongrel

Friday, 25 September 2009 03:41 - Last Updated Sunday, 27 September 2009 16:05

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The Pekeliling Flats were constructed from precast concrete kit-of-parts, pretty clever for its time in this region. Though not the prettiest thing, it was home for the lower-income. But a home needs personality.

And so over the years, aluminium awnings began sprouting from the individual units providing for that extra bit of shade and comfort. Not to mention colour.

Built in 1964, the flats were a fast-track public housing project for almost 3,000 families who were made homeless because of fires in the squatter areas in KL. The modular system was repeated unwaveringly over 11 blocks, some reaching 17 storeys high.

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Stop taking the building as a given with its 50,000 residents (especially if you live in a shoebox building) and start reaching out to them with a new kind of community.

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~~The building of Kallang, known as the 'Shoebox Building' in the 1960s, had a total of 150 flat blocks and one of the initial final~~



[Link](#) have the question, still trying to be asked. Think. Reaching out from a shoebox? Really? Or is it a survey of