

# Beautiful living in the capital

By Tony Alabastro  
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Modern dining area. - PHOTOS: HAN PHOTOGRAPHY



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In search of a dragon's pearl in Borneo's Mountain of Tranquility, Kinabalu, was a Ming dynasty official, diplomat adventurer, trader, prince and Chinese Muslim, who married the daughter of the first Brunei Sultan.

He was made chief of Sabah's Kinabatangan, meaning the Great Chinese river, and as the only Chinese in Brunei's royal genealogy, has Brunei's only Chinese street named after him: Ong Sum Ping. Puni was what Chinese historians called Brunei, which sent its produce as tributes to China in the sixth and seventh centuries.

Fast-forward to today, and "Puni Indah" or Beautiful Brunei is a luxury condominium address on Jalan Ong Sum Ping in Bandar Seri Begawan.

"Lifestyle living is the new concept. We cater to expatriates, diplomats, professionals, and local younger couples who do not want to have to maintain a house," said 360 Hotel Group Executive Director Anriza Wong Cordero. "Each unit has 3,100 square feet. Four units to a floor."

"The lobby's design reflects modernism with a touch of elegance, the colours reflecting vibrancy and grace," said Architect Yolanda D Reyes of Reyes Design + Planning + Architecture, who was commissioned to design the interiors. "Public spaces such as the lounge and the reception area welcome the guests with pleasant hues, which will surely provide a comfortable appeal to the visitors.

"The four units per floor were designed to have a simple yet stylish aura. The bedrooms' own unique allure adds to the charisma of each unit. The kitchen houses state-of-the-art facilities and provides a stylish ambiance...perfect for a young couple or a family.

"The overall design of the building is deemed to be exciting, inviting and charming," said architect Reyes.

For its expatriate tenants, the luxury residence, set among the administrative buildings of the various Brunei ministries and authorities, is a peaceful home away from home. Walking around the enclosed OSP compound is so relaxing, safe and there's nothing to worry about, specially for a foreigner, according to a recent visitor.

"The fully furnished, five-star luxury residences are a five-minute drive from Bandar Seri Begawan's central business district. Very convenient with lots of amenities, 24-hour security, a gated community," said 360 Hotel Group Executive Director Ng Yaw Hua.

OSP Puni Indah Residences is a signature public-private partnership project of the Brunei Economic Development Board and **Bina Puri (B) Sdn Bhd**. It is managed by the 360 Hotel Group, a hotel and service apartment management company headquartered in Kuching, Sarawak.

George Tan Kai Tan, Bina Puri Project Co-ordinator, said: "We are looking at a different segment, bringing up the living standards, and setting a milestone for future developers."

After a \$9.2 million renovation, Bina Puri turned three unoccupied five, seven and nine-storey apartment blocks in the former Southeast Asian Games Villages into a 72-unit premier condominium property, and in the process "created local employment and brought up Brunei's image".