

Heritage

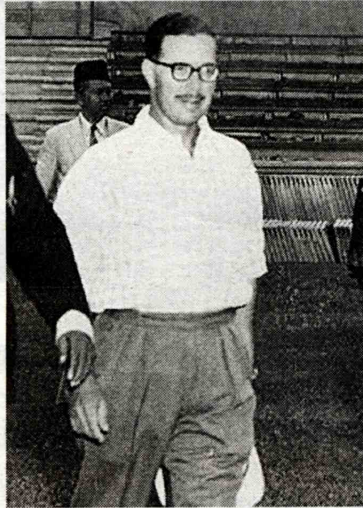
Architect of our cherished landmarks

TAN Sri Stanley Jewkes died on June 19, in Florida, the United States. Jewkes would have been 98 this October. Jewkes served in the Public Works Department until 1962, and spoke fondly throughout his life of his time working with PWD, and, as he referred to Tunku Abdul Rahman, Prince Abdul Rahman.

He established the design and research branch of PWD to ensure competent, efficient and cutting-edge engineering and architectural practices.

He designed Stadium Merdeka, Stadium Negara and Merdeka Park, a 4ha park on the north side of Stadium Merdeka, with its umbrella-shaped bandstand, commonly known as "the mushroom" because of its shape, and the Merdeka Clock, a sundial, which incorporated the local mean time, as well as the date.

In the commemorative programme for the opening of Stadium Merdeka on Aug 30, 1957, Tunku Abdul Rahman stated: "Today, we have in this stadium, which is the finest in Asia, a sports ground of which any country in the world can justly be proud. Its completion in record time is an achievement for which the engineers and the con-



Tan Sri Stanley Jewkes designed Stadium Merdeka, Stadium Negara and Merdeka Park

tractors deserve abundant credit. I wish to thank them all, particularly Mr S.E. Jewkes of the PWD headquarters, Kuala Lumpur, who spared no effort to ensure that work was completed by Merdeka Day, and whose planning and engineering skill had produced such perfect results."

Designing Stadium Merdeka began on July 15, 1956, with work starting on Sept 25.

Using just a slide rule to do the drawings and engineering calculations, Jewkes made 160 drawings outside of his regular office hours at PWD.

As soon as he completed a major design aspect, or finished detailed work, he would hand the drawings over to an engineer.

He was always present on site and very focused on completing the project within the specified timeframe.

Jewkes was PWD director when he designed and built Stadium Negara (1962) and Merdeka Park; he continued to refer to this site as an "acropolis" in the middle of the city.

A multipurpose indoor stadium to be used for exhibitions, conventions, indoor games, concerts and even ice rink shows, Stadium Negara was built to accommodate more than 10,000 people.

It was an engineering feat of its time, with a 91.4m diameter column-free space with an innovative concave suspended roof system with a central circular truss ring held in place by cables from a larger concentric truss ring system.

Jewkes graduated from the Institute of Civil Engineers after which he became an associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects in London. He served in Her Majesty's Home Guard, where he held several positions throughout Malaya and the Far East during World War 2.

He was a survivor from the fall of Singapore and later served in Gen "Vinegar Joe" Stillwell's 14th Allied Army. He received an Order of the British Empire from Queen Elizabeth II in 1958.

After leaving the Malayan civil service, he joined a large international consultancy group in the US; worked in more than 70 countries, directing projects and studies, including for the World Bank and the United Nations.

He retired at the age of 75 in Florida. He is the author of *Humankind? Planet Earth's Most Enigmatic Species* in 2002.

Malaysia owes a lot to Tan Sri Stanley Jewkes. He is survived by his wife, Ella, daughter Carole, son Peter and their families.

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