

# Building the Future: A Connection with Space and Purpose

## 建设未来： 空间与目的的联系

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Just before I am about to get on the subway, my phone chimes with a new text message. Its sender wishes to know if I would like coffee or tea or chai to drink during our meeting. I select chai tea. It is not long before I am hit with a small wave of questions, wanting to know if I would like milk or sugar added to it. I opt out of either and begin to believe that my initial observation of Mia Tedjosaputro is correct. She is a woman to be reckoned with, difficult to encapsulate with a single title or area of interest. As I come to learn, that is how she prefers life to be.

Architect, designer, businesswoman, teacher, student... It is challenging to know where to begin when I meet with Mia. Born and raised in Indonesia, she is a qualified architect. Inspired by her father, an engineer and entrepreneur in

his own right, Mia pursued architecture as a path of study when she completed school. Her fears over not being able to draw well were allayed as she fell in love with the discipline. It is a love for buildings and their context that drive Mia's passion. As she notes, a proposed building's surrounding areas need to be explored just as fully as the building itself as this understanding lends itself to understanding the context of a building and thus, understanding what its purpose will be. To Mia, a building should serve a purpose of some kind. While she has lived in Ningbo for some time, she is still amazed that there is learning to be done about the city's architecture. She counts Ningbo Museum as one of her favourite spaces to be.

To many, Mia is probably best known as a dedicated







teacher at the University of Nottingham Ningbo and Ningbo University. While she currently teaches, she remains a practicing architect, alongside her father in their family-run business, AKSEN. Maintaining her practical skills is of great importance to Mia. It means that she remains not only employable as an architect but also up to date with the latest trends, methods, and technologies. This is then also able to inform her teaching practices, not to mention that teaching means she is also able to study and learn from her students. These connections play an important part in who Mia is.

As Mia pours the chai tea she has made for us, I notice that the cup is recyclable. Sustainability and eco-friendly practices are an essential part of her philosophy. This extends to both of her businesses as well as her teaching. In architecture, Mia enjoys creating spaces that have as small an impact on the environment as possible and this extends to her love of exploring spaces that have been re-purposed for other needs. Her other business, KALA, focuses on producing on eco-friendly decor





and accessories with safety for crafters at its forefront. Mia is keen to promote the work of artisans from Indonesia as an acknowledgement of her cultural heritage as well as local artisans who she works with here in Ningbo. To Mia, it is important to create things that are meaningful, with a personal touch. The market here in Ningbo is fresh with opportunities for the promotion of sustainable products.

I learn that Mia is someone who puts a great deal of effort into helping others. When I point this out to her, she simply laughs it off. As she explains, it has more to do with her desire to defer to those who have more expertise in areas that she may not. Even as a business owner and teacher, the inner student in Mia never seems to rest. She is currently engaged in a number of courses, from business management to business culture. She also confides that she has invested in a Master Class subscription, even though she is not entirely sure where she will be able to find the time to do all the classes she has her eye on. Her passion for all that she is involved in is clear.

As I sip the last of my tea, I consider Mia quietly. Architect, designer, businesswoman, teacher, student... It remains a challenge to be able to encapsulate all of who she is and what she does. But one thing is certain. Mia's passion, care, and dedication are all an inspiration.





上地铁之前，手机收到一条短信，发件人询问会议期间选择喝咖啡、茶还是印度茶，我选了印度茶。没过多久，又问是否需要加牛奶或糖，我回答都可以。相信最初对 Mia Tedjosaputro 的判断是正确的，很难用单一的标签来概括她。后来我渐渐了解到，这就是她喜欢的生活。

Mia 是建筑师、设计师、商人、老师、学生……起初遇到她，还不是很了解。Mia 在印度尼西亚出生长大，是一名优秀的建筑师。父亲是工程师兼企业家，受其启发，她完成学业后继续学习建筑，对这门学科的热爱增强了画画的自信，对建筑及环境的热爱也推动了 Mia 的热情。她说，建筑的周边区域与建筑本身一样需要全面进行探索，有助于了解建筑环境，从而明白建筑的目的。对 Mia 来说，建筑应服务于某种目的。虽然在宁波生活了一段时间，但

她始终认为需要学习这座城市的建筑，宁波博物馆是她最喜欢的空间之一。

在许多人眼里，Mia 是宁波诺丁汉大学和宁波大学的老师，其实她也是一名建筑师，与父亲一起在家族企业 AKSEN 工作。保持实践技能对她而言至关重要，不仅可以担任建筑师，还能了解最新的趋势、方法和技术，也可以为教学实践提供信息。而教学过程也可以促进教学相长。这些联系对 Mia 的成长与发展起着重要作用。

Mia 为我们倒准备好的印度奶茶，我注意到杯子是可回收的。可持续发展和环保实践是她坚持的理念，也延伸到业务以及教学。Mia 希望建筑能尽量不影响环境，热衷于探索被重新利用的空间。她的另一项业务 KALA 专注于生产环保装饰和配饰，雇用最前沿的手工艺者。Mia 热衷于推广印度尼西亚工匠的作品，这也

是对文化遗产以及对宁波当地工匠的认可。对她而言，重要的是创造出有意义、带有个人风格的作品。宁波市场充满活力，有很多推广可持续产品的机会。

我很欣赏 Mia 热心助人的品质，而她只是一笑置之，解释说自己只是尊重那些有专门技能的人才。作为企业家和教师，她一直没有停止学习的脚步，目前正在修读企业管理、企业文化等多门课程，已经投资订阅了高级讲习班，尽管不确定是否有时间完成关注的所有课程，但她对所参与的一切充满热情。

喝完最后一口茶，我静静打量着 Mia。建筑师、设计师、女商人、教师、学生……很难用一个词概括她的身份和所作所为。但有一点很确定，Mia 的热情、关怀和奉献精神很励志。

