

Future Cities Laboratory

FCL's Tropical Town in Arch Daily

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The project in the rapidly growing city of Batam focuses on addressing the challenge of housing in a sustainable manner, while adapting to the needs of the residents.



The expandable house is designed to be one part of a sustainable response to the challenges of rapidly developing cities like Batam, in Indonesia's Riau Archipelago. Once a collection of sleepy fishing villages of a few thousand inhabitants, Batam developed to be a cosmopolitan city of over one million people in less than 40 years. This remarkable growth, fueled by a new free trade agreement and Batam's proximity to Singapore, has not abated.

As a consequence, the city was confronted by major planning problems: How to accommodate the influx of migrants? How to provide sufficient housing, and appropriate water and sewage systems? How to fund adequate transport infrastructure, and provide schools, universities and hospitals?

The expandable house (*'rumah tambah'* in Bahasa Indonesia, or *rubah* for short) project as part of FCL's **Tropical Town** project was featured in **Arch Daily** for its novel approach to tackle the housing challenges of the fastest growing city in the world.

The project focuses on the challenge of housing, allowing the building to be flexibly configured around the fluctuating patterns of resource consump-

About

[Tropical Town](#)

Further reading

[Read the article in Arch Daily](#)

tion and expenditure, or metabolism, of its residents. This requires an understanding of the patterns of household income generation and expenditure, water, energy and food consumption, as well as waste production. As this metabolism is usually uneven and often precarious, it is important that the architecture can be a dwelling and income generating unit, that manages its own waste, water and energy locally.

Read the article on [Arch Daily](#)

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