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Companion to KL's history

EVER wondered about the history all those age old buildings in the city? Wonder no more. With Kuala Lumpur: A Sketchbook, your regular trip in town will not be the same anymore.

Considered the first of its kind, the book is a guide on the significant and historical buildings in Kuala Lumpur.

It indirectly interprets the development of Kuala Lumpur for nearly a century, taking readers back to the small town until it became the capital of Malaysia, one of the most fascinating cities in Southeast Asia.

In the metropolitan city complete with a hectic pace of life, it is easy to overlook the blend of Malay, Chinese, Indian cultures and the corresponding traditional and colonial architectural treasures.

However, with Chin Kon Yit's artistic eye and architect Chen Voon Fee as a guide, the book will remind citizens of the riches that remain, help visitors appreciate the city's unique character and serve well as a poignant momento.

The book reproduces more than 150 of Chin's watercolour paintings and sketched details of the city's grandest buildings, humblest shophouses and typical street scenes.

Launched together with Chin's fourth solo exhibition at GaleriWan this afternoon, the 96-page book will be available at all leading book stores, retailing at RM99.50. The launch ceremony will be attended by Marina Mahathir.

The exhibition features most of the paintings included in the book, as well as Chin's new work. The exhibition is on until Nov 9.

As for the author, Chen is an established architect and well known for his building designs and conservation projects.

Particularly proud of KL Central Market conservation, Chen is one of the very few people who really knows about Kuala Lumpur, old and new.

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