

Design a bench by [meng yew choong](#)



Practical: Benches at Singapore's Tanjong Pagar MRT station look simple and serve a practical purpose.

TWENTY eight institutions of higher learning have indicated their interest in designing benches for the country's first seven underground MRT stations.

The contest, organised by MMC-Gamuda KVMRT (T) Sdn Bhd, the contractor of the design-and-build underground portion of the Klang Valley MRT calls for practical yet tasteful designs.

This is for the seven MRT stations that already have their own design themes.

Institutions which have responded so far include Sunway College Ipoh, Kuala Lumpur Metropolitan University College, Tunku Abdul Rahman University College, Politeknik Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah as well as Universiti Malaysia Sarawak and Sunway University.

The organiser is extending the deadline for the contest to July 15 so that more students can create "forward-looking and innovative" bench designs for the Muzium Negara, Pasar Seni, Merdeka, Bukit Bintang, Tun Razak Exchange, Cochrane and Maluri stations to enhance the commuting experience.

Contestants should be students pursuing any Malaysian Qualifications Agency-approved qualifications in architecture, product design, industrial design or interior design, with registration and submissions done through their respective institutions.

MMC-Gamuda's project director Satpal S. Bhogal said examples from elsewhere in the world have shown that well-designed benches can serve both as artwork as well as functional pieces of furniture that lend positive vibes to the environment.

"We hope this contest will lead to some exciting designs that will uplift the commuting experience," he said.

According to the Mass Rapid Transit Corporation Sdn Bhd, the entire line is 77.3% complete, and is on track to commence full passenger service in time for the 2017 Merdeka celebration.

For more information, visit artexpress.mymrt-underground.com.my.