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No more horror stories

This is thanks to a new architectural service ... but if you have a tale to relate, we want to hear it; you could be a winner!

By Abby Lu

Getting your house professionally checked for construction defects or other horrors, especially if you are buying it from the secondary market, is now a readily available service.

Two days ago, Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Chuan launched Architect Centre Sdn Bhd (ACSB) at the Sime Darby Convention Centre in Kuala Lumpur.

A joint venture between Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia (PAM) and Archicentre Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, ACSB provides build-

ing inspection services for all types of completed properties.

The inspections, performed by architects accredited by the centre, will primarily be to detect visible defects and appraise workmanship quality.

A 300-point Checklist Report will be provided to those using the service so that they can initiate rectification or renovation works, where necessary.

In addition to property inspection, ACSB will also offer building advisory services. Its Architect Advice Report will guide clients on planning procedures, technical issues and also offer advice on matters related to design and defects, PAM president Lee Chor Wah said.

To give owners more power of information, ACSB plans to hold regular seminars on what to expect when buying or renting, and how to maintain their investments.

Lee believes these key services will enable ACSB to become "the foremost authority on property inspections in the country".

In conjunction with the launch, *NST-Property* and PAM today kicked off the "Your Worst Nightmare" competition that offers property owners a chance to relate their experiences with home defects and the lessons they learnt.

Three winners will be picked every fortnight, and will receive



quality Dortez locksets as their prizes.

"They will also be eligible to win the three top prizes of home furnishing by Kian Contract as well as Dortez locks at the end of the competition on June 16.

These top prizes are worth RM20,000.

For more information and entry forms, surf to www.architect-centre.com.my or www.pam.org.my.



Architech Centre is poised to become the foremost authority on property inspection in the country, says Lee.