

# Budding designers off to a flying start

AirAsia contest celebrates creations inspired by Asian destinations

story by  
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DRAWING inspiration from the beauty of the temple ruins of Angkor Wat in Cambodia has earned a university student an apprenticeship with fashion designer Jovian Mandagie.

UCSI University student Lee Bao En will also showcase her collection at next year's Kuala Lumpur Fashion Week (KLFW).

The 22-year-old fashion student won the grand prize for AirAsia Runway Ready Designer Search 2015, which was held at KLFW

recently.

"I was inspired by the texture of Angkor Wat's rough walls and the trees around the temple," she said when met after the press conference.

Dressed in a dark-washed denim shirt over a black maxi dress, Lee appeared to be a bit shy over her new-found fame.

"I have not been to Siem Reap yet, but would really love to visit. Perhaps I will use the BIG Points from the grand prize to go," she said.

Lee won a return ticket to Tokyo, 60,000 BIG Points and a Dell Inspiron laptop.

The competition aimed to provide a platform for young aspiring designers to showcase their talents and help catapult them into the fashion industry.

Ten young designers were given the chance of a lifetime to showcase their creations on the prestigious KLFW 2015 runway.

Guests were treated to a visual buffet of oversized jackets, pleated sleeves, mixed textures, and interesting prints.

The young designers had to come up with two designs each, all inspired by the beauty of Asian destinations. AirAsia Berhad chief

executive officer Aireen Omar said the company had always been a great supporter of youth and talent development in the region.

"This is AirAsia's first foray into fashion, and fashion is a creative outlet for expression. It plays an important hand in importing culture.

"We are aiming to make Kuala Lumpur a fashion hub and that dream will become a reality soon," she said.

KLFW founder Andrew Tan applauded AirAsia's commitment to help young talents fulfil their dreams.

"To be part of KLFW is a big deal. The overall experience – from sketching, fitting, and the opportunity to share the runway stage with established designers is a remarkable experience for all participants," he said.

First runner-up Universiti Teknologi Mara student Shazmin Hashim and second runner-up Esmod Kuala Lumpur student Ter Mei Ching won a return ticket to Sydney and Hong Kong, along with 60,000 BIG Points and 33,000 BIG Points respectively, a trophy, as well as a Dell Inspiron laptop each.



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**1** Aireen (front row, third from right) presenting the mock cheque to Lee, the grand winner of the Grand Finale of AirAsia Runway Ready Designer Search 2015, while Tan (front row, third from left) looks on.

**2** Lee's winning design features an army green colour, as she drew inspiration from the trees at Angkor Wat temple ruins in Cambodia.

**3** Metropolitan chic style can be seen in the creations of Ong Pei Yin from Esmod Kuala Lumpur.

**4** Who knew pollution could also be chic, as shown by Syamil Fazwan from Universiti Teknologi Mara.

**5** The puffed sleeved jacket designed by Universiti Teknologi Mara student Hazimin Norzaili is inspired by the deep sea creatures in the Asean region.

**6** A signature of any Lim Kok Wing University of Creative Technology students, Salina Sulzaily gives a modern touch to the ankle length trench coat by using black leather-like material.