‘Cari Makan’ is a metaphorical expression in the Malay language common to both Bahasa Malaysia and Bahasa Indonesia. Literally meaning ‘in search of food’, it carries a second meaning, namely ‘seeking a livelihood’. The exhibition looks at the intersection of the two activities that enliven some of the most interesting streets in Southeast Asian cities: strolling along streets in search of food, and selling food on the streetside for a living.

Within the displays that show the outcome of the informal conversations with stallholders and the visual documentation of their daily operation, this exhibition attempts to ask a larger question: as we sojourn through these cities as visitors fascinated by new sights and sounds, what is it that makes our streets interesting and unique, which we may inadvertently overlook in their ordinary day-to-day manifestation? We hope this exhibition affords us moments of pause and new windows of looking at seemingly ordinary facets of life in our cities.

Cari Makan

Exhibition of street food culture in Melaka, Penang & Yogyakarta
Selected works from the Year One Study Fieldtrip 2014, Department of Architecture, NUS