



## An Expression of Dance according to Juan Carlo Calma's Grammar of Movement

Coming from a family who are patrons of the arts, it is of no wonder that Juan Carlo Calma himself finds joy and fulfillment in contributing to Philippine arts and culture through his creations characterized as atypical style in visual arts, architectural, and interior designs. Case in point, Calma's Grammar of Movement series which featured an unexpected juxtaposition of classical ballet and modern breakdancing, coming to life as an 18-piece wood sculpture exhibit, an exploration in temporality through layering and gradation.

A visual artist and architect, he is known as one of the Philippines' bright young stars in the industry. Calma challenges himself to cross scales and media, his work spanning bespoke private homes to public installations that have been called young, edgy, and nothing short of impressive.





A staunch believer of the preservation of historic structures, he and his brother JP Calma are working on a new development to not just preserve but also breathe new life and purpose to an 80-year-old house in Quezon City. This property plays a huge role in Philippine cinema, having been a venue for several iconic Filipino films. They plan to transform it by merging residential units on top of the old heritage sites that will be converted into a Film Archive Museum focusing on 100 years of Philippine cinema. Calma says, "We believe in preservation of historical buildings and giving its adaptive re-use and a new cultural purpose and on top of this old house are exclusive three-bedroom luxury apartments—one unit per floor making it a new template in property development mixing heritage sites and new built environments."

Calma finished his multi-disciplinary courses in sculpture, painting and light design at the California College of the Arts in San Francisco in 2003 then moved to London and graduated at the Architectural Association School of Architecture in 2009. He is currently heading Carlo Calma Consultancy, Inc. which he established the same year he graduated from Architectural Association School of Architecture. Calma has since been recognized with awards such as an honorable mention for his Infinity House at the Global Architecture and Design Award 2019 and when he was shortlisted at the World Architecture Festival in July 2019, one of the members of the jury commented about the Infinity House: "The private house is a place of fantasy...a brilliant evocation of that quality of fantasy becoming a reality."

As a visual artist, he has exhibited his works in San Francisco, London, and Manila, taking part both in solo as well as group exhibitions, while receiving recognition from art collectors in Southeast Asia and other locations. As the multi-faceted artist that he is, Calma owns and curates Gallery by Chele fusing food and art and promotes anthropological cuisine.

Calma shared previously with BluPrint Magazine: "As architects, it's nice to be recognized for the work you do—we apply in different global design awards and sometimes we are finalists, honorable mention, or even winners," he says. "To continually put your work out there is the most important thing when you do join these awarding bodies because you become part of the global conversation on the architect's role to shape cities and the world."

