The talk will discuss the curatorial concept, exhibition design, opening, and other stories surrounding the creation of the Philippine Pavilion entitled “The City Who Had Two Navels” for the 16th Venice Architecture Biennale. Inspired by Filipino National Artist for Literature Nick Joaquin’s 1961 novel, “The Woman Who Had Two Navels,” the Philippine Pavilion confronts the tension between the vicissitudes of the past and the challenges of constructing contemporary subjectivity. It highlights two “navels” that are in constant dialogue: the forces of colonialism and neoliberalism and how they impact and shape the Philippine built environment.

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