



# Robinsons Place Manila's Midtown wing breathes life to Malate

By Joseph O. Cortes

If you think there's no more reason to come to Manila, think again. The newly-opened Midtown wing of Robinsons Place Manila brings to the heart of Manila a new shopping experience to rival mall developments in other parts of the metropolis.

The Midtown wing of Robinsons Place Manila boasts a four-level structure that is described by Robinsons Malls general manager Nilo Mapa as "a rare combination of ingenious design, careful and thoughtful planning, considering the limited space, and a great location that is not only strategic but stands for a lot of history."

Unlike at most malls where stores are crammed side by side along alleys that are tightly laid out, there is a feeling of space at the Midtown wing. The central atrium of the mall is a wide open space that rises up to four floors to a high ceiling. There are skylights that bring in lots of natural light, while in the evening, floodlights simulate the daylight ambience. Rattan seats and benches are arranged around the atrium area to provide shoppers with a place to rest.

Mapa says the Midtown wing is a sign of changes to be implemented at Robinsons Place Manila. Within the coming months, the old mall will be renovated to upgrade it for the benefit of mall goers. New merchants offering a variety of products and services are expected to open soon.

As the tenants of Robinsons Place Ermita's Midtown wing gradually settle in within the next three months, there are now 19 new food establishments ready to serve the dining needs of mall goers. The restaurants present a mix of cuisines to cater to the dining whims of shoppers.