

FACT SHEET

Banwag at a Glance

A beacon for peace in the Bangsamoro — Parang, Maguindanao del Norte, Philippines

The name

Banwag is a Cebuano word meaning “beacon,” “illumination,” or “enlightenment.” The structure was conceived to hold space for safe conversations and gatherings among Muslim, Christian, and Lumad communities — a beacon of hope that peace is possible.

Awards — Good Design Award Philippines 2026

- **Grand Prix Malasakit Award** — the program’s highest prize, given to the Gold Awardee whose design best advances the UN SDGs and quality of life
- **Gold Award** — Place Making category
- **Red Award**

Jury citation: “(Banwag) is among the most direct expressions of malasakit the award has seen.”

The structure

Item	Detail
Type	Trimmed (ribbed) lamella dome, permanent outdoor installation
Location	Parang, Maguindanao del Norte, BARMM, Mindanao, Philippines
Dimensions	15 × 15 × 9.5 m · 120 sqm floor area · 2-ha lot · single level
Classification	Recreational / community gathering space
Materials	Natural bamboo poles (Bambusa blumeana), high-performance marine outdoor fabric, stainless steel connectors, wire rope, nuts and bolts; reinforced concrete slab foundation
Structure	127 bamboo poles across 7 structural layers plus top; 26 anchor points; patented SIP steel node connections
Assembly	2.5 weeks, no heavy machinery, zero specialized drawings on site — SIP’s “Build by Numbers” system: every pole digitally mapped, numbered, and pre-cut
Sourcing & labor	Every pole sourced from local farmers; assembled entirely by local hands
Lighting	Multi-colored LED scheme turns the lattice into a beacon at night; colors mark different celebrations and communities

Design symbolism

- Uniform geometry: harmonic plurality — the dome echoes both the vaulted forms of early Christian cathedrals and the radial symmetry and tessellation of Islamic architecture (references: the Blue Mosque, the Pantheon)
- Six identical entrances distributed equally around the perimeter: everyone is welcome from whatever direction they have traveled — no hierarchy of entry

- Bamboo as material and metaphor: resilient in typhoons because it bends — strength through flexibility

The people behind it

- **Conceived by** the Sarmiento family / PS Group of Companies, together with Studio Impossible Projects (Rick and Jasper)
- **Designed & built by** Studio Impossible Projects (Rotterdam & the Philippines)
- **In memory of** Bambina Sarmiento, who first saw what bamboo could build, and Pablo Sarmiento, founder of PS Group

Key dates

- June 2024 — Banwag completed and inaugurated in Parang
- June 29, 2026 — Good Design Award Philippines 2026 winners announced: three awards including the Grand Prix Malasakit — coinciding with World Industrial Design Day (2026 theme: resilience) and founder Pablo Sarmiento's birthday