

Routledge Contemporary Southeast Asia Series

THE URBAN VERNACULAR IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

SETTLEMENT AS SERENDIPITY

Edited by
Nor Zalina Harun and Shireen Jahn Kassim



First published 2025
by Routledge
4 Park Square, Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4RN

and by Routledge
605 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10158

Routledge is an imprint of the Taylor & Francis Group, an informa business

© 2025 selection and editorial matter, Nor Zalina Harun and Shireen Jahn Kassim; individual chapters, the contributors

The right of Nor Zalina Harun and Shireen Jahn Kassim to be identified as the authors of the editorial material, and of the authors for their individual chapters, has been asserted in accordance with sections 77 and 78 of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reprinted or reproduced or utilised in any form or by any electronic, mechanical, or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publishers.

Trademark notice: Product or corporate names may be trademarks or registered trademarks, and are used only for identification and explanation without intent to infringe.

British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Nor Zalina Harun, 1976- editor. | Kassim, Shireen Jahn, editor.

Title: The urban vernacular in Southeast Asia: settlement as serendipity/
edited by Nor Zalina Harun, Shireen Jahn Kassim.

Description: Abingdon, Oxon; New York, NY: Routledge, 2025. |

Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2024047828 (print) | LCCN 2024047829 (ebook) |

ISBN 9781032538310 (hardback) | ISBN 9781032538303 (paperback) |

ISBN 9781003413868 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: Architecture and society--Southeast Asia--History--21st century. | Villages--Southeast Asia. | City planning--Southeast Asia.

Classification: LCC NA2543.S6 U75 2025 (print) | LCC NA2543.S6 (ebook) |

DDC 307.760959--dc23/eng/20250122

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2024047828>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2024047829>

ISBN: 978-1-032-53831-0 (hbk)

ISBN: 978-1-032-53830-3 (pbk)

ISBN: 978-1-003-41386-8 (ebk)

DOI: 10.4324/9781003413868

Typeset in Times New Roman

by Deanta Global Publishing Services, Chennai, India

7 The Public Realm of the Malay-Nusantara: Typological Variations of Urban Space and Diasporic Streetscapes	81
SHIREEN JAHN KASSIM, ILLYANI IBRAHIM, KAMARIAH KAMARUDDIN AND SHAMZANI AFFENDY MOHD. DIN	
8 Vernacular Urbanism and Walkability in the Tropics: From the Village to the Urban Core	101
NOR ZALINA HARUN	
PART 2	123
9 Revisiting the Tropical Verandah City: A Treatise in Urban Design as a Continuum of Serendipity	125
KENNETH YEANG	
10 The Streets of Hanoi's Ancient Quarter: A Serendipitous Sense of Place with Social Capital	140
LE CHI QUYNH AND NGUYEN THANH TU	
11 The Organic Assemblage of the Market: Rooting Commerce in Vernacular Form	153
KHALILAH ZAKARIYA AND NOR ZALINA HARUN	
12 Cynosures of Creativity: Crossroads of Urban Regeneration and Artistic Hubs: A Review	173
SAMAYRO SAIF AND SHAMZANI AFFENDY MOHD DIN	
13 Serendipity in a Southeast Asian Cultural Encounter: Perspectives on GWKL	186
SHALINI AMERASINGHE GANENDRA	
14 The Urban Vernacular as Serendipity in Practice: Participatory Place-Making in Bangkok	200
SUPITCHA TOVIVICH	
PART 3	215
15 The Archetypal Language of the Urban Vernacular Hybrid: The Case of the Malay-Nusantara and the Philippines	217
TENGKU ANIS QARIBAH RAJA ABDUL KADIR AND MARY RAJELYN "RAJ" BUSMENTE	

12 Cynosures of Creativity

Crossroads of Urban Regeneration and Artistic Hubs: A Review

*Samayro Saif and Shamzani
Affendy Mohd Din*

12.1 Serendipity in Urban Regeneration: An Introduction

Cynosures refer to objects or persons that attract attention and admiration due to their outstanding qualities or excellence. Cynsure of creativity can be interpreted as the centre or focal point of creative activity or the place that serves as a source of inspiration and innovation for artists, designers and other creative professionals. Cultural organisation thrives with the presence of artistic hubs in heritage towns and trails. Serendipitous encounters often lead to unexpected opportunities for collaboration and innovation, unveiling hidden connections and convergences. As Graham and Thrift (2007) suggest, researchers can also benefit greatly from chance discoveries:

"Break out of predetermined disciplinary and conceptual frameworks[and] open up new fields of inquiry and exploration."

Serendipitous has been defined as "occurring or discovered by chance happily or beneficially." A "serendipitous encounter" resonates in an urban physical form, with configuration and features that allow such encounters to happen. Serendipity also refers to as:

what happens when we, in unplanned ways, encounter resources (information, things, people, etc.) that we find interesting.

(Björneborn, 2017, p.2).

It has been argued that serendipitous encounters in the city are not only key factors for cities' economic and innovative growth (Wood & Landry, 2008), but that they are also central to social bonding and urban trust as described by Jacobs's (1961) notion of "*well-used streets*". It can be a physical location or a symbolic representation of a space that embodies artistic expression and imagination, attracting people to come together and collaborate in the pursuit of their creative endeavours. Serendipity can aid in mapping artistic hubs by identifying clusters of artistic and creative spaces within a geographical area. It helps researchers discover links between different hubs, determine new opportunities for collaboration and innovation and eventually reveal hidden connections and convergence.

The revitalisation of historic urban areas worldwide, particularly in Southeast Asia, owes much to the creative industries, art and cultural organisations that have