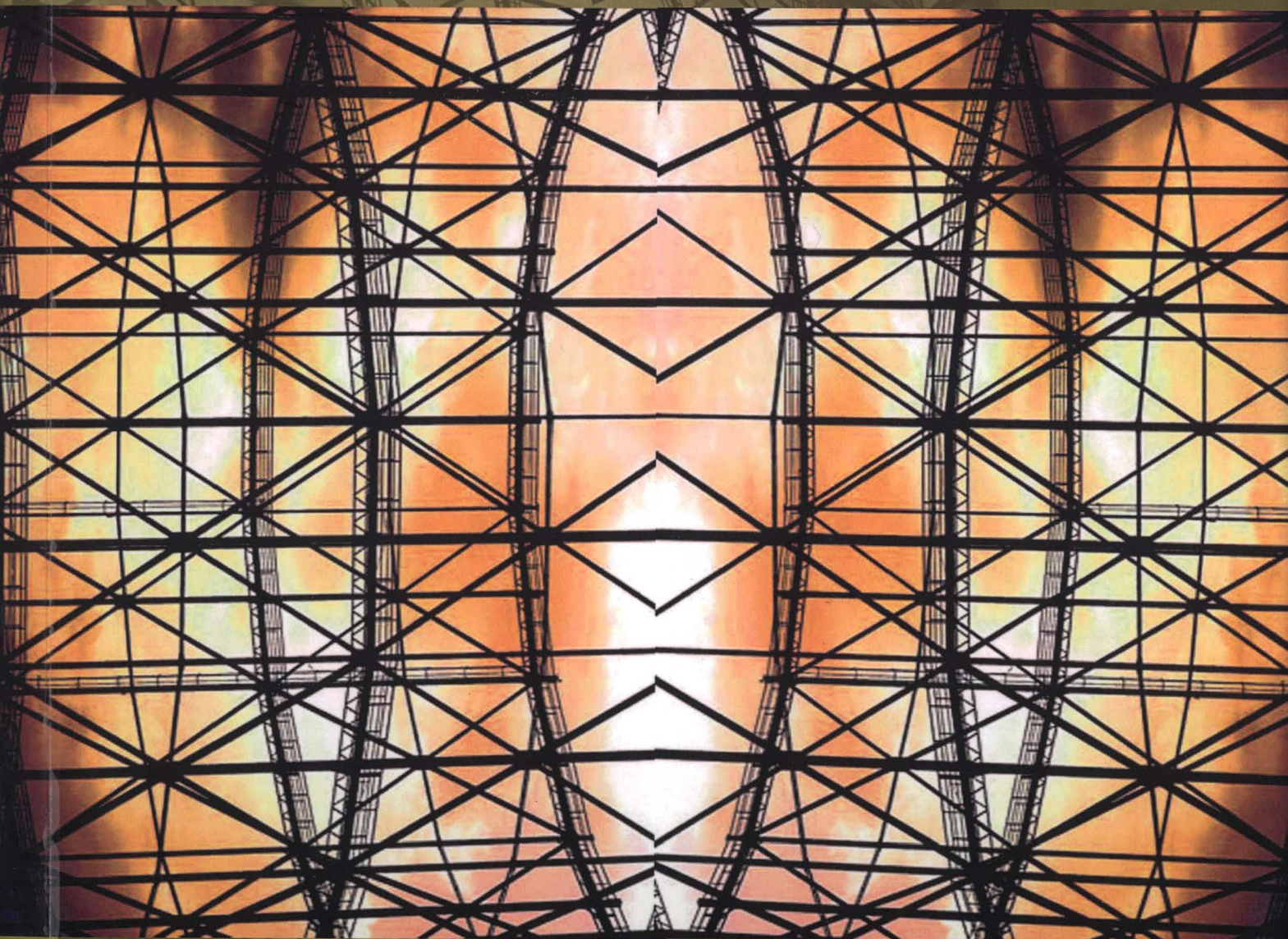


RESEARCH IN *QUANTITY SURVEYING*

Tan Chin Keng



Research Management Centre
INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA



RESEARCH IN QUANTITY SURVEYING

**Editor
Tan Chin Keng**



IIUM Press

Published by:
IIUM Press
International Islamic University Malaysia

First Edition, 2011
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Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Tan Chin Keng: Research in Quantity Surveying

ISBN: 978-967-418-203-8

Member of Majlis Penerbitan Ilmiah Malaysia – MAPIM
(Malaysian Scholarly Publishing Council)

Printed by :
IIUM PRINTING SDN. BHD.
No. 1, Jalan Industri Batu Caves 1/3
Taman Perindustrian Batu Caves
Batu Caves Centre Point
68100 Batu Caves
Selangor Darul Ehsan

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CHAPTER 7

DESCRIPTION OF ITEMS IN THE BILLS OF QUANTITIES (B/Qs): TECHNIQUE REVISIT

Shamsulhadi Bandi¹

ABSTRACT

Bills of Quantities (B/Qs) are an output which represents the existence of Quantity Surveyors (QS) in the world of construction. It symbolizes technique and the extent of details posses by the QS and at the same time, a portrayal of meticulous effort made to the construction industry. Typical B/Qs were formed through amalgamation of various bills which represent itemize breakdown of a construction project. One of the key elements of a bill is the item description for which the sentences help estimator to understand and subsequently derive competitive price for an item. Without an accurate and reliable item description, the true meaning of an item will constantly in doubt. The aim of this study is to revisit technique available in framing descriptions (i.e. descriptions writing) in an effort to standardize and comply with requirements made by the Standard Method of Measurement (SMM). The fundamental objective is to present the technique and to provide samples for the purpose of exemplification through a well planned and extensive desk study. Accordingly, the study has found a 'Table-style' technique for framing of descriptions which later is modified to be used as the 'Modified Table-style' technique. The study concluded by presenting examples from 'Internal Floor Finishes' and 'Internal Wall Finishes' which descriptions are drawn using the 'Modified Table-style' technique and fully comply with SMM requirements.

Keywords: Bills of Quantities, Standard Method of Measurement, Descriptions, Technique.

INTRODUCTION

The common recognized format of a typical bill in Bills of Quantities (B/Qs) in Malaysia consist of clearly defined and labeled seven (7) columns which are normally dedicated for (1) Numbering/sequencing of items (in alphabetical format), (2) Description of items, (3) Unit, (4) Quantity, (5) Rate, (6) Amount – RM and (7) Amount – Sen (or Cent) (Abdullah

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