

# The Built Environment Selected Writings

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INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

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## CHAPTER 6

### DOCUMENTATION AND PRESERVATION OF MELAKA SHOPHOUSE

Shamzani Affendy Mohd Din and Noorfadhilah Mohd Baroldin,

#### ABSTRACT

The old shop-houses are often threatened by urban development and urban renewal activities which involve the conversion of the shop houses. The changing of urban fabric has destroyed many historic buildings. The aim of this study is to clarify conservation issues in Melaka, and address the aspects of building typologies in detail. In the exercise of any early conservation work of shop houses, one of the focuses should be on the environmental factors that lead to building defect. Melaka shop houses tell the area's history with its physical environment, serves the needs of resident, workers and visitors and act as a hub of commercial, social, and culture activities. Thus, a well-planned and sustainable development of conservation zones is vital to ensure a better future for the Melaka Shop house.

Keywords: building preservation, documentation, historical building, Melaka shop house, conservation in Melaka.

#### INTRODUCTION

Melaka shop houses have many valuable qualities and functions. Among them are the history, architecture detail, retail activities, cultural activities and a strong sense of community. The conservation works and maintenance of Melaka shop house are to embrace memories of the past and hence future generation able to witness Melaka historical evidences. Thus, a model of sustainable development and planning for the shop houses is needed. The issue is how to develop a comprehensive planning of Melaka shop house which protects the historical character of the district in relation to progressive development of the city.

The functions of Melaka shop house are significant to the area's history through its physical environment, serving the needs of residents and visitors and operating as a hub for commercial, social, and culture activities. Among the objectives of the chapter are to identify the guidelines for the conservation processes of Melaka shop house. The conservation processes should acknowledge the surrounding social life, visual characteristics of the district and service streets and loading doc. Most importantly the guidelines should emphasize on the enhancement of the area's historical character.

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The research is conducted through exploration study. It begins with addressing the values of mixed of Malay, Chinese and Europe culture. Then the study emphasizes on the sustainability of the city conservation planning. This includes sustainability of social life,