

# Contemporary Research in Urban Planning



Mariana Mohamed Osman  
Alias Abdullah  
Azila Ahmad Sarkawi  
Rustam Khairi Zahari



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Mariana Mohamed Osman

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## CHAPTER 3

### PREFERRED FENCE DESIGN: A CASE STUDY OF SELECTED COMMUNITIES IN THE KLANG VALLEY

Alias Abdullah, Rosmizawati Mohamed Salleh and Muhammad Faris Abdullah

#### INTRODUCTION

Fence has always been a major feature in a residential environment. In Malaysia, fences serve several functions and always been seen as integral part of a dwelling. However, in recent years, with the introduction of the Fencing Design Guidelines by the Perbadanan Putrajaya, the perception towards fences, and their forms and functions has somewhat revisited. Several new residential developments in Putrajaya have adopted fence designs which are rather 'unconventional' and some have adopted a no-fence-dwelling-unit design.

It is important to clarify here that the Fencing Design Guidelines, as opposed to popular belief, is not a 'no fence guidelines', just as there is not a 'no fence policy' promoted by the Perbadanan Putrajaya. Instead the rationale behind the introduction of the guidelines is to promote various fencing (design) solutions that are more appropriate to be used in our built environment. The Fencing Design Guidelines can be considered as complementing the promotion of Putrajaya as a 'Caring City'. (Perbadanan Putrajaya, 1999).

Taking cognizance of the developments in Putrajaya, and the renewed interests in fence that they brought about, the authors conducted a questionnaire survey among residents of three residential communities to evaluate their perceptions towards dwelling fencing in terms of their functions. At the same time, the authors also conducted an observation survey to identify the types of fences used at the areas. The results of the surveys are discussed in this paper.

#### FENCE DEFINED

Fence can be defined as a structure (of rails, posts, wire, etc.) that is puts round an area or building to act primarily as a barrier. The Baulkham Hills Shire Council (2003) defines fence as any structure used as a dividing barrier between any road and any private land or between adjacent properties. Meanwhile, a more comprehensive definition of fence Can be found in the Clark County's Unified Development Code, 2003 whereby fence is defined as any artificially constructed barrier of any material or combination of materials erected which is greater than thirty-six (36) inches in height within a required setback to enclose or screen areas of land.

According to the Putrajaya Fencing Design Guidelines, fencing or fence refers to a broad range of approaches to property boundary demarcation that includes:

- i. residential and non-residential fences of masonry, timber and metal construction (hard fencing);
- ii. fences comprised of hedges and other forms of landscape (soft fencing); and
- iii. walls, including retaining structures, courtyard walls and party walls.