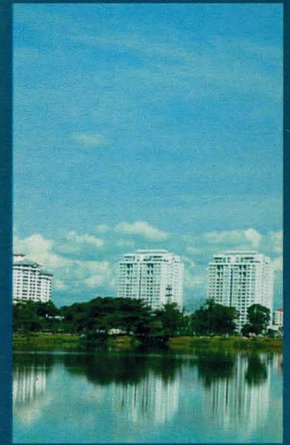
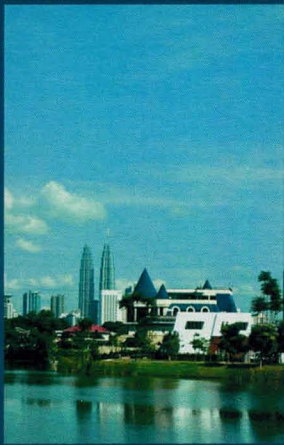


# Visioning Malaysian Landscape

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**Mazlina Mansor  
Ismawi Hj. Zen  
Jamilah Othman  
Nor Zalina Harun**



**IIUM PRESS**

INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

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Mazlina Mansor  
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# BEHAVIOUR OBSERVATION AS A STRATEGY TO UNDERSTAND GREENSPACE

Mazlina Mansor and Ismail Said

Department of Landscape Architecture, Kulliyyah of Architecture and Environmental Design  
International Islamic University Malaysia  
Department of Landscape Architecture, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia

## ABSTRACT

Researches relating to human behaviour and environment are hybrid in nature. The environment-behaviour research cuts across many disciplines in the quest to explore people's experience with the built and natural environment, and the meanings of the settings to them. This chapter reviews one of the strategies of inquiry that is used in the environment-behaviour research—behaviour observation. It presents examples of researches on the application of this strategy in many settings particularly in the urban environment. This strategy is significant because it acts as a source of evidence that can be converged with other research methods to ensure that studies of the same phenomena will lead to a greater confidence in findings. Current applications of the strategy also have shown that it is useful for urban planners and designers due to its ability to be combined with for example, GIS support technique for decision making on urban spatial uses.

**Keywords:** environment-behaviour research, greenspace, behavioural observation, research methods

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter is set in the context of urban studies encompassing urban residents' use and experiential contacts with various types of greenspace in urban settings. The urban built environment is the setting and backdrop in everyday lives of urban residents in such ways that it affects their senses, emotions, sense of community and general well-being. Hence, urban design and landscape architectural studies stress on the roles and needs of the urban residents for meaningful green spaces especially for their recreational activities and social interactions in everyday lives. Thus, the studies on built environment are closely related to environment-behaviour discipline. For this reason, since the mid 1980s, many environmental design utilisations have been based on environment-behaviour research (Tzoulas and James, 2003). In other words, researches relating to human behaviour and environment are hybrid in nature. It is the confluence of many other environmental and social science disciplines (such as human geography, environmental psychology and urban forestry) which are devoted to the study of the mutual relations between people and their environments, and the utilisation of such researches in environment policy, planning and design (Ward Thompson, 2002; Tzoulas and James, 2003).