



Qualities in Architecture

Aida Kesuma Azmin



IIUM PRESS

INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

QUALITIES IN ARCHITECTURE

AIDA KESUMA AZMIN

Assistant Professor Department of Architecture,
Kulliyah of Architecture and Environmental Design.



IIUM Press

Published by:
IIUM Press
International Islamic University Malaysia

First Edition, 2011-12-18
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Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia

Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Aida Kesuma Azmin
Qualities in Architecture
Aida Kesuma Azmin

ISBN: 978-967-418-033-1

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

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

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CULTURE AND BEHAVIOUR IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

ZAITON ABDUL RAHIM

Department of Architecture,
Kulliyah of Architecture and Environmental Design
International Islamic University Malaysia

ABSTRACT

This chapter discusses the relationship between culture and behaviour in the built environment on the basis that the understanding of culture is important in understanding the built environment as built environment is a physical reflection of culture and has effects on culture. The chapter briefly discusses the definition of culture and the different opinions on the relationship between the two components. The relationship between culture and behaviour and the built environment is diabolic and intertwined whereby changes in culture change the built environment. Behaviour in relation to a physical setting is dynamically organised. A change in any component of the setting has varying degrees of effects on all other components in that setting, thereby changing the characteristic behaviour pattern of the setting as a whole. The discussion is derived from review of literature and works on culture and behaviour and the built environment, which conclude that changes in the built environment change behaviour whereby the environment as behaviour setting which through expectations affects behaviour.

Keywords: *Culture, Behaviour, Built-Environment.*

INTRODUCTION

Culture creates behavioural norms and, therefore, knowledge of cultural context allows one to predict, to some extent, the actions of those people in that culture (Geertz, 1973). It is transmitted and creates contents and patterns of values, ideas, and other symbolic meaningful systems. These values and meanings shape human behaviour and the artefacts produced through behaviour (Kroeber & Parson, 1958). It is the sum of learnt beliefs, values and customs that create behavioural norms for a given society (Jin, 1994). The relationship between culture, behaviour and environment is intertwined. Some authors suggest that culture and behaviour influence the environment while others argue the opposite as will be discussed in the following sections. Built environment is the visible expression of relative importance attached to the different aspects and the varying ways of perceiving reality.