



# 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  
©IIUM Press, IIUM

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without any prior written permission of the publisher.

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

# CONTENTS

Preface	iii
Table of contents	vii
List of Figures	vi
Introduction	x
CHAPTER 1:	1
<i>CULTURE AND BEHAVIOUR IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT</i> Zaiton Abdul Rahim	
CHAPTER 2:	8
<i>CULTURE AND TRADITIONAL HOUSES</i> Zaiton Abdul Rahim	
CHAPTER 3:	19
<i>CULTURAL FACTORS IN TRADITIONAL MALAY HOUSE</i> Zaiton Abdul Rahim	
CHAPTER 4:	27
<i>CULTURE AS A STRUCTURE: TRANSFORMATION, CHANGE AND EVOLUTION</i> Aida Kesuma Azmin	
CHAPTER 5:	38
<i>THE PROCESS OF TRANSFORMATION TOWARDS VISUAL MANIFESTATION OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT</i> Aida Kesuma Azmin	

<b>CHAPTER 6:</b>	<b>47</b>
<i>A BENGALI HOUSE: THE DWELLING CULTURE IN BENGAL DELTA</i> <b>Md Mizanur Rashid</b>	
<b>CHAPTER 7:</b>	<b>55</b>
<i>ARE INSTANT CITIES DESIGNED FOR THE RICH?</i> <b>Fadzidah Binti Abdullah</b>	
<b>CHAPTER 8:</b>	<b>66</b>
<i>PUBLIC SPACE FOR EXPERIENCING PUBLIC LIFE</i> <b>Sufian Hamat</b>	
<b>CHAPTER 9:</b>	<b>71</b>
<i>CHANGES IN PUBLIC LIFE AND ITS IMPACT ON PUBLIC PLACES</i> <b>Sufian Hamat</b>	
<b>CHAPTER 10:</b>	<b>77</b>
<i>SHOPPING MALL AS A PLACE OF LEISURE</i> <b>Sufian Hamat</b>	
<b>CHAPTER 11:</b>	<b>83</b>
<i>ROLES OF SERVICE DESIGNERS TOWARDS ENHANCING QUALITY OF DESIGN PROJECTS SERVICE PROVISIONS</i> <b>Mohd Suhaimi Ismail</b>	
<b>CHAPTER 12:</b>	<b>92</b>
<i>ELEMENTS OF LAYERS AND HYBRIDITY IN ARCHITECTURE: A CASE STUDY OF CENTRAL FIRE STATION, SINGAPORE</i> <b>Md Mizanur Rashid</b>	

# CULTURE AND TRADITIONAL HOUSES

ZAITON ABDUL RAHIM

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

## ABSTRACT

This chapter reviews the role of culture on the traditional houses focusing on the culture core such as basic needs, activity system, family structure, position of women, privacy, separation and social interaction. It is in the opinion that culture is the most important factor influencing the traditional house form and other factors such as climate, geography, material, etc are modifying factors. The discussion which derived from review of literature and traditional houses strongly indicated that perception on the culture core and the specifics of how, what, where, when and by whom certain activities were performed have a strong implication on the traditional houses and dictates the house form in many ways. The specifics of the culture core differ significantly between cultures. Findings from the review indicated that the traditional houses were successful in providing a supportive living environment and in harmony with the way of life of the people. Therefore translation of cultural factors into the house in the process of designing is important to provide supportive living environment which subsequently help to sustain the way of life of the people.

*Key Words: Culture, Tradition, Traditional Houses*

## INTRODUCTION:

The concept of culture is very complex. The first use of the word “culture” in English as a precise and scientific term is generally credited to Tylor (1958). He defined culture and the complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, arts, morals, law, custom and other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of a society. Kuhn (1966) defined culture as both a body of content and a set of relationships which acts as a system. Culture as a system is universal the same at all times and places. Culture as a set of content is never precisely the same in any two places or at any two times in the same place. Williams (1981) defined culture as a distinct whole of life, within which a distinctive ‘signifying system’ is not seen only as essential but as essentially involved in all forms of social activities, and the more specialised culture as ‘artistic’ and intellectual activity. Culture refers to the expressive side of human life – behaviour, object and ideas that can be seen to express, to stand for, something