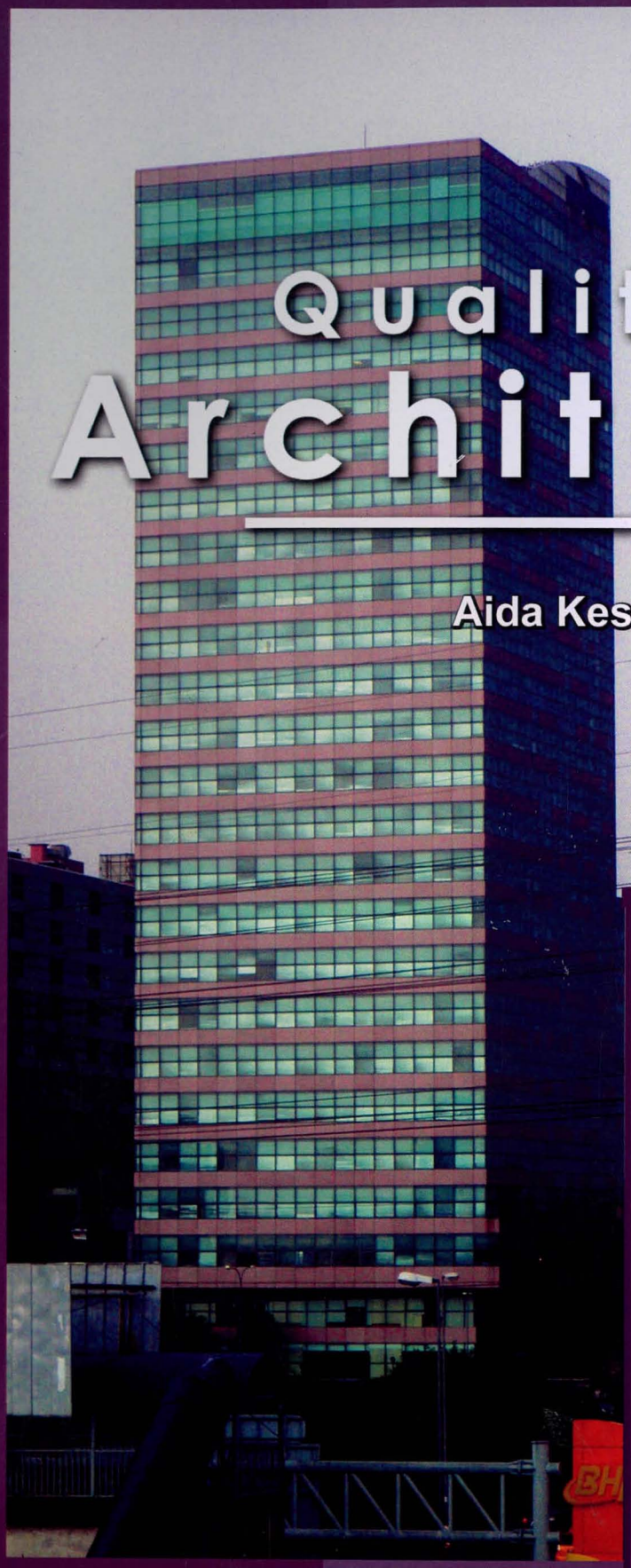
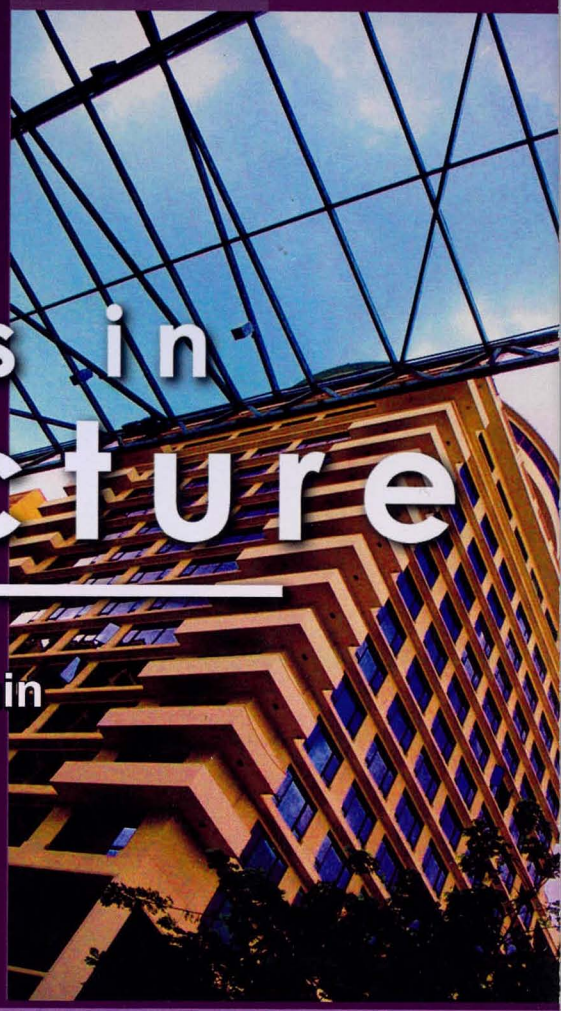
Qualities in Architecture

Aida Kesuma Azmin





IIUM PRESS
INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

QUALITIES IN ARCHITECTURE

AIDA KESUMA AZMIN
Assistant Professor Department of Architecture,
Kulliyyah of Architecture and Environmental Design.

IIUM Press

Published by:
IIUM Press
International Islamic University Malaysia

First Edition, 2011-12-18
©IIUM Press, IIUM

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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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THE PROCESS OF TRANSFORMATION TOWARDS VISUAL MANIFESTATION OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

AIDA KESUMA AZMIN

ABSTRACT

The aspects of human perception, cognition, schemata and aesthetics that shape the visual manifestation of the living environment are as vital to be comprehended as the meanings of the terms for home, house and housing. These elements of cognitive psychology can provide invaluable information that can never be accessed through conventional interpretation for they are the embedded knowledge developed through time and space, hence, forming the cultural meanings and cosmological understanding, that are the core structures of the society's intellectual worldview.

Keywords: *Perception, aesthetics, transformation, housing, architecture, built-environment*

INTRODUCTION

Perception, Cognition and Schemata

This section will discuss on the elements that are responsible for the process of transformation that produces the visual manifestation of the built environment. Perception, cognition and schemata are the elements of cognitive psychology, which according to Abdalla (1998) is one of the best-known theoretical models, which explains how "transformation" changes things from one form to another.

Perception

In general, perception is the experience we get by means of our sense organs; thus, we talk of visual perception when using our eyes, auditory perception when using our ears, and so on (Abdalla, 1998). According to him, the term "perception is commonly used in a number of different ways. It can refer to responses of the nervous system to external stimulation (sensation), or to primitive awareness; and it can also refer to more complex and higher-level thought processes (cognition) [ibid: 306].

Environmental perception is achieved through the senses (vision, hearing, touch, smell, and taste), and some believe that (expectation) is a sixth sense (Abdalla, 1998: 305). Eysenck (1984) defines perception as a processing activity of which the individual is consciously aware; that the environmental perception through the known sense is a relatively effortless process for most of us. Whereas Bloomer (1976), views perception as a type of information processing in which sense data are used to form internal representations