



Qualities in Architecture

Aida Kesuma Azmin



IIUM PRESS

INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

QUALITIES IN ARCHITECTURE

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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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ARE INSTANT CITIES DESIGNED FOR THE RICH?

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ABSTRACT

The phenomena of having instant cities in many developing countries are apparent, yet they seem to serve only the rich. Often, properties that are located in instant cities are high-priced and not affordable for the poor. Not many provisions are planned for the unfortunate group whose social status and economic capabilities prevent them from being part of the population in instant cities. This research aims at comprehensively evaluating the phenomena of extricating great architecture from the poor in numerous instant cities; either it is done with the right rationale or simply a forgotten subject matter. Approach of qualitative research will be used as the main methodology of this study, which is literature review and observation. It is hoped that this paper will alert all the stake-holders of construction industry, that magnificent architecture of instant cities is for, and should be appreciated by all walk of life, not only for the benefit of the privileged group.

Keywords: Instant Cities, Extravagant Architecture. Social Justice.

INTRODUCTION

“A peasant never talks about art, he makes it.”

William R. Polk,

Source: *Architecture for the Poor*, (Foreword)

The phenomena of having instant cities in many developing countries are apparent, yet they seem to serve only the rich. Usually, numerous reasons are outlined to develop instant cities, the purposes range from increasing tourism revenue, reducing congestion in existing urban areas, restructuring the built environment and its physical development, to exploring new potential of trades. With all the right attentions, instants cities are developed in comprehensive manner that they are often being considered as national agendas to the countries involved.

With great importance, comes great architecture. Architecturally, instants cities provide conduciveness for modern living environment that attract properties buyers, not only from the same locality, but also foreign investors from all over the world. However, this emergent development has broadened socio-economic gap between the rich and the poor. Often, properties that are located in instant cities are high-priced and not affordable for the poor.