



# Qualities in Architecture

Aida Kesuma Azmin



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# QUALITIES IN ARCHITECTURE

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

# CHANGES IN PUBLIC LIFE AND ITS IMPACT ON PUBLIC PLACES

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## ABSTRACT

There have been changes in the outlook of public life than what they used to be. The significant decline in the nature of people's active engagement in public places where people are more concern on the safety aspect and more reluctant to interact with strangers is slowly substituted by passive activities. For that matter, many of the towns and cities are losing their shared spaces because, simply put, people have less in common with others to share. In addition to that, the changes in the lifestyles has defined new ways for people to spend leisure time with results of more imaginative, unusual types of public space are being created to allow them to craft their own unique lifestyle and identity simultaneously. Thus, many of the places that best supported human interaction of sharing and exchange were not the traditional public spaces but, a wider range of places with factors capable to stimulate interest and engagement between different groups of people and encourage a broad range of users by encouraging diverse activities.

*Keywords: Public life, changes, active, passive, safety, interact, lifestyle, stimulate, diverse*

## INTRODUCTION

There have been changes in the outlook of public life ever since the era or period of political discussion and demonstration in public parks and plazas. The scenes of what they used to be are not as common place anymore as public engagement in provocative or suspicious activities are more monitored and restricted inhibiting symbols of people's freedom of which the place stands for in decades. In the "Fall of Public Man" (1977), Richard Sennett argued that there had been a marked of decline of public life due to a loss of civility in modern society. Civility connotes a code of behaviour that allows stranger to be together, interact, socialize, and group as they desire so that they can act together on matters related to their common good.

The significant decline in the nature of active engagement in public places is slowly substituted by passive activities. People have since become more perceptive on security and privacy of self that they have started to lose sense and ability to trust. Apparently, being alone is now amongst popular options of activities in public places. Means and Tims (2005) stated the impact of the situation on public space is significant where many of the towns and cities