

Malay Vernacular Architecture

Traditional and Contemporary Expressions

Norwina Mohd Nawawi

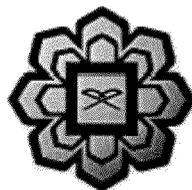


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CHAPTER 8

MINANGKABAU ARCHITECTURE : LOSING INTEREST

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ABSTRACT

This chapter describe a research deals with the losing interest of regional Minangkabau architecture in two (2) regions: West Sumatra, Indonesia, and Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia. Both regions are said to have very similar regional architecture. Recent visit to West Sumatra had shown that the once glorious regional architecture is slowly disappearing due to growing interest in 'modern movement' architecture. Even worse, the fading interest on regional architecture among the people of Minangkabau in Negeri Sembilan is growing at a faster rate that it is very rare to see newly built building adopting Minangkabau style. This research aims at evaluating the losing interest in regional architecture among Minangkabau people. Survey was carried out to obtain the Minangkabau people's perception on the issue. This chapter hope to contribute in increasing awareness and understanding on the needs to conserve, and to uplift the value and meaning of regional or vernacular architectural heritage.

Keywords: Minangkabau architecture, regional architecture, identity, regionalism, conservation.

INTRODUCTION

Research and study on regional or vernacular architecture in both countries of Malaysia and Indonesia often limited to description of physical aspects, style of architecture, its structural design, and material usage. All these aspects are focusing more into putting the regional architecture in museum context, as places to be visited by tourists. However, the interest in sourcing the problems of endangerment of regional architecture among the people is very limited.

Malaysian and Indonesian architectural scholars usually have good collection of documentation and classification of the regional architecture of both countries. Nas, Schefold, and Domenig (2004) and Nas (1998) describe the architecture of Indonesian houses in depth, explaining numerous types of Indonesian regional architecture with relation to certain tribes of people and locality of buildings. Vellinga (2004) discusses specifically on similarities and differences of Minangkabau Architecture in Indonesia. Meanwhile, Malaysian architectural