

Malay Vernacular Architecture

Traditional and Contemporary Expressions

Norwina Mohd Nawawi

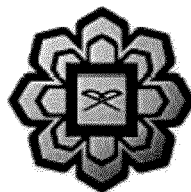


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CHAPTER 10

THE PRESENT HOUSING SCENARIO BEYOND VERNACULAR DESIGNS: REVIEW OF IMPLICATIONS ON RESIDENTIAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY

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ABSTRACT

Energy consumption in Malaysia is on the increase and this has much to do with the prosperity of the country and the increasing affluence of her people since Independence in 1957. The paper, beyond vernacular designs, will elucidate the growth of the residential sector in contemporary Malaysia and the inevitable energy consumption and to look for causal reasons on the increment. The role of air conditioning is much to be blamed for the rise of residential energy usage in the country and energy efficient measures need to be addressed and made. Designs of buildings and houses need to be aware of this actual issue and measures must be made to mitigate this effect.

Keywords: energy consumption, housing, thermal comfort, energy efficiency, residential

INTRODUCTION

Among His signs is this, that He sends the winds, as heralds of glad tidings, giving you a taste of His (Grace and) Mercy.
Qur'an, Ar-Rum 30:46

Today, Malaysia is one of the most progressive nations in South East Asia and although not yet considered as one of the 'tigers' (leading financial centres in Asia such as Japan and Singapore) she is steadily gaining ground (Doling 2002). Malaysia's economy grew 6.7% per annum between 1971 and 1990 (Government of Malaysia 1991) and even with the 1998 economic slowdown, which worsened in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 attacks, Malaysia's economy has always remained in the positive (0.4% is the lowest) (Asian Development Bank 2006). Malaysia experienced a healthy growth comeback at 7.8%, the highest growth since 2000 after the Asian Financial Crisis (Economic Planning Unit 2004),