

Malay Vernacular Architecture

Traditional and Contemporary Expressions

Norwina Mohd Nawawi

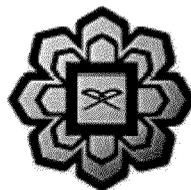


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CHAPTER 11

CONTEMPORARY MALAYSIAN HOUSING SCENARIO VERSUS VERNACULAR HOUSES: IMPLICATIONS ON THERMAL COMFORT

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ABSTRACT

Malaysia has experienced developmental growth in the last forty years, which has led to the rapid urbanization of the country. The progressive economic strength of the country also has lent to this effect where most economic activities were concentrated in the urban areas. As a result, shortage of housing for all levels of the society occurred and in Malaysia this quickly became a major problem, especially for the lower income population. This chapter elucidates on the public housing scenario in Malaysia and the growing effect they have on the national energy consumption.

Keywords: terraced housing, urbanization, energy consumption, thermal comfort, affluent society

INTRODUCTION

In Malaysia the problem of inadequate provision in public housing started in the early 1970's where Malaysia started its track for progress. This phenomenon was exacerbated in the late 70s and the 80s when Malaysia turned into an industrialist country and joined the global market economy. The progressive economic strength of the country then led to the effect of rapid urbanization where economic activities were concentrated in mainly the urban areas. As a result, shortage of housing for all levels of society occurred and in Malaysia this quickly became a major problem, especially for the lower income population. Demands for urban housing increased considerably and the government and its agencies could not keep up with the provision of houses and subsequently looked to the private sectors to ease housing shortages (Ministry of Housing and Local Government Malaysia (MHLG) 1998). Although the private sector helped reduce housing shortage, it had not been without a price. Many of the newly-built houses, namely terraced houses that were the most built, were designed for quick delivery and therefore built with minimal requirements (such as cheap building