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access audit done in Kota Kinabalu concluded that the water front area was designed without consideration of Universal Design, and renovation of the built environment is urgently needed to comply with the Malaysian standard requirements.

**P-239            A Comparative Study of Horizontal and Vertical Architectural Design Studio Management in IIUM**

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The Department of Architecture, Kulliyyah of Architecture and Environmental Design (KAED), International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), had conducted a horizontal studio management system for the last 11 years of its operation. The same system has also been used by most of the schools of architecture through out the globe. However, due to the increasing numbers of students, and shortage of lecturers, the department had some difficulties in managing the smooth running of architectural design studio teaching. Therefore, the department resolves such problems by introducing a new vertical studio management system, which commenced in December 2008. The implementation of vertical studio system is for the purpose of improving both lecturers-students interaction, and students' learning capabilities. This research aims to compare the strengths, weaknesses, and effectiveness of two (2) systems of studio management: Horizontal and Vertical Studio Management. With support of survey and interview, this research mainly utilizes action research, in which personal experience of academic staff and students in dealing with both horizontal and vertical studio management systems is documented. It is expected that the new vertical system would have some disadvantages as its introduction has not been properly tested and securitised prior to its implementation.

**P-243            Work and Family Life Balance: An Islamic Response**

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The increasing need to finance the modern life has called women to participate in the workforce. The issue of work and family balance arise when married women or traditional mothers also joined the workforce. When working mothers joined the workforce, there is dilemma to create a balance between family obligations and organizational commitments. The work-family balance includes time balance (equal time devoted to work and family), involvement balance (equal involvement in work and family), and satisfaction balance (equal satisfaction with work and family). The study evaluates the concept of work and family life balance from an Islamic perspective. Both working and family life are integral in human's principal duty, which is to worship Allah (by executing the tasks as servant and vicegerent of Allah on this worldly life). The ultimate aim of life is to gain true happiness (victory/ al falah) in the Hereafter. The study suggests that both institutions (work and family) if submit to the teaching of Islam, can ultimately accomplish the well being of people and society and the pleasure of Allah.

**P-244            Mediation in Marital Discord in Islamic Law: Legislative Foundation and Contemporary Application**

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Mediation as a method of marriage conflict resolution has recently emerged as one of the most workable institutionalized techniques in Western jurisdictions. In Islamic law, although ipso facto, it was given legislative recognition centuries ago under the principle of *taḥkim*; its potential as a viable reconciliation technique was somewhat obscured by juridical technicalities. Indisputably, mediation was the underlying ratio legis for the institution of *ḥakam* (arbitration). In practice, however, mediation was not the sole