

# Malay Vernacular Architecture

Traditional and Contemporary Expressions

Norwina Mohd Nawawi

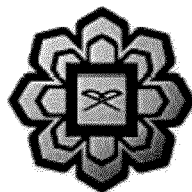


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# **Malay Vernacular Architecture:** *traditional and contemporary expressions*

*Norwina Mohd Nawawi*



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## CHAPTER 9

### BEYOND VERNACULAR MALAY ARCHITECTURE : THE PERCEPTION ON THE CONSERVATION AND ADAPTIVE REUSE OF OLD TOWNHOUSES AT JALAN DORAISAMY, KUALA LUMPUR

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#### ABSTRACT

The research focuses on one of the latest conservation work done in Kuala Lumpur city, Dang Wangi area called Heritage Row, beyond the Malay Vernacular Architecture in urban settings. The conservation of the historical buildings had revived the area to become one of the most frequently visited spot by the locals and tourists. The transformation from a townhouse built during 1920's to a leisure and entertainment business area is considered refreshing, compared to the old condition which was almost an abandoned part of the city. Most of people agreed that the conservation works were worthwhile and an excellent effort in enhancing the architecture, business and tourism of the city. The renovation works done on the external parts are still considered minimum in conserving the old structure and building image. The interior parts of these buildings were drastically changed to cater for the new functions. The evidences indicated that the area had become more of a collection of international fine dining restaurants and pubs as well as one of the favourite food and beverage area for tourist and locals.

**Keywords:** conservation, townhouses, leisure, business, Kuala Lumpur, historical buildings

#### INTRODUCTION

Adaptive reuse is the process of adapting old structures for new purposes. When the original use of a structure changes or is no longer required, as with older buildings from the industrial revolution, architects had the opportunity to change the primary function of the structure, while often retaining some of the existing architectural details that make the building unique.

While the Malay vernacular architectures of traditional Malay house became the heritage built environment of the Malay world in rural settings, including former village of Kuala Lumpur, the village turn town of Kuala Lumpur, since Capitan Yap Ah Loy and British Resident Frank Swettenham, had gone through many significant architectural eras of her