

# Nurturing Nature for Man

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IIUM PRESS  
INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA



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## CHAPTER 9

### CREATING QUALITY GREEN OPEN SPACE IN MALAYSIA

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#### ABSTRACT

Open spaces in many earlier neighbourhood developments in Malaysia had become merely the 'leftover space' which probably could not be developed in any way or were situated too far from existing utilities. Often these open spaces are considered not profitable to be developed, and then this is when the Landscape Architects were asked to simply 'beautify' the leftover spaces. However, over the last 10 years in the Malaysian urban planning design or neighbourhood housing design have brought a new rediscovery, where open spaces or good landscape design have been awarded as an essential element for good quality living and help to increase any property value. The criteria is a tool to help designers promote qualities and to hinder dissatisfaction about residential green open spaces and thereby help to enhance community development socially, mentally, physically and spiritually. It will help designers and developers to evaluate their residential and community design options and to generalize in order to optimize quality towards their outdoor settings which are closely related to the requirements from its users.

**Keywords:** Quality, Green Open Spaces, Criteria, Neighbourhood, Malaysia.

#### INTRODUCTION

Malaysia today is undergoing what developed countries have experienced with regards to urbanization. Housing conditions that were adequate before are no longer acceptable today. Malaysia has taken proactive measures by introducing more comprehensive national town and country planning policies and several relevant action plans in the country's development plans. The goal is to provide the necessary physical and social infrastructure to improve the quality of life (Ting, 2001). This is in line with the actual thrust of our National 2020 Vision Policy, where the social agenda remained a key component in the formulation of economic policies where the ultimate measure of economic success is the achievement of higher living standards and the well-being of the people.

One of the main purposes of this study was to gain an increased understanding on the quality aspects of neighbourhood green open spaces among Malaysian park users'. Since, the initiative to cater for safer and quality urban environment was highly mentioned in our National Urbanisation Policy - NUP (2006) as well as the Kuala Lumpur Structure Plan 2020 by City Hall Kuala Lumpur (2003). Hence, it is therefore the right time to have an assessment tool in evaluating the quality of green spaces as well as related projects and research to ensure