

# CONTEMPORARY STUDIES AND METHODOLOGY IN URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING IN MALAYSIA



MARIANA MOHAMED OSMAN  
RUSTAM KHAIRI ZAHARI  
SYAHRIAH BACHOK

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## CONTENTS

Foreword		iii
List of Tables		v
List of Figures		vi
<b>CHAPTER 1:</b>	<b>THE CONCEPTS OF GOD, MAN AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN ISLAM: IMPLICATIONS FOR ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE</b>	<b>1</b>
	Spahic Omer	
<b>CHAPTER 2:</b>	<b>THE LESSONS OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD IN URBAN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT</b>	<b>23</b>
	Spahic Omer	
<b>CHAPTER 3:</b>	<b>DEVELOPMENT CONTROL IN SABAH WITHIN A CONTEXT OF PLANNING SYSTEM IN MALAYSIA</b>	<b>43</b>
	Noor Suzilawati Rabe, Mariana Mohamed Osman and Azila Ahmad Sarkawi	
<b>CHAPTER 4:</b>	<b>A STUDY ON RESIDENTS' SATISFACTION WITH MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT OF LOW-COST HOUSING IN KUALA LUMPUR</b>	<b>74</b>
	Mohammad Abdul Mohit and Nurul Helma Bt. Mohammad Aminullah	
<b>CHAPTER 5:</b>	<b>THE IMPORTANCE OF TOWN PLANNING SYSTEM IN SUSTAINING COASTAL MANAGEMENT IN MALAYSIA</b>	<b>101</b>
	M.Zainora Asmawi	
<b>CHAPTER 6:</b>	<b>REMOTE SENSING IN URBAN SPRAWL MODELING: SCENARIO AND WAY FORWARD IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES</b>	<b>115</b>
	Norzailawati Mohd Noor and Alias Abdullah	

<b>CHAPTER 7:</b>	<b>THE POLITICAL ECONOMY CHANGES AND STRUCTURE OF HOUSING PROVISION IN MALAYSIA</b>	126
	Syafiee Shuid	
<b>CHAPTER 8:</b>	<b>THE CONCEPT OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN URBAN PLANNING</b>	160
	Mariana Mohamed Osman	
<b>CHAPTER 9:</b>	<b>SAMPLE, SAMPLING AND SURVEY METHODS IN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROJECTS</b>	185
	Abdul Azeez Kadar Hamsa	
<b>CHAPTER 10:</b>	<b>RESEARCH METHODOLOGY ON THE STUDY OF RESPONSES OF THE SQUATTERS' COMMUNITIES TO FLOOD HAZARDS IN KUALA LUMPUR</b>	198
	Rustam Khairi Zahari and Raja Noriza Raja Ariffin	
<b>CHAPTER 11:</b>	<b>RESEARCH DESIGN FOR EXPLANATORY CASE STUDY ADOPTED MIXED METHOD APPROACH</b>	226
	Luqman Hakim Mahamod	
<b>CHAPTER 12:</b>	<b>RESEARCH METHODOLOGY ON THE STUDY OF PLANNING LAW IN SABAH, MALAYSIA</b>	239
	Noor Suzilawati Rabe, Mariana Mohamed Osman and Azila Ahmad Sarkawi	
<b>CHAPTER 13:</b>	<b>MODELLING USERS' MODE CHOICE BEHAVIOUR</b>	255
	Syahriah Bachok	

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **THE LESSONS OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD IN URBAN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

**Spahic Omer (Assoc. Prof. Dr.)**

Kulliyyah of Architecture and Environmental Design (KAED)  
International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)  
P.O Box 10, 50278 Kuala Lumpur  
Email: [spahico@yahoo.com](mailto:spahico@yahoo.com)

#### **ABSTRACT**

Islam is a comprehensive religion and a way of life. It came to raze people's erring living patterns and furnish them with such as are based upon the heavenly paradigm instead. The Islamic theory of urban planning and development is as old as the Muslim community. Its fundamental principles have been comprehensively laid in the Holy Qur'an as well as in the sayings and practices of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)<sup>i</sup>. Certainly, the best manifestation of the earliest planning and urbanization in Islam was the establishment of the Muslim community in the Prophet's city of Madinah in the wake of the migration from Makkah in 622 A.C.

In this paper, I shall identify and examine the most relevant lessons in urban planning and development which Prophet Muhammad under the aegis of revelation has bequeathed to us. Since Muhammad was the last Messenger of God to mankind, such lessons Muslims regard as universal and timeless. Central to the paper will be the following issues: (1) the philosophy of the city, (2) the necessity of providing adequate social amenities for all, (3) peaceful and accountable co-existence with the natural environment, (4) housing, (5) the idea of the market (economy). By exploring these subjects, the strength and soundness of the fundamentals of Islam, as well as of the first Muslim community, will clearly come into sight, as will the visionary disposition of Prophet Muhammad to sustainable development and urbanization, which can benefit not only Muslims but also non-Muslims, especially at the present when beleaguered man