Architectural Design Practice and Projects

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PASSIVE DESIGN: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE SELECTED PUBLIC HOSPITAL BUILDINGS IN MALAYSIA

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ABSTRACT

The article describes the study conducted upon the general aspects of passive design considerations in the selected Malaysian hospitals. Through literature review, observation and random interviews, the study had made comparison on both the old and new hospital designs in the country for which the findings are not meant to be conclusive but suffice to provide the lead towards further research in the various aspects of passive design considerations in hospital buildings.

Keywords: Healthcare, Hospital Design, Environment, Passive Design Consideration

INTRODUCTION

With the rapid development of public hospitals in the 6th, 7th, and 8th Malaysia Plan and the prevailing issue of fungus found in the newly built Sultan Ismail Specialist Hospital, Johor Bharu (NST, Monday, Sept. 27, 2004, p1-3) and other existing and new healthcare buildings, passive design considerations had become a relevant issue to be discussed to ensure sustainability of a healthy environment throughout the facilities.

This article intends to provide insights to healthcare building typology and addresses the question of passive design considerations in selected Malaysian hospitals of varied design as case studies on comparative basis. Using the methodology of literature review, visits, observation and interview, the findings will focus on the buildings’ perceived consideration towards passive design as defined in the paragraph below. The comparative studies will be made among the old colonial hospital, current and the newly built hospitals of an appropriate level of care- non specialist hospital. The findings include rediscovering the considerations made for passive design from the projects and design briefs, wherever available, through their design development as well as in the as-built build up features found on site.