



RUMAH TOK MENTERI II

a continuation of generations

Abdul Razak Sopian
Noor Hanita Abdul Majid
Zaitun Abdul Rahim
Zuraini Denan





*Titi Gajah, Alor Star,
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Tel: +603-6196 5014 Fax: 603-6196 4862

Email: rescentre@iium.edu.my

Website: <http://www.iium.edu.my/research>





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Ada rumah berhias indah
Letak antara terusan yang sudah
Ismail Hakim Teh empunya rumah
Pembesar Istana Negeri Kedah



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EDITORIAL BOARD

Authors

*Abdul Razak Sopian
Noor Hanita Abdul Majid
Zaiton Abdul Rahim
Zuraini Denan*

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PREFACE

Kedah, northern state known for its richness with historical and cultural value, provides a long list of heritage buildings. The historic development of buildings in Kedah, Malaysia is the main subject discussed in this book so as to increase awareness on building preservation by combining generic historical studies with specific building analysis. This book established a clear and precise explanation on the development of Malaysia's early settlements up to Colonial period. A number of factors that contributed to the emergence of Colonial and eclectic mixed styles of architecture are also discussed.

As a focus, an overview of the colonial bungalow is magnified with a thorough analysis of a selected building, the Rumah Tok Menteri II. This house was built by a prominent personality, En. Ismail Hakim Teh, a minister of Kedah during the era of Sultan Abdul Hamid Halim Shah. Its architectural style, influences and building systems should provide readers with ample information on the culture of the Malay people in the 1880's.

Through the information gathered and documented in this book, we hope one gain a new perspective on heritage buildings in Malaysia, especially in Kedah. Buildings are witnesses of history, and to loose them due to a lack of appreciation is like loosing one's portion of. It is hoped that the publication of this book will inspire all to appreciate the beauty and value of heritage buildings.