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Shariah Compliance Hospitality Building Design: A Malay Muslim Oriented Architecture



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INTRODUCTION

“Have you not travelled through the earth and seen what was the end of those before them? They were more in number than them and mightier in strength, and in the traces (they have left behind them) in the land; yet all that they used to earn availed them not”

(Surah Ghafir, 82).

- Malaysia is a multiracial society with ethnic minority where tourists can find the whole of Asia in one country as the tagline goes; **Malaysia Truly Asia** (Malaysian Airlines).
- The mentioned character is attractive for Muslim tourists from the Arab countries (Zulkifli et.al., 2009)

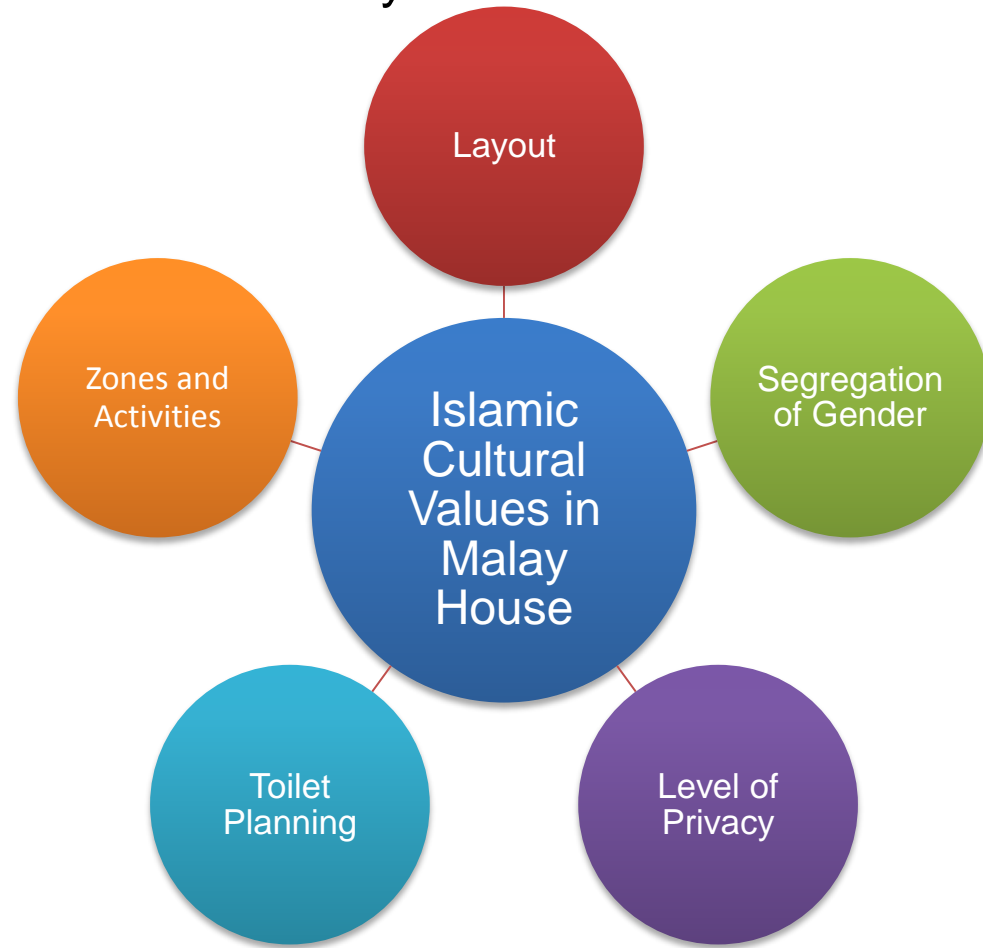
ISSUE

- The essence of culture and identity of Malaysia or specifically the Malays is rapidly decreasing due to development and modernization of city.
- Hospitality architecture in Malaysia is seen as the closest approach to introducing foreign visitors to the traditional architecture of Malaysia.
- Lack of attention on fundamental nature of Malay or vernacular architecture in hospitality building.
- Assimilation of traditional Malay architecture to the hospitality buildings is a venue to promote cultural tourism.
- This attempt will lead to the preservation and projection of the Malay culture in a new development.
- The Syariah-compliant hospitality services have increasing demands from tourists.

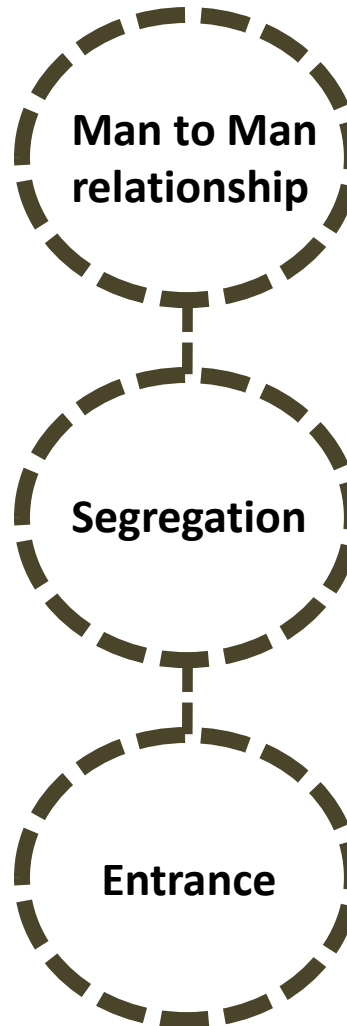
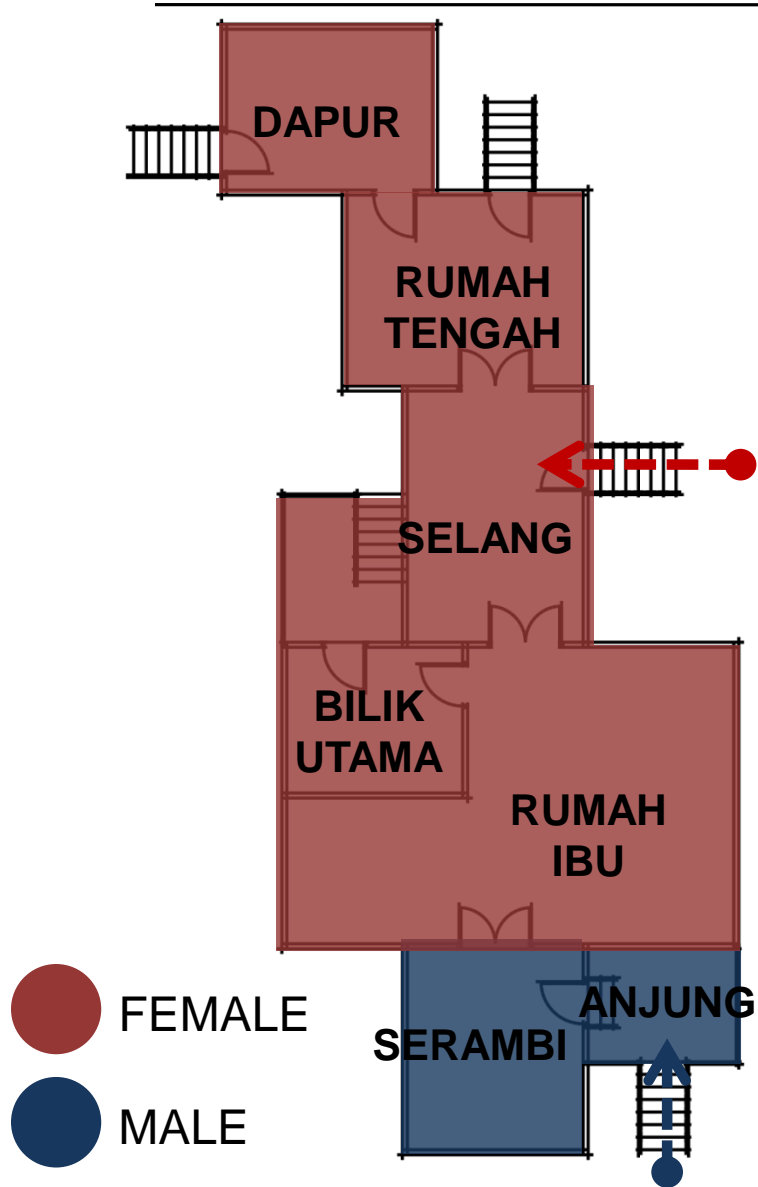


Malay Muslim Traditional Dwelling

- Outline the Islamic cultural values in Malay houses and adapting it into the Syariah Compliant hotel design in Malaysia so that the tourist could experience such lifestyle during their visit and stay in the hotel.



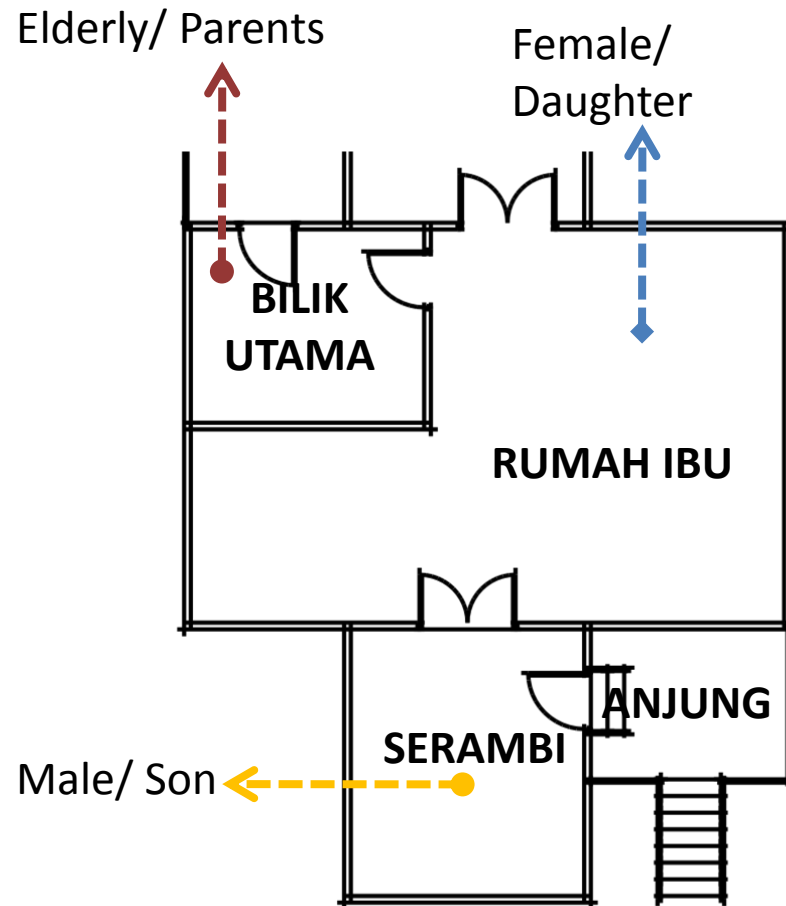
Layout



- Concept of *Muamalah*
 - i. Segregation of gender for entrance to the house

Segregation

- Parents will sleep in the bedroom, daughters in the main space (Rumah Ibu), while sons usually sleep in the verandah



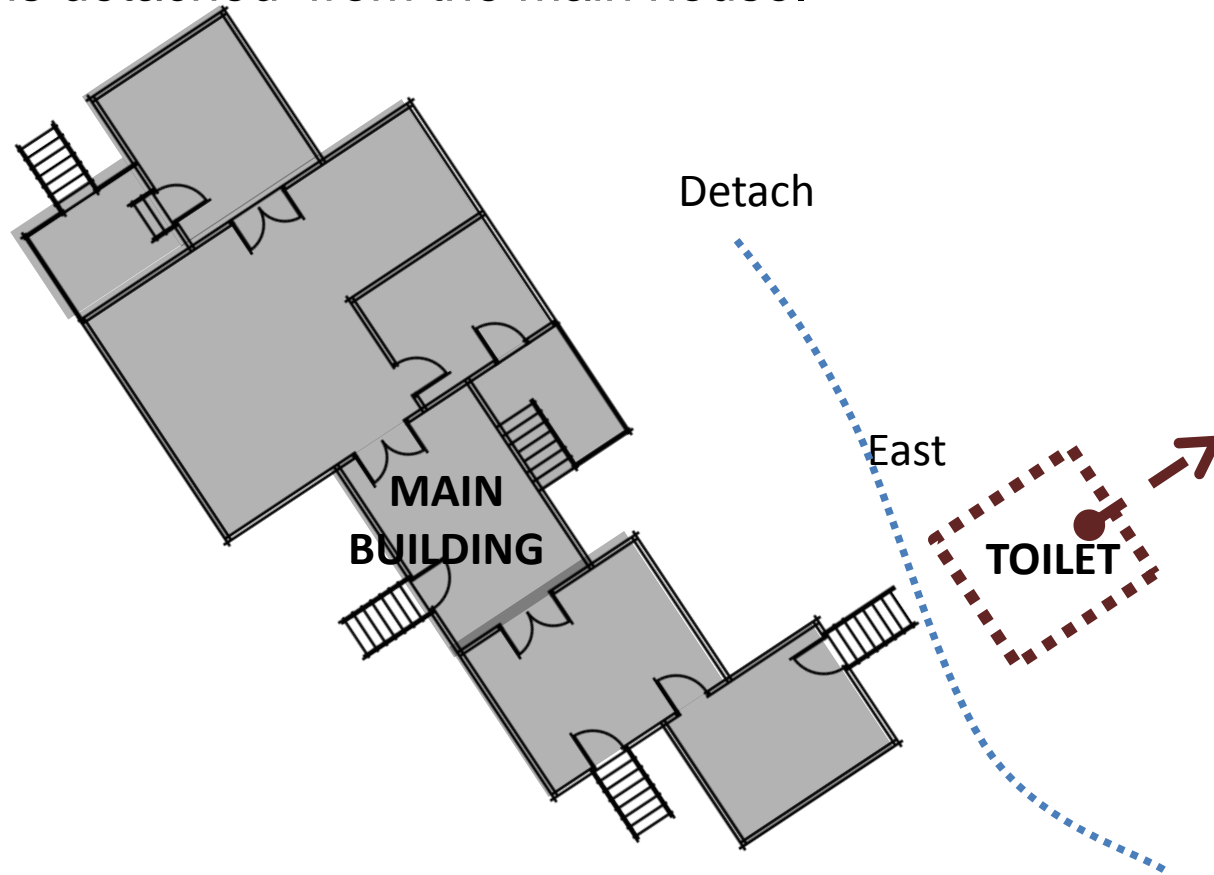
Level of Privacy

- Example:
 - i. The size of opening.
doors and window- the provisions of the louvers on the window's panel are abiding to the privacy safeguarding requirements.
 - i. Space hierarchy
the private area which dedicated for female in the Malay house rises up above other spaces. The idea is to control the privacy level of the occupant of the house and female members



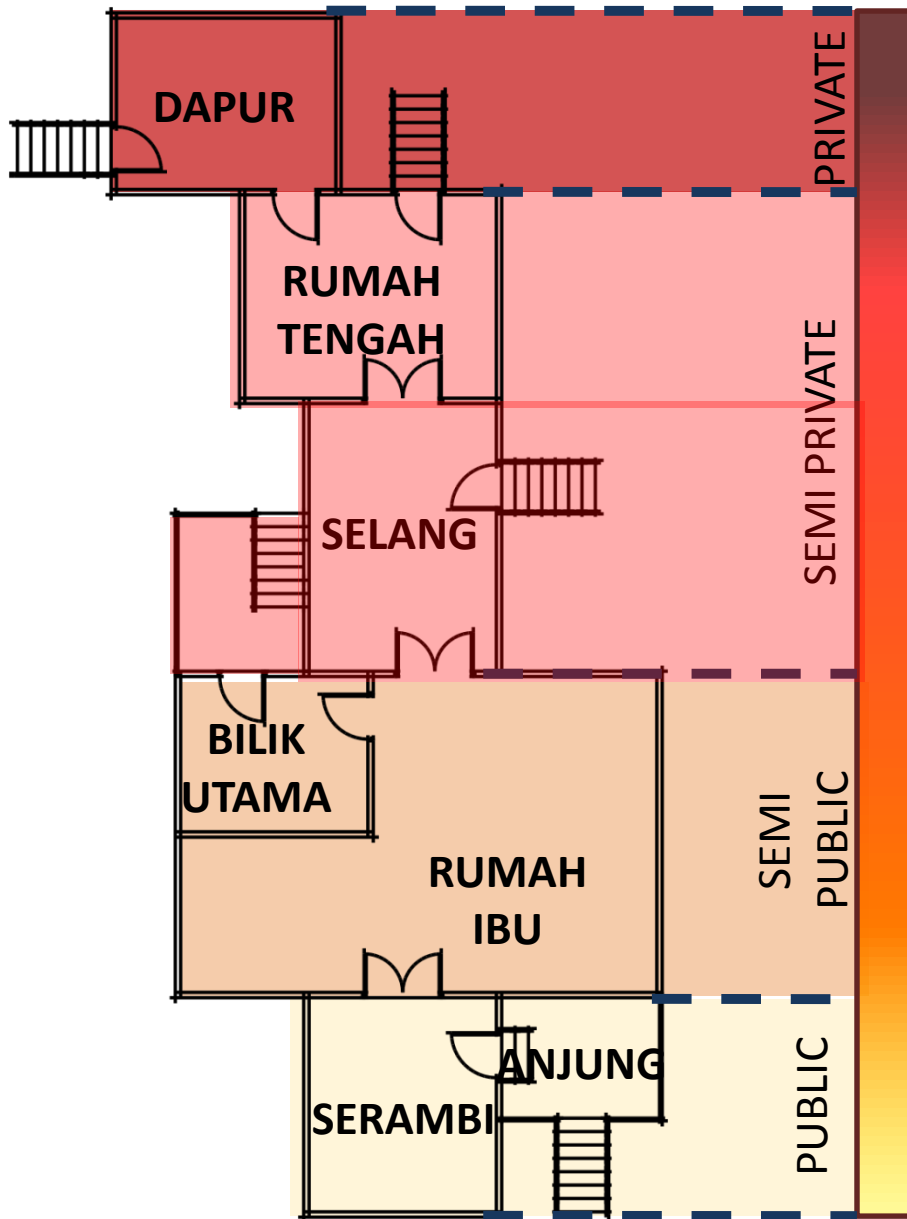
Toilet Planning

- The bathroom and toilet should not face the Qiblah direction and is detached from the main house.



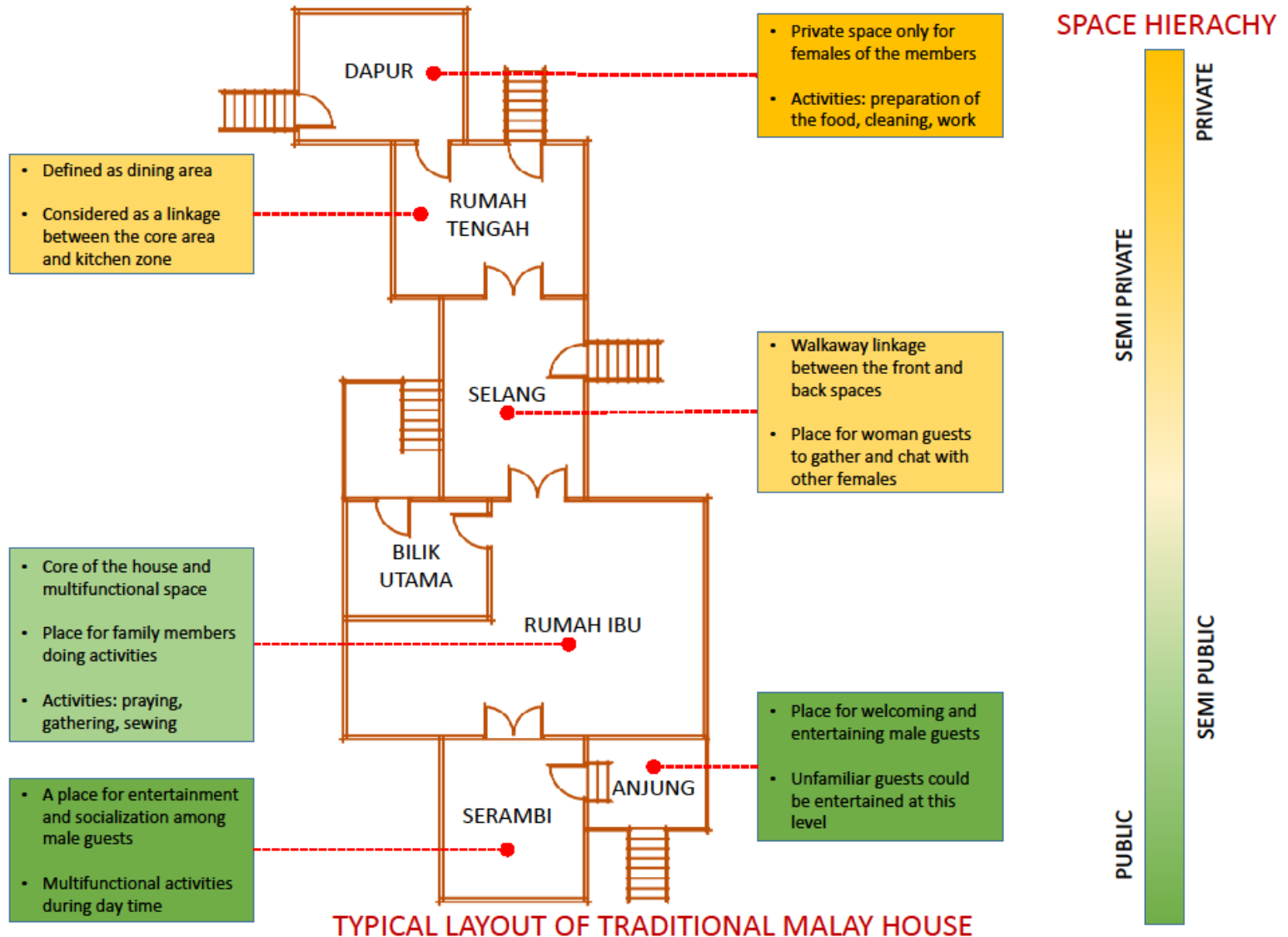
- Idea of CLEANLINESS

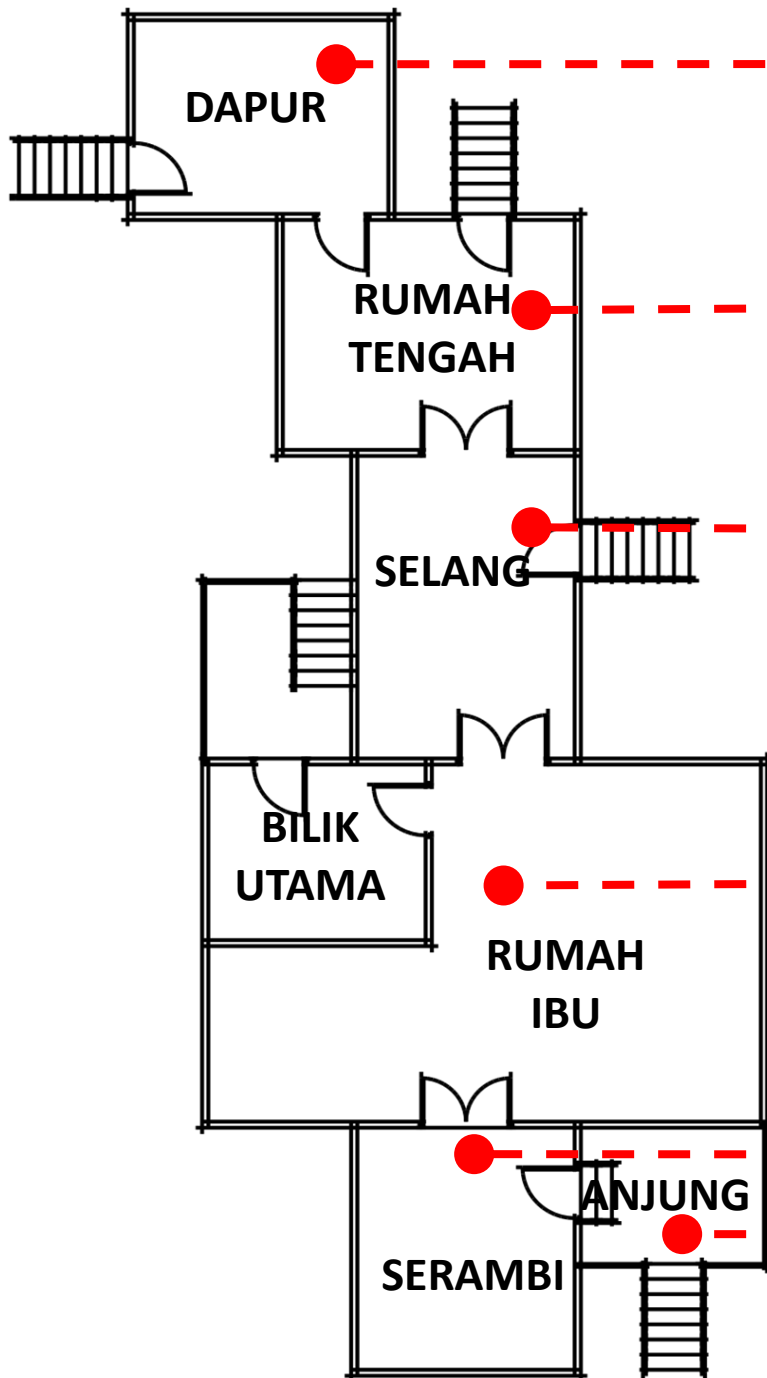
Zones in Malay House



- The spaces are very flexible to Malays lifestyle (Lim, 1987). The spaces can be used for multi-functions at different times of a day. The Malays maximizes the space with the activities related to their lifestyle

Zones in Malay House





- Private space only for females of the members
- Activities: preparation of the food, cleaning, work

- Defined as dining area
- Considered as a linkage between the core area and kitchen zone

- Walk way linkage between the front and back spaces
- Place for woman guests to gather and chat with other females

- Core of the house and multifunctional space
- Place for family members doing activities
- Activities: praying, gathering, sewing

- A place for entertainment and socialization among male guests
- Multifunctional activities during day time

- Place for welcoming and entertaining male guests (Respect)
- Unfamiliar guests could be entertained at this level

Malay Muslim House

Emphasizes on privacy value in spatial organization, floor plan design and wall opening.

i. This can be identified through the visual privacy where the wall, window and curtain uses to block the view from intrusion from the non-mahram eye.

ii. Spatial arrangement of space that emphasis on segregation gender and separation between public and private space. The understanding of these divisions and the architectural elements such as windows, doors, opening and the opening treatments toward privacy should be taken into considerations (Noorul and Anuar, 2013).



Syariah Compliant hotel

Demand for Syariah Compliant Hotel and Resort.

- **Reason** : Significant size of Muslim consumers or travellers and the growing demand for the concept of Islamic hotel and resort
- Syariah Compliant Hotel can be defined as a hotel where the services offered and financial transactions are based on **Syariah principles**.
- **Syariah compliant hotel** should be designed for health, safety and economics that would benefit all mankind, regardless of race, faith or cultures (Muhammad, 2009)

Syariah Compliant hotel

Syariah compliance hotel consists of food and beverage, which are non- alcoholic, halal food and beverage with cooking and serving utensils in clean condition (Che Musa, 2013)

The facilities should take into account;

- i. The segregation facilities by gender
- ii. Ablution taps in bathroom
- iii. Comfortable prayer spaces or room
- iv. Provision of Holy Quran, prayer mats, qiblat direction, Islamic practices booklet, prayer call in the hotel rooms
- v. Halal toiletries
- vi. Prohibit Non-Islamic entertainment.



Shariah Compliant hotel

The management should;

- i. Employ Islamic finance and follow zakat principles.
- ii. The staff attire must cover their *aurah* (body parts as prescribed by Syariah) and practice Islamic attitudes or good *akhlaq* (manners and conduct).



- The hotel must provide clean and comfortable environment.
- The interior decorations should be void of human form and the encourage the use of Islamic calligraphy art
- The bed and toilet should not face the *qiblah* direction and
- separation between bath and toilet.

Hotel System

Operational



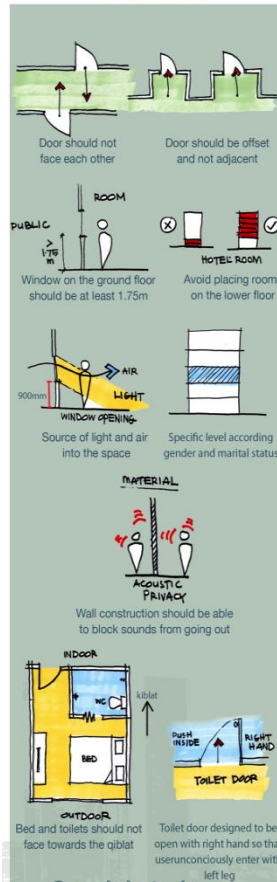
Design

Financial

Hotel Financial: Islamic Financial Arrangement

Zakat principle
(Giving back to the community)

Rooms



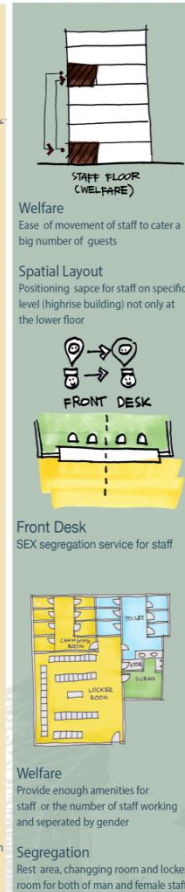
Special study :

Shariah Compliance Hospitality Service

Food & Beverages



Administration



Facilities



Recommendation of Syariah Complaint in Malay Hospitality Building Design

- **Hotel** is one of the hospitality industry providing accommodation, meals, and other services for travellers and tourists, by the night (Oxford dictionary).
- A primary concern in Malay Muslim friendly hotel design can be achieved through architectural design. Currently, the research focus for syariah compliant hotel is on operational and financial hospitality system and façade design.
- In order to be classified as **Syariah Compliant Hotel**, the hotel should accommodate Islamic principles in the whole hospitality system; **operation, design and financial management**.
- The design of the Islamic hotel should be the product of the Islamic beliefs and the value of the occupants.

Findings and Recommendations



1. Lobby

Lobby design plays important role in selling the hotel hallmarks. It must gives sense of welcoming to the guest. Anjung and entrance area in Malay house functions as what a lobby should be. The layout should be open and flexible to accommodate and entertain the guests. Value of respect should be expressed in this space and can be achieved through the implementation of scale.

PURI DAMAI, MELAKA



BERJAYA RESORT LANGKAWI

Findings and Recommendations

2. Guestrooms

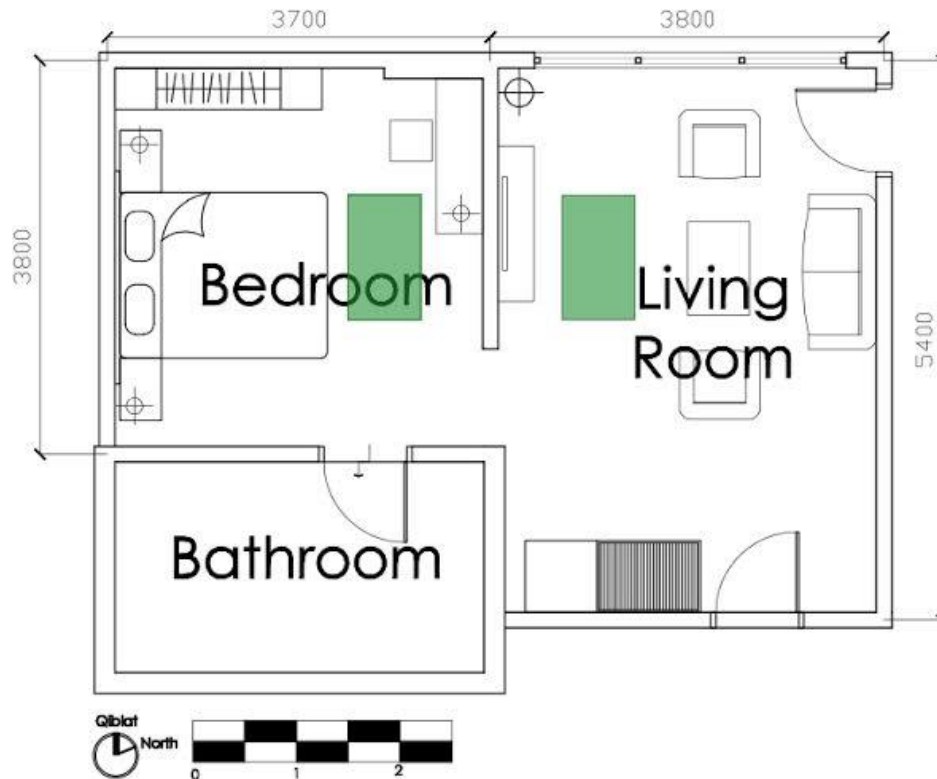
- Every hotel has their own image, theme and hallmarks on designing the guestrooms.

HOTEL GUESTROOM	MALAY HOSPITALITY BUILDING DESIGN
Guestrooms segregation by gender may be designated by floor; i.e. floor designated for male or female guests only or floor for family to cater for the need of privacy due to the guests' status	The provision area in the main area in Malay house which is dedicated for elderly, daughter and son.
Living space in the hotel (guestroom) may accommodate as a multifunctional space. The rooms are at least applicable to practice Islamic teaching (Prayer).	Rumah Ibu in Malay house is multifunctional space which most activities of the family members take place

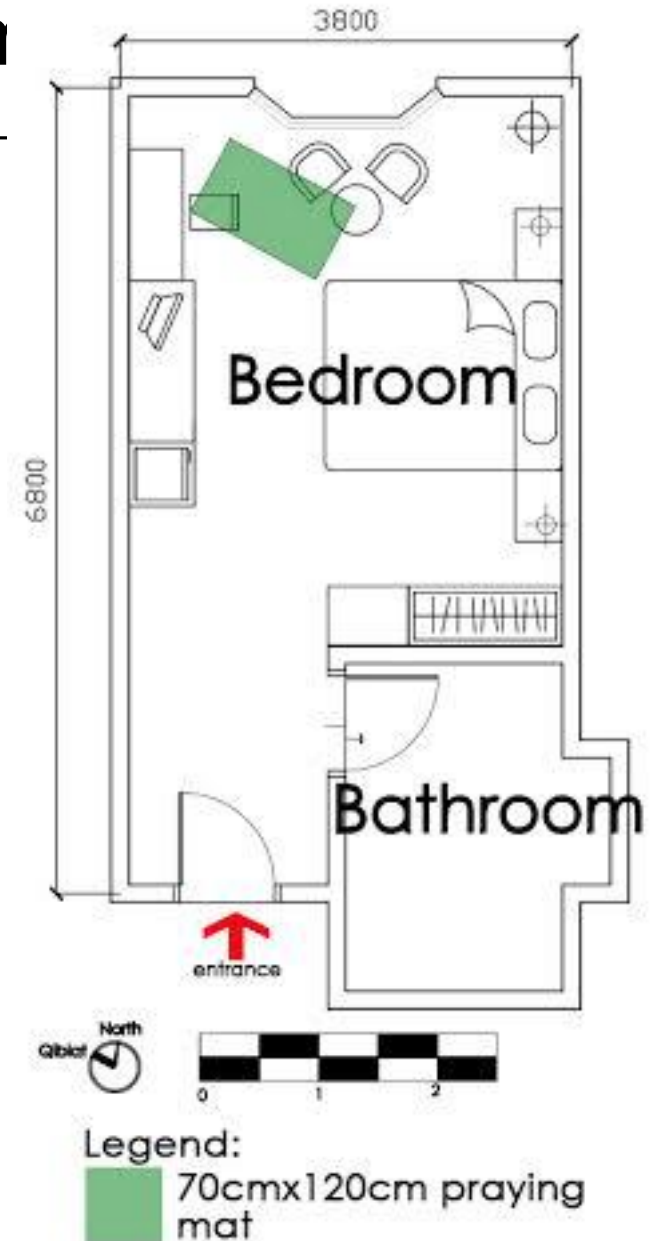
Findings and Recomn

2. Guestrooms

The guest room should be flexible as to accommodate the prayer needs. The space should be flexible to allow the *sajdah* or prayer mat to be laid in the direction of the *qiblah*. Flexibility is one of the important characteristics of the Malay house.

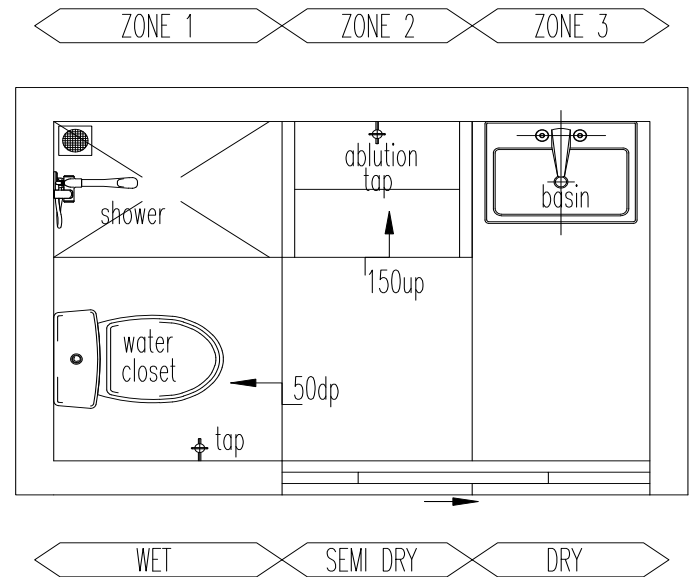
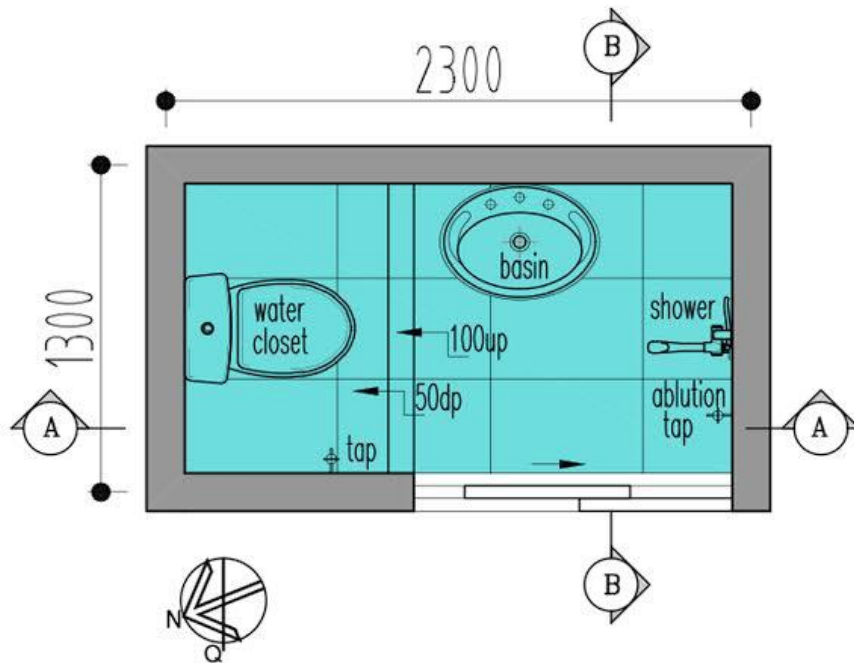


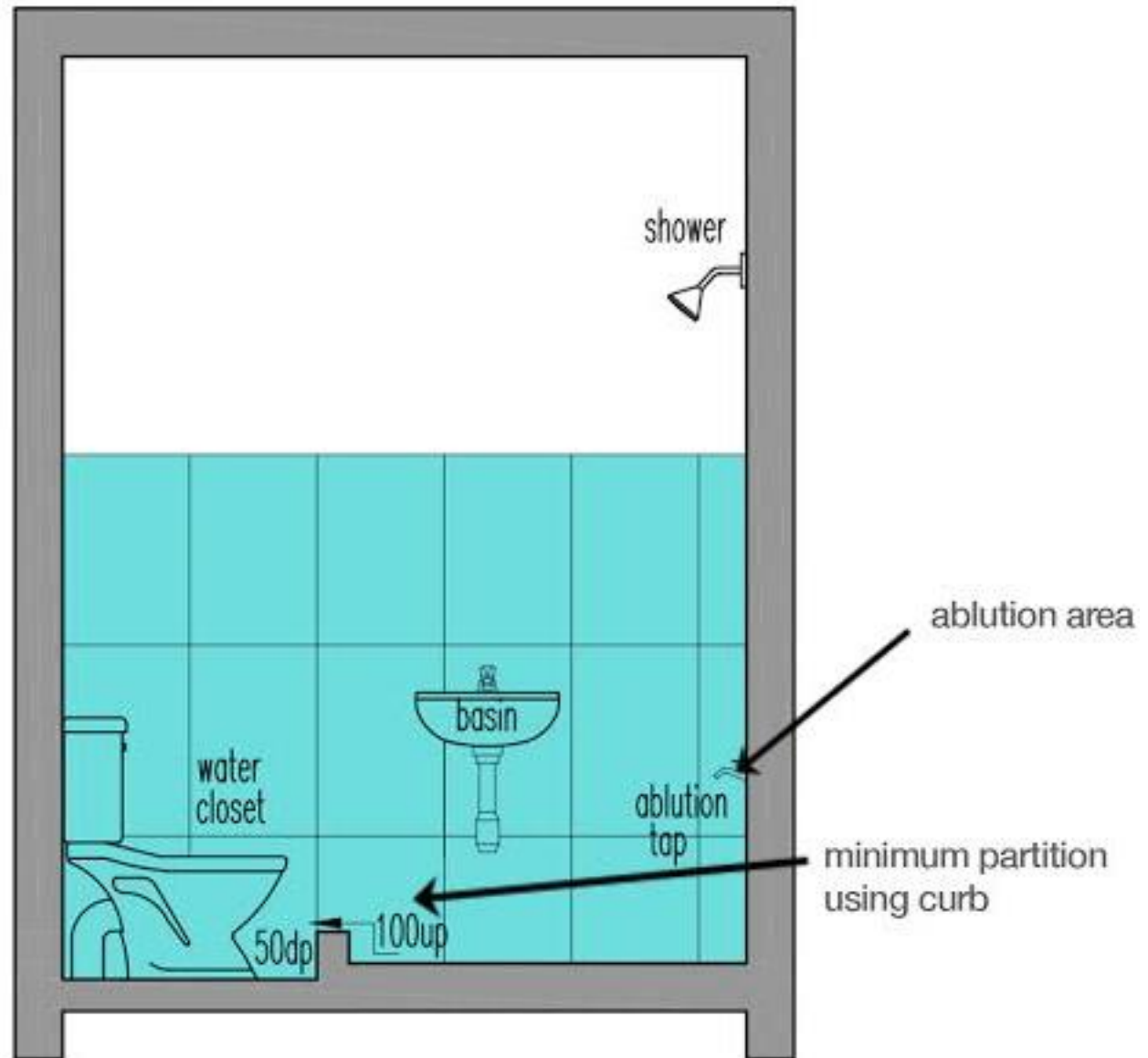
HOTEL GRAND BLUEWAVE



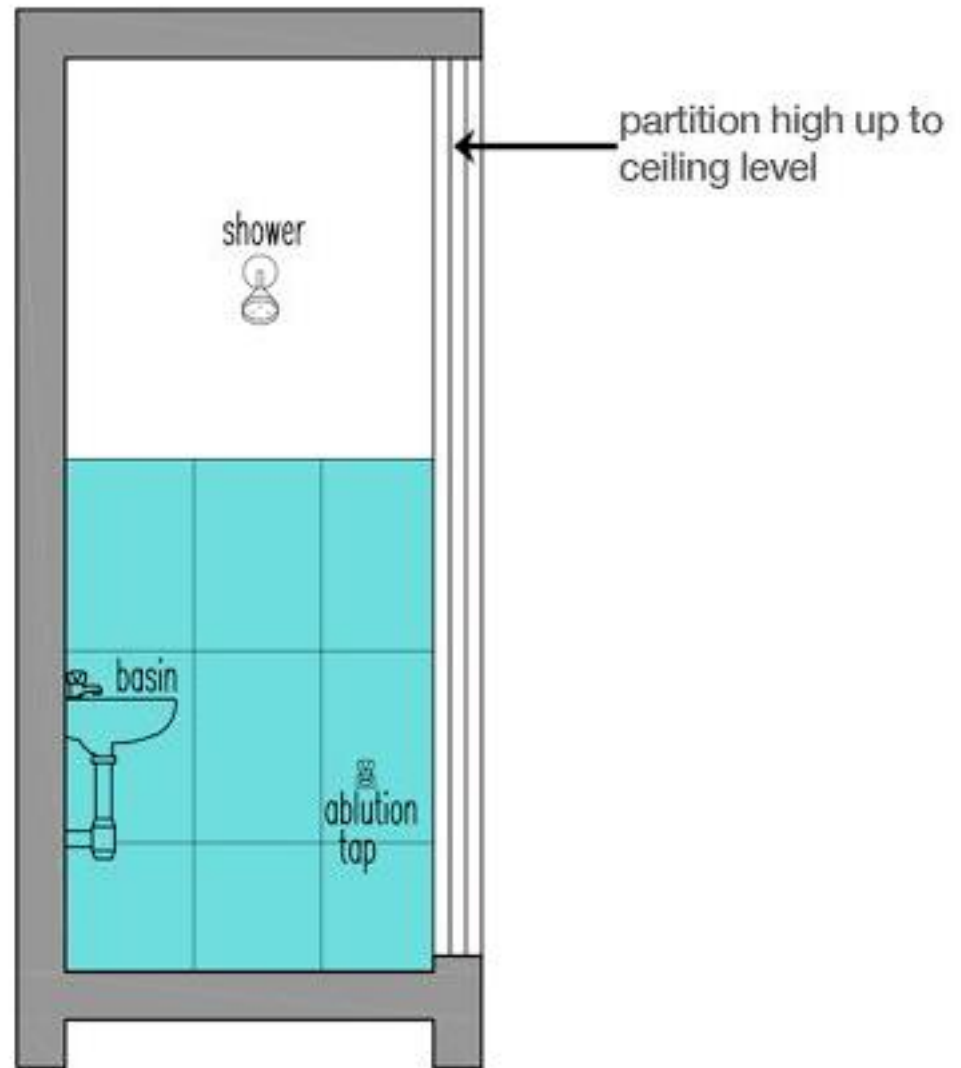
HOTEL DE PALMA AMPANG

As toilets in hotels are attached to the guestrooms, considerations should be given to the orientation and layout to be conducive for cleansing and performance of *wudhu*'. The toilets should not provide water closets in direction of *qiblah* and bidet for *wudhu*'.





Visual and acoustical privacy at the guestrooms can take precedence to the design implemented in the Malay traditional houses. The control of the openings can be achieved through the the layers and versatility of the opening design to ensure privacy of the guests.



Findings and Recommendations

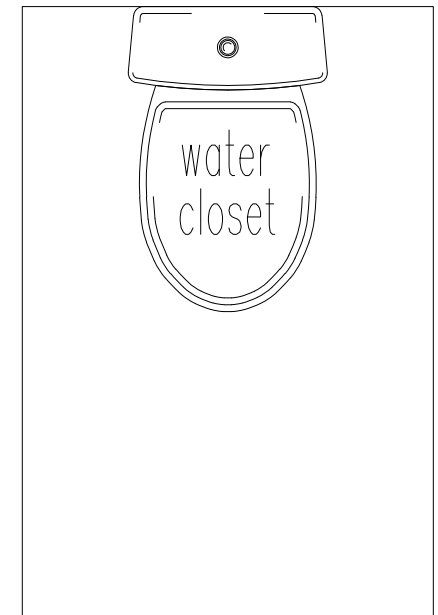
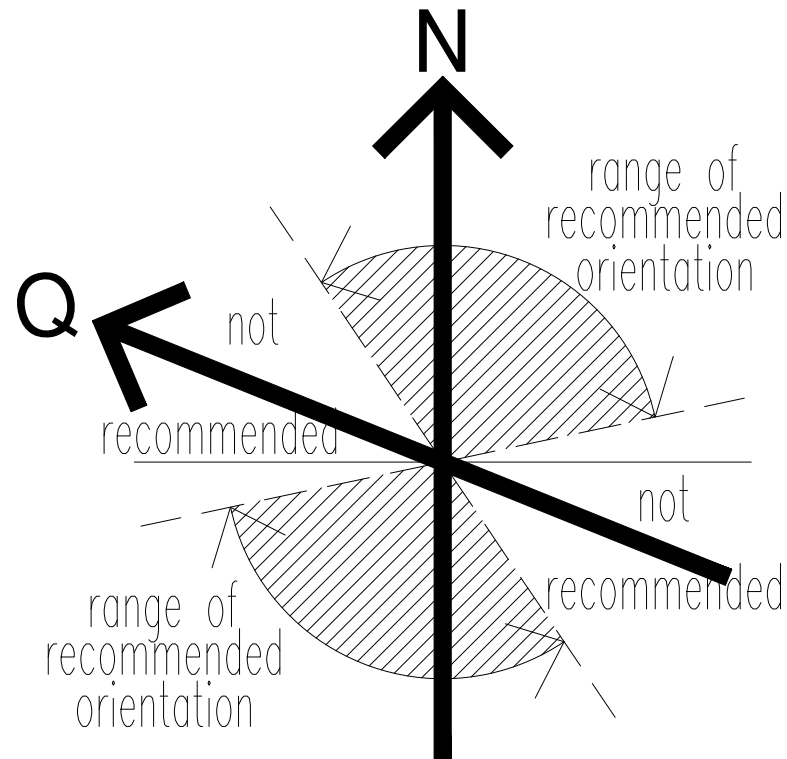
3. Recreational Facilities

- The design of recreational facilities in the hotel; i.e. swimming pool, spa, fitness centre and etc., should consider separation gender.
- Each individual of male and female needs their own privacy.
- This applies most on female guests who require safety and security when enjoying the stay in hotel or resort.
- Layout of Malay house stresses most on this division of space between male and female.

4. Others

Bed and toilet planning in Malay house is not laid in the *qiblah* direction.

Therefore, this concept of orientation must apply in the building design.



Conclusion

In conclusion, Islamic teaching and cultural norms can be applied through architectural design. The understanding of this factors should be taken into considerations in designing Malay Muslim building design in future.

The study of hotel design towards Syariah Compliance is still unclear in practice. Nevertheless, it is encouraged if the hotel designs are built according to syariah which is Al Quran and *Sunnah*.

Implementing the essence of Malay identity in the hospitality building design will enhance tourism industry as tourists will experience and learning more the Malay culture. Therefore the designers should explore and implement the Malay identity in architectural design as long as it is not contradicted Syariah law.

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Thank you