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Volume 27, Issue 4, 2019, Pages 2659-2670

A relook at visual privacy: Definition and factors influencing muslim visual privacy (MVP) (Article)

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Abstract

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Past literature has indicated a lack of visual privacy in the design of terrace housing in Malaysia, especially for Malay Muslim families, owing to specific Islamic regulations and principles governing the modesty of self, family, and house. The main objectives of this paper are to analyse the definition of visual privacy from Islamic perspective or Muslim visual privacy (MVP), and to determine the factors that influence its perception among Malay Muslim communities who are living in terrace housing development in the Klang Valley, Malaysia. The study involved a survey interview of 441 respondents and 10 case studies. Findings indicate that in adapting to the contemporary urban environment of today's terraced housing, Malay Muslim families are shifting away from the traditional Malay as well as previous Islamic concept of visual privacy. Analysis indicated that the Malay Muslim families required a balance between visual exposure and visual access in order to achieve an optimum level of visual privacy to enhance daily comforts, while still being informed by Malay culture and Islam. It is the balance between visual exposure and visual access which influences the four identified factors influencing Muslim visual privacy which are protection of aurat, security, community interaction and hospitality to guest. © Universiti Putra Malaysia Press.

SciVal Topic Prominence ⓘ

Topic: Persian Gulf | Architecture | Abu Dhabi

Prominence percentile: 78.588 ⓘ

Author keywords

[Klang Valley](#) [Malay Muslim family](#) [Terrace housing](#) [Visual access](#) [Visual exposure](#) [Visual privacy](#)

Funding details

Funding sponsor	Funding number	Acronym
Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia		MOHE
Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia		USIM

Funding text

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The authors are grateful to Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) and the Ministry of Education Malaysia for providing financial support to conduct this research. The authors would also like to thank all involved in materialising this paper.

ISSN: 01287702
Source Type: Journal
Original language: English

Document Type: Article
Publisher: Universiti Putra Malaysia

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