

Traditional and Modern Contemporary architecture in Malaysia developed with tremendous and extraordinary technological advancement. The knowledge of these technological advancements, either inherited from an earlier generation or evolved in the modern architecture education system, are treasures of Nusantara, which are very important to be protected, preserved and instil in the future generation of architects and public society in Malaysia. This book will unfold a small portion of architectural technology based on comprehensive studies, researches and investigations. Written by architectural experts at the Department of Architecture, Faculty of Civil and Built Environment, Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM), the discussion has been simplified for public reading in Malaysia and international readers. The contents of this book are relevant to the issues of architecture and construction discourse in Malaysia. Hopefully this book will be an insight opener and the foundation for a more detailed and comprehensive discussion in developing Architectural Technology in this country and region.

ARCHITECTURE AND TECHNOLOGY IN MALAYSIA

From Tradition to Globalization

SERIES 1



EDITORS:

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ARCHITECTURE IDENTITY*Azmal Sabil¹, Nangkula Utaberta¹, Nayeem Asif²*

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ABSTRACT

The ideas in adapting Malay traditional architecture values have been gazetted as one of the resolutions for National Architecture Identity as presented in '*Seminar Ke Arah Identiti Kebangsaan Dalam Seni Bina*' in 1981. Despite the encouragement from the government, the adaptation of Malay traditional architecture values to the design of the modern building are still small in numbers. On top of these small numbers, just a few of them are considered appropriately transformed. Based on this prolonged issues, this paper attempts to redefine the direction of the long debates of National Architecture Identity discourse by proposing the new paradigm and methodological framework. The new objectives are constructed from the Malaysia modern contemporary architecture ideas and thoughts, recent publications and public forums which discussing the issues on National Architecture Identity. On the methodological framework, the research onion methodologies are adapted.

Keywords: National Architecture Identity, Methodological Framework, Research Onion

1,0 INTRODUCTION

This paper attempts to develop the methodological framework in reshaping the discourse of long debates of National architecture Identity in Malaysia. Inreflectance thorough the history, Malay Traditional Architecture is one of the precious architecture heritages in our country. As stated by Mursib (1998), Malay Traditional Architecture has been designed by our ancestor to meet their socioeconomic, cultural, and environmental needs. At the same time, it's also reflects the creative and aesthetic skills of Malays. As our country developed, there are numerous numbers of buildings have been designed and constructed, as gone through the pre-independent and post-independents period. As stated by Hegvold (1990), the first generation of Malaysian architect in our country are mostly graduated in foreign country which resulting the adaptation of foreign country design elements adapted to contemporary building design in our country. This scenario has been seen as a threat by Malaysian government as there are no significant identity representing our very own heritage reflected in the most building in the cities.

“Biasanya bagi sesebuah negara, identitinya boleh dikenal apabila kita melihat bandar dan kampung di negara itu buat kali pertamanya. Ada sahaja bentuk istimewa yang boleh dikenalkan sebagai kebudayaan bangsa dan negara itu. Senibina bukan sahaja memberi bentuk yang mudah dikenal tetapi menunjuk juganilai dan pencapaian negara itu dalam tamadunnya”

(opening Speech by, Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir in seminar “Ke arah Mewujudkan Identiti Seni Bina Nasional” 1981)

The Conference on “Toward National Architecture Identity” held in January 1981 initiated by government as a starting point to solve this issue.

“Senibina Malaysia seharusnya mempunyai identiti tertentu yang boleh dikenal oleh masyarakat dan hendaklah berteraskan kepada kesenian Melayu”

(Report seminar “Ke arah Mewujudkan Identiti Seni Bina Nasional” 1981)

As in the conference report (1981), one of the resolutions is to adapt the values in Malay Architecture in modern context. After 36 years of the conference, there are numbers of attempt to follow this resolution, which some are successfully adapted and some are failed.

On the other side, the Malay Architecture building itself is slowly been vanished and extinct. Some of the Malay traditional buildings are vanishing naturally accordingly with their age. This resulted of poor maintenance by the owner or the occupants of the house. Apart from that, some of the old Malay buildings are left abandoned. A brief study has been executed to trace the current condition of traditional Malay house building in Kampung Laut, Kelantan by group of undergraduate architecture UCSI students in 2016. Kampung Laut itself was one of the villages which are rich with the heritage values on the architecture perspective, including Malay traditional house, Malay traditional mosque and others. The studies identified most of the people who are live in Malay house are old citizen. They have children which migrated to the cities for living. These old citizens are incapable to maintain the old house due to various problems, including their poor physical and health level and economical limitation. The conditions most of the houses are relatively poor with the various numbers of defects left without any repair. These situations will slowly be dragging to the main defects, and in future the house itself may be demolish either for reconstruction or any others new development. (Wai, 2016)

A part of the poor maintenance and abandoned, some of the Malay traditional buildings have been dismantling for some reason. Some of them are legally dismantled to be sold component by component by the owner. There are numbers of advertisement can be found online through the online shopping website as www.mudah.my under key word search 'kayu' + 'rumah' 'jual'. By using these keywords search, there are numbers of traditional Malay house components listed available for sell. It's directly portray that the people are intended to sell and dismantling the building itself without concerning on the values of the building and the circumstances that may resulting and bad impact to our own heritage value. By looking on these situations, there are chain problems found

started from developing the National architecture identity and conserving the traditional Malay architecture heritage. In a way to developing National architecture identity, we have to reflect the values in Malay traditional architecture, but at the same time, the Malay traditional architecture itself are slowly vanishing. (Mudah.my, 2017)

In reflect to these issues, Department of National Heritage initiated the act which to gazette some of the selected old Malay traditional building and gone through under controlled conservation project. But there are problem aside. As quoted by Rasdi (2017) in Kongres Kebudayaan 2017, most of the people not aware on this National Heritage initiative due to its not wide publicly shout in the media. Besides that, some of the people are not interested in nominating their building as one the National heritage gazette due difficult process and procedure before and after gazette process. A part from that, some of the citizens who are their house have been gazette facing difficulties when they intend to renovate or sell their building. It's because they are restricted with the Department of National Heritage act.

Department of National Heritage did a lot of afford in conserving the values by initiating the conservation projects and documenting selected old Malay traditional buildings, but it is just mainly on extrinsic values of these heritage. Rasdi (2017) suggested that, apart from Department of National Heritage afford that have been done by numbers, we should focus to study the values on Malay traditional architecture in a way to bring it forward to the modern building and later defining our own National architecture identity.

There are numbers of studies on Malay traditional architecture value and various suggestions and guideline in transforming this value to the modern building have been done by scholar. But in the current state built environment development, there are still lacks of ideas adaptation from value of Malay traditional architecture. There are slightly a missing link in between the value of Malay traditional architecture and modern architecture in Malaysia. One of the way resolve these issues is by conducting research on the transformation of Malay Traditional

Architecture into modern context. Throughout the research, the pattern of the transformation and adaptation should be identified and classified. The outcome will be usable in constructing the new idea in transforming Malay Architecture values to current architecture context in Malaysia, and reflect back the idea of long gone “National Architecture Identity”.

1.1 ISSUES OF NATIONAL ARCHITECTURE IDENTITY IN MALAYSIA

As been discussed previously, there are numerous issues regarding maintaining the values and heritage Malay traditional Architecture. In a way to bring in forward, it should be transforming to the modern context. As been stated before, there are numbers of attempts have been done. The ideas of defining national architecture identity from Malay traditional values have been highlighted in Kongres Kebudayaan Kebangsaan (1957) and Dasar Kebudayaan Malaysia (1971). These ideas proceeded deputy prime minister who later been as one of Malaysia Prime Minister, Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad in Conference on “Toward National Architecture Identity” (1981), one of the most important things to define national architecture identity is to bringing in the value from Malay Traditional Architecture. These ideas later agreed by Rasdi (2017) in Kongres Kebudayaan. Architect should transform values rather than imitate the physical form or just reconstruct them.

At the moment, there are relatively small numbers of new building design reflecting back the values and ideas in Malay traditional architecture. Ibrahim (2014) stated that there are lacking of implementation in adapting Malay Traditional Architecture values to modern context as highlighted in Kongres Kebudayaan Kebangsaan (1957) and Dasar Kebudayaan Malaysia (1971). Even though these ideas have been highlighted as main criteria in defining our National architecture identity, its look like its lack of favoritism by the designer and architect to implement that in their project.

In justifying the reason of why the ideas of transforming Malay architecture value are not implemented widely in our country, we have to study what are the modern built environment projects that have been done

by implementing the Malay traditional architecture values to its design elements. At the moment, there are no intensive documentation of thoughts and ideas of Malay Traditional Architecture throughout modern period in Malaysia. As stated by Utaberta (2009), documentation studies is crucial as part of historical studies. The documentation of thoughts and ideas of Malay Traditional Architecture throughout modern period in Malaysia are important in identifying the successful and the failure of these transformation ideas.

Out of small numbers of new building been designed by reflecting back the values and ideas in Malay traditional architecture, there are just a few of them can be considered as successfully transformed from Malay traditional architecture values. Kosman (2006) stated that, there are receding numbers of 'quality' transformed Malay Traditional Architecture to modern context after 1980's. This issue is relatively disturbing the reputation of Malay traditional architecture values itself, as it will give the negative interpretation of people toward Malay traditional architecture. There are a few importance buildings that triggering the criticism in adapting Malay traditional architecture values to the design. It's including Muzium Negeri Terengganu, Bank Bumiputra Head Quarters and Convention Hall of Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC). Rasdi (2005) stated that these buildings adapting design approach called as ballooning of Malay traditional house to gigantic structure. Its portray the perception that the Malays doesn't have high imagination, and just imitating the physical form of traditional domestic scale building into gigantic modern building without understanding entirely the values of Malay traditional architecture itself. From this issue, we have to learn and start to develop the new paradigm in transforming Malay traditional architecture values to the modern built environment.

1.2 THE PROPOSE OBJECTIVE PARADIGM IN NATIONAL ARHITECTURE IDENTITY DISCOURSE

The first identified problems are the small numbers of modern building designs adapting the values and ideas of Malay traditional architecture. Ibrahim (2014) stated that there are lacking of implementation in adapting

Malay Traditional Architecture values to modern context as highlighted in Kongres Kebudayaan Kebangsaan (1957) and Dasar Kebudayaan Malaysia (1971). From this problem statement, it's deriving the question on why the numbers of modern building in Malaysia adapted from Malay Traditional Architecture values small. In reflecting to this question, there are numbers of reason behind that, but the key answer is the influence of modern architecture style in Malaysia. The one who are shaping up built environment in Malaysia after the dominances of Malay traditional architecture are the first-generation architects. As stated by Hegvold (1990), they are graduated in foreign country which resulting the adaptation of foreign country design elements adapted to contemporary building design in our country. During that era, modern architecture movements are dominating the world of built environment. From chronology, it's directly obtaining the first objective, which to identify the relationship and issues between Malay Traditional Architecture and modern architecture in Malaysia.

For the second identified problem, there is no intensive documentation of thoughts and ideas of Malay Traditional Architecture throughout the modern period in Malaysia. As stated by Utaberata (2009), documentation studies are crucial as part of historical studies. It's deriving the second question: What are the ideas and thoughts of Malay Traditional Architecture in the modern period in Malaysia? In response to this question, there is a need for studies on documentation of thoughts and ideas of Malay Traditional Architecture throughout the modern period in Malaysia. By that, its directly obtaining the second objective, which is to analyze the ideas and thoughts of Malay Traditional Architecture throughout the modern period in Malaysia through documentation and typology studies.

In the third identified problems, out of small numbers of new building been designed by reflecting back the values and ideas in Malay traditional architecture, there are just a few of them can be considered as successfully transformed from Malay traditional architecture values. Kosman (2006) stated that, there are receding numbers of 'quality' transformed Malay Traditional Architecture to modern context after 1980's. From this issue, it's reflected that there will be the 'quality' and 'non-quality' transformed

Malay Traditional Architecture to modern buildings. As in the second proposed objective, which to develop the documentation and typology studies, the 'quality' and 'non-quality' transformed modern building should be identified and it's triggering the third question on how Malay Traditional Architecture in modern period adapted in future? It should be answer based on outcome on the second proposed objective and directly connected to the third objective, which to propose the new ideas in transforming Malay traditional Architecture in future based on ideas and thoughts of Malay Traditional Architecture trough out modern period in Malaysia.

PROBLEM & QUESTION	PROPOSED OBJECTIVE
Why the numbers of modern building in Malaysia adapted from Malay Traditional Architecture ideas and thoughts small	To identify the relationship between Malay Traditional Architecture and modern architecture in Malaysia (Issues between two approaches)
What is the ideas and thoughts of Malay Traditional Architecture in modern period in Malaysia	To analyze the ideas and thoughts of Malay Traditional Architecture trough out modern period in Malaysia (Documentation and typology)
How ideas and thoughts Malay Traditional Architecture in modern period adapted in future	To propose the new ideas in transforming Malay traditional Architecture in future based on ideas and thoughts of Malay Traditional Architecture trough out modern period in Malaysia

Figure 1: The relationship between research question and research objective

1.3 THE PROPOSE METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

In developing the methodological framework, there are several existing theoretical frameworks adapted in executing the whole research process. As a general process, the research onion method as developed by Saunders (2007) has been implemented to governance the hierarchy and strategies in this research. Research onion can be considered as one of holistic approach in constructing the major part of research process and strategy. It was developed by Saunders et al. (2007). It illustrates the hierarchy of steps in achieving appropriate research strategy to be implemented in the research

process. When viewed from the outside, each layer of the onion describes a more detailed stage of the research process (Saunders et al., 2009). This technique to be believed as a technique which providing the most effective sequence of research progress, where toward the end of the progress, the appropriate research methodologies could be derive. As quoted by Bryman (2012), the research onion technique adaptable for almost any type of research methodology and can be used in a variety of context. As developed by Saunders et al. (2009), the research onion itself describing the sequences of process involved in constructing the effective methodology to be adapted by researcher. It's started by defining the research philosophy in the first place, following by deciding the research approach in the second step. In the third step, research strategy adopted following by structuring the time horizon for the research in the fourth step. The final step is to identify data collection and methodology of the research. By adapting the research onion, it gave the big picture of methods of collection that possibly apply in our research, where are each of the steps as in research onion layer substituted different kind of methodologies, techniques and theories.

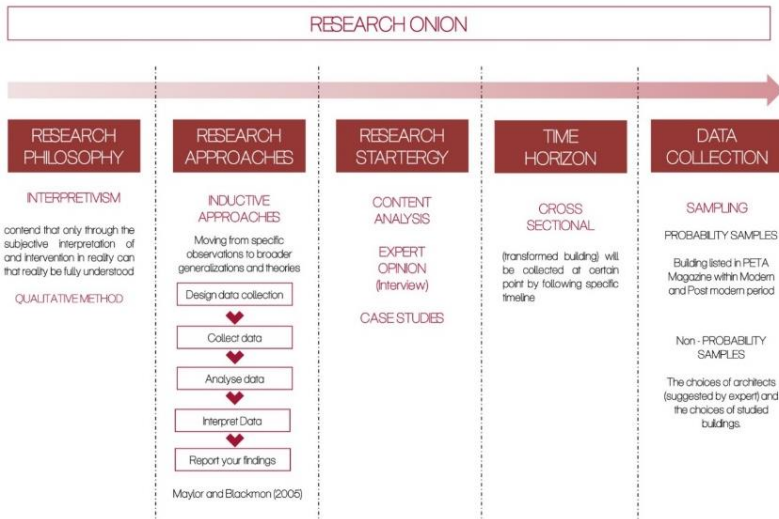


Figure 2: Adaptation of research onion method based on Saunders (2007) research onion method.

As been highlighted in Figure 2, first layer of the research started by the determination of philosophy applied in the research. As the general proposed objective of the research is to evaluating and interpreting the characteristic of the modern buildings in Malaysia, the philosophy of interpretivism applied as a main philosophical approach in this research. As suggested by Robert (1998), scholars interpretivists tend to evaluate through the subjective interpretation of reality. The study of phenomena surrounding interpretivists natural environment is the key of the philosophy, together with the acknowledgement that scientists cannot avoid affecting those studied phenomena. There are variations of thoughts among interpretivists scholars themselves about interpretation of the reality on single phenomena, but the interpretation should be remaining as their own thought, which can be consider as a part of scientific knowledge. To integrate the interpretivism thoughts in this research, the part of the evaluating assessments will be based on main researcher interpretation reality of phenomena, or in other words, the characteristic of building throughout modern period in Malaysia.

Moving to the second layer, the inductive approach shall be adapted as main approach of the research. As suggested by Goddard et. al. (2004), Inductive approach, also known in inductive reasoning, starts with the observations and theories are proposed towards the end of the research process as a result of observations. It also specified by Bryman, A., & Bell, E. (2011), the inductive approach is characterised as a move from the specific to the general. The observations are the starting point, and patterns are looked for in the data. By adapted Maylor and Blackmon (2005) approach, the sequences started by defining issues and question using literature review. The discussion shall cover the the missing link and gap between Malay Traditional Architecture approach and Modern Architecture approach in Malaysia. It's followed by determining data collection, that shall be based from the published writings on buildings constructed during modern period Malaysia Peninsula. The analysis shall begin by observing and interpreting the Malay Traditional Architecture values applied on collected buildings data and constructs the new ideas or defines new theories on how to improve the Malay Traditional Architecture value adaptation in future. Bernard (2011) suggested that inductive research “involves the search for pattern from observation and the development of explanations – theories – for

those patterns through series of hypotheses”. In the part of analysis and interpretation part in the research, the observation shall be executing by using appropriate methodology parallel with the development series of explanations to define the theories and the end of the process.

PROPOSED OBJECTIVE	PROPOSED RESEARCH STRATEGIES	SCOPE
To identify the relationship between Malay Traditional Architecture and modern architecture in Malaysia (issues between two approaches)	Content Analysis Manifest Analysis	Writings in Malay Traditional Architecture National identities, Malay Traditional Architecture values (Books, dissertation, Dewan Masyarakat, Dewan budaya) Writings in Modern Architecture (Foreign and local) Modern influences in Malaysia, Modern classicism in western
To analyze the ideas and thoughts of Malay Traditional Architecture trough out modern period in Malaysia (Documentation and typology)	Latent Analysis <i>M. Bengtsson (2016)</i> Interview (Expert Opinion) Structured interview framework <i>Nangula Utaberta (2009)</i> Thematic content analysis Narrative Analysis <i>Sharifah Norazlan (2017)</i>	30 Buildings adapted Malay Traditional Architecture values as publish in PEIA magazines Architect emphasizing in Malay Traditional Architecture values in their projects
To propose the new ideas in transforming Malay traditional Architecture in future based on ideas and thoughts of Malay Traditional Architecture trough out modern period in Malaysia	Case Studies Interpretive and evaluative case studies <i>Mc Donough (1997)</i> Full Case Study framework <i>Mark Francis (1999)</i>	Selected projects completed by interviewed architects

Figure 3: The proposed research strategies to be applied in the research in reflectance to proposed research objective

There are several strategies proposed to be applied in achieving the objective of the research. As highlighted in Figure 3, in way to identify the relationship between Malay Traditional Architecture and modern architecture in Malaysia, the content analysis, consisting of manifest analysis and latent analysis shall be used as a main strategy. It's mainly on manifest analysis strategy. Bengtsson (2016) stated that in a manifest analysis, the researcher describes what the informants actually say, stays very close to the text, uses the words themselves, and describes the visible and obvious in the text. In reflecting this strategy to the research, all the sources of literature review shall be described and discussed based on their original ideas and characteristic without interpreting it. The sources of the literatures are categorized into two types of writings. The first category is the writings discussing and debating on Malay Traditional Architecture. It's including the writings on

national architecture identity and writings on Malay Traditional Architecture values. The second category is the writings discussing and debating on modern architecture in foreign and local context. It's including the writings on the rise of modernism and post-modernism movement in western, the international style, the modern classicism ideology and the modernism and post-modernism influences in Malaysia. In a way to analyze the ideas and thoughts of Malay Traditional Architecture through out modern period in Malaysia, the latent analysis strategy shall be applied. Bengtsson (2016) suggested that, latent analysis is extended to an interpretive level in which the researcher seeks to find the underlying meaning. In adapting this strategy to this research, the interpretation will be integrating to the analysis of the content in the literature sources. The writings on the buildings constructed throughout modern and post-modern period in Malaysia shall be evaluated and interpreted. The sources of the writings are the writing on the buildings as published in PETA magazines.

A part from content analysis, the other strategy proposed in a way to analyze the ideas and thoughts of Malay Traditional Architecture through out modern period in Malaysia, the expert opinion shall be integrated as part of the studies. In executing that, the structured interview session shall be conducted. The framework of the interview are adapted from the existing interview framework. The Utamberta's framework (2009) are proposed to be adapted. Utamberta (2009) conducted structured interviews to the numbers of the experts in Islamic Architecture. The outcome of the interview shall be transcribed and analyze. The thematic analysis method applied in analysing the content of the interview. As stated by Braun and Clarke (2006), thematic analysis based on 'identifying, analysing and reporting patterns (themes) within data. It minimally organises and describes the data set in (rich) detail. The content of the interviews will be organized by grouping it into several theme and extracting the main key contents that represent and answering back the objective of the research. In constructing the new ideas in transforming Malay traditional Architecture in future, we should know what have been done at the current state of building development. To identify that, the case studies on the constructed buildings designed by the interviewed experts shall be executed. The full case studies framework as suggested by Francis (1999) adapted.

Moving to another layer of research, the cross sectional time horizon applied in defining the time horizon of the research. Saunders et al (2009) stated that when answering the question or addressing problem at a particular time, it is the cross sectional and the strategy to be taken are survey or case studies. As this research main data are sources from published writings and constructed building, all of the research data are collected at a particular time. Meanwhile, the data collected by using probability and non-probability sampling. The choices of the studied building in PETA magazines based on probability sampling, which all of the publish writing on the buildings in PETA magazines have the probability to be the data. In contrast, the choices of expert to be interview is based on the non-probability sampling, which the experts have to be choose based on their performance, thoughts and ideology in defining Malay Traditional Architecture to their design elements.

1.4 CONCLUSION

Based on the proposed objective and methodology framework, the expected outcome of the research are including the documentation of data on how Malay traditional architecture have been transformed to physical building in modern built environment in Malaysia. With that, the new terminology in idea of transforming Malay Traditional Architecture into building in modern built environment in Malaysia will be determined through typological studies. By benefit of documentation and typological studies, it's creating the new paradigm in future of transforming Malay Architecture into contemporary context and bridging the steps toward holistic Malaysia Architecture Identity guideline, which answers the long debates of National Arcitecture Identity since 1950's.

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