

Modern houses design for Malaysian

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ABSTRACT

Owning a house in a good housing scheme and in a modern houses design is the ultimate goal of everyman, but not everyone is fortunate enough to acquire the dream house and it depends on many factors especially economic factors. Housing would involve several components, including the environmental factors, man-made design, socio-cultural operations and psychological impacts. The objective of this research is to examine the modern houses design for Malaysian people such as Malay, Chinese and Indian people. The sample for this research is a respondent at Malaysia. To generate this sample, judgement sampling technique was chosen. This research utilizes descriptive method to analyze the data. The finding of this research is Malay, Chinese and Indian people more prefer to modern houses design in Malaysia. Meanwhile the developers also need to propose a modern house that has been adapt traditional values to meet the residents desired.

Keywords: modern houses; design of house; Malaysian people; descriptive method

INTRODUCTION

Architecture in Malaysia is a combination of many styles, from Islamic and Chinese styles to those brought by European colonists. Malay architecture has changed due to these influences. Houses in the north are similar to those in Thailand, while those in the south are similar to those in Java. New materials, such as glass and nails, were brought in by Europeans, changing the architecture. Houses are built for tropical conditions, raised on stilts with high roofs and large windows, allowing air to flow through the house and cool it down. Wood has been the main building material for much of Malaysia's history; it is used for everything from the simple *kampung* to royal palaces. In Negeri Sembilan traditional houses are entirely free of nails. Besides wood, other common materials such as bamboo and leaves were used. The Istana Kenangan in Kuala Lumpur was built in 1926, and it's the only Malay palace with a bamboo walls. The Oral Asal of East Malaysia lives in longhouse and water villages. Longhouses are elevated and on stilts, and can house 20 to 100 families. Water villages are also built on stilts, with houses connected with planks and most transport by boats [1].

Chinese architecture can be divided into two types, traditional and Baba Nyonya. Baba Nyonya households are made of colourful tiles and have large indoor courtyards. Indian architecture came with the Malaysian Indians, reflecting the architecture of southern India where most originated from. Some Sikh architecture was also imported. Melaka, which was a traditional centre of trade, has a large variety of building styles. Large wooden structures such as the Palace of Sultan Mansur Shah exist from early periods. Chinese influence can be seen in brightly decorated temples and terraced shop houses. The largest remaining Portuguese structure in Malacca is the A Famosa fort. Other colonial building includes the Dutch Stadthuys, the Dutch Colonial town brick buildings, and buildings built by the British such as the Memorial Hall, which combines Baroque and Islamic architecture. The shape and sizes of houses are different at every state. Common elements in Peninsular Malaysia include pitched roofs, verandas, and high ceilings, raised on stilts for ventilation. The woodwork in the house is often intricately carved. The floors are at different levels depending on the function of the room. Mosques have traditionally been based on Javanese architecture. In modern times, the government has promoted different projects, from the tallest twin buildings in the

world, the Petronas Twin Tower, to a whole garden city, Putrajaya. Malaysian firms are developing skyscraper designs that are specifically for tropical climates [1].

This paper will first review theories and concepts of modern houses design for Malaysian people such as Malay, Chinese and Indian people and empirical evidence from previous studies to form the basis for a conceptual framework. Finally, it discusses the implications of its findings on housing policies and makes recommendations to improve the existing strategies for housing development.

MODERN HOUSES DESIGN

Traditional housing has a density of housing units per hectare is very low. Based on these factors, traditional housing is unable to match the total density terraced housing that can be built from 25 to 70 units per hectare (in the low rise high density housing). Architects and urban planner claimed 10 traditional houses can usually be built in a hectare where this density is not practical in the national housing system as Malaysia. This is because Malaysia is a small country and cannot use this density when compared with countries that increasingly developed using a similar density as one of the planning system housing.

Thus the problem of migration from rural to urban, population congestion, traffic problems, lack of housing stock, environmental pollution and health problems can be avoided. This is because the density of housing could be built per hectare is very low. Actually there are heirs of the traditional housing of high density from the fathers of 'Housing Traditional Fishermen's Village. The pattern of settlement was not only popular among Malay fishermen, but it is also preferred by Chinese fishing communities who live in the west coast of Peninsular Malaysia because they believe in the practicality of this concept and as such, they build their houses according to the method.

Homes and housing layout is now very sophisticated enough to be unique from any other existing homes, using materials that not only protection but effective and attractive. Today it is one of the few commodities that are used to classify the social status of a people. In modern housing design is characterized by a window wall, a large and sophisticated curtain that is operated by remote control and very interactive design. There are less decoration on the walls of houses and housing compared to the past, this suspension also strategically chosen to match the theme of the room. Modern housing in Malaysia at present equipped with basic facilities that can meet the needs and comfort to the residents. Many Chinese people nowadays are more interested in the kind of housing or home look luxurious for family use. The design and architecture have been invent the kind of home that seems interesting, it may be distinguished by a division between the appropriate spaces, bedrooms, bathrooms, storage, and so forth. Housing design is far different from a simple housing. Quality of the goods used for residential construction is also be different at first and easily available everywhere. As an example, it is not surprising if a house and housing at present have two or three air conditioners for every home.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Owing to a shortage of research funding and time, only Malaysia has been chosen as a case study. The sample for this research is a respondent at Malaysia. To generate this sample, judgement sampling technique was chosen. This research utilizes descriptive method to analyze the data. The descriptive method included frequencies and percentages of respondent characteristics.

ANALYSIS OF MODERN HOUSES DESIGN FOR MALAYSIAN

In Malaysia, there are a lot of Malaysian houses and villages. These villages are called "kampongs" in Malay. They are built with stilts below and they have large windows. This is mainly to keep the building cool and the stilts elevate the building to keep them away from floods. Kampong houses are detached houses and they usually have no fences around them. The traditional Malaysian house serves the housing needs of the majority of people living in rural areas of Malaysia. It was evolved by the Malays over the generations, and adapted their needs, culture, and environment. Basically a timber house with a post and lintel structure raised on stilts, with wooden, bamboo, or thatched walls and a thatched roof, the house is designed to suit the tropical climate.

Ventilation and solar-control devices, and low thermal capacity building materials are part of the building heritage. House construction is highly systematized, like a modern prefabrication system, but with a much higher degree of flexibility and variation. The house components are made on the ground and later assembled on the building site. A very sophisticated addition system, which allows the house to grow with the needs of the user, is an advantage for the poor because it allows them to invest and build gradually rather than shouldering one huge initial financial burden. The traditional Malaysian housing process is highly autonomous, largely controlled by the user. Guided by building tradition and the village carpenter, the owner-builder designs a house that is uniquely suited to the family's socioeconomic and cultural situation. Not only does the traditional approach foster a better match of house to user, it

keeps the cost down by eliminating the need for professional intermediaries such as architecture developers. Self-help and cooperative labour are the resources upon which the owner-builder relies.

The traditional Malaysian house has an open interior, promoting good cross ventilation and lighting and allowing the space to be used for many purposes depending on the season, occasion, or time of day. Since most activities take place on the floor, the need for furniture is minimal; bedding materials and sleeping mats are rolled up and stored during the day to eliminate the need for separate living and sleeping quarters. Interior spaces are defined, not by partitions or walls, but rather by changes in floor level; they may be respected or ignored, allowing the house to accommodate larger numbers of people than usual during, for example, feasts. Thus the traditional Malaysian house exhibits greater versatility and more efficient use of space than does the modern house, where spaces are limited to the specific use determined by furniture and partitions.

The traditional Malaysian house has, over the years, evolved a very efficient addition system that grows according to the needs of its users. The core unit, or the *ibu rumah*, is the basic living unit for the small or poor family. The kitchen and toilet are often located on the exterior. From the *ibu rumah*, many additions can be made as the family grows bigger or as it acquires the means to build a bigger house. Additions are usually done in the spare time available during the agricultural or fishing off-seasons. Building a traditional house is a continual process, often taking months or even years to complete, with the pace of work and quality of construction controlled by the user. The basic addition possibilities are classified into three different types, but there are infinite variations in sizes and heights, and various combinations of types and quality according to the needs of the user. Modern house is a house of choice in today's population as their residence. Modern house is not available in urban areas. The examples of modern houses are bungalows, terrace houses, flats and so on. People are compelled to own modern type of house because of the environment or their home is far away from the village. To have a traditional home is impossible for those living in urban areas. Furthermore, to own a home you as what they want, they have to do their own house renovation according to their tastes. Their homes are usually modified as the need to meet the needs of religion.

This new millennium, those involve in housing industry face the challenges of how to produce affordable and decent housing for the masses. Then there is the need to come up with new building materials and designs which promotes conservation. The focus of this housing should be more on quality of the house rather than the quantity and also the desired of the occupants so that residents can enjoy a higher standard of living in line with the nation's progress. Housing of multicultural society, especially the Malay, Chinese and Indian community was available in two main types of houses which is low-cost houses and high-cost housing. The low-cost houses are located mainly in the less developed areas, which will have a more traditional design houses in accordance with their culture as shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1: Traditional House

While multicultural society with a higher standard of living will be living in developing areas where the houses is practice using a modern concept, but most of the houses design have been modified to insert the traditional elements according to the construction techniques, local influence and also their cultural beliefs. Nowadays, there are many residents think that the requirement for residences is more important; meanwhile the cultural aspects and the quality of accommodation provided had to be set aside in advance because the elements can be applied by the occupants of the house. This partially clear that desired design of Malay, Chinese and Indian at present, can still be met even building design based on the adaptation of a modern houses as shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2: Modern House
Sources: Picture taken by Norazmawati (2011)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The finding of this research is as mention in 10th Malaysia Plan [2], priority will continue to be given to the provision of adequate, affordable and quality house of Malaysians in various income levels. Based on objective characteristics of a nation will also affect the construction of a home to meet the needs of households. The finding of this research is Malay, Chinese and Indian people more prefer to modern houses design in Malaysia. As mention by [3] that even high income people also interested to have low cost house for their investment purpose because the design is much better than low cost house design before. Meanwhile the developers also need to propose a modern house that has been adapt traditional values to meet the residents desired. As mention by [4] low-income group in Kuala Lumpur are able to pay the house instalments and purchase the necessities of life. Each house buyer would strive to make sure their income was adequate to pay for the house instalments and to purchase other necessities of life [5]. Thus, government and private sector should work together to ensure that modern houses design for Malaysian are in a good quality and satisfied for Malay, Chinese and Indian in Malaysia.

Acknowledgements

The authors gratefully acknowledge the financial support of Research Creativity and Management Office (RCMO), University of Science Malaysia for granting the financial assistance to undertake the study.

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