

**A STUDY ON ALTERATION OF TRADITIONAL MALAY HOUSE IN KAMPUNG  
BANDA KABA, MELAKA**



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## ABSTRACTS

Recently, conservation has become an important agenda in heritage cities like Malacca and Penang, since they have been gazetted as Historic Cities at the Straits of Malacca in the UNESCO World Heritage List on July 2008. Government, private and charitable organizations are taking part in conserving and preserving the heritages. However, in Malacca Historical City, related legislations are not strictly being enforced in some areas of Buffer Zone, bringing issues to the historical environment and negligence to *kampung* areas; the traditional housing groups, in the city. Due to modernization and urbanization of the surrounding area of Malacca City, the traditional Malay houses in the *kampung* areas are exposed to alteration whether on their materials, structure, spatial usage and design.

Efforts to protect the houses by the residents are limited to their financial, ages and skills to maintain, reuse, rebuilt or repair the houses. Selling and moving out has been the final solution due to incapability of owners to afford maintenance cost, and needs for instant cash. Alteration also occurs in terms of use, as in the case of traditional space which no longer use as residential usage. Rebuilding demands traditional building techniques and craft skills which have long been declining. The repair often uses affordable new materials such as zinc plate and laminated-wood panel.

This study illustrates the present situation of urban conservation in Malacca along with the urban morphology, focusing on Buffer Zone areas. Kampung Banda Kaba is chosen as a study field representing *kampung* areas in Buffer Zone; which contains 56 houses that can still be identified as Malacca long-roofed houses. The objectives of this study are to reveal the characteristics of Malacca long-roofed houses, to investigate the alteration problems on Malacca long-roofed houses in Kampung Banda Kaba and to propose solutions and new conservation guidelines for Malacca long-roofed houses in Buffer Zone area.

The findings of this research offered a better environment of Kampung Banda Kaba as a 'Traditional Malay Kampung' in Malacca Historical City, revision of the existing conservation guidelines for Buffer Zone towards redevelopment and integration of traditional houses and promotion of tourism development in Kampung Banda Kaba and the whole Buffer Zone areas.

**Keywords:** Urban conservation, Buffer Zone, Kampung Banda Kaba, Malacca long-roofed house, alteration

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Abstracts

Table of Contents

List of Figures

List of Tables

List of Photos

List of Diagrams

### **Chapter 1            Introduction**

1.1	Urban Kampung	1
1.2	Significance of the Research	3
1.3	Objectives of Research	5
1.4	Methodology of Research	6
1.5	Structure of Report	7

### **Chapter 2            Melaka and Conservation**

2.1	Background of Melaka	9
2.1.1	Administration System in Melaka	9
2.1.2	Spatial Land Use in Melaka City	11
2.2	History of Melaka	13
2.2.1	14 <sup>th</sup> century	13
2.2.2	15 <sup>th</sup> century ~ 20 <sup>th</sup> century	13
2.3	Urban Morphology of Melaka	16
2.3.1	Melaka Malay Sultanate Era (1402~1511)	16
2.3.2	Colonial Era (1511~1957)	16
	i) Portuguese Era (1511~1641)	16

	ii) Dutch Era (1641~1824)	19
	iii) British Era (1824~1942 and 1945~1957)	20
2.3.3	Malaysia (1957~present)	21
2.4	Conservation and Preservation in Melaka	23
2.4.1	Background and History of Conservation	23
2.4.2	Organizations and Legislations in Conservation	24
	i) Official Conservation Committee; Malacca Municipal Council ( <i>MBMB</i> )	24
	ii) Private Society; Malacca Museum Corporation ( <i>PERZIM</i> )	25
	iii) Charitable Trust; <i>Badan Warisan Malaysia</i> (Heritage of Malaysia Trust)	25
	iv) Legislations and Enactment	26
2.4.3	Categories of Urban Conservation	26
	a) Building Conservation	26
	b) Area Conservation	27
	c) Cultural Conservation	27
	d) Core Zone and Buffer Zone	27
2.4.5	Kampung Conservation	29
	i) Kampung Morten; Kampung of Malay Culture	29
	ii) Perkampungan Portugis; Kampung of Portuguese Culture	30
	iii) Kampung Chitty; Temple of Fine Arts and Authentic Chitty	30
<b>Chapter 3</b>	<b>Alteration of Traditional Malay House</b>	
3.1	Traditional Malay House	32
3.1.1	The Chronicle of Malay House	32
3.1.2	Melaka House	35
3.1.3	Malay Architecture	37
3.1.4	The Malay Traditional Structure	39
	i) Pillars	39
	ii) The crossbeam	39
	iii) Floor	40
	iv) Stairs	40
	v) Wall	40
	vi) Doors and windows	42
	vii) Roof	42
3.1.5	Design Features of Traditional Malay House	43
3.2	Building Alteration	44
3.2.1	The Reasons of Building Alteration	44
	i) Pleasure	45