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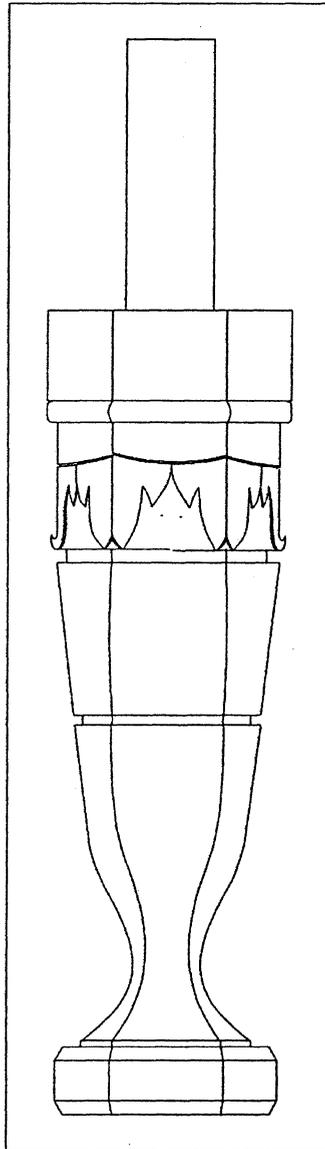
THE PERAK *KUTAI ASLI* MALAY HOUSE:
FORM, FUNCTION AND MEANING.

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**Thesis submitted in fulfilment of the requirements
for the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy**

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“Adat bersendikan Hukum, Hukum bersendikan Syarak dan Syarak bersendikan Kitab ALLAH.”

(*Adat* is based upon the Rules, the Rules based upon the Islamic Laws, and the Islamic Laws are based upon the Book of God).

ABSTRACT

The thesis attempts to identify and define the KA house type, attributed as the origins of the two basic styles of the traditional Perak Malay house, namely the *Bumbung Lima* and the “*Kutai*” houses; surveyed in the entire regions of Perak. No serious in depth study on a particular house style in Perak was undertaken before. 109 intact house samples were fully measured, with others in ruins identified. 78 were of the *Bumbung Lima* type and the remaining of the “*Kutai*” house types, found only at the banks of Perak River and its tributaries. 23 were of the KA type, and 8 of the attached *Anjung*, *Beranda* and *Balai* types.

Literature search on traditional Malay architecture from earlier Malay treatises such as the *Undang-Undang Sembilan Puluh Sembilan* of Perak and the *Taj ul Muluk* was made. Searches on Colonial Records, unpublished research materials, expert views from local historians, village elders and Malay *tukang* were also sought to provide the historical background and traditional setting of the culture and the beliefs of the Perak Malays that would be imbedded in the design of the oldest surviving KA houses attributed to circa 1820’s.

The Method of Extensive Survey and Recording of house samples, followed by studio work determines the selection of house samples of both house styles and regional variations for Comprehensive Measurements. Scaled and detail drawing reproductions by Computer Aided Design application of selected house samples alongside tabulations of data measurements of the various house components were prepared for the final data analysis.

The physical house form of the KA was defined by its constant house elevations, column configurations and its spatial organisations, its house structure, components and joinery methods, alongside its decorative elements.

Its design aesthetics were traced from the Qur’anic verses on the basic Divine principles of creation and the dwelling principles in Islam. Interpretations of the verses empower the Perak Malay *tukang* to formulate the basic design principles of the KA that blends with its local Malay worldview, beliefs and customs. This “minimalist” house type efficiently utilise floor areas with economy in the building materials and components; of replaceable lightweight modular components and joinery methods, that renders the entire house transportable.

Interpretations of the Divine Artistry in the natural environment aids to formulate a traditional architecture that adapts to the local climate. Its various decorative features imitate Nature, transformed into art forms that were denaturalised, stylised and abstract.

Candidate's Declaration

I declare that the work in this thesis was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the result of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This topic has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any other degree or qualification.

In the event of my thesis be found to violate the conditions mentioned above, I voluntary waive the right of conferment of my degree and agree be subjected to the disciplinary rules and regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA.

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