

**CENTRE OF STUDIES BUILDING SURVEYING
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING AND SURVEYING
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**A STUDY ON CONSERVATION OF ARCHITECTURAL
ELEMENTS ON THE OLD MOSQUE**

**NOOR SHIDAH BINTI IBRAHIM
(2010297382)**

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ABSTRACT

This research is generally a study about the old mosque architectural elements in Melaka. Masjid Al-Kauthar, Masjid Al-Khairiyah, Masjid An-Nur and Masjid Pekan are selected as the case study because the mosque is the oldest mosque in Melaka and it has the identity by itself.

This mosque had been gazette by PERZIM base on two criteria, first is the mosque still has the origin characteristics base on the design although the mosque had any renovation or extension. Second criteria are the roof and also the “*tiang seri*” column.

For the architectural elements of old mosque in Melaka, it will discuss the specific architectural elements such as *mihrab*, *minbar*, *minaret*, *dome*, *ablution area* and *cemetery* and others architectural elements such as roof, *columns*, *wall*, *floor* and *openings*.

All old mosque in Melaka is basically has the similarity to each other and the unique of this old mosque is the architectural features although it is in different district. The different of old mosque architecture in Melaka compared to the mosque in other states are the roof design, tower (minaret) and also the “*tiang seri*” column as a supported.

1.1 Introduction

In the early 15th century, during the reign of Malay Sultanate of Melaka, Islam had been introduced and later become an official religion in the land. With the growth of Muslim people, Melaka had been the learning centre of Islam. Many mosques were built to hold prayers and other activities associated with the teachings and dissemination of Islam.

After Malaysia country had been established in 1963, the populations of people increase years by years. Nowadays, Malaysia consist of 28.3 million resident comprising of Muslim 61.3%, Buddhist 19.8%, Christian 9.2%, Hindu 6.3 % , Confucianism, Taoism and other traditional Chinese religions 2.6 % , other religion 0.4%, no religion 0.7% , unknown 1.0 % and 1.3 % from Confucianism, Taoism and other traditional Chinese religion (<http://www.statistics.gov.my/portal/index>).

Mosque is one type of buildings, which symbolize Islamic architecture. The meaning of mosque is a place of worship for the followers of Islam. The Muslims ethics refer the mosque by the Arabic word; *Masjid* means “a place of prostration”. The primary purpose of the mosque is the place where Muslims congregate to pray, exchange information, get an education, and participate in the cultural and social life of the community. Nevertheless, mosques are known around the world nowadays for their general importance to the Muslim community as well as their demonstration of Islamic architecture (D.Addeh, S.Fuad, 2011)