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**USERS' SATISFACTION TOWARDS MOSQUE LAYOUT
DESIGN CRITERIA IN MALAYSIA**

**Dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the award of
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ABSTRACT

Mosque is important place for all Muslims around the world as it is a place to perform religious activities. Many mosques are designed under the influence of some aspect, such as traditions and architect's own inspiration for building a new place of sanctity. However, the design layout of some mosques nowadays is not suitable for some user mostly in the rural area where most of the user is older. This is due to lack of any standards and guidelines, mosques are being designed and built as per personal wisdom of the architects, financiers and individuals or groups responsible for its execution. The objective of this research is to identify the mosque layout design criteria according to the guideline, standard and requirement of a mosque, to determine the level of users' satisfaction toward the mosque layout design criteria and to propose a recommendation to improve users' satisfaction towards future mosque layout design criteria. Two mosques involved in this research which located in Perak Tengah District. The data in this research are collected using observation checklist according to the guideline, and requirement of a mosque and questionnaire distributed to 306 users of the mosques. The result from this research shows that the mosques has followed the requirement but there were a few regulations that were not properly enforced by the mosques. It also found that there are criteria that not provided or properly planned which would affect the satisfaction level of user toward the mosque layout design which include the disabled facilities, accessibility for PWD and the distance between one location to other. This research also identified several recommendations can be used to improve the level of user satisfaction toward the future mosque design layout. In conclusion, this research helps all parties involved to properly plan the mosque design layout to avoid the occurrence of poor design.

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TABLE OF CONTENT

TITLE PAGE	i
DECLARATION	ii
ABSTRACT	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	v
TABLE OF CONTENT	viii
LIST OF FIGURE	
LIST OF TABLE	
CHAPTER 1	
INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 OVERVIEW	2
1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT	6
1.3 RESEARCH AIM	6
1.4 RESEARCH OBJECTIVE	6
1.5 RESEARCH QUESTION	6
1.6 SCOPE OF RESEARCH	7
1.7 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	7
1.8 RESEARCH OUTLINE	7
CHAPTER 2	
LITERATURE REVIEW	
2.1 INTRODUCTION	10
2.2 MOSQUE IN MALAYSIA	10
2.3 COMMON ISSUE FROM MOSQUE LAYOUT	16
2.3.1 UNSUITABLE AND UNCOMFORTABLE DESIGN	16
2.3.2 INAPPROPRIATE LOCATION AND DISTANCE	18
2.3.3 INADEQUATE SIZE AND NARROW SPACE	19
2.3.4 NO FACILITIES FOR DISABLED	19
2.4 DESIGN GUIDELINE FOR MOSQUE	20
2.4.1 LOCATION OF MOSQUE	20
2.4.2 STAIRCASE	22
2.4.3 ABLUTION AREA	23
2.4.4 PRAYER HALL	25
2.4.5 WOMEN AREA	26
2.4.6 DISABLE FACILITIES	27
2.5 CONCLUSION	29
CHAPTER 3	
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	
3.1 INTRODUCTION	30
3.2 RESEARCH DESIGN	30
3.3 DATA COLLECTION AND INSTRUMENT	32
3.3.1 DATA COLLECTION METHOD	32
3.4 OBSERVATION OF CASE STUDY	34
3.4.1 POPULATION AND SAMPLE	34
3.4.2 MOSQUE IN PERAK	35
3.4.3 METHODOLOGY FOR OBSERVATION	37

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 OVERVIEW

Mosque is an important place for the Muslim to perform religious activities and a place for social gathering (Abdullah, Yusof, Kamarussin, and Rasam, (2013). The mosque is commonly regarded as a Muslim spiritual sanctuary. It is encouraged for Muslims to attend congregational prayers at all five times a day and it is acting as a place of prayer, a place of religious activity, learning and teaching of Al-Quran, Hadith and Sunnah, as well as carry public function and seminars such as talks and weddings for Muslims. Mosque has always been the most important and respected building for the Muslims. Throughout Muslim history, the mosque has undergone a long and complex development involving the interrelation between its functions and its architecture. Many mosques are designed under the influence of some aspect, such as the traditions, viewpoint of superiors and the architect's own inspiration for building a new place of sanctity.

However, some of the mosque designs layouts are not suitable for user such as elderly or disable people to use it because the praying hall are located at first floor which they need to use stair to reach at the prayer hall. To have a good and amazing mosque in Malaysia is depending on the architects in carrying out a good design practice. It is because the existing mosque in Malaysia has different layout by following its concept, requirement, guideline, scale and additionally feature. However, it is important for the architect to designing the mosque following the concept "design for all" so all kinds of people can easily use it. In conclusion, accessibility is important to be provided for all Muslim regardless of ability to pray at Masjid comfortably and safe (Rahim and Samad, 2014). The