

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**A CONSERVATION FRAMEWORK
FOR THE HISTORIC INTERIOR
SCHEME OF HERITAGE MUSEUM
BUILDING IN PENINSULAR
MALAYSIA**

NORASHIKIN BINTI ABDUL KARIM

Thesis submitted in fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy
(Design and Built Environment)

Faculty of Architecture Planning and Surveying

December 2020

AUTHOR'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 results of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This thesis has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any degree or qualification.

I, hereby, acknowledge that I have been supplied with the Academic Rules and Regulations for Post Graduate, Universiti Teknologi MARA, regulating the conduct of my study and research.

Name of Student : Norashikin Abdul Karim

Student I.D. No. : 2015551723

Programme : Doctor of Philosophy (Design and Built Environment)
– AP992

Faculty : Architecture Planning and Surveying

Thesis : A Conservation Framework for The Historic Interior
Scheme of Heritage Museum Building in Peninsular
Malaysia

Signature of Student :

Date : December 2020

ABSTRACT

Heritage museum buildings have seen rapid growth in the past few decades in Peninsular Malaysia. They constitute important national heritage asset requiring preservation. This heritage assets, both their exterior and interior, have their own historical significance. The buildings carry a uniqueness with regard to the historic interior scheme (HIS) as each of the building is filled with different interior features, room function, spatial design, variety of historic material, finishes, and even the associated historic events. Unfortunately, the significance of the historic interior scheme significances have disappeared due to the exhibitions in the museums. Accordingly, the historic integrity in preserving the heritage museum buildings cannot be complied with and even the significance of the HIS is not highlighted in the exhibition. Such contradiction caused the exhibition scheme to conflict with the original scheme of the museum building. These issues clearly strengthen that the two theories, historic integrity and historic interpretation, are the main focus of the study hence the knowledge gap. The aims of this research is to propose a conservation framework for preserving the HIS of a heritage museum building. The proposed framework aims to improve the historic scheme of the heritage museum buildings in Peninsular Malaysia. The focus of this study is to fulfill the two objectives, i.e. to authenticate the level of change (LoC) on the HIS that influences the authenticity of a heritage building conservation and to verify the degree of acceptance (DoC) of the heritage exhibition interpretation practice according to the heritage building museum standards of the historic interior scheme. This research is a qualitative research that adopts the case study method. The following heritage museum buildings were selected as case studies: the Penang Malay Gallery, George Town Penang; the National Education Museum, UPSI, Tanjung Malim Perak; the History and Ethnography Museum, Malacca; and the Kelantan Royal Custom and Tradition Museum, Kelantan. These four case studies are chosen because they are gazetted by the National Heritage Department Malaysia and have been certified as historical sites by the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture Malaysia. The evaluation approach is used by using the evaluation form to obtain the data. There is two evaluation that involved in this research; Historic Interior Scheme (HIS) Evaluation and Heritage Exhibition Scheme (HES) Evaluation. This evaluation was carried out with the support of on-site observation, measured drawings, documents study, site tour, and reference to curators and museum experts. A photographic mapping technique was adopted using historic photograph, sketches, drawings, books, and journals to investigate the origin of the museum's interior space. The data were analyzed and presented with color-coding in a table form to differentiate the pattern of the findings. The results indicated that the conservation framework for the HIS of the heritage museum buildings is important for acquiring the appropriate HIS with the right historic interpretation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Firstly, I wish to thank God for giving me the opportunity to embark on my PhD and for completing this long and challenging journey successfully. My gratitude and thanks go to my first supervisor **Assoc. Prof. Dr Siti Norlizaiha Harun**, second supervisor **Dr Salwa Ayob**, and third supervisor **Dr Zulkarnain Hazim**.

Foremost, my sincere appreciation goes to the four museums for their cooperation in making my research successful. The museums are Penang Malay Gallery at George Town Penang; National Education Museum at UPSI, Tanjung Malim, Perak; History and Ethnography Museum at Malacca; and Kelantan Royal Traditions and Customs Museum at Kota Bahru, Kelantan. My sincere appreciation also goes to all museums staff: the Director of the Northern Zone of the National Heritage Department and also the Director of the Penang Malay Gallery, Encik Ardi Asmera Bin Saeman and his gallery's staff, including Puan Siti Syahirah Binti Mihd. Rusli, Encik Mohd. Shakir Bin Md. Sayuti and Cik Ayuni Binti Mat Disa. My appreciation also goes to the Director of National Education Museum, Puan Safna Binti Asaruddin; her museum's staff, including Encik Muhammad Zu Shimalain Bin Azizul (Curator), Encik Ahmad Nazri Bin Ismail (Assistant Curator), and Encik Ahmad Faizal Bin Ahmad Zawan (Assistant Curator). With regard to the History and Ethnography Museum, the most helpful person was Puan Latifah Binti Abd Latif from the Conservation Unit, PERZIM. Meanwhile, the person who helped to obtain information about the museum exhibition was Puan Noor Azimah Binti Md Ali, the officer of Museum Section and the person in charge in the management of the Stadthuys Museum Complex. The last person I wish to thank is Mr. Colin Goh, who is also called the 'Man of Malacca.' Mr. Goh has a lot of experience and information on the history of the Stadthuys building. The site tour experience with him is unforgettable, and I have learned a lot from exploring the original spaces of the museum (Stadthuys Building Complex). We also thank the USM Library committee for their hard work in managing of the loans for the book 'History and Conservation Work of Stadthuys Building.' Pertaining to the last museum, Kelantan Royal Traditions and Customs Museum, the persons who put the most earnest effort and cooperation about the museum building (Palace of Jahar) were Encik Mohamad Nazwan Ismail, the Director of the Kelantan State Museum Corporation who granted approval for me to conduct the study in the Jahar palace; and his museum's staff who manage the museum building, including Puan Zuhaini Binti Mohd Zain (museum assistant), Encik Wan Ab. Rahman Bin Wan Abdullah (public assistant), Encik Azuha Bin Ibrahim (public assistant), Encik Azmim Bin Che Hussin (public assistant), Encik Roslan Bin Abu Bakar (public assistant), Encik Zusuki Bin Daud (public assistant), and Encik Amran Bin Awang (public assistant).

Finally, this thesis is dedicated to the loving memory of my very dear husband, my late father, and my mother for their vision and relentless encouragement, and also my two boys who so much understood me. Special thanks to my colleagues and friends for helping me with this research. This piece of victory is dedicated to all of you. Alhamdulillah.

TABLE OF CONTENT

	Page
CONFIRMATION BY PANEL OF EXAMINERS	ii
AUTHOR'S DECLARATION	iii
ABSTRACT	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	v
TABLE OF CONTENT	vi
LIST OF TABLES	xiii
LIST OF FIGURES	xvii
LIST OF PLATES	xxii
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Introduction to the Research	1
1.2 Background of the Research	1
1.3 Problem Statement	5
1.4 Research Aim	9
1.5 Research Questions	9
1.6 Research Objectives	9
1.7 Scope of the Research	10
1.8 Significance of the Research	11
1.9 Research Proposition	11
1.10 Research Methodology	12
1.11 Organization of Thesis	17
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW	19
2.1 Introduction	19
2.2 The Importance of Historic Building and Heritage Building	20
2.3 Heritage Building Museum	25
2.4 Historic Interior Scheme	29
2.5 Conserving Historic Interior Scheme in Heritage Building Museum	31