

THE VERANDAHWAY OF THE TRADITIONAL SHOPHOUSES
IN KUALA LUMPUR : ITS USAGE AND ROLE IN CONTRIBUTING
TO THE K.L. URBAN STREETSCAPE.
CASE STUDY : JLN. TUANKU ABDUL RAHMAN
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To my beloved mom and dad and
the rest of Sharifs clan for
their patience and
understanding.....



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PREFACE

This particular study is done to analyse the usage and role played by the verandahway in Kuala Lumpur generally and concentrating on Jln. Tuanku Abdul Rahman as one of the most rapidly develop in the process of urban renewal.

Presently Kuala Lumpur has had an intensive changes and characters such as the old traditional shophouses have disappeared. Hence, there is no exact or clear visual identifiable character, unifying and cohesive image to the city of Kuala Lumpur.

Consequently, this must be avoided and it is contended here that the verandahway should be retained and reintroduced through out the process of redeveloping the urban streetscape.

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CHAPTER 1

Part 1 : VERANDAHWAY

1.1.1 DEFINITION:-

It is a linked walkaway in the streetscape as a semi-public and private zone which serves several function such as providing a partially enclosed transitional buffer space between the inner shop front and the noisy street. (1)

The role of the verandahway could be extended in its function as an organising principle for urban design .

Inventive Utilisation

For the development of an urban aggregate form for tropical city help to reestablish :-

- 1) An urban intimacy of scale
- 2) Continuity of cityscape
- 3) Facilitate pedestrian
accessibility at various
level

(1) Yeang, Ken (1986)

The Tropical Verandah City (K. Lumpur)
Asia publications pp 29-31

1.1.2 USAGE IN GENERAL

The verandah below the first floor provide shades and protect the entrance.

It is often used as a passageway by the public .

It delineates the transition from the public space, the street to the private space, the home.

The traditional verandahway existing in earlier shophouses developments, has a strong imagery and street-scape.⁽¹⁾

Its retention should be an important measure for conservation.⁽²⁾

By maintaining these walkways the city accessibility to the pedestrian is improved.

(1) Tan Chow Ang & Yeo Khee Hua (1976)
Old row Houses of peninsular Malaysia,
Majalah Akitek, : pertubuhan Akitek
Malaysia publications pp 22-28

(2) Recommended Additional reading
material, Michael Emrick (1976)
Vanishing K.L. - The Shophouse
Majalah Akitek: PAM publication p 29

1.1.3 STATEMENT OF PROBLEMS

Destruction of verandahway occurs mostly by modern movements. These contemporary developement, modern architecture, commercial enterprises destroy the connectivity in pedestrian walkaways.

Buildings now have larger setbacks as an allocation for wider carriageway. Another important point is that our country's highest revenue earners is from the tourism industry. The elimination of these traditional shophouse, as the country's heritage will therefore reduce the number of tourist coming here.

In order to sustain the tourism industry and to support its growth, conservation has to be seen within the context of politics, legal, administration and financial framework which provides the effecting matrix for its implementation.

1.1.4 THE TASK / AIM

To reintroduce verandahway as an urban organising feature device in the street.

The approach is to have well planned system of autonomous verandahway network .

The need to develop an urban aggregate form and fabric whose image and functions are related to the life style and identity of the local communities that they serve. In other words , an effective approach is essential to bring man back to this relationship with nature.

For example , in Kuala Lumpur , Jln. Tuanku Abdul Rahman in particular , buildings are built and designed as if its for a competition in which , designers often put aside the surrounding environment . Thus leading to the building being alienated to the surrounding environment. Therefore human would feel uneasy with their urban aestheticity.

1.1.5 PRIME MINISTER'S DIRECTIVE ON SHOPHOUSES.

The following are suggestions made by the Prime Minister , in conjunction with the design of the shophouses. (1)

a) The provision for the verandahway within the shopping complexes should be facing towards the pedestrian walkway in the road reserve area. Therefore , shoppers would be able to shop or even window shopping in ease.

b) The level for the particular verandah should be the same with the pavement level.

c) Shop lots within the shopping complexes should be rearranged in such a way that their shopfronts facing the pedestrian walkway.

d) Shopping complexes should be located next to each other to utilised the use of a continuous verandahway.

e) New shop lots should be designed to have colonnades within the verandahway area alike the traditional shophouses.

(1) Minutes Meeting, DBKL on Feb 86

PART 2 Synopsis/Proposal:

The most important element of a town is its people. A person walking in town would be more comfortable moving through a transitional space. Unfortunately his movement is interfered by the lack of provision for the pedestrian.

This problem is ignored by the authorities and some irresponsible people. Therefore it is essential to have an initiative to analyse it effectively.

The existence of modern high-rise buildings during the last few decade especially in the Business District Area have broken the continuity for pedestrian movement from its intimate scale and street level relationship. Therefore the linkages are lost.

Research contains:-

1-Overall research about the original function and other function of verandahway ; in comparison to current aspect.

2-Doing a case study of a particular place that is suitable and easy to visit. (nearby to where practical training is done).

3-Analyse.

4-Comments and reasons.

5-Solution and proposal.

1.2.1 OBJECTIVE

1) Studying the effectiveness of verandahway compared to the original function as a transitional buffer between the quiet space of shophouses/buildings and the noisy spaces of roads.

2) Studying other functions of existing verandahway and influence aspect towards achieving the 'urban lifestyle' and 'sub-culture' systems.

Other function :- multi-function space.

eg: Petty traders, cobblers, foodstall, fortuneteller stands etc.

3) Analysing and looking for an effective system of verandahway consisting these

factors :

- i - Shelter from heat and rain.
- ii - Avoid discontinuity series of pedestrian network.
- iii - Introduce the principle of urban design to maintain streetscape
- iv - Maintain its potential as an effective multi functional urban feature towards producing an innovative design.

1.2.2 SCOPE

This research was done particularly on JALAN TUANKU ABDUL RAHMAN.

REASONS:-

- 1 - It is a developing business area which needs an effective and attractive verandahway system
- 2 - Its location which is near to where the practical trai-

ning is done.

EARLY RESEARCH

- 1) Observing the type of function and activity on the verandahway.
- 2) Surveying the problems through interviews.

ANALYSIS

- 1) Get the future planning from Dewan Bandaraya.
- 2) Observe the planning by analysing causes and effects.

SOLUTION

- 1) Comments and reasons.
- 2) Proposals

1.2.3 METHODOLOGY

A) Direct

- i) Visiting the particular place to observe and gather information through :-
Observation -Looking /

Taking pictures of incidents which cause the problems.

Interview - Direct response with the pedestrian.

B) Indirect

i) Visit Dewan Bandaraya - Interview the officers involved .

ii) Gather information from secondary / prior data of the research and observe the propoosal solution.

iii) Discuss with the advisor involved.

iv) Get reference from Governments' bulletin and previous thesis , annual books, journal from I.T.M. and public library.