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ABSTRACT

The recent rapid development in the past decades has resulted in diverse architectural expressions of mosque in Malaysia. Most of the mosques built locally are modest in scale to cater the surrounding population. But certain mosques are built in large scale to serve as important landmarks of a particular place such as Masjid Shah Alam and Masjid Putrajaya. These mosques tend to be heavily decorated with geometrical and floral motives from the exterior to the interior space. This paper aims at analyzing the suitability of such decorative patterns particularly on the carpet of saf in such mosques. The analysis answers the following questions: Are decorative patterns suitable for saf and how do decorative patterns on saf affect the concentration of solat (prayer)? Furthermore, what are the suitable patterns and colors for saf and what are the suitable ways to define the saf lines? The methods used in the analysis were (1) field observation, (2) field measurement, and (3) field survey, which were held in three selected mosque in Perak namely Masjid Ubudiah Kuala Kangsar, Masjid Daerah Kinta Batu Gajah, and Masjid Sultan Idris II Ipoh. These mosques were chosen for their use of decorative patterns for saf in their prayer halls. The results suggest the most suitable types of decorative patterns that can be applied in the design of flooring finishes of mosques.

CHAPTER 1 : INTRODUCTION

1.1 Statement of Problem

According to Sheikh Omar in *The Role of Mosque*, Ibn 'Abbas narrated that the Messenger of Allah (saw) said, '*I was not ordered to decorate the mosques.*' He further stated that the Maliki, Shafi'i and Hanbali Schools of Thought consider any decorations that distract the people as makruh. This brings me to the question; are decorative patterns suitable for the mosque especially the area where people pray on that is the carpet on the floor? And how do decorative patterns on saf affect the concentration of solat (prayer)? And what are the suitable ways to define the saf lines?

Furthermore, the use of decorative patterns, either geometrical or floral has always been used in mosques worldwide. But beyond their function of material order, they remind man through symbolic aspects of the spiritual principles (Ardalan & Bakhtiar, 1973). Upon this light, what are the suitable patterns and colors that symbolize the true spiritual principles of Islam?