

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**THE INTERIOR DESIGN ASPECTS OF
JAWI AND CHINESE PERANAKAN
HERITAGE BUILDING MUSEUM IN
PENANG.**

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ABSTRACT

The ‘Peranakan’ communities are well known as part of a cultural heritage that emerged from Malaysia’s history. Georgetown in Pulau Pinang, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, consists of many heritage buildings, which also was owned by the Peranakan communities. The dominance of design aspects studies of Chinese Peranakan heritage buildings overshadowed seven other groups of Peranakan ethnics in the Malay peninsula, particularly of the Jawi Peranakan’s heritage buildings. This research aims to explore the Jawi Peranakan’s heritage building’s design aspect in the interior spaces compared to the Chinese Peranakan’s heritage buildings that have been adaptively re-used as museums. It is achieved through identifying the Jawi Peranakan and Chinese Peranakan that have been adaptively re-used as museums in Pulau Pinang and the design aspects of heritage buildings. The findings then recognise aspects culturally influenced in the design that represents their cultural values in the identified design aspects through a qualitative approach using case studies as a strategy for the data collection. The Jawi Peranakan showed more geometrical motifs and floral motifs. However, the major cultural influences in the design aspects were related to the cultural values concerning the Chinese belief that the number 8 represents prosperity in the design of the decorative motifs.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

The heritage building is one of the attractions in Penang that is well known not just among the locals but also the foreigners. Therefore, there are lots of categories of heritage including shophouses, mansions, and also museums that can be seen now. These buildings are preserved and conserved by the Penang Heritage association as the germs of the state. With this adaptation the outsider or the local itself can gain cultural experience that might be different from their place. The uniqueness of Georgetown in character in the blend of religious historic townscape and rich of heritage led the town to be announced as one of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 2004. The listing shows the success of Georgetown in preserving its multiracial heritage values. (Suzuki, 2017) This had attracted a lot of tourists to come to the town whether it is inside or outside of Malaysia.

Penang's variety in culture had devoted to the growth of cultural museums that brings its audience back in time. Therefore, there are lots of heritage buildings in Penang, but not all of the buildings can be conserved or transformed into a new face or new function. Most of the heritage museums are buildings that are related to culture, content, and the needs of the museum. This paper will be focusing on two museums that related to the two most popular tribe in Penang which is Chinese Peranakan and Jawi Peranakan.

In this study, there will be two case study that will represent the Chinese Peranakan and the Jawi Peranakan. The buildings are chosen based on its heritage value and relations with the tribe itself and its originality in design aspect that will be the indicator of this paper.