

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**THE PRESERVED INTERIOR  
BUILDING ELEMENTS THROUGH  
ADAPTIVE REUSE IN A HERITAGE  
BOUTIQUE HOTEL: PENANG CASE  
STUDY**

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Dissertation submitted in fulfillment  
of the requirements for the degree of  
**Bachelor of Interior Architecture (Hons.)**

**Faculty of Architecture, Planning & Surveying**

**AUGUST 2022**

## **ABSTRACT**

Adaptive reuse is described as a preservation and conservation method to prevent old or heritage buildings from being abandoned by repurposing them into a new function. It is also a method to avoid waste demolition, urges reuses of the embodied energy, and provides significant social and economic benefits. In other words, adaptive reuse is portrayed as recycling the old building into a new purpose; for instance, into a boutique hotel, to contribute to city sustainability. This research designs to identify the interior building elements that are preserved in Penang, Malaysia's adaptively reused heritage boutique hotels and ways of heritage boutique hotels in Penang, Malaysia retain their historical character and authenticity. The research approach applied in this research is the qualitative method. On-site observations, interview sessions with an expert, and literature review is conducted to achieve this research design's goals. Based on this finding, one heritage boutique hotel from adaptive reuse applications in Penang, Malaysia have been selected as the case study. The findings indicate that the selected case study was applied adaptive reuse in order to carefully preserving the building's heritage value and architecture. Therefore, this paper aims to provide an information about the preserved interior building elements in a heritage boutique hotel that implemented adaptive reuse in Penang, Malaysia.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim.

In the name of Allah S.W.T, The Most Merciful, Alhamdulillah, I finally completed my research and thesis writing after months. Therefore, I want to express my gratitude to my primary supervisor, Puan Syazwani Binti Abdul Kadir, and my dissertation coordinators for their professional guidance and support in completing this thesis. Their knowledge and patience humble me in guiding the journey. Furthermore, I would also like to thank all the direct and indirect parties who have helped me finish this research study.

From the bottom of my heart, I would love to thank my family, exclusively Ibu, Abang Ekal, Ayah, Kakak, Abang Rudy, Daniel and my boyfriend, Faris Aiman, who always be there for me during the hard times while I was doing this research paper. Not to forget my friends who continuously helped me during this crucial time with their endless support and suggestions, which benefitted us in many ways.

Last but not least, I want to thank me, I want to thank me for believing in me, I want to thank me for doing all this hard works, I want to thank me for having no days off, I want to thank me for never quitting, I want to thank me for just being me at all times.

Amirah Putri, you made it!

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# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Introduction

Adaptive reuse of heritage buildings is a part of the conservation processes. It is wise to certify that a building or heritage legacies are well-preserved as it has given a new breath. Furthermore, it is also one way to keep the ancient building from vanishing over time (Wahab et al., 2018). Adaptive reuse application generally involves conservation, modification, repair, and maintenance, especially for the interior building elements, as they need to be served with different functions. Hence, heritage buildings must be preserved appropriately, especially those in the UNESCO World Heritage Site Conservation Zone.

Therefore, this chapter will introduce general information on this study. In order to ensure the study process runs effortlessly, proper research and analysis should be carried out to fully understand regarding the preserved interior building elements through adaptive reuse in the heritage boutique hotel. This chapter clarifies the research topic by justifying the issues and objectives regarding the subject. Furthermore, research methods are also presented to effectively obtain the data required for this study.

### 1.2 Background of the Study

An old building is generally considered vital of our past or building or structure along with some sense of place, belonging, or connection. In other words, it is a historical witness that deserves to be kept to protect the memories (Department, 2012). It is also a significant asset from the past that should be preserved for the subsequent generation (Rani et al., 2017). Furthermore, heritage building is also a powerful resource that portrays an essential character in our rural and urban areas' cultural, economic, and environmental sustainability. According to Carl Elefante (2007), former president of the American Institute of Architects, "The greenest building is the one that already exists." Likewise, most aged or heritage buildings were built to withstand a lifetime, thus, repurposing them will reduce the demand for new construction. Even though some older buildings are less energy-efficient than contemporary ones, retrofits