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THE ACCLAIMED LANDSCAPE OF KNOWLEDGE SHARING
"Harmony in Spaces : Blending Heritage, Nature and Design"

E-PROCEEDING



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PRACTICALITY OF URBAN ACUPUNCTURE CONCEPT AS CURRENT LANDSCAPE DESIGN TRENDS IN IPOH OLD TOWN, PERAK

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ABSTRACT

The concept of urban acupuncture, which has grown in popularity in recent decades, is concentrated on energizing and rejuvenating urban settings by modest architectural or landscape architectural interventions in precisely selected urban areas. However, the rapid and unexpected design solutions of urban acupuncture, which are based on ecological design, nature dynamics, street art and material re-use can evoke a variety of social and psychological reactions in the urban populous and these reactions may vary depending on the city cultural context. As a result, it is necessary to first discover public opinion and priorities in the fields of public space management considering its aesthetics image and public art implementation in order to successfully exercise urban acupuncture projects in Ipoh Old Town. Therefore, the aim of this study is to explore the Ipoh residents, local and international tourist perception towards urban acupuncture concept in Ipoh Old Town. Hence, questionnaire survey involving 100 respondents were carried out through online survey to identify the local and tourist perceptions towards urban acupuncture potential in Ipoh Old Town.

Keywords: *urban acupuncture, social acceptability, urban public space, Ipoh Old Town*

INTRODUCTION

Urban public space as the cliché goes, is very much “on the agenda” these days. But the subject of urban studies is no exception where by this field

tie geographical and social sciences together with environmental research and human psychology within the urban public spaces. Disciplines or research fields such as environmental psychology, environmental ethics, environmental sociology and psychogeography are also growing and evolving this decade (Gibson, 2016; Smith, 2013). Therefore, urban acupuncture is an example of knowledge transfer (between traditional Chinese practice and urbanism) that developed from late 20 century (J.Lerner, 2014). Old Town are considered as "biological systems, receptive to holistic wellness plans" in this region (Brown et al.2018). Urban acupuncture is a concept that involves making small, strategically targeted interventions in the urban environment to bring about positive changes and improvements. These interventions are often community-driven and aim to address specific needs or issues within a neighborhood

The complexity and management issues of today's old town necessitate the search for such unconventional concepts that could uplift and revive the traditional city planning and management focus (Carmona, 2020). Urban acupuncture interventions are frequently distinguished by unusual, quick, experimental solutions, some degree of incompleteness, an emphasis on natural dynamics, social initiative engagement and inexpensive implementation costs (Lydon & Garcia, 2015; Brown, 2018). Urban acupuncture is a socio-environmental theory that combines contemporary urban planning approaches to tactical urbanism align to the Chinese philosophy of traditional Chinese medicine practice of acupuncture (J.Lerner, 2014). Like tactical urbanism, urban acupuncture applies small-scale or even point design interventions to affect or catalyse the transformation of the larger-scale urban fabric (Lydon & Garcia, 2015). Tactical urbanism is also known as guerrilla urbanism, pop-up urbanism, urban repair and DIY (do-it-yourself) urbanism (Lydon & Garcia, page 3, 2015). Conceptually, as the Chinese practice of acupuncture claims to relieve stress in the complete human body by acting at specific pressure points, hence urban acupuncture aims to relieve equivalent stresses in the urban built environment. In particular, urban acupuncture is not similar to tactical urbanism but implies a similar range of practices. Considering its importance, therefore old town area must be carefully considered while designing an individual or a systematic urban acupuncture interventions (Lydon & Garcia, 2015).

This study is focuses on the old town small interventions from residents, local and international tourists perspective that resulting in the revival of the Ipoh Old Town and it's surrouncing. The aim of this research is to analyze the perceptions among the residents as well as local and international tourists towards urban interventions that can be considered as urban acupuncture. To attain the study aim, two objectives have been outline as below :-

- i. to determine residents preferences and the potential for enhancing the living of the urban acupuncture environment in Ipoh Old Town
- ii. to identify and support already existing uses or to uncover the potential of the area at Ipoh Old Town

LITERATURE REVIEW

The Concept of Urban Acupuncture

Acupuncture is the combination of two Latin words where "acus", refers to needle and puncture means to penetrate. It is part of a complete healing system and it is considered an alternative and complementary therapies (Xinnong, 2006). It was created and developed in China for more than 2,500 years ago and expand to Korea, Japan and Taiwan and gained its fame in the United States at the end of seventies. Inspite the acupuncture originated from China but today it used throughout the entire world. The first occurrence of acupuncture is believed to be in China hundreds of years before the common era (Unschuld, 1985).

Urban acupuncture concept is an approach in fostering and analysing localised small- scale community engagement activities through situated pop-up interventions. J.Lerner, (2014) highlighted that the concept of urban acupuncture is a theory that seeks to solve social and environmental problems in the urban environment with rapid, minimal and very well targeted interventions. Utilising the analogy of the traditional Chinese practice of acupuncture, the city that synthesize to human body, the urban fabrics including buildings, public spaces and streets are seen as organs called Zang-fu in Chinese medicine, and the movement and activity of people and other flows (ecological, informational) are comparted to the

energy Chi, which runs through the body (J.Lerner, 2014).

The purpose of urban acupuncture is to regulate these energy flows in the body of the city so that it can excellently function. The online project Network of Urban Acupuncture (NUA) exists, where each example of urban acupuncture around the world can be registered and demonstrated. NUAs is a strategy of program distribution through coordinated points of intervention within an existing urban context. The network uses urban acupuncture typology including urban aquapuncture (water- based interventions), musical acupuncture, public space interventions and other types of acupunctures (J.Lerner, 2014; n.d.). There is a call even for wider knowledge transfer to urbanism and landscape architecture to improve quality of life and health in contemporary cities that include “exploring concepts from eastern medicine such as acupuncture, aromatherapy (or horticulture therapy), directional alignment with the sun and the moon, nocturnal gardens, botanical soundscapes and energy balancing might be applied to exert a positive impact on mental health in modern cities” (J.Lerner, 2014). Figure 1 illustrate a view of the Paris Plages, showing the sandy beach and also the many shade umbrellas becomes one of the successful urban acupuncture implementation in old town context.

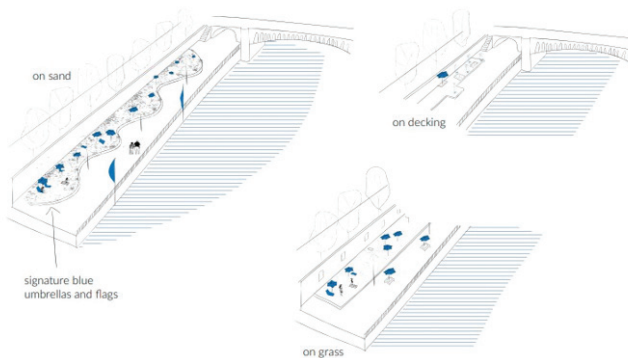


Figure 1. A sketch of the Paris Plages project interventions showing how it has developed over the years and in different Rivershore sections (Sources : Anna Wilczynska, page 418, 2021)

Challenges in Implementing Urban Acupuncture

An acceptance of the local community towards small scale intervention of an urban acupuncture concept would be the major challenges. Small-scale projects are not necessarily developed with the intention of practicing urban acupuncture or tactical urbanism. Small projects, on the other hand, can sometimes achieve great success in terms of design or social or environmental impact. A number of these may be temporary, which means they are created and built for a few days, weeks, or months, for example, during a festival, or for a longer period of time until a site is developed, in which the term "temporary" may be of extended duration of many years (Lydon & Garcia, 2015; Brown, 2018) .




While urban acupuncture is more theory than practice, there is some study evidence for the impact of what some consider urban acupuncture or simply small scale. Small projects also allow for the testing of design concepts prior to implementation of utilizing modeling techniques. However, one challenge is that one approach that which is the key to all designs but is especially useful in the case of small-scale interventions, whether following tactical urbanism or urban acupuncture principles, is to respond to the potential to provide affordances that may be lacking in a particular space. Affordances are environmental features that provide humans with diverse opportunities (Gibson, 1979). At the most basic level, an intervention can be a bench to allow elderly people to rest; this allows someone who cannot walk without pausing to visit and experience the waterside and therefore gain other benefits. Affordances may be required to make existing uses of space more comfortable. To support it all, seating is everywhere and varied in style, offering all kinds of casual experiences for visitors such as sitting on a bench rather than on a rock, or to enable new uses of the area, such as providing access to water where none previously existed, or other small-scale and relatively low-cost infrastructure for relaxation.


The Successful of Urban Acupuncture in Old Town

All of the intervention examples in this list create and deepen the connection to water in several ways: physically, visually, intellectually, socially, and educationally. The examples chosen shows a variety of the most creative and varied approaches to such sorts of design, and because

they do not require big investments, they allow for an experimental and fun approach, which is consistent with tactical urbanism and urban acupuncture. Small-scale or temporary projects are interesting not only for exemplifying appealing and effective urban planning phenomena, but also because they can be used to experiment, analyze their impact, learn from and transfer the experiences gained to larger-scale planning and design principles (Jekaterina Balicka et al, page 412, 2018). All of these interventions state in Table 1 below were created with a high regard for the existing urban environment.

Table 1. An example of the successful design of urban acupuncture worldwide

Temporary Interventions	Seasonal Interventions	Permanent Interventions
It was built and taken away and the reviews help to reconstruct the impact of these projects which otherwise only exist in memory	The following project are seasonal installations projects constructed. It were dismantled at the end of the season and constructed again the following year	The final set of projects are permanent installations of different scales and with different design foci
<div>i. Micro-installations on stairs near Piaskowy bridge in Wrocław, Poland</div> <div></div> <div>Figure 2 The seating on the steps near Piaskowy bridge. (Source : Studio NO)</div>	<div>i. Paris Plages, Paris, France</div> <div></div> <div>Figure 4 A view of a section, showing the sandy beach and many shade umbrellas provided. (Source : Peter Haas)</div>	<div>i. Public space and sauna, Gothenburg, Sweden</div> <div></div> <div>Figure 6 The approach decking glimpsed view of the elevated sauna in Gothenburg. (Source : Raumlabor)</div>

<p>ii.Floating Island, Bruges, Belgium</p>  <p>Figure 3 The Bruges Floating Island as viewed from across the canal, seen in its setting with old city behind. (Source : OBBA, photo Matthias Desmedt)</p>	<p>ii.Olive Beach, Moscow, Russia</p>  <p>Figure 5 A view of Olive Beach showing the wooden decking structure. (Source : Wowhaus)</p>	
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(Sources : Joanna Storie, Friedrich Kuhlmann, 2021)

An Effectiveness of Urban Acupuncture towards Sustainable Development Goals

In the modern era of urban planning nowadays, the importance of a walkable and low carbon city approach needs to be considered in planning. This approach is important but to achieve a low-carbon city, a lack of financing or budget to invest in green and energy-efficient technology, the high cost of green and energy-efficient technology, as well as compact development has put fourth deficiency towards the Ipoh city (Mustaffa et al., 2022). If earlier development was busy emphasizing on walkable city and low carbon city, now is the time to figure out a new alternative of urban acupuncture in the Ipoh city. This approach is closely related thus supporting the sustainable development goals, (SDG 3) - Good Health and Well-being and (SDG 11) - Sustainable Cities and Communities. The effectiveness of urban acupuncture can be seen through community engagement by cater their needs through engaging the community in the design process ensures that these spaces are designed to meet the preferences and needs of residents, encouraging them to use and enjoy these areas and making them more likely to participate in and support the proposed interventions.

The Concept of Sustainable Urban Planning in Malaysia

To assist cities in dealing with the challenges of ongoing development, the idea of Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) was pioneered (Curwell et al., 2005; Yigitcanlar and Teriman, 2015). SUD refers to the process of

balancing competing economic, environmental and social areas of urban living (Hassan and Lee, 2015; Rasoolimanesh et al., 2012). SUD aims to improve urban standard quality of life and level of living (Deakin and Reid, 2014). Climate change, rapid population growth, urban poverty, and social-spatial changes, particularly in the developing world, prompted the concept of sustainable development (Hassan and Lee, 2015; Sachs, 2012; United Nations Human Settlements Programme, 2009; Yigitcanlar and Teriman, 2015). SUD addresses these issues by concentrating on three fundamental pillars: economic development, environmental sustainability, and social inclusion (Hassan and Lee, 2015; Sachs, 2012). Nonetheless, sustainable development demands the management of a wide range of economic, social, and environmental variables, each of which is made up of several underlying components and has a plethora of interactions (Sachs, 2015).

Malaysia is one of the South-East Asian countries with the fastest urbanization rates (UN, 2015b). As a result, SUD planning is critical as Malaysia looks to the future. Developing countries, such as Malaysia, which intends to become a developed country by 2020, must prepare to generate work opportunities for their citizens, improve access to infrastructure and public services, and provide housing facilities for urban populations (Shamsudin and Neo, 2011). The sustainability pillars were introduced in the Third Malaysia Plan (1976-1980) with the establishment of a green technology portfolio and were pursued throughout subsequent plans right up to the Ninth Malaysia Plan (2006-2010) in accordance with these goals (Shamsudin and Neo, 2011). The Malaysian Town and Country Planning Act 1976 (Act 172) provides for the compilation and review of the National Physical Plan (NPP). The NPP is an essential planning document in Malaysia that aims to translate strategic and sectoral development outcomes into spatial and physical dimensions (PLANMalaysia, 2020).

The theme for NPP-1 launched in 2005 was to become a developed nation, while NPP-2 (2010) focused on becoming a high-income nation. The NPP-3 (2015) emphasized sustainable physical and spatial planning to achieve a resilient and livable nation by 2040. In NPP-3 national strategies and policies are translated into physical and spatial planning at the state level to nurture growth, resiliency, livability and sustainability (PLANMalaysia, 2020). The NPPs as the national strategic spatial plan integrated physical and resource planning and management to facilitate the achievement of

sustainability (Shamsudin and Neo, 2011).

Table 2. The comparative study between the urban planning of Malaysian scene, tactical urbanism and urban acupuncture

Category	Malaysia Scene	Tactical Urbanism	Urban Acupuncture
Significant Characteristic	i. Traditionally began with shophouses, townhouses with retail or commercial on the first floor	i. Act as guerrilla urbanism, pop-up urbanism, city repair	i. Reclaiming underused space
Objectives	i.To develop a planned, quality, progressive and sustainable city ii.To create a conducive environment to encourage social development	i.To encounter a problem of a lack of infrastructure with low-cost, often small-size ii.To create long term change in cities through short- term interventions	i.To revive a specific structure (partially or completely) through other structure ii.To make the city interact in order to activate and improve the health of urban societies
Strategies	i.Affordable and accessible transport ii.Conservation of cultural and natural heritage iii.Energy efficiency and low consumption iv.Safe, inclusive and affordable public facilities, basic services and recreation for all (in particular vulnerable and poor people) and accessible for kids, women,older and disable peoples	i.Use of spaces for street food or events, to the construction of small-scale, low- cost or temporary interventions ii.Cheap, simple and short-term solutions iii.Evolving towards more human- centred idea of urban planning iv.Low-risk and high-reward value and the support of a community	i.Eco city and sustainable design ii.'Blue spaces' such as rivers or lakes with good interventions iii.Dark values with place-making iv.Sociology, urban design and small scale v.Freely accessible for the residents

An Overview of Ipoh Old Town

Ipoh is a city located in the district of Kinta, Perak Darul Ridzuan. Apart from that, Ipoh, the state capital of Perak, was moved from Taiping in 1937. Kinta district is also known as a tin mining area in Malaya because many mines successfully influenced the development of Ipoh at that time. This relocation occurred because Ipoh was growing in the economy and urban development. According to Ibrahim et al. (2011), Ipoh originated from a Malay and Orang Asli (Sakai) village, and at that time, Ipoh was not yet a tin mining area. In 1988, His Royal Highness Sultan Paduka Seri Sultan of Perak Darul Ridzuan, declared Ipoh as an area upgraded to 'City' status (MBI Town Planning Department, nd). Before 1800s, Ipoh was inhabited by the Malay communities along the Kinta riverbank. Among the earliest

settlements in Ipoh are Kampung Paloh and Kampung Kuchai.

Ipoh town was the centre of tin collection where the tin are transportation from the Kinta downstream. It was a meeting point of the river, roads and railways and the commerce centre in Kinta Valley district. By 1905 to 1914, due to overpopulation in Ipoh's Old Town, the new mining settlement was built across Kinta River. During the peak tin mining era in 1920, Ipoh New Town was constructed and the Birch Bridge was linked to the Old town area. The most scenic townscape in Ipoh Old Town was the narrow streets layout before the strict building code imposed ('Concubines lanes'). Ipoh main Chinatown (located at the Leech Street or Bandar Timah Road) and the British administration building and European residency sited at the west part of Old Town. Figure 7 illustrate urban morphology of Ipoh town from 1820-1960.

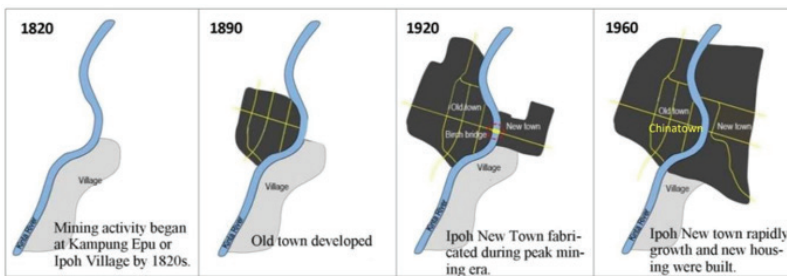


Figure 7. Urban morphology of Ipoh town from 1820-1960.

(Source: Draft Ipoh city Special Area Plan 2013 in Ipoh Municipal Council, 2014)

Based on the Ipoh Local Plan and Ipoh Development Direction 2030, it emphasizes on transforming Ipoh town into a progressive historic livable city. Culturally diverse, unique, attractive, generated by sustainable urban economic progress within a cultural heritage environment and a preserved natural environment.

In the Ipoh Special Area Plan (Rancangan Kawasan Khas Pekan Ipoh) it states that the 7 Development Cores (Teras Pembangunan, TP) that need to be taken into account in the development process of the Old Town and the New Town of Ipoh includes :

- i. TP1 - Land management and development towards the formation of a habitable sustainable heritage city
- ii. TP2 - Preservation of built natural heritage and cultural lifestyle

- iii. TP3 - Restoration and strengthening of the image, design, activities and public space
- iv. TP4 - Management of circulation and accessibility of urban space as a transit city
- v. TP5 - Upgrading urban infrastructure to support the formation of an efficient heritage city
- vi. TP6 - Strengthening the institutional framework and the implementation of urban heritage preservation
- vii. TP7 - Branding and repositioning Ipoh Heritage City in the future economy (Source: RKK Pekan Ipoh Bandar Warisan Bijih Timah, 2020)

The Ipoh Council today looks forward to reviving street performance activities such as the ‘Konsert Kilat Kasut’ at the Ipoh Railway Station Square and the riverside. Apart from that, an efforts to convert buildings or reuse heritage buildings for corresponding activities such as SOHO, Art Colony, Street Cafes and galleries that match the original residential use. Ipoh maintains historical significance that represents its identity as an old town. In fact, it is a historic area that remains intact with heritage elements built within it. Ipoh Local Plan 2020 and the National Heritage Act acknowledged 14 buildings and monuments out of 1,540 in total as significant heritage buildings (Majlis Bandaraya Ipoh, 2012). However, Ipoh Old Town City is now developed with many new modern developments and this impacted the physical features of the old city. The main elements that create the character of the place are streets, squares, buildings and human activities. In reference to Ipoh urban planning, it refers to walkable city concept which the residents and tourists tend to walk around and involve in street activities such as taking pictures, hanging out, retailing and enjoying visual attractions featured through the old building facade.

Therefore, to re-treat the Ipoh Old Town which is getting more rapid of the new development is to apply urban acupuncture concept as an approach to reviving the old city. Indirectly, the Ipoh Old Town has successfully implemented the concept of urban acupuncture. As for example in Figure 8 below, Concubine Lane, formerly known as Lorong Panglima was an empty small lane of local houses. In order to revive the city and improve the health of urban societies, the lane is occupied with retail activities and visited by tourist of local and international.



Figure 8. Concubine Lane in 2010 (left) and in present (right)

(Source : Times of Malaya, 2010 and Author, 2023)

To signal topic switch to the gap between the urban planning of the Ipoh Old Town and the concept of urban acupuncture, there are significant similarities where the Ipoh Old Town has also entered the planning to treat the city as well as examples of the effectiveness of the concept of urban acupuncture abroad that have successfully treated the old city into social friendly that cater the needs of communities for a livable city. According to J. Lerner's theory, this concept is an accurate terminology to treat an old city for a better lifestyle. It is a tool for re-naturalization and as an approach for reviving of the city especially Ipoh Old Town City. The concept should lead to the involvement of the community itself (J.Lerner, 2014). Therefore, from the positive points of view, there is not a huge obstacles to apply this approach. Related to the old town of Ipoh, this concept can be refine with the local needs which the original approach will not change and affect the local identity.

METHODOLOGY

This research study was conducted by using quantitative method (questionnaires survey) to collect all the data needed regarding urban acupuncture concept to Ipoh Old Town. Ipoh Old Town was the centre of tin collection where the tin ore transportation from the Kinta downstream. It were maintains historical significance that represents its identity as an old town. In fact, it is a historic area that remains intact with heritage elements built within it.

The selected survey method is a written questionnaire as an instrument for data collecting. These questionnaire are open to all Ipoh residents, local and international tourists. The research study cater and took place at Ipoh Old Town targeting of 100 respondents. The general population of the survey is an adult and teenagers population (from the age of 18 until 59). In order to reach the targeted population more effectively, the survey was conducted physically on site from 13th to 26th of December 2023. This period of time is the most suitable to collect the respondents because it happens during the end of the school year holidays assume that Ipoh Old Town will be crowded with the visitors.

Due to the time constraints, the research study cater and took place at Ipoh Old Town targeting of 100 respondents. This decision was made to ensure that the study could be carried out within the available time frame. While a larger sample size might have provided more comprehensive insights, the researchers strategically focused on a manageable number of respondents to maintain the efficiency and feasibility of the study within the specified time constraints. The survey was conducted using Google Forms, which provided a convenient and accessible platform for data collection. The survey link was disseminated through online platform, primarily via WhatsApp and through physical engagement where respondents were approached directly and encouraged to participate by scanning a QR code.

The research instrument employed for data collection was an online questionnaire. The questionnaire is consist of three sections which includes Part A : Respondent Background, Part B : Respondent Perception towards Present Ipoh Old Town and Part C : Respondent Understanding towards Urban Acupuncture Concept utilizing 5 likert-scale approach and thematic analysis which the requirement is in a short answer for a deeper analysis of related questions. The respondents have to give general opinions regarding present of Ipoh Old Town.

The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) was then used to analyze the data and produce tables that could be viewed and understood. It offered insightful information on the requirements and preferences aging population that may be applied to the development and design of the urban acupuncture concept. In this research, it appears that the data analysis for the study was also conducted by using ATLAS.ti.9, which offers

researchers robust tools for organizing, analyzing and visually presenting data effectively.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Acknowledging the limitation of time to conduct the survey, data collection was focused on 100 respondents, comprising residents, local and international tourists. The analysis categorized their responses into two key aspects : first, evaluating the general perceptions of the respondents towards the present state of Ipoh Old Town, and second, identifying potential strategies for the implementation of urban acupuncture. This targeted approach allows for a concise yet comprehensive examination of the diverse perspectives within the limited time frame, providing valuable insights for the research objectives.

Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

The majority of the respondents who participated in the survey range between 21–29 years old (61%), follow by 20 and below (22%), 30-39 years old (9%) and 40-49 (5%). Only 2% of the respondent range between 50-59 years old. The data obtain shows that majority of respondent with 55% of respondents were women and 45% were men. The majority of respondents had acquired higher education in Degree level (48%), followed by Diploma level (27%), High School level (8%), PhD (6%) and Master level (5%). The rest (6%) percent of respondents had acquired others category on Sijil Kemahiran Malaysia (4%), Pra Diploma and Foundation remain (1%). The higher data of respondents indicated the Ipoh residents with 48%, follow by local tourist (42%) and the rest (10%) of respondents were international tourist. (Refer to Table 4-6). The international tourists participated in this survey range from Indonesia, Thailand, China, Japan, Pakistan, England where Philippines tourist appear to dominate the survey. The results portrays in Table 3-5 highlight on the data of the respondent background.

Table 3. The age range of the respondents at Ipoh Old Town

Ages	20 and below	21-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	Above 60
Percentages	22%	61%	10%	5%	2%	-

Table 4. The study background of the respondents at Ipoh Old Town

Level of Education	High School	Diploma	Degree	Master	PhD	Others
Percentages	8%	27%	48%	5%	6%	6%

Table 5. The types of the respondents at Ipoh Old Town

Categories	Residents	Local Tourist	International Tourist
Percentages	48%	42%	10%

Respondents Attitudes and Perceptions

This research aims to examine the preferences of social perceptions of residents, as well as local and international tourists, regarding urban acupuncture at Ipoh Old Town. To achieve this aim, respondents were ask to answer eight questions in likert scale with three open ended questions. These questions were designed to identify resident and tourist perceptions towards present Ipoh Old Town.

The survey result potrays that 45 respondents (45%) feel secure and safe once strolling in Ipoh Old Town, in the park or other city's open spaces including the back alley. Only (5%) of the respondents feel unsafe when walking through the back alley. The charm of Ipoh Old Town is very beautiful and interesting through its urban fabric. The findings indicated that majority of the respondents with 81% strongly agree to spend their free time in public spaces. However, the assumption is made that small- scale interventions may not attract a significant visits due to limited awareness and intentional visitation requirements. This lack of popularity could stem from their relative obscurity, being situated away from main pedestrian routes or any of activities offered.

In the present scenario, Ipoh Old Town experiences a vibrant nightlife that has prompted an inquiry into the perspectives of respondents regarding nighttime activities. The survey results indicate that a significant majority, comprising 51% of respondents agree that Ipoh Old Town has transformed into a lively hub during the night where offering a diverse range of interesting activities. This contrasts notably with the situation observed in the past decade. The positive response from the surveyed individuals suggests a noteworthy shift in the atmosphere and offerings of Ipoh Old Town during the nighttime hours, signifying a positive transformation over the years.

In contrast, a notable aspect of the feedback received is characterized by a negative sentiment. A considerable portion of the respondents, precisely 44%, expressed a strong disagreement with the idea that the pedestrian walkway in front of the old shop houses in Ipoh Old Town serves as an effective platform for promoting social activities among both residents and tourists. This divergence in opinions sheds light on the varied perspectives within the surveyed population regarding the effectiveness and communal impact of the pedestrian walkway. The negative feedback suggests a potential concern or dissatisfaction among a significant portion of the respondents regarding the current role of this particular space in fostering social interactions in Ipoh Old Town. Further exploration into the reasons behind this perception could provide valuable insights into potential improvements or adjustments that could enhance the social aspects of the area. Figure 9-10 below further discussed on personal overview of the residents as well as local and international tourists in alignment with the urban acupuncture concept. These figures aim to provide a comprehensive insight into how individuals perceive the integration of general overview in the context of Ipoh Old Town.

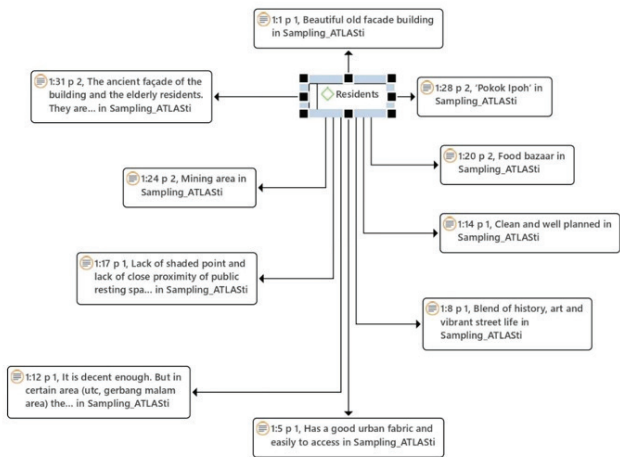


Figure 9. A review and perception of the residents towards present Ipoh Old Town

Figure 9 illustrate the perception of residents general knowledge about present Ipoh Old Town. The residents are familiar about local identity and genus loci that can be merge and implement in urban acupuncture concept.

The residents feedback extremely important since they were the local community and nevertheless planning needs to consider aspect and criteria of local requirement. All of the respondents agreed with the appropriateness and clarity of the proposed rating tool, pointed out that the indicators are widely established and supported the aspect of local identity within the mining area. The high level of agreement among respondents may be attributed to the fact that the residents, being local individuals, possess an intimate familiarity with their own identity. Their close connection to the area and its cultural nuances likely contributes to their shared understanding and endorsement familiarity with their own identity.

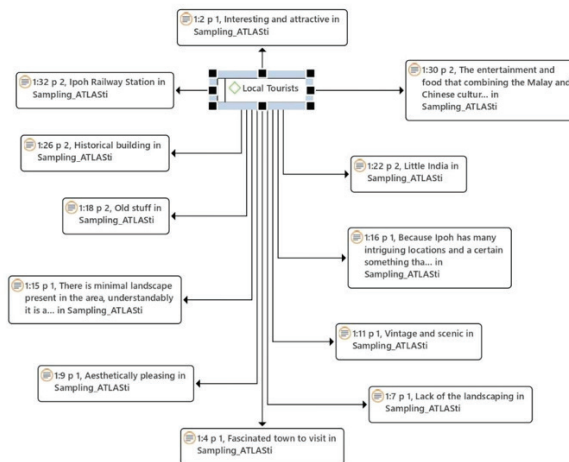


Figure 10. A review and perception of the local tourists towards present Ipoh Old Town

In Figure 10, the analysis of data reflects the perception and general perspective of local tourists toward Ipoh Old Town. The frequency of data obtained indicates that local tourists are also well-familiar with Ipoh, highlighting the city's strong identity. The findings suggest that Ipoh's unique characteristics and cultural identity are not only recognized by the residents but are also evident to local tourists. This shared appreciation reinforces the notion that Ipoh possesses a distinct and compelling identity that resonates with both the local community and visitors.

The findings from the data suggest that local tourists not only acknowledge but also resonate with Ipoh's unique characteristics and

cultural identity. This shared appreciation between residents and local tourists signifies that the city's distinctive features are not only recognized by those who call Ipoh home but also by those who visit for leisure or exploration. In essence, the positive perception of local tourists reinforces Ipoh's allure as a destination with a compelling identity that extends beyond its resident population. The city's ability to captivate both residents and visitors alike underscores its cultural richness and distinctive charm, making it a noteworthy and memorable location for a diverse audience

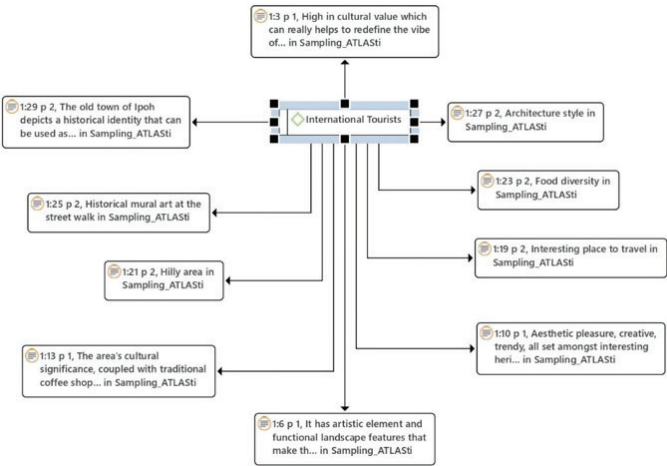


Figure 11. A review and perception of the international tourists towards present Ipoh Old Town

In Figure 11, the analysis of data reveals the perception of international tourists regarding their general knowledge about present Ipoh Old Town. The findings indicate that international tourists view Ipoh Old Town as a highly cultural destination worthy of exploration. This positive perspective suggests that the area holds a significant appeal for visitors from diverse backgrounds, emphasizing the cultural richness and attractiveness of Ipoh Old Town as a tourist destination.

Efficacy of Urban Acupuncture Trends at Ipoh Old Town

This part was to discuss as urban acupuncture interventions usually are based on the analysis of efficacy aspects. The study tried to find out the potential of the area at Ipoh Old Town that can adapt to this urban acupuncture concept. Therefore, the respondents were asked to evaluate

four sets of selected interventions in the scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). This includes a focus on four important possibilities approach to create an urban acupuncture living which are to revive the night atmosphere by installing fews of colourful lighting, apply an adaptive reuse of the heritage and colonial buildings, make use the back alley of the shoplots for social activities such as an expo sale (thrift bundles) and consider incorporating a weekly event such as morning market situated close to Kinta river.

The results presented in Table 6 signify a prevalent and substantial level of understanding among the respondents regarding the design approach through urban acupuncture concept. The majority of participants have demonstrated a high degree of comprehension, indicating a positive reception and awareness of the principles associated with urban acupuncture.

Table 6. Practicality of urban acupuncture design approach for Ipoh Old Town

Description	Percentages				
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Revive the night atmosphere by installing colourful lighting	4%	2%	10%	25%	57%
Adaptive reuse of the heritage and colonial buildings	7%	7%	12%	23%	49%
Using the back alley of the shoplots for an expo sale (thrift bundles)	4%	1%	13%	29%	51%
Consider incorporating a weekly event (flea market)	3%	2%	10%	17%	66%

The enthusiasm and engagement of residents, as well as local and international tourists, regarding the potential inclusion of a weekly flea market event, are notably high. The survey results indicate a substantial level of interest and active participation among respondents in favor of incorporating such a recurring event. This positive feedback suggests that there is a strong desire for and willingness to engage with a weekly flea market, highlighting its potential appeal and the potential to enhance the overall vibrancy and community participation in the area. The positive response indicates that residents perceive the event as a valuable resource, potentially addressing and fulfilling their daily requirements. This aligns

with the idea that the proposed flea market could serve as a practical and accessible venue for meeting various daily needs, contributing to the overall well-being and convenience of the local community.

Moreover, 57% of the respondents belief that revitalizing the night time atmosphere through the installation of vibrant lighting could transform an abandoned area into an active and vibrant living space. This perspective highlights the potential of colorful lighting to not only enhance the aesthetic appeal but also to actively engage and rejuvenate the community, fostering a sense of liveliness and community interaction in what was once considered an underutilized or neglected area.

Furthermore, it was observed that utilizing the back alleys of shoplots for events such as an expo sale, specifically focusing on thrift bundles, has emerged as a popular choice among teenagers. This trend suggests a growing interest among the youth demographic in repurposing underutilized urban spaces for engaging activities like thrift sales. The appeal of back alleys as venues for such events indicates a desire for unique and unconventional settings, contributing to the overall vibrancy and diversity of urban experiences for the younger population.

To effectively implement urban acupuncture concepts as landscape design trends in Ipoh Old Town, it is imperative to consider the presence of heritage and colonial buildings and their unique facades. The gathered data indicates a strong finding among residents, as well as local and international tourists, in favor of applying adaptive reuse strategies which in line with sustainability principles, is a process of revitalising or reinventing disused or ineffective existing buildings for new functions. This includes the revitalisation of old or historical buildings such as the heritage shop houses. Amidst the globalisation, such revitalisation is of a great importance because it helps preserve cultural artefacts that uphold the identity of Ipoh Old Town. This collective understanding underscores the significance of incorporating adaptive reuse practices to ensure the harmonious integration of urban acupuncture principles synergizing to historical fabric of Ipoh Old Town.

CONCLUSION

The findings of this study indicate a highly positive reception and acceptance among residents, local and international tourists, making a compelling case for the implementation of urban acupuncture as the prevailing landscape design trend in Ipoh Old Town. This collective endorsement reflects a noteworthy level of enthusiasm and their readiness for adopting urban acupuncture concept to revitalize the Ipoh Old Town.

The success of urban acupuncture interventions may significantly hinge on the reputation of the neighborhood. The study's results underscore this, indicating that small-scale interventions implemented by communities received fewer visits compared to interventions located in the central part of the city. This implies that the perceived prominence and connectivity of an intervention within the urban fabric play a crucial role in its visitation rates and overall success on urban acupuncture implementation by transform the old building, pedestrian way, backlane and back alley into urban terrace or garden as for re-naturalization of the old town.

It is necessary in urban design to make the city interact in order to activate and improve the health of urban societies through the use of the principles and methods of urban acupuncture because it needs less time and less cost. To sum up, it can be assumed that urban interventions have the potential to stimulate the formation of communities and encourage their active involvement in the design and implementation of urban acupuncture concept as current landscape design trends in Ipoh, Perak to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3) - Good Health and Well-being and Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG 11) - Sustainable Cities and Communities.

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Surat kami : 700-KPK (PRP.UP.1/20/1)

Tarikh : 20 Januari 2023

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