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SHARINGS 1.0

## ORGANISED BY

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# THE IMPACT OF PRESERVING THE CULTURAL ELEMENTS OF TRADITIONAL MALAY HOUSES IN MALAYSIA: A CASE STUDY ON THE TRADITIONAL VILLAGE IN PERAK

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## ABSTRACT

*This study presents the traditional Malay house that gradually disappeared from Malaysia's indigenous cultural landscape. The study considered an intention to preserve the precious Malay heritage, specifically on the unique construction methods for the next generation source. This study aims to identify the cultural element used at traditional houses, specifically in Perak. The research highlights qualitative methods that lead to site observations and interviews. The study was conducted on 36 traditional houses in Perak. Nevertheless, the poor physical condition of the house has made it a less asset. In addition, it has the potential to attract tourism based on the traditional elements found in every Malay house. Finally, the study could benefit from a more detailed analysis of the challenges and obstacles that have prevented preserving traditional Malay houses in Perak thus far. It could help to identify potential solutions and strategies for overcoming these challenges in the future.*

**Keywords:** Cultural heritage, Traditional Malay house, Cultural elements

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The modern houses for today's population are not the same as the traditional Malay Houses that are relics of previous generations for today's population to appreciate the uniqueness of their elements that are valuable to generations nowadays. However, the modernisation development process is decreasing in number due to rapid progress. The demand for modern architectural styles is the main reason for the impending destruction of these traditional Malay Houses. The population increases in the economy have resulted in traditional house elements that used to return with more modern homes. If there is an effort to research or data (inventory) on traditional Malay houses in Perak, these houses may remain the same due to modernisation (Saleh et al., 2018). Due to many factors of modernisation, climate change and assimilation, preserving cultural heritage is pressing (Suaib et al., 2020).

## **2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 The cultural heritage**

Cultural heritage holds immense significance as a source of economic growth and a reflection of a society's identity. The definition of cultural heritage varies among scholars, but it generally refers to a collection of material signs that symbolize the historical and cultural past of a particular society or community. However, according to Alnafeesi (2013), UNESCO defines intangible cultural heritage as representations, instruments, and artefacts. To conserve and preserve the resources and assets of cultural heritage in Malaysia, a management need to be evolved that considers every issue and challenge so that the decision-making process is reliable to optimise the value of Malaysia's cultural heritage tourism industry (Ismail et al., 2014). Cultural heritage serves as a window into the rich tapestry of a nation's history, traditions, and values. It holds the power to evoke a sense of belonging, pride, and identity among individuals and communities. Moreover, cultural heritage has emerged as a valuable economic asset, attracting tourists from around the world and stimulating local economies. Malaysia, with its diverse cultural landscape, is well-positioned to leverage its cultural heritage to drive tourism growth and foster sustainable development.

## **2.2 Traditional Malay House**

The concept of the Traditional Malay house reflects the close association between the Malay community and their customs and artistic expressions manifested in the architectural design of traditional houses. These houses predominantly serve as housing for people residing in rural areas of Malaysia, fulfilling their traditional housing needs. Additionally, as suggested by Lim Jee (1987), the approach employed in designing traditional Malay houses can create a humane, socially inclusive, and ecologically sustainable urban environment, fostering a strong sense of community. The design values of the architecture constitute significant sentimental of the design in the development of society's life. The traditional Malay house represents one of the most culturally rich components of Malaysia's cultural heritage, promoting the appreciation of other elements contributing to the country's diverse heritage. Although it is substituted for the design values, it does exist in the context of the Malay traditional houses. However, it is worth acknowledging that contemporary architectural design trends are influenced by various factors, including regional considerations (Hosseini & Mursib, 2012). In the case of Malaysia, this entails incorporating cultural influences, site-specific features, and climatic conditions. The Traditional Malay house represents a significant cultural symbol for the Malay community, embodying their customs, arts, and architectural traditions. While contemporary architectural designs consider regional factors, the Malay traditional house's essence remains relevant and plays a vital role in Malaysia's architectural heritage.

## **2.3 Cultural elements**

In the context of 'cultural elements', highlighting the design and its improvement are increasingly common in Malaysia. Therefore, the culture should take the consideration during the design process. Unfortunately, the present articles' identification of cultural elements is infrequent. A consumer's purchase process includes cultural recognition, emotional needs, and social value pursuit. Therefore, the product design should include an appropriate cultural element and basic product function. The culturalization process is global, and thematizing Malaysian culturalization can only occur by understanding its relationship to a global pattern. By embracing cultural elements and considering their relationship to local and global contexts, design in Malaysia can contribute to promoting and preserving the country's



cultural heritage. This approach not only meets the needs and preferences of consumers but also fosters a sense of pride and identity within the local community. Moreover, by embracing cultural elements in the design, Malaysia can showcase its unique identity, enriching the global cultural landscape. However, Kahn (1997) stated that in inspecting a pattern of culturalization that can lead back to the globalization of culture, one dimension of the tourism problem, namely the so-called local dichotomies, is inconsistent with themselves central to contemporary global culture. Consequently, cultural elements play a vital role in the design, particularly in Malaysia. Incorporating cultural elements into product design creates a more meaningful and resonant consumer experience. Recognizing the global influence on culturalization while preserving local dichotomies is crucial in creating designs that celebrate Malaysia's rich cultural heritage and contribute to the broader global cultural landscape.

### **3.0 METHODOLOGY**

The main aim of this study was to identify the Perak traditional Malay houses in the district Perak tengah, Hilir perak and Bagan Datuk which still retain the design structure of traditional Malay building. The traditional Malay houses that have been identified were to be recorded and an inventory of traditional Malay houses within the 3 district was to be produced. The study involved qualitative and observational studies. The qualitative part of the study mostly used interaction methods, face to face with the participants of the study, and inductive approaches to generate theory. While carrying out observations, researchers recorded details using a camera phone with the functions of capturing images, video, and audio. Photographs were the main media used to demonstrate the situation and physical condition of each house being studied. The physical analysis of the houses was more accurately described through interpretation of the photographs taken during fieldwork.

#### **3.1 Sample Criteria**

These criteria can serve as a guideline for conducting the research and analysing the various aspects related to the preservation and cultural elements of traditional Malay houses in Perak. The sample shall be chosen followed by criteria:



1. Traditional Malay house that over 50 years old
2. The cultural elements of Malays house
3. No occupant or still inhabited

## 4.0 FINDINGS

The researchers discovered 36 traditional Malay houses in this study (refer to table 1). There were (n=18) (50%) traditional Malay houses in the Teluk Intan, while the remaining (n=11) (32.43%) were in the Bagan Datuk area which is believed to be the focal centre in the aspect of development in progress. However the Perak Tengah Bota (n=7) 18.9%.

**Table 1: shows the number of houses in each selected district.**

Mukim	Total	Percentage (%)
Teluk Intan	18	50.00
Bagan Datuk	11	32.43
Perak Tengah Bota	7	18.9
Total	36	100



Picture 1 : Daerah Bagan Datuk  
Kampung Sungai Batang



Picture 2 : Daerah Bagan Datuk  
Kampung Sungai Batang



Picture 3 : Daerah Bagan Datuk  
Kampung Sungai Tiang Darat



Picture 4 : Daerah Bagan Datuk  
Kampung Sungai Haji Mahmood



Picture 5 : Daerah Bagan Datuk  
Kampung Sungai Batang



Picture 6 : Daerah Bagan Datuk  
Kampung Sungai Batang



Picture 7 : Daerah Bagan Datuk  
Kampung Sungai Batang



Picture 8 : Daerah Bagan Datuk  
Kampung Sungai Batang



Picture 9 : Daerah Bagan Datuk  
Kampung Sungai Batang



Picture 10 : Daerah Bagan Datuk  
Kampung Sungai Batang



Picture 11 : Daerah Bagan Datuk  
Kampung Sungai Batang

(Source: Author, 2023)

Most of the houses examined in the survey were found to be over 50 years old (refer to picture 11 Daerah Bagan Datuk), indicating a significant age of the residential properties. This fact became even more apparent when considering that out of the total of 36 houses surveyed, (7) seven of them were nearly 90 years old (refer to picture 2 – 8 Daerah Bagan Datuk), emphasizing the prevalence of older dwellings. Furthermore, there were houses constructed during the 1940s, although the number of such houses was slightly lower compared to those built in 1950 (refer to picture 2 Daerah Bagan Datuk). Specifically, there were four houses from the 1940s and seven houses from 1950, each contributing to the architectural landscape of the area. Additionally, a considerable proportion of the houses, accounting for 20.7% (n=6), were relatively younger, ranging from approximately 30 to 40 years old. Similarly, another subset of the surveyed houses, making up 17.3% (n=5). The traditional houses encountered in this study originated from diverse sources of family houses. This type constituted the majority, comprising 55.2% of the total houses examined. On the other hand, the remaining houses, totalling four, were inherited from families or were abandoned, left to deteriorate over time. The exact reasons behind the abandonment of these homes are not clearly identified; however, it is believed that families may have relocated to urban areas, resulting in a lack of heirs to inherit and maintain the properties. This phenomenon of migration to urban areas, coupled with the absence of succession, has likely contributed to the abandonment and subsequent decay of these houses.



Picture 1 : Daerah Perak Tengah  
Kampung Bakong



Picture 2 : Daerah Perak Tengah  
Kampung Bakong



Picture 3 : Daerah Perak Tengah  
Kampung Teluk Pedayong



Picture 4 : Daerah Perak Tengah  
Kampung Bakong



Picture 5 : Daerah Perak Tengah  
Kampung Empai



Picture 6 : Daerah Perak Tengah  
Kampung Empai



Picture 8 : Daerah Perak Tengah  
Kampung Sungai Bakong

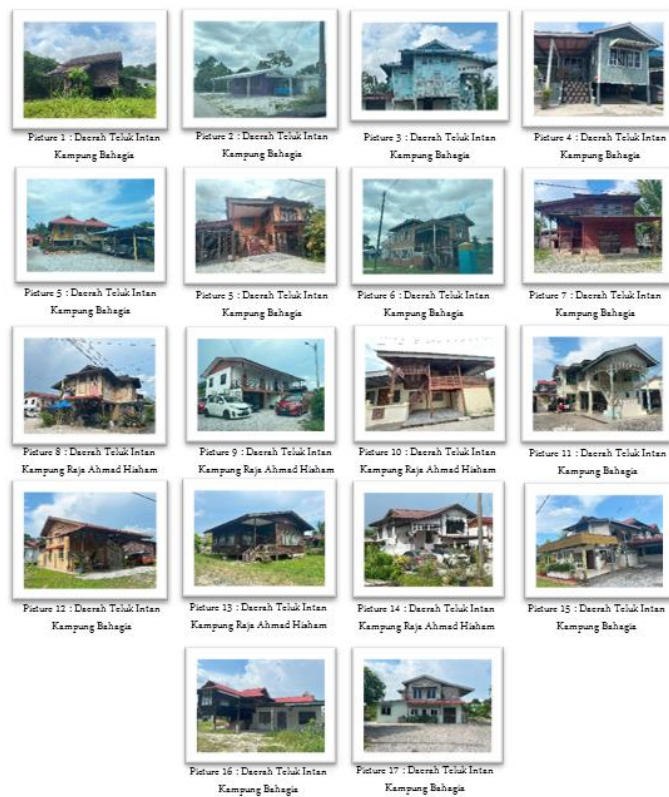
(Source: Author, 2023)

In this study, it was observed that not all of the houses examined were considered neglected. During the field survey, the researchers meticulously analysed the houses from various perspectives and made an interesting discovery: out of the total, 7 (seven) houses, were found to be unoccupied (Refer to Picture Daerah Perak Tengah 1 – 8). However, the remaining houses were still inhabited. The traditional Malay house holds great significance as it represents the way of life prevalent in the communities residing near the river, which served as a crucial source of sustenance and transportation in the past. While these houses were once highly esteemed, it is unfortunate that they no longer receive as much attention and are not adequately preserved. Astonishingly, more than half of the houses surveyed, approximately (n=7) 58.6%, were not well-maintained despite being occupied. In contrast, only (n=5) 41.4% of the houses showed partial preservation efforts, and interestingly, some of them were transformed into homestays, serving as an income-generating venture while also aiming to safeguard the heritage and architectural value of traditional Malay houses. The traditional Malay house possesses tremendous cultural and historical significance, making it an asset that should be preserved for future generations. It encompasses numerous distinct features and characteristics that are often absent in contemporary

modern houses. Therefore, it is essential to recognize the importance of preserving the architecture and unique qualities of traditional Malay houses to ensure their longevity and perpetuation in the face of evolving architectural trends and lifestyle preferences.

**Table 2: shows the status of the houses.**

Status of the houses	Total	Percentage (%)
Inhabited	29	80.56
Uninhabited	7	41.4
Total	36	100



(Source: Author, 2023)

Teluk Intan has mixed development and still preserved the traditional house elements. (Refer to picture Daerah Teluk Intan 1 – 17).

The preservation of traditional Malay houses in Perak State has had a substantial economic impact, benefited multiple sectors and fostered community development. By attracting tourists with their unique architectural features and cultural experiences, these preserved houses have bolstered tourism revenues and supported local businesses such as accommodations, restaurants, and souvenir shops. Additionally, the preservation efforts have generated employment opportunities, reduced unemployment rates and enhancing the socio-economic well-being of local communities. Furthermore, the development of cultural industries has been stimulated, as artisans and craftsmen showcase their skills and produce traditional handicrafts, textiles, and artwork, thereby supporting the local economy. The positive economic effects extend beyond tourism and cultural industries, as investments in infrastructure and community-based initiatives have improved public facilities and fostered a sense of cultural pride. Overall, the preservation of traditional Malay houses in Perak State has proven to be a driver of economic growth, as case studies, and insights from stakeholders, highlighting the value of cultural heritage in sustainable development (Refer to picture Daerah Teluk Intan 9).

**Table 3: Summary of houses in each selected district.**

House Plot	Dominant Hardscape element
Refer to Daerah Bagan Datuk Picture 1 (Status: Inhabited)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entrance Path</li> <li>• Flower pot</li> <li>• Carriage</li> </ul>
Refer to Daerah Bagan Datuk Picture 2 (Status: Inhabited)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retaining Walls</li> <li>• Wakaf</li> <li>• Verandas</li> </ul>
Refer to Daerah Bagan Datuk Picture 3 (Status: Inhabited)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dump site</li> <li>• Stone Benches</li> <li>• Outside bathroom</li> </ul>
Refer to Daerah Bagan Datuk Picture 4 (Status: Inhabited)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barn</li> <li>• Dump Site</li> <li>• Planter box</li> </ul>
Refer to Daerah Bagan Datuk Picture 5 (Status: Inhabited)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entrance Path</li> <li>• Wakaf</li> <li>• Pangkin</li> </ul>
Refer to Daerah Bagan Datuk Picture 6 (Status: Inhabited)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steps</li> <li>• Entrance Path</li> </ul>

Refer to Daerah Bagan Datuk Picture 7 (Status: Inhabited)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entrance Path</li> <li>• Pathways or Terraces</li> </ul>
Refer to Daerah Bagan Datuk Picture 8 (Status: Inhabited)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pangkin</li> <li>• Dump Site</li> </ul>
Refer to Daerah Bagan Datuk Picture 9 (Status: Inhabited)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pangkin</li> <li>• Garage</li> <li>• Carriage Paths</li> </ul>
Refer to Daerah Bagan Datuk Picture 10 (Status: Inhabited)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entrance Path</li> <li>• Central Courtyard</li> </ul>
Refer to Daerah Bagan Datuk Picture 11 (Status: Inhabited)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pathways</li> </ul>
Refer to Daerah Perak Tengah Picture 1 (Status: No Occupants)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suspension</li> <li>• Outdoor Toilet</li> <li>• Pangkin</li> </ul>
Refer to Daerah Perak Tengah Picture 2 (Status: No Occupants)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suspension Outdoor Toilet</li> </ul>
Refer to Daerah Perak Tengah Picture 3 (Status: No Occupants)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Garage</li> <li>• Entrance Path</li> </ul>
Refer to Daerah Perak Tengah Picture 4 (Status: No Occupants)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suspension</li> <li>• Outdoor Toilet</li> </ul>
Refer to Daerah Perak Tengah Picture 6 (Status: No Occupants)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Garage</li> <li>• Entrance Path</li> </ul>
Refer to Daerah Perak Tengah Picture 7 (Status: No Occupants)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pangkin</li> <li>• Entrance Path</li> </ul>
Refer to Daerah Teluk Intan Picture 1 (Status: Inhabited)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pangkin</li> </ul>
Refer to Daerah Teluk Intan Picture 2 (Status: Inhabited)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entrance Path</li> <li>• Pathways</li> <li>• Decorative Hardscape Accents</li> </ul>
Refer to Daerah Teluk Intan Picture 3 (Status: Inhabited)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pangkin</li> </ul>

Refer to Daerah Teluk Intan Picture 4 (Status: Inhabited)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entrance Path</li> <li>• Hardscape Staircases</li> <li>• Pangkin</li> </ul>
Refer to Daerah Teluk Intan Picture 5 (Status: Inhabited)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entrance Path</li> </ul>
Refer to Daerah Teluk Intan Picture 6 (Status: Inhabited)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Garage</li> <li>• Traditional stairs</li> <li>• Wood carving</li> </ul>
Refer to Daerah Teluk Intan Picture 7 (Status: Inhabited)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Window carving</li> <li>• Garage</li> <li>• Pangkin</li> </ul>
Refer to Daerah Teluk Intan Picture 8 (Status: Inhabited)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Window carving</li> <li>• Garage</li> <li>• Pangkin</li> </ul>
Refer to Daerah Teluk Intan Picture 9 (Status: Inhabited)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water Tank</li> <li>• Wood carving wall</li> </ul>
Refer to Daerah Teluk Intan Picture 10 (Status: Inhabited)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entrance Path</li> <li>• Flowering Pot</li> </ul>
Refer to Daerah Teluk Intan Picture 11 (Status: Inhabited)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Garage</li> <li>• Pangkin</li> <li>• Wood carving</li> </ul>
Refer to Daerah Teluk Intan Picture 12 (Status: Inhabited)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entrance Path</li> <li>• Planter box</li> <li>• Pangkin</li> </ul>
Refer to Daerah Teluk Intan Picture 13 (Status: Inhabited)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wood stairs</li> <li>• Water Tank</li> <li>• Wood carving wall</li> </ul>
Refer to Daerah Teluk Intan Picture 14 (Status: Inhabited)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entrance Path</li> </ul>
Refer to Daerah Teluk Intan Picture 15 (Status: Inhabited)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entrance Path</li> <li>• Pangkin</li> <li>• Garage</li> <li>• Carriage Paths</li> </ul>



Refer to Daerah Teluk Intan Picture 16 (Status: Inhabited)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retaining Walls</li> <li>• Stone Benches or Seating Platforms</li> <li>• Verandas</li> </ul>
Refer to Daerah Teluk Intan Picture 17 (Status: Inhabited)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entrance Path</li> </ul>
Refer to Daerah Teluk Intan Picture 18 (Status: Inhabited)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entrance Path</li> <li>• Hardscape Staircases</li> <li>• Pangkin</li> </ul>

(Source: Author, 2023)

Referring to table 3, a total of 7 out of 36 houses visited were uninhabited. Verandahs and pangkins are identified as the most dominant hard landscape elements in traditional houses, given their frequent occurrence. However, it is worth noting that hardscape elements are seldom observed in the surveyed houses, largely due to their current state of abandonment. As a result, these elements have suffered from considerable damage, and their placement no longer aligns with their intended functionality. The lack of upkeep and maintenance has taken a toll on the hardscape elements, rendering them in disrepair and ineffective in serving their original purpose. This unfortunate state underscores the urgent need for restoration and preservation efforts to ensure the conservation of these valuable hardscape features, which play a significant role in showcasing the cultural heritage and architectural legacy of traditional houses in Perak.

Cultural heritage has long been a significant draw for tourism, as visitors are attracted to the rich historical and cultural experiences these sites offer. However, it is important to acknowledge that tourism can have both direct and indirect impacts on existing heritage sites. While it is true that the tourism sector can make positive contributions to the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage, it is also crucial to recognize that tourism can potentially have negative consequences on the area, society, and the remaining cultural heritage itself. Thus, while tourism can bring economic benefits and help raise awareness about cultural heritage, there is a need for careful management and sustainable practices to mitigate any adverse impacts and ensure the long-term protection and sustainability of these invaluable heritage sites (Walters et al., 2021)

## **5.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

Monitoring and measuring the impact of preserving "Traditional villages" is crucial to understand and assess potential changes in rural areas. To achieve this, a methodology has been employed to identify key factors that influence the preservation of inherited houses within these villages, with a specific focus on their ability to attract tourism. This research paper aims to explore the physical characteristics that contribute to shaping the Malay cultural landscapes, shedding light on the elements that play a significant role in preserving these traditional villages. By examining and understanding these factors, it becomes possible to develop effective strategies and interventions for the sustainable conservation and promotion of these invaluable cultural heritage sites in rural areas.

### **5.1 Landscape Features**

Traditional houses in Perak exhibit distinct landscape features that contribute to the hardscape elements within their surroundings. These elements reflect the cultural and historical context of the region and are an integral part of the traditional house design. Some of the prominent landscape features found in traditional houses in Perak include:

#### **Steps :**

Steps, or tangga, are frequently used in traditional house design in Perak. These hardscape elements provide access to different levels of the house, such as elevated platforms or verandas. Steps can be crafted from materials like stone or concrete, often showcasing intricate patterns or carvings.

#### **Retaining Walls :**

Retaining walls play a crucial role in traditional house landscapes, especially in hilly or sloping terrains. These hardscape structures are built to prevent erosion and provide stability to the surrounding land. Retaining walls are commonly constructed using natural stone or concrete blocks, blending harmoniously with the overall aesthetic of the traditional house.

**Entrance Path :**

The entrance path, or laluan masuk, leading to the traditional house is an essential hardscape feature. It typically consists of a paved walkway, often adorned with decorative elements, guiding visitors to the main entrance. Materials used for the pathway may include natural stones, bricks, or decorative tiles.

**5.2 Outdoor Seating Areas :**

Traditional houses in Perak often incorporate outdoor seating areas, known as tempat duduk, where residents and visitors can relax and socialize. These seating areas can be enhanced with hardscape elements such as stone benches or seating platforms, providing comfortable spaces for gathering and enjoying the surrounding landscape.

**6.0 SOLUTIONS AND STRATEGIES**

To address the poor physical condition of traditional Malay houses and leverage their potential for tourism, implementing effective solutions and strategies is imperative. A comprehensive analysis of the challenges and obstacles hindering the preservation of these houses in Perak can provide valuable insights for developing appropriate measures. Firstly, raising awareness and education about the cultural significance and value of traditional houses among local communities and stakeholders is crucial. This can be achieved through educational campaigns, workshops, and community engagement programs that emphasize the importance of preserving cultural heritage. Additionally, establishing partnerships between government agencies, heritage organizations, and local communities can facilitate funding and resources for restoration projects.

Encouraging community participation and ownership in the preservation process, along with providing incentives for maintenance and conservation, can also contribute to the long-term sustainability of traditional Malay houses. Furthermore, integrating traditional houses into tourism development plans and creating tailored tourism experiences that highlight the authentic cultural elements can attract visitors and generate income for the local communities. Collaboration with tourism agencies and the promotion of homestays and cultural tourism initiatives can help showcase the unique charm of traditional Malay houses. Overall, a multi-faceted approach involving education,

community engagement, financial support, and strategic tourism planning can pave the way for successful preservation and utilization of traditional Malay houses as valuable assets and cultural tourism attractions in Perak.

## **6.1 Potential for Development**

The application of the "Adaptive Re-use" concept to old traditional houses holds significant potential for development. This approach aims to preserve the aesthetic and cultural values inherent in these historical houses, effectively transforming them into living museums that impart knowledge and understanding of Malay community culture to future generations. As part of this initiative, traditional Malay houses in Peninsular Malaysia have been relocated to new locations, serving as tangible examples of cultural preservation. Through this process, these houses are revitalized, their heritage is safeguarded, and their significance is maintained, ensuring that the unique cultural identity of the Malays continues to thrive. 'Rumah Penghulu Abu Seman' in Kuala Lumpur:

**1. Rumah Penghulu Abu Seman**, located in Kampung Baru, Kuala Lumpur, is a well-preserved traditional Malay house that has been transformed into a cultural center. The house showcases the architectural features and traditional customs of the Malays, providing visitors with insights into the community's heritage. The center offers guided tours, cultural performances, and workshops on traditional arts and crafts, contributing to the preservation and promotion of Malay culture in the heart of the city.

### **2. 'Muzium Adat' in Negeri Sembilan:**

Muzium Adat, located in Negeri Sembilan, is a museum dedicated to the traditional customs and practices of the Malay community in the state. The museum is housed in a restored traditional Malay house, showcasing artifacts, cultural displays, and interactive exhibits that provide visitors with a deeper understanding of Malay traditions. The adaptation of the house into a museum serves as a valuable educational resource, promoting the preservation and appreciation of Negeri Sembilan's cultural heritage.

### **3. 'Rumah Haji Yong Ah Loy' in Perak:**

Rumah Haji Yong Ah Loy, situated in Perak, is a heritage house that has been converted into a cultural and historical site. It is named after Haji Yong Ah Loy, a prominent figure in the tin mining industry. The house offers guided tours that delve into the history and contributions of Haji Yong Ah Loy, as well as the cultural significance of traditional Malay houses in Perak. This initiative provides visitors with an immersive experience, enabling them to learn about the heritage and contributions of Malays in the state.

These examples illustrate how 'Adaptive Re-use' initiatives have successfully transformed traditional Malay houses into vibrant cultural spaces, preserving their aesthetic and cultural values while offering educational and experiential opportunities for present and future generations.

## **7.0 CONCLUSION**

However, The preservation of traditional Malay houses in Perak faces challenges due to their poor physical condition, but they still possess the potential to attract tourism based on their traditional elements. To address these challenges and ensure the preservation of these invaluable cultural assets, it is necessary to undertake a detailed analysis of the obstacles hindering their preservation. This analysis can help identify key challenges such as lack of funding, inadequate awareness, and regulatory issues that need to be addressed. By understanding these challenges, potential solutions and strategies can be formulated. These may include raising awareness through educational campaigns, establishing partnerships with government agencies and heritage organizations, providing financial support for restoration and maintenance efforts, and incorporating traditional houses into tourism development plans. Additionally, community participation and engagement are crucial for the successful preservation of traditional Malay houses. By implementing these strategies, we can overcome obstacles and ensure the long-term preservation and promotion of these cultural treasures, thereby safeguarding the rich heritage and contributing to sustainable cultural tourism in Perak.

In conclusion, preserving the cultural elements of traditional Malay houses in Malaysia has significant impacts and benefits. It not only maintains their beauty and cultural value but also has the potential to

attract tourism based on the traditional elements found in these houses. By preserving them, we create living museums that pass down the Malays' community culture to future generations. However, we must address the challenges that hindered their preservation in the past. By raising awareness, forming partnerships, providing financial support, integrating them into tourism plans, and involving the community, we can ensure the long-term sustainability of these valuable cultural heritage sites. This will promote Malaysia's unique cultural identity and enhance the tourism experience in the country.

## 8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

Tarikh : 20 Januari 2023

Prof. Madya Dr. Nur Hisham Ibrahim  
Rektor  
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