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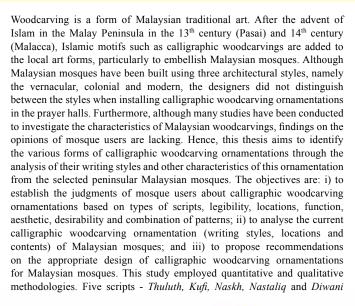
Title: CALLIGRAPHIC WOODCARVING ORNAMENTATIONS IN SELECTED

PENINSULAR MALAYSIAN MOSQUES

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and eight mosques in the North East and South West regions of Peninsula Malaysia were selected for the case studies. Firstly, the field study documented existing decorative woodcarving inscriptions in the mosques. Then, from the total number of 408 respondents, the assessments of mosque users on wood-carved calligraphy are conducted. The qualitative data are discussed comprehensively while SPSS is used to analyse the quantitative data of the questionnaire survey. The investigated variables included the locations, readability, aesthetic, function, mixture with other motifs and preference of scripts. The findings showed that calligraphy not only functions as ornamentation in a spiritual atmosphere, but also for recitations. Thuluth and Kufi are the most preferred scripts as decoration of mosques as woodcarving ornamental inscriptions. The users of mosques preferred individual inscriptions in terms of legibility while they desire to observe Arabic inscriptions to decorate Mihrab, Mimbar and entrances respectively. The designers preferred Thuluth scripts, but the selected contents did not follow the principle of connection between location and content of inscription. The study summarised design recommendations which will assist calligraphers, woodcarvers and designers of mosques to provide more desirable calligraphic woodcarving ornamentations for Malaysian mosques based on the users' assessments and the existing decorative inscriptions.