

ATRIUM IS REQUIRED IN SHOPPING COMPLEX

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APRIL 2001

ABSTRACT

The Atrium is a peaceful place to sit, meet, and relax amid plants and trees beneath the canopy of the skylight. With the presence of atrium in most of the shopping complexes in Malaysian cities, it has become a unique building form with a wide range of design possibilities. The Atrium at the shopping complex is a central, interior, daylit space, which forms part of the organization of a building. By being at a central position, it serves as a place of orientation, thereby bringing spatial coherence to the building. In addition Atrium building with sky light roof can also bring in "daylight". The potential for an atrium to bring daylight into the centers of a large building is well known, and its energy conservation potential is subject to extensive research. The approach and methodology of this study is basically description in nature. However, emphasis is given to case studies of atrium at selected shopping complexes.

The presence of atrium in shopping complexes can be commonly seen in Klang Valley such as at the selected case studies Suria KLCC, Bukit Raja Shopping Complex, and Sungei Wang Plaza. One of the purposes Atrium in shopping complexes is for cultural function that is to modify culture. For economic function, it can modify resources to build, money time, manpower, energy, materials, so as to generate economic return. As shelter, it serves to modify climate in the building. In fact the Atrium has become useful in carrying out certain urban design strategies in general and the development of shopping complex in particular.

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CONTENT	PAGE
CONTENT	i-iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	v-vi
ABSTRACT	vii
LIST OF CHARTS	viii
LIST OF FIGURES	ix
LIST OF PHOTOS	x
LIST OF TABLES	xi
1.0 CHAPTER 01-INTRODUCTION	
1.1 Preface	1
1.2 Issue	3
1.3 Scope of the Study	4
1.4 Aim of Study	4
1.5 The contents of Study	5
1.6 The hypothesis of Study	7
1.7 Synopsis	8
1.8 The methodology of Study	9
2.0 CHAPTER 02-CHARACTERISTICS OF ATRIUM	
2.1 Defination	10
2.2 History	12
2.2.1 Courtyard forms	14
2.2.2 First epoch of Atrium	17

2.2.3	Second epoch of Atrium	19
2.2.4	Third epoch of Atrium	20
2.2.5	Influences on Atrium	21
2.3	The functions of Atrium	24
2.4	Types of Atrium	29
2.4.1	Closed Atrium	29
2.4.2	Open sided Atrium	30
2.4.3	Liner Atrium	30
2.4.4	Multiple Atrium	31
2.4.5	Partial Atrium	31
3.0	CHAPTER 03-ENERGY OF ATRIUM	
3.1	Introduction	37
3.2	Energy potential of Atrium	38
3.3	Daylighting	41
3.3.1	Daylight requirement in the Atrium	45
3.3.2	Sources of daylight	46
3.4	Cooling	49
3.5	Heating	52
4.0	CHAPTER 04-CONSTRUCTING THE ATRIUM	
4.1	Design for fire safety	55
4.2	Structure and material of finishes	58
4.2.1	Glazing	61
4.2.2	Types of glazing system	62
4.3	Art,water and plant	76
4.3.1	Art water in Atrium	78
4.3.2	Plant in Atrium	79

4.4	The economics of Atrium	81
4.4.1	Capital cost	82
4.4.2	Revenue Costs	84
4.4.3	Investment value	85
5.0	CHAPTER 05-CASE STUDY	
5.1	Introduction	86
5.2	Case Study: Suria KLCC	87
5.2.1	Introduction	87
5.2.2	Location	89
5.2.3	Background of the building	91
5.2.4	Facilities provided	94
5.2.5	Amenities and Spaces	96
5.2.6	Design concept	97
5.2.7	Atrium	100
5.2.8	Energy Cost	103
5.2.9	Maintenance	105
5.2.10	Rent	106
5.3	Case Study: Bukit Raja Shopping Complex	112
5.3.1	Introduction	112
5.3.2	Location	114
5.3.3	Background of the building	115
5.3.4	Facilities provided	118
5.3.5	Amenities and Spaces	119
5.3.6	Design concept	120
5.3.7	Atrium	120
5.3.8	Energy Cost	122
5.3.9	Maintenance	122
5.3.10	Rent	123