

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**IDENTIFICATION AND
CHARACTERISTIC OF MALAY
LANDSCAPE AT KUTAI HOUSES
ALONG SUNGAI PERAK FOR
SUSTAINABILITY DESIGN**

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ABSTRACT

Foreign landscape designs, such as Balinese, Japanese and English style have a big influence on the local landscape design setting. Furthermore, there is no understandable guideline in respect for national landscape identity or local characteristic by the Institute of Landscape Architects Malaysia (ILAM). In this regard, Malay landscape design should become a main direction towards creating national identity and should be preserved as national heritage for future generations. The purpose of the study is to identify, evaluate and document the cultural landscapes for compound areas of Malay Traditional house (Kutai House) along Sungai Perak. It will serve to provide a complete picture of the characteristic and identity of Malay landscape that will be offer valuable knowledge and enhance the value of Malay traditional houses. Eighteen (18) Kutai houses were selected as case studies, using a mixedmethod application to ascertain the distribution of the landscape components found in compound areas of Malay houses. The research methodologies used in this study are pilot study, field data collection (checklist of elements and features, interviews, and inventory for space and plant) and study approaches (qualitative and quantitative approaches). For the data analysis, the method applied is the Robert Buckle method to identify the relationship between environmental factors, cultural, visual and meaning. The Ian Mc.Harg Layer-Cake Relationship method is also applied to identify the elements of the natural and cultural landscape along Sungai Perak. At the end of the study, some characteristics of Malay landscape were obtained and could be used as a reference to design an appropriate Malay landscape which suitthe current lifestyle and also to introduce sustainable design identity of the Malay landscape.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 BACKGROUND OF STUDY

The cultural landscapes of the Malays, originate from the surrounding regions of the Malay Archipelago. These regions, include Indonesia, which was the home of some of the Malay Peninsula's earliest settlers. Along with this migration, the Malays brought with them their traditions cultural values, lifestyles, and wisdom as they settled on the coasts and hinterland, whilst embedding their cultural landscapes. In the meantime, the Malays were still strongly animistic in their beliefs when Islam arrived to the region in the 13th century (Ibrahim, 1991).

This historical background moulded the Malays' world view in developing their own culture and tradition (Sabrizaa & Sufian, 2008). In this light, the Malay community does not have a strong landscape design, compared to other landscape themes that are popular in modern times. On the other hand, strong elements that can be detected in old Malay garden are plants or soft landscaping, which is very unique as it clearly symbolises the Malay civilisation (A. Zamil Z., 2012). Other than that, it shows that the Malay community has strong knowledge in regards to the functions of plant in the garden or in the surrounding environment. Thus, indirectly, the identity and image of Malay garden can be expanded, and be used as a reference for all landscape architects who are active in promoting the design of the Malay culture. In this regard, this study will explore each element of cultural landscape found in the study area to obtain of the character and identity of the Malay landscape that can be used in landscape Malay to capture the true identity of the Perak Tengah district.

1.1 RESEARCH PROBLEM

Issues on cultural and natural integration are recognised as internationally significant, as many people express their concerns on the degradation of cultural landscapes. In this light, a cultural landscape refers to the natural environment that has