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## CERAMIC SURFACE PATTERN FOR WALLS

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### Abstract

Malaysia is one of the richest countries with a lot of natural resources among them, clay. Due to this, researcher makes an innovative about ceramic surface pattern design and applies at wall building. It aims at applying and enhancing astonishing environment through walls as a visual art. Apart from that, to increase public awareness and understanding on ceramic is essential. This research has been conducted by using structured questionnaires. It is highly hoped that this research will assist more clearly on the educational, technical and aesthetic validity at the same time increase our competitiveness in this interesting field.

**Keywords:** visual art; ceramic surface; pattern

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### 1. Introduction

The word ‘ceramic’ comes from the Greek word; *Keramikos*. Ceramic is a basic that cover products or objects produced using clay. In Malaysia, the product of ceramic is more to daily basis material such as tableware, sanitary ware, cooking ware, covers all clay products such as architectural and structural clay products, bricks, tiles, tiles, sculpture and another decorative item. The concept of decoration using ceramic should be given technological innovation to improve its competitiveness. At 1971 ceramic was started to become an academic field at a higher level in educational institutions in Malaysia.

Nowadays, this field has become focused with an extra effort in terms of variety of product design. It could be functional or non-functional products. Looks forward to the aesthetic value, basic education in architecture, has been included into the curriculum. Clay and glazes have been given a new dimension with the introduction of scientific research in line with new developments and experimental products. Ceramic is conventional material to the public yet it is not widely used compared to the other countries. It should be given more exposure on its application and use.

According to Chief Minister of Malacca, Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam (2008) universities should carry out project and studies that will benefit the state. He also said universities should work towards getting student involved in research and activities that can bring innovations or projects that can be benefit to state not merely imparting knowledge. The statement comes after he said at the launch of the fourth phase of the river cleaning and beautification project in Malacca. The issue is hopes to raise awareness among student and at the same time their involvement can bring changes and healthy improvement to the relevant party.

The decoration of wall is significant in that they bring art into public sphere. The image effects are enticement to attract public awareness to think and to know the new application of clay to produce ceramic product. Besides, the other group of people also get a benefit and it helps to build the people awareness and curiosity about application of ceramic material to beautify the wall.

Besides from clay that is a form, once that form is created, however it is usually manipulated somehow in order to enrich the surface. It shows that ceramic surface pattern can be main material for further enhancement of surface. The pattern selection should be unique and eye catching for the wall (Varese, 2004). Every wall has two sides and more than one role. That means how significant of wall can connect the people. The word ‘wall’ derives from old English and the Latin Vallum (rampart) Michael Webb & Arnold Schwartzman (2000). It was used as a symbolic to convey significance and for beautification of that place besides an idea to communicate and to understand the environment itself.

To cover a wide series of wall decor is not easy to make because not everybody has the same ideas for what makes their place and environment beautiful. Some of the people have the desire to start with a small art print, even

a framed poster, a glass, steel, wood and tile. According to the statement by DISR (1999), innovation is defined about pitting ideas to work. It is a process by which firms, industry and governments to add value through successful exploitation of a new idea for the benefit of a part or whole of business, industry or the nation. It spans a range of ideas based on the improvement processes, including a technological change and improvements in organizational, financial and commercial activities.

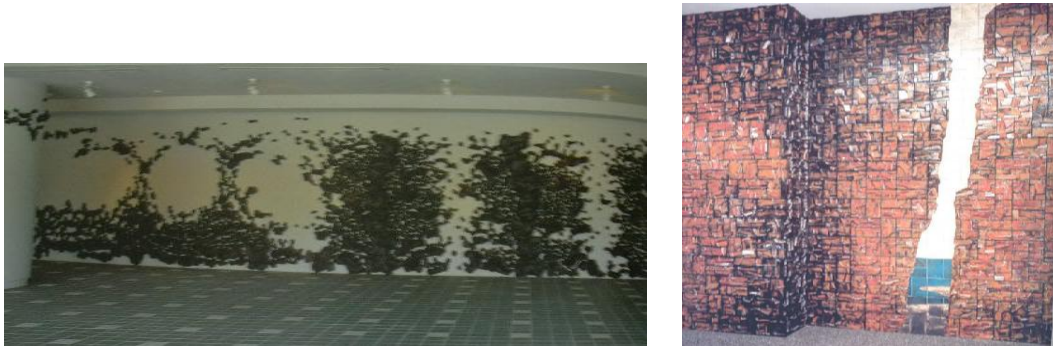


Fig.1. (a) Birth of Bubbles, Ancient Woodland and Peat Deposits (1993); (b) Intangible Notch, Arrow International Reading (Wayne Higby)

Ceramics is the art and technology of forming, firing and glazing clay making a variety of products. Clay the basic material of ceramic area used in this process is low cost, abundant and found in many locations throughout the world (Hopper, 2004). This natural material which is plasticity, malleable and pliant, lends itself to many applications series from building materials to ceramic ware like tableware (plates, bowls and drinking vessels), cooking ware, sanitary ware, jewellery, sculptures and decorative wall. Other mural artists used to focus on producing beautiful pieces of artwork which enhance the scenery with beautiful environments like public buildings. Besides that, it connects for the beautification of environment, it also give an aesthetic value (add value).

### 1.1. Symbolic

In this way the surfaces of the forms become enriched and appropriate for the situation where the work is to be placed (Csekovszky, 1992). He said that these work come out as a formal apparent as a simple symbols. The design that we choose is just from surrounding. Nature or manmade influence and must be arranged. Decoration or ornaments can be defined as compositions or embellishing elements in art and crafts. According to Hamlin (1916), the history of ornaments is the correct of origin and progressive developments of decorative design.

By decoration it is defined as an adornment of embellishment of an object by purposed modifications of its form or colour. When decoration is influenced by repetition or combination of specific form-elements according to a predetermined scheme the form elements are motives. Collectively they are ornaments and when combined or repeated according to some definite geometric system, they are said to form a pattern.

According to Sandra Taylor (1987) she had been warned the commissions would have preferred neon but had been convinced that a ceramic tile mural would be cheaper. It shows that ceramic materials have a good potential and cheaper than other materials.



Fig.2. Muzium Negara

According to Mishima's work, she has expanded into environmental installation but she has retained her sense of self and her world. Her expression although focused on the surface printing is by no means limited to her reaction to her culture by symbolic means (Mishima 1971). Australian artist Pip McManus (1989) believe that positive comments from the public about the works have shown willingness by the concerned to understand about this project. Here the message was darker and the viewer was confronted with a conscience- stirring message relevant for our culture. The symbolism was subtle but at the same time acquainted us with the artist intention.



Fig.3. (a) Station Jihachol (Subway), Korea;

(b) Bangunan Mara, Kuala Lumpur

### 1.2. Enhancing the environment

According to Ian Gregory (1992), says artists that have moved away from the constraints of earlier, more traditional, influences and have sought to express themselves in new and innovative ways does not mean that the work is essentially no longer within the context of ceramics. Instead it shows openness to finding new ways to develop ideas that push boundaries forward or to establish fresh solutions to old problems.

Therefore, according to Markovich (2000), she said that how she decorated the art classroom by letting her fourth and fifth grade students paint ceramic tiles with which to decorate the empty wall space. Mood of the education is come from the environment so that she make a decoration with their student. It shows that the environment have been changing by making a visual art for the student.

The humble clay tile is one of humankind's most ancient, enduring, and versatile inventions. From the simplest of squares to art objects of extraordinary refinement, tiles are at once utilitarian and beautiful. Ceramic tiles offer craftspeople and artists alike a two-dimensional surface on which to explore color, line, and shape, as well as providing the perfect medium for sculpting in relief (Donna Seaman 2008.) According to Richard Zakin, (2001), from clay we derive form once that form is created however usually were manipulate it in some way in order to enrich surface itself.

Ceramic material is a one good transform to make other things. It can be manipulation people with using the material. One of his unique qualities of clay namely its ability to mimic other material, in rare instances it even mimicked wood and iron (Susan Tunick, 1999). "I often think about the issues of part to whole when I work on wall relief. I also find that looking at architecture help me to understand the spatial problem of site specific commissions. For a successful outcome, it is necessary to study all aspects of an environment into which an installation will be integrated" (Susan Tunick, 2004). She noted that art and environment cannot to be separated. Previously since the establishment of the school of design in 1837 the emphasis had been on training centered on drawing largely intended to produce suitable surface decoration for ceramics (Tanya Harrord, 1988).

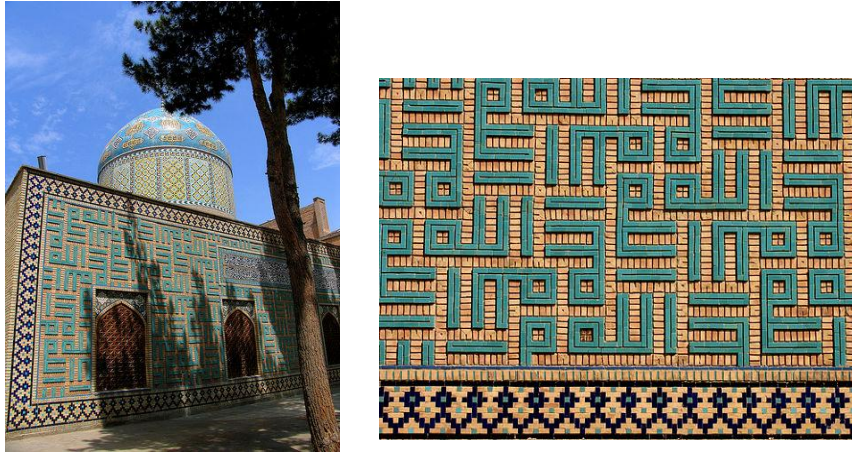


Fig.4. (a) Tile works, Imamzadeh Mahroogh Neyshaboor, Iran

### 1.3. Surface pattern

As we shall see, patterns which are closely linked to their surfaces are usually the best pattern (Kurt Rowland 1964). The pattern of less civilized people and those of different culture also differ from own. Good patterns are born from mans understanding of materials such as wood, fabrics, clay glass and stone. There must be friendship between pattern and material. Understanding of the potentials and limitations of the materials are able to make beautiful things to suite the certain purposes.

Pattern usually suggests a repetition and it sometimes rather random or sometimes more controlled. Pattern serves the artist mainly as ornament, independent from any tactile possibilities but there is an overlap because texture can create pattern (Ocvirk, Stinson, Wigg, Bone Cayto, 1990). The application of pattern and colour the production of ceramic parts especially for cover interior walls, ceilings and façade of buildings goes back to more than 1000 years ago.



Fig.5. (a) Ceramic relief wall pattern by Mei Huang, Taiwan

Pattern making is and always has been an important human activity and people live surrounded by patterns. They have something to do with the materials of which they are made or with the surface on which they appear, or with the surroundings of their makers or all of this.

Rules of pattern is something people sense when they see it, even if it irregular and there is not exact repetition. It means good patterns are born from understanding of materials such as wood, fabrics, clay, glass or stone. There must be friendship between pattern and materials.

It is important to consider to choose the aesthetics value of the area where the ceramic will be installed. There is not only consider the size of the space and the intended color scheme, but also the general mood or to represent the idea. The same is true when to plan to enhance a hallway, entry way, or outdoor space especially the wall. The beautification is going to be part of a very large space such as an public building, long hallway, or outdoor area or perhaps the small place that can make a decoration.

Besides that, patterns design could be brick pattern are one of the most common installations. There are a traditional choice and complement country and colonial designs. Another pattern is alternating pattern and grid pattern and it might be diamond, diagonal or even a custom design. But the idea is no limit how to arrange the design and it depends on the people to make it harmony. Most of decoration of ceramic surface is two dimensions and implement art deco as a visual communication. Arrangement of pattern has devided 13 types of pattern like allover, orgee, brickstone, diagonal, mirror, relief, *jidar*, center, repetition, overlapping, wave, and so on.



Fig.6. (a) Ceramic relief wall pattern by Mei Huang, Taiwan

Man made and nature pattern which found in surroundings are a very important part of human life. Mostly, pattern design has decorated on fabrics, pottery vessels, tools, building, indeed most of the things. It has a few types of patterns that used to create beautification. Tessellations one of the approaches can be used for tile patterns for wall.



Fig.7. Double Curves, Starbuck – Goldner Studio, Bethlehem.

#### 1.4. Ceramic materials

Ceramic production has commenced from the beginning of their pre Islamic. Ceramic uniqueness cannot be denied because there is a subtle touch that it proves that the civilization and human thought growing from time to time. Historically, ceramics itself are hard, porous, and easily broken. Metal rust and corrode, wood disintegrates with water and fire but ceramics processed by heat longevity and permanence like no other materials. For this reason, ceramic artifacts can be preserved even though in long gone civilization.

The materials of clay can be able in anywhere. While the terms earthenware, stoneware, and porcelain are also used in conjunction with other characteristic of the clay, such as color or workability, each of these terms refers to degree of density or porosity of the fired works.

Table 1. Types of clay

Types of Clay	Character
Earthenware	Soft, chalky, porous, break easily
Stoneware	Strength and durability
Porcelain	White and translucent

Table 2. Techniques of ceramic design

Techniques	Types
Wet clay techniques	Carving, Impressing, Sgraffito, Slip Painting/Trailing, Marbling, Wax Resist, Stencils
Underglaze decoration technique on bisque	Wax Resist, Oxide And Stains
Overglaze decoration	Oxide Painting, Decals, Luster, China Paints, Non Glazes
Firing kilns and post firing technique	Oxidation, Reduction, Pit,

## 2. Methodology

To enhance the smoothness of the progress of the research, information is acquired from the primary data and secondary data. Indirectly, this study contributes to the current generation as well as the parties concerned to create innovation of ceramic walls. This research has been conducted in by implementing face to face structured questionnaires with Likert Scale answer and a list of interview that will be given to the respondents to answer it.

The questionnaire is divided into three parts A, B and C. The questionnaire is designed to survey the understanding of ceramic development within the society and also the perspective towards wall decoration. Researcher also needs a response towards the idea proposed with innovation.

The data that were collected will be analyzed by computer with using Stastical Package for Social Science (SPSS) programme. It will be show in percentage, min median and frequencies.

## CONCLUSION

The research shows that people from different age, agreed with beautiful environment. Based on the questionnaires, it shows that the way people think when asking about ceramic mostly said it about the *tembikar* and tableware items. The respondents quit interested and agree about approaches how to give innovation in terms of beatification of wall.

Although at the beginning, they do not familiar with what is exactly the ceramic art, but they have a curiosity and interested to know more about that. 64% respondents agreed with the innovation and just 4% not agreed with the innovation of ceramic wall. It shows that the design proposed has been accepted by three groups of people. From the result of the questionnaire, majority respondents were agreed with the innovation that has been suggested. About 14% were not been given a good response for this design proposed.

From this survey we can make conclusion that the suggestion of innovation can give a good impact to ceramic industry in Malaysia. By using clay, it will give more input to the process of making a variety of products. The application of the ceramic wall through the school's wall is one way to give new exposure to a lot of people especially to students, parents and teachers. By using long lasting ceramic method, it can make the environment more aesthetic to look at. It will be a symbol to the place itself.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

As a suggestion, we should improve our competitiveness and innovation concerning ceramic art. With related to the beautification on walls, the purpose is more to educate people most of them students, which have lack of knowledge on ceramic art. The innovation of application ceramic surface decoration is to educate people about the alternative of wall decoration instead of painting.

The awareness on the potential of ceramic material in Malaysia should be increased. Clay is a natural resource that is found in abundance in Malaysia. Besides, producing vases as common mentality thinking, clay should be given a chance to produce more ceramic art. Ceramic wall was made to beautify the environment and it is also to cover a wall in old buildings.

The same study also can be conducted in other places so that the findings can be compared and therefore become more valid. It is probably can be usefull for government building to include motif from surrounding. Most people do not know about the type of ceramic product and from questionnaire majority accepted the idea and giving the fullest support. Besides school, it can be decorate at hospitals, public places, government building, institutions and home probably. It is hoped that this research will give benefits as well as be blessed by the almighty.

Researcher also proposes to apply Islamic art and design to the Mosques building, government department or private institutions, airports, shopping complex as a progressive Islamic nation. At the same time it could be elevate the art of ceramics and Islamic pattern on the wall. Vandalism is one of the problems faced by Malaysian government. To reduce the problem we need to find out the steps to give new impetus to change the situation or environment. This research is hoped to educate people how to appreciate beatification in art. Besides that, university can propose suggestions and ideas to work with the parties to construct project besides to elevate art in Malaysia.

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**Appendix A.**



Fig.8.Paper cutting from New Sunday Times Jan 13, 2008



Fig.9.Paper cutting



Fig.10. Paper cutting from Kosmo, July 7 2008



*Author purpose design*



Fig.11. KLCC entrance a) before; b) after



Fig.12. Wall building at Klang River a) before; b) after



Fig.13. Wall building at Klang River a) before; b) after

