

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**CULTURAL PRACTICES AND
VALUES IN THE HOME SPACES OF
A COMMUNITY THAT PRACTICES
ADAT PERPATIH IN REMBAU,
NEGERI SEMBILAN**

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PhD

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AUTHOR'S DECLARATION

I declare that the work in this thesis was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the results of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This thesis has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any degree or qualification.

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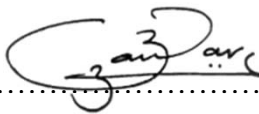
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ABSTRACT

The Malays have been known for their cultural richness practiced in all facets of their everyday life. However, such significant customary values and wisdoms have gradually been relinquished and will soon be forgotten due to modernisation. There are several written texts available but little had been published on home spaces in great detail. One of the traditions with intricate system is known as the *Adat Perpatih*, which is largely practiced by the Negeri Sembilan Malay communities. The *Adat Perpatih* is largely based on Islamic principles and doctrines, does not only covered the aspects of societal life which include marriage, inheritance, politics; but it also relates to other matters including architecture. Indeed, the Negeri Sembilan house is one of the most identifiable visual features which had become a significant element of identity of the Malaysian architecture. This research aims to explore the relevance of *Adat Perpatih* practicing society's cultural practices of practices in modern-urban-house designs. The main objective is to establish a narrative of ritual and religious practices that are carried on during formal ceremonies or functions and the spaces that involved within authentic Negeri Sembilan house setting. Based on the evidence, it would then be possible to realign or adjust the layout and design of contemporary spaces or areas within the modern house that will closely fit into the cultural practices of the households. The study is qualitative in nature and the method employs several approaches of narrative, ethnography and case study. The review of the literature related to the origins and practices of the Negeri Sembilan community in Malaysia will provide historical narrative and context for the study. It is followed by identifying a community that knowingly maintain authentic *Adat Perpatih* customs during ceremonial functions for the case study. Eventually, a community that lived in Kampong Penajis in Negeri Sembilan closely matched with the purpose and was selected as the study area. The main strategy to elicit information and data collection was to record down the activities taken place during the events through participant-observation technique. Among the several key findings of research are the significance of the spaces within the house which can be considered as "sacred" and other areas as "complementary". The findings from the study are valuable for the present and future generations in understanding the concept of the traditional space design, its functions and embedded values which is an important cultural heritage of Malaysia. Contributions to research are guideline for home design with cultural values, methods and documentations.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
CONFIRMATION BY PANEL OF EXAMINERS	ii
AUTHOR’S DECLARATION	iii
ABSTRACT	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	v
TABLE OF CONTENTS	vi
LIST OF TABLES	xiii
LIST OF FIGURES	xvi
GLOSSARY	xxi
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xxiv
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Research Background	2
1.1.1 Issues in contemporary home design	7
1.2 Problem Statement	9
1.2.1 Issues	9
1.3 Research Aim	13
1.4 Research Questions and Objectives	13
1.5 Significance of Study	15
1.6 Research Methods	16
1.7 Scope of Study	17
1.7.1 Special Occasions involving family members of BHM-D	18
1.7.2 Home spaces	18
1.7.3 Special occasions that occurred in Rembau	18
1.8 Definitions	19
1.8.1 Definitions of culture	19
1.8.2 The definition of culture from architectural context	24
1.8.3 The definition of ‘value’	25
1.8.4 The Malays	28