

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**INTERIOR FLOOR FINISHES
PREFERENCES FOR MALAYSIAN
HOUSES**

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Thesis submitted in fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy
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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.

I, hereby, acknowledge that I have been supplied with the Academic Rules and Regulations for Post Graduate, Universiti Teknologi MARA, regulating the conduct of my study and research.


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ABSTRACT

Residential is a place where individual build and dwell in and can be classified into house, home and shelter. Whether it is called house or home or shelter, it plays significance role for the human beings who live inside it. The interior spaces elements that exist in a residential unit are floor, wall and ceiling. Nevertheless, one of the most important elements in interior spaces is floor due to the residents keep their body contact with it most of the time compared to the other two elements. In interior spaces, the permanent covering of a floor is known as interior floor finishes which are considered very vital component due to, they give impact to the residents' living environment. Moreover, they are the hardest-working surfaces and expected to cope with the innumerable pounding footsteps and any abuse or load on them. Consequently, they should be used appropriately based on their functions to maximise their functions. The mismatch between interior floor finishes and interior spaces may lead to renovation work as a result of the residents' unsatisfactory. In interior design context, there is still lacking of residents' reference on purchasing the suitable choice of interior floor finishes based on the selection criteria for renovation work. Most of the residents' preferences of interior floor finishes are based on selection criteria of beauty, hygienic, durable and comfort. The selection criteria of beauty are colour, texture, patterns and motives, shapes and form, surface textures, size and trend. However, the selection criteria of hygienic namely stain resistance, slip resistance, moisture resistance, dust-free, bacteria and microbial resistance, fire resistance and harmful chemical and gases. Though, the selection criteria of durable are lifespan, cracking, chipping, maintenance, surface abrasion, chemical resistance, thermal shock resistance and faded surface colouring. Nonetheless, the selection criteria of comfort are comfortable underfoot, water resistance, sound absorption and reflective surface. From the analysis findings of the residents' preferences, it has been developed into The Preferences Framework Guidelines of Interior Floor Finishes for Malaysian Houses. It can be used by the construction members as an alternative or reference to rely on when advising the residents choosing the right interior floor finishes to align with the correct function for the interior spaces. Even though the renovation activities cannot be prevented entirely but, the researcher believes that this preference guidelines are accommodating more or less. The other factors that involve are psychological factors (internal factors) including motivation, perception, learning, personality, and attitude formation and attitude change. Instead, sociological influences (external factors) are together with lifestyle, family, culture, social class and reference group. As a conclusion, the selection criteria of interior floor finishes are closely related with each other for the purpose of fulfilling needs of the residents' living environment as well as for the sake of protecting Mother Nature.

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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	xii
LIST OF FIGURES	xvii
LIST OF PLATES	xx
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Introduction to the Research	1
1.2 Research Background	3
1.3 Problem Statement	6
1.4 The Research Aim and Objectives	7
1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Research	7
1.6 Significance of the Research	8
CHAPTER TWO: INTERIOR FLOOR FINISHES AND THE SELECTION	
CRITERIA	9
2.1 Introduction	9
2.2 Factors that Influence Consumers' Preferences	9
2.2.1 Perception	10
2.2.2 Knowledge	11
2.2.3 Family Members	11
2.2.4 Culture	12
2.2.5 Attitude	13
2.2.6 Personality	13
2.2.7 Lifestyle	14