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REVITALIZATION OF
OLD TOWN KULIM, KEDAH
THROUGH A PLACEMAKING
APPROACH

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ABSTRACT

Malaysia is experiencing the colonization from many side. From the colonization will left a mark that will become a historic and create the identity of the place. The physical features based on the history of the places can create a strong of sense, "you are here" and peoples can flashback the history of the place.. It is should be preserve and conserve because it is an aesthetic values that will represent the historic places. The physical setting of urban design in the old town district will create a sense of belonging and sense of place that gives a strong meaning which produces certain urban activities. Nowadays, the urban modernization without considering the character and the city value cause the misidentification of the places. The historical town is basically about place-making and that can make peoples connect to the place. , this study also will show the relevant and significant of using place-making principles to reinforce the features of the historical urban identity through design spaces and also focused on the design of the streets for people to experience the town.

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CHAPTER 1

1.1 Background of the study

Urban identity in the historical old town can be identified by the characteristic and the value of the town. It influences by meaning, human perception, and experience toward the physical environment and the function of that spaces (Salah Ouf, 2001). The physical setting of urban design in the old town district will create a sense of belonging and sense of place that gives a strong meaning which produces certain urban activities. The urban modernization without considering the character and the city value can cause the misidentification of the places (Beyhan & Çelebi Gürkan, 2015). The local identity gives the impact toward the attachment and the diversity of place environment. The lack of connectivity between the physical landscapes held within a cultural, broader physical and emotional context. This is shown the decrease of place significance or “placelessness” (Cheshmehzangi & Heat, 2012).

Urban design in the historical town is basically about place-making, where the places that have all the activities and events which made it possible (John, 1998). By using the communication in the design activity can create an experience that can make peoples connect to the place. The design emphasizes the identity and physical features based on the history of the places can create a strong of sense, “you are here” and peoples can flashback the history of the place. The Identity design that uses the combination of physical features either natural and man-made elements, people, history, function, potential, and culture make the place unique to accentuate the identity and experience of that place. There have some main key principles of place-making to create a great place such as images and comfort , sociability, uses and activities, , and linkage and access (Kasri, Saidin, & Bahador, 2017).

This study will discuss how to preserve and conserve the historical old town district of Kulim, Kedah by revitalizing and strengthening the urban identity value and physical features of an old building. The physical features of old town Kulim is influenced by the British architectural style built during the British's colonization. Therefore, the streetscape district of Old Town Kulim has features that need to appreciate for the next generation. So, people can flashback the memories and histories during the establishment of Old Town Kulim. Besides that, this study also will show the relevant and significant of using place-making principles to reinforce the features of the historical urban identity through design spaces and also focused on the design of the streets for people to experience the town.