

**DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW JOINTING SYSTEM
FOR OPEN PLAN OFFICE SYSTEM**

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**DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW JOINTING SYSTEM
FOR OPEN PLAN OFFICE SYSTEM**

By

MOHD SHAHRIZAL B. Hj. DOLAH

**Thesis Submitted to School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in
Fulfilment of the Requirement for Degree of Master of Science**

July 2006

DEDICATION

*This thesis is dedicated to my parents
and my family,
my wife Hanim and my daughters Sarah, Illyah and Aein*

**Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment
of the requirement for degree of Master of Science**

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Chairman : Associate Professor Rosnah bt Mohd Yusuff, PhD

Faculty : Engineering

Most modern offices use open plan office system due to the flexibility of the product. The open plan office system (OPS) can be customized from low screen to high screen and can be installed and dismantled according to the office needs. According to MIDA (Malaysian Industrial Development Authority) the total sales for Malaysian office furniture industries was RM 1.6 billion in 2003 of which 7.2% (115 million) comes from sales generated from the open plan office system. The sales report showed the importance of the open plan office system in creating the office environment. Since the demand of OPS is increasing, effective ways of assembling the system is required. Most OPS manufacturer uses bolts and nuts as a jointing system. However, this jointing system requires many parts and the assembly process is time consuming. Based on a survey carried out on 26 OPS manufacturers, the main criteria of the jointing system design identified were those that can increase efficiency and facilitate assembly. One of the important functions of the

jointing systems is to ensure that the system is flexible during the assembly process. Based on these findings, the study looked into various jointing system design concepts and the different materials that can satisfy all the requirements. Two designs of the jointing system have been proposed in this study. The designs were based on the snap fit concept and referred to 'Design for Assembly' (DfA) guidelines. Design proposal 1 is based on cylindrical or annular snap fit joint concept and design proposal 2 is based on a cantilever lug snap fit joint concept. The assembly and strength of the joints of the proposed designs were simulated using 'COSMOSXpress 2003' software with reference to the tile system model. The simulation showed that the new jointing system complied with all the requirements of the design factor specified by the manufacturers and DfA guidelines. It showed that the new jointing system is better than bolt and nut joint not only in terms of ease of assembly but also efficiency. The simulation results showed that although both design proposal 1 (cylindrical) and 2 (cantilever) were similar in many aspects which are easy to assembly, reduce time, light weight and reduce part, but design proposal 1 failed the strength test. The advantage in strength makes design proposal 2 is a better choice.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

**PERKEMBANGAN SISTEM PENYAMBUNGAN BARU UNTUK
SISTEM PEJABAT TERBUKA**

Oleh

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Hampir semua pejabat moden menggunakan 'sistem pejabat terbuka' memandangkan produk tersebut mudah dipasang. Sistem pejabat terbuka boleh diubah suai dari skrin yang rendah hingga skrin tinggi mengikut kehendak pengguna. Mengikut perangkaan yang telah dikeluarkan oleh Malaysian Industrial Development Authority (MIDA) pada tahun 2003, industri perabot pejabat telah menyumbangkan sejumlah RM1.6 bilion kepada pendapatan negara dimana 7.2% (RM 115 juta) daripadanya adalah hasil daripada penjualan 'sistem pejabat terbuka'. Daripada perangkaan tersebut menunjukkan kepentingan 'sistem pejabat terbuka' di dalam membentuk ruang pejabat masa kini. Memandangkan pemintaannya yang semakin meningkat, satu sistem pemasangan yang efektif diperlukan. Kebanyakan pengilang menggunakan 'bolt' dan 'nut' sebagai sistem pemasangan. Namun demikian sistem ini melibatkan banyak komponen dan

mengambil masa yang lama. Daripada soal selidik yang telah dijalankan keatas 26 pengeluar sistem pejabat terbuka, satu sistem penyambungan yang dapat meningkatkan keberkesanan dan memudahkan proses pemasangan adalah merupakan kriteria yang diutamakan. Salah satu fungsi penting sistem penyambungan ialah untuk memastikan keanjalan dalam proses pemasangan. Berdasarkan dapatan, kajian melihat pelbagai jenis sistem penyambungan, konsep reka bentuk dan bahan yang dapat memenuhi segala kriteria yang telah ditetapkan telah dikaji. Berdasarkan kajian ini, dua konsep reka bentuk telah dicadangkan. Kedua-dua reka bentuk yang dicadangkan menggunakan konsep '*snap fit*' dan merujuk kepada garis panduan '*Design for Assembly*' (*DfA*). Reka bentuk cadangan 1 adalah berdasarkan konsep *snap fit cylindrical* atau *annular* manakala reka bentuk cadangan 2 adalah berdasarkan konsep *snap fit cantilever*. Ujian simulasi pemasangan dan kekuatan reka bentuk cadangan dilakukan menggunakan perisian '*COSMOSXpress 2003*' dengan merujuk kepada model '*tiles system*'. Hasil simulasi menunjukkan sistem penyambungan yang dicadangkan memenuhi semua kriteria yang telah dikenalpasti dan juga memenuhi garis panduan *DfA*. Sistem penyambungan yang dicadangkan bukan sahaja memudahkan pemasangan tetapi juga lebih efisien. Hasil simulasi juga menunjukkan walaupun reka bentuk cadangan 1(*cylindrical*) dan 2 (*cantilever*) adalah mempunyai persamaan dari banyak aspek dari segi memudahkan pemasangan, masa pemasangan, ringan dan mengurangkan komponen, tetapi reka bentuk cadangan 1 gagal dalam ujian kekuatan. Kelebihan dari segi kekuatan membuatkan reka bentuk cadangan 2 adalah pilihan yang terbaik.

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*“Advancing the world with logic design”
+ Leonardo da Vinci+*

I certify that an Examination Committee has met on 13 July 2006 to conduct the final examination of Mohd Shahrizal B. Hj. Dolah on his Master of Science thesis entitled “Development of a New Jointing System for Open Plan Office System” in accordance with Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Act 1980 and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Regulations 1981. The Committee recommends that the candidate be awarded the relevant degree. Member of the Examination Committee are as follow:

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis is based on my original work except for quotation and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at UPM or other institutions.

MOHD SHAHRIZAL B. Hj. DOLAH

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Pages
DEDICATION	ii
ABSTRACT	iii
ABSTRAK	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	vii
APPROVAL	viii
DECLARATION	x
LIST OF TABLES	xiv
LIST OF FIGURES	xv
GLOSSARY OF TERMS	xvii

CHAPTER

1	INTRODUCTION	
	1.1 General background	1
	1.2 Jointing System in open plan office system	
2		
	1.3 Problem statement	3
	1.4 Objective of the study	4
	1.5 Limitation and scope of research	5
	1.6 Expected finding from the research	
	5	
	1.7 Importance of the study	5
2	LITERATURE REVIEW	
	2.1 History of Open Plan Office System	
6		
	2.2 Office partition	7
	2.2.1. Fixed partition	
8		
	2.2.2. Demountable Wall System	8
	2.2.3. Open Plan Office System (OPS)	9
	2.3 Types of Open Plan office System	11
	2.3.1. Tiles system	12
	2.3.2. Solid panel system	15
	2.4 Jointing system in furniture industries	17
	2.4.1. Adhesives jointing	17
	2.4.2. Wood jointing	18
	2.4.3. Mechanical jointing	21
	2.5 Open Plan office jointing system	27
	2.6 Polymer as a jointing material	29
	2.6.1 Type of polymers	27

	2.7	Design factor / Product Design Specification (PDS)	
		31	
	2.8	Total design (design process)	
		32	
	2.9	Design for Manufacturing (DfM) and Design for Assembly (DfA)	34
	2.10	Computer simulation in design	37
		2.10.1. SolidWorks COSMOSXpress	39
3		METHODOLOGY	
	3.1	Literature review	42
42	3.2	Questionnaire	
	3.3	Sampling	44
	3.4	Frame selection	44
	3.5	Data analysis	45
	3.6	Design development	46
		3.6.1. Design proposal	46
	3.7	Testing and analysis	47
	3.8	Assembly efficiency	48
	3.9	Final design	48
4		RESULT AND DISCUSSION	
	4.1	Questionnaire analysis	49
		4.1.1. Section 1	49
		4.1.2. Section 2	50
		4.1.3. Section 3	52
55	4.2	Analysis of different type of jointing system	
56	4.3	Development of new jointing system	
		4.3.1. Material selection	56
		4.3.2. Design development	56
		4.3.3. Jointing location	58
	4.4	Design proposal 1	60
	4.5	Design proposal 2	62
	4.6	Testing and analysis	65
		4.6.1. Easy to assemble	65
69		4.6.2. Weight	
		4.6.3. Time	70
		4.6.4. Strength	75
		4.6.5. Number of part	79
	4.7	Assembly efficiency	80

	4.8	Summary of findings	
81			
	4.8.1.	Bolt and nut and plastic bracket comparison	
81			
	4.8.2.	Jointing ability compare to the DfA guideline	
82			
5		CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION	
	5.1	Conclusion	84
	5.2	Recommendation for future works	87
		REFERENCES	88
		APPENDIX 1	93
		APPENDIX 2	97
		APPENDIX 3	99
		BIODATA OF THE AUTHOR	103

LIST OF TABLES

Tables	Page
2.1 OPS frame dimensions	
10	
2.2 Adhesives jointing characteristic	
18	
2.3 Wood jointing characteristic	
19	
2.4 Mechanical jointing characteristics	21
2.5 Type of polymer used in furniture industries	
30	
2.6 Feature relative to other polymer	30
2.7 Property of polymer	31
4.1 Companies background and involvement in OPS manufacturing	
50	
4.2 Jointing system analysis	52
4.3 Current jointing system problem	53
4.4 Design factors in developing the new jointing system	54
4.5 Advantages and disadvantages of current jointing system	
55	
4.6 Weight comparisons between plastic bracket and bolt and nut	70
4.7 Assembly time comparison	75
4.8 Material test comparison	79

4.9	Bolt and nut jointing system	
		80
4.10	Plastic bracket jointing system - proposal 1 and 2	
		81
4.11	Bolt and nut and plastic bracket comparison	
		82
4.12	Jointing ability compare to the DfA guideline	82

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
1:1 Open plan office system	1
1:2 Bolt and nut jointing system	3
2.1 Tile system frame structure	13
2.2 Solid panel frame	16
2.3 Snap fit concept	23
2.4 Cylindrical snap fit joint concept	24
2.5 Cantilever lugs joint concept	25
2.6 Element of design factor	32
2.7 Total design activities	33
3.1 Research conceptual frame work	41
3.2 OPS R1.2	45
4.1 Idea sketches	57
4.2 Jointing system position	58
4.3 Stamping holes	59
4.4 Existing stamping holes at VP	60
4.5 Design proposal 1	61

4.6	Design proposal 1(assembly)	
	61	
4.7	Proposal 1 technical drawing	
	62	
4.8	Design proposal 2	63
4.9	Design proposal 2(assembly)	
	63	
4.10	Proposal 2 technical drawing	
	64	
4.11	Bolt and nut simulation	66
4.12	Assembly simulations - proposal 1	67
4.13	Assembly simulations-proposal 2	68
4.14	Bolt ant nut simulation (time)	
	72	
4.15	Simulation time - proposal 1	
	73	
4.16	Simulation time - proposal 2	
	74	
4.17	Stress result using nylon (P1)	
	76	
4.18	Stress result using nylon (P2)	
	77	

4.19	Stress result using ABS (P1)	
	78	
4.20	Stress result using ABS (P2)	
	78	
4.21	Final design - design proposal 2	83

GLOSSARY OF TERM

ABS	Acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene
CAD	Computer-Aided Design
CAE	Computer Aided Engineering
DfA	Design for Assembly
DfM	Design for Manufacturing
DIY	Do It Yourself
FEA	Finite Element Analysis
FOS	Factor of Safety
FRIM	Forest Research Institute of Malaysia
MATRADE	Malaysian External Trade Development Cooperation
MDF	Medium Density Fiberboard
MFIC	Malaysian Furniture Industries Council
MFPC	Malaysian Furniture Promotion Council
MIDA	Malaysian Industrial Development Authority
MS Words XP	Microsoft Words Explorer
MTIB	Malaysian Timber Industrial Board
NM	Minimum number of part
OPS	Open Plan Office System
PA	Polyamide
PANCON	Panel Connection
PC	Polycarbonate
PDS	Product Design Specification

PE	Polyethylene
PMMA	Polymethylmethacrylate
POM	Polyoxymethylene
PP	Polypropylene
PS	Polystyrene
PU	Polyurethane
PVC	Polyvinylchloride
R&D	Research and Development
R1.2	Release 1.2
R2.4	Release 2.4
SIL	Silicones
TM	Total assembly time
UV	Ultra Violet
VP	Vertical pole