PREFERRED ICONOGRAPHY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NEW GARDEN IDENTITY

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PREFERRED ICONOGRAPHY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NEW GARDEN IDENTITY

By

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DEDICATIONS

TO MY HUSBAND
Globalization is fast transforming our world into one featureless place, leaving most nations with a lacking sense of identity. Some of the key areas affected by globalization include landscapes and gardens. Generally considered as symbols of national identity, the establishment of a nationally defined garden can contribute greatly to the development of a distinct national identity. Well-established gardens throughout history have proven to boast a nation’s identity through time, philosophy, tradition, and the cultural background of its people. These historical gardens are easily recognized through particular images that illustrate their distinctive iconographies. However, the iconography of new developing gardens is still unclear. If these new gardens do not reflect the specific cultures or values and needs of its users, then a unique set of problems will arise, particularly a low level of appreciation and acceptance.
Exploring garden iconographies, this study surveyed related garden preferences and has made suggestions for the development of a new garden identity. Malaysia — a fast developing country with great potential for and an interest in garden development — was selected as a case study. In accordance with this subject, photo preference surveys explored the preferred iconography for new Malaysian gardens and determined the factors affecting these preferences. Meanwhile, face-to-face interviews with Iranian and Malaysian landscape experts clarified the issues and challenges pertaining to garden development. It is important to note that the findings of this study can be used to contribute to the formation of Malaysian gardens with a distinct Malaysian identity. It can also be extended or adopted by other nations hoping to achieve or enhance national identity through garden development.
Abstrak thesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperulan Ijazah Doktor Falsafah

IKONOOGRAFI PILIHAN UNTUK PEMBANGUNAN IDENTITI TAMAN BAHARU

Oleh

MINA KABOUDARAHANGI

Februari 2012

Pengerusi: Profesor Madya LAr. Osman Mohd Tahir, PhD

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Phenomena globalisasi begitu cepat mengubah dunia kita kepada suatu tempat tanpa ciri tertentu dan menyebabkan banyak negara kehilangan identiti. Diantara perkara utama yang mendapat kesan globalisasi ialah landskap dan taman. Secara amnya taman dianggap sebagai simbol identiti nasional dan pembentukan taman berciri nasional dapat memberi sumbangan besar kepada pembangunan identiti nasional tersendiri. Taman yang telah lama wujud dalam sejarah telah terbukti dapat melonjak identiti negara melalui masa, falsafah, tradisi, dan latar belakang budaya rakyatnya. Taman-taman dalam sejarah ini mudah dikenali melalui citra tertentu yang menggambarkan ikonografinya tersendiri. Walau bagaimanapun bagi taman yang sedang membangun ia mempunyai ikonografi yang kurang jelas. Sekiranya taman-taman baharu ini tidak mencerminkan budaya atau nilai dan keperluan tertentu penguna, maka suatu set masalah yang unik akan timbul terutamanya penghayatan dan penerimaan yang rendah.
Dengan memberi perhatian kepada ikonografi taman, kajian ini meninjau kecenderungan terhadap taman berkaitan dan memberikan beberapa cadangan bagi pembentukan suatu identiti taman yang baharu. Sehubungan itu, Malaysia sebagai sebuah negara yang pesat membangun serta mempunyai potensi besar dan berkepentingan dalam pembangunan taman, telah dipilih sebagai kajian kes. Selaras dengan kajian ini, kaji selidik preferensi foto telah dijalankan bagi menerokai ikonografi kecenderungan dan menentukan faktor yang mempengaruhi kecenderungan terhadapnya. Selain itu, temubual bermula dengan pakar landskap dari Iran dan Malaysia telah dilaksanakan bagi menjelaskan isu dan cabaran berhubung dengan pembangunan taman. Hasil kajian ini diharapkan dapat menyumbang kepada pembentukan taman- yang beridentitikan Malaysia. Penemuan ini juga boleh dilanjutkan atau dicadangkan kepada negara lain dengan harapan untuk mencapai identiti kebangsaan melalui pembangunan taman.
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I would not have achieved my goals without God’s mercy and all the lovely people that I have mentioned above.
Approval Sheet

I certify that an Examination Committee has met on (date of viva voce) to conduct the final examination of Mina kaboudarahangi on her PhD thesis entitled “Preferred iconography for the development of a new garden identity” in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the PhD degree.

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DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations, which have been acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or at any other institution.

MINA KABOUDARAHANGI
Date: 16 February 2012
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