

■ Maryam Sadeghi

Urban Revitalisation

Mohd Nazri Saidon & Osman Mohd Tahir

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Urban Revitalisation

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Urban Landscape design is about landscape design in an urban context. This project emphasises designing landscape as a space that exists in the urban area. The objective is to create analytical thinking in solving problems through proposed landscape plans in selected town area. A town is chosen based on issues such as site uniqueness and environmental richness that would stimulate the thinking process to find design solutions. In addition, this exercise also aims to achieve the learning outcome of this course which includes the capability to evaluate planning issue, to design landscape plan and to present work in a professional manner.

Since the site is in an urban environment, this exercise gives students an understanding on how to plan landscape design for an urban district through exposure with real problems. Through this exercise, students would develop a design process consisting of understanding the urban vocabulary, identifying the design philosophy, determining design goals and objectives, developing programmes, etc. Furthermore, they would propose a comprehensive landscape plan for urban space revitalisation.

The exercise in landscape planning is achieved through several steps carried out by the students. For example, at the initial stage, an inventory was carried out for three days at a proposed area. Students explored and investigated the site with proper inventories' forms and tools. They used their experiences and felt the existing situation of the urban lifestyle and context. Furthermore, they analysed a site by interpreting 'elements' with suitable references and research. Finally, they would propose a landscape master plan. This master plan was created with selected specific aim according to the site offerings and studies that were carried out. A student had the opportunity to apply sciences and design knowledge into the design scheme after a series of discussions. Finally, four landscape urban master plans were produced with different approaches and concepts.

Furthermore, the students had an opportunity to choose a suitable space for designing its landscape details. The size of the space is approximately 100m width x 250m length. The scale of the detailed design is at 1:200 until 1:500 where they have to design landscape details through their understanding of specific site and design requirements. Sense of respect over existing condition and environment are among the criteria used by students in their attempts to develop and express their ideas.

In conclusion, the landscape urban design project was able to expand the students' thinking on how to solve existing landscape architecture problems in an urban context.

Jury Review

Rafar Abdul Aziz , Siti Zakiah Mohamed, Hasanuddin Lamit & Khairina Zek Khairuddin

Foremost, we would like to congratulate all these idiosyncratic projects for their outstanding ideas and expressions of work for the sake of human and environmental benefits.

The projects imply that a landscape space can be proposed to integrate well with the path and space principles with appropriate contextual connection and linkages. More interestingly, the creation of a few urban spaces for multi-purpose usage was expressed as a dynamic and active theme of human activities.

Overall, the students have shown satisfactory intellectual design process as shown in the number of drawings. The objective in developing analytical thinking in solving the problems through proposed landscape planning in selected town area is achieved.

The next step is to carry through this commendable preliminary works into actual designs. Most have shown credible attempts to creatively and intelligently translate an idea through a process into a designed product.

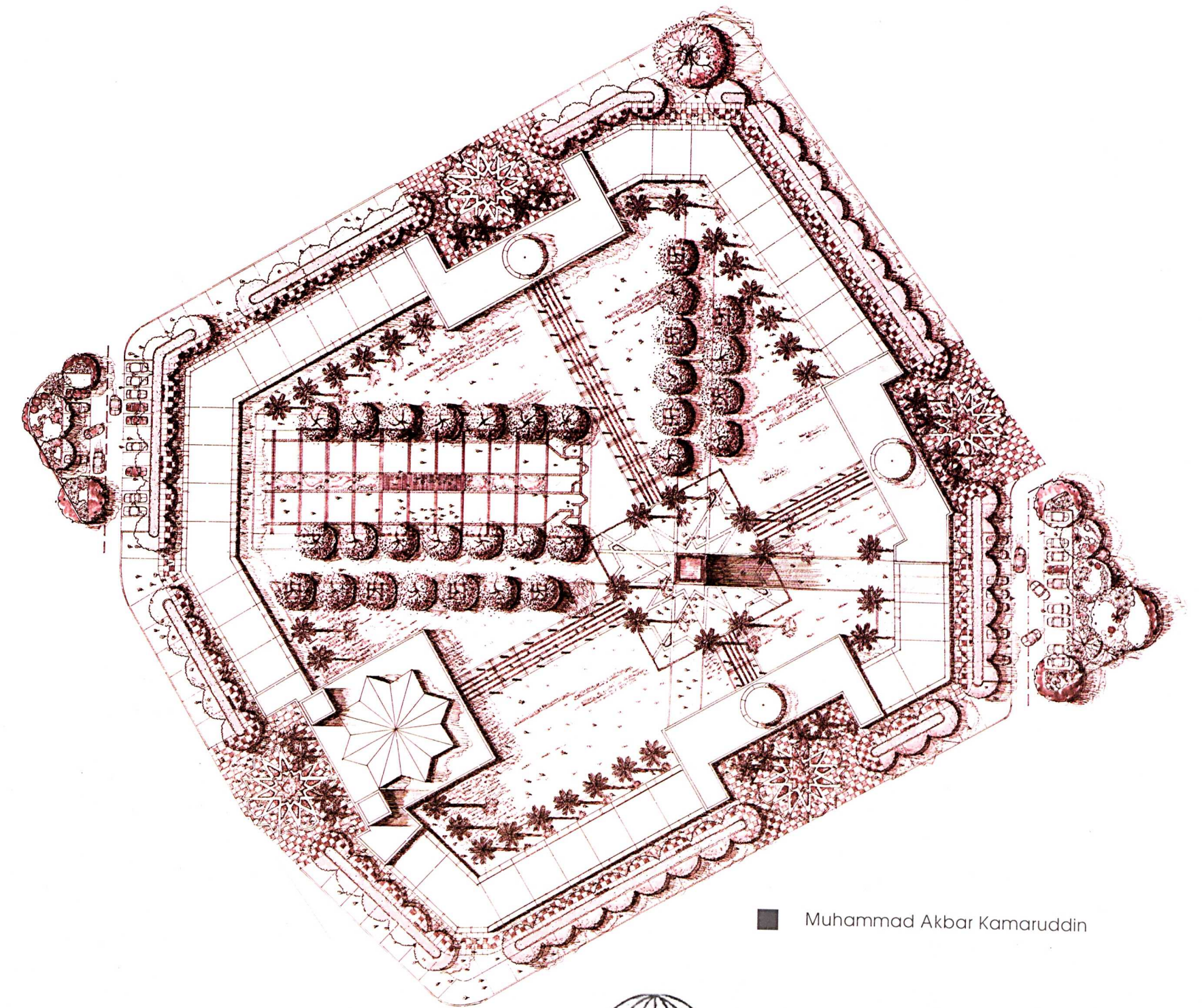
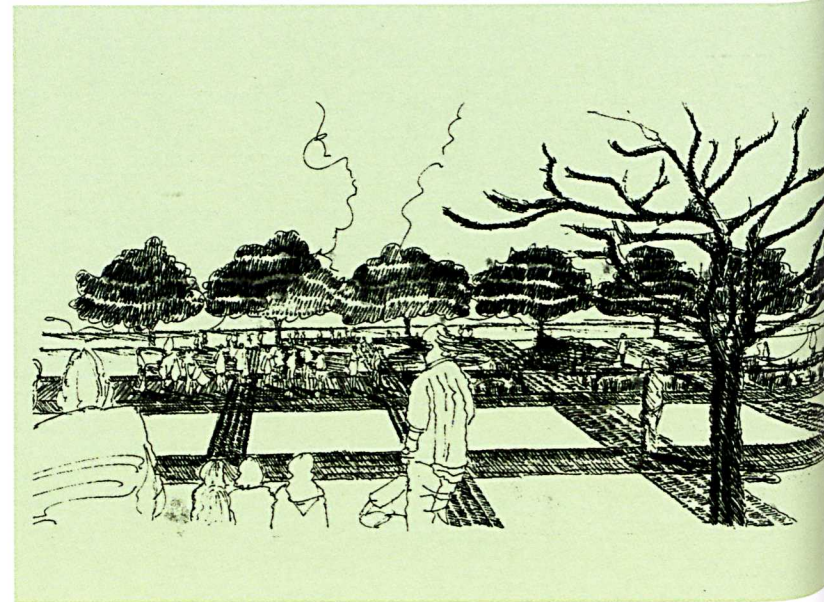
The Qibla

Mohd Nazri Saidon, Noorizan Mohamed
& Asraf Abdul Rahman

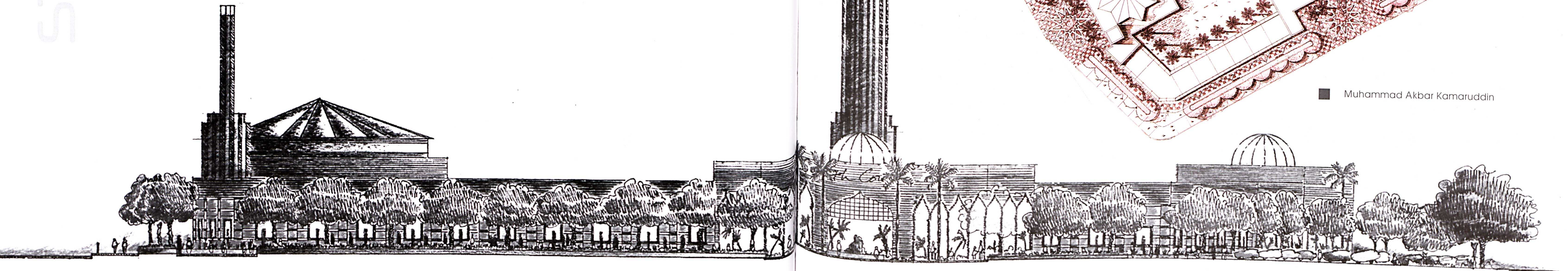
This project explores spatial relationships and how to achieve spatial legibility to make sense of a place in Kota Bahru, Kelantan. The aims are to build an identity and an image of the space by modifying the existing microclimates that would reflect Kota Bahru as an Islamic City.

The Qibla is inspired from the Islamic geometry pattern from the tiles of Ben Yusof Madrasa in Morocco. According to Muhammad Akbar, the idea is how a landscape design can characterise the concept of paradise in the Islamic world through art culture. This project comes with creative and dynamic new green meeting place which promotes spaces with recreational, social and cultural values. It will improve the cultural lifestyle and the quality of life that correspond to people's preference.

There are four interesting spatial relationships that are applied in this project; the Minaret Tower as a landmark, the Centre Court square as a node, pedestrian walkways as medium for space intersections and landscaping as a medium to answer microclimate comfort. The creative use of water elements accompanied by aromatic plants encourage attention as well as harmonious feeling that are responsive to existing microclimate issues.



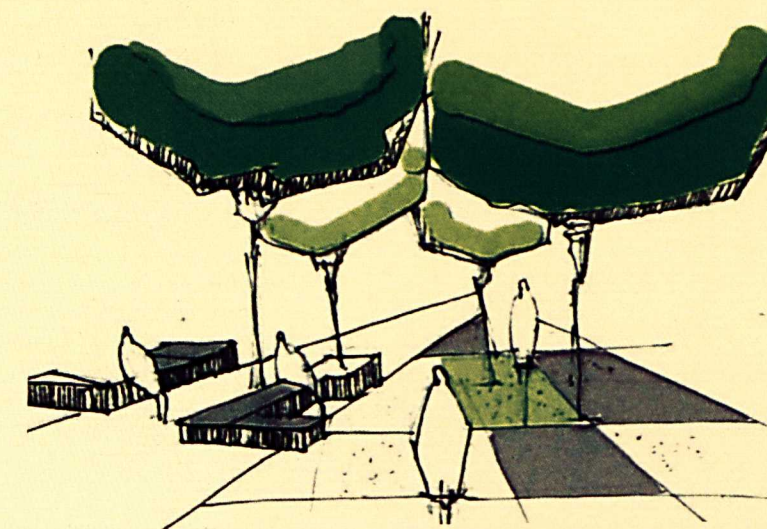
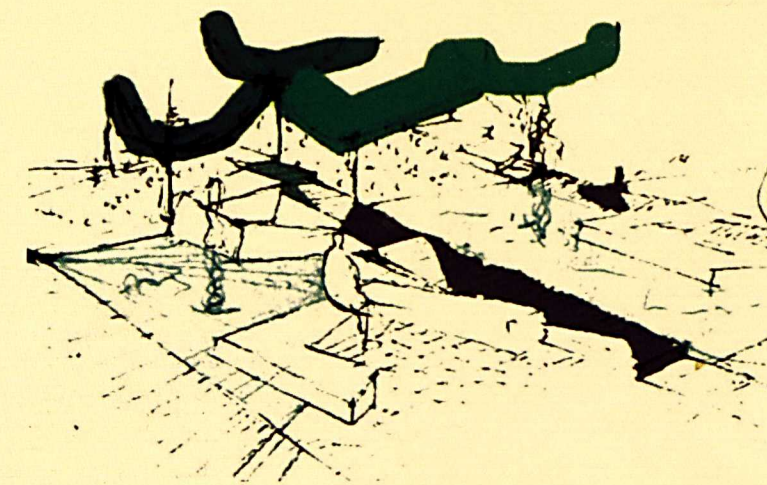
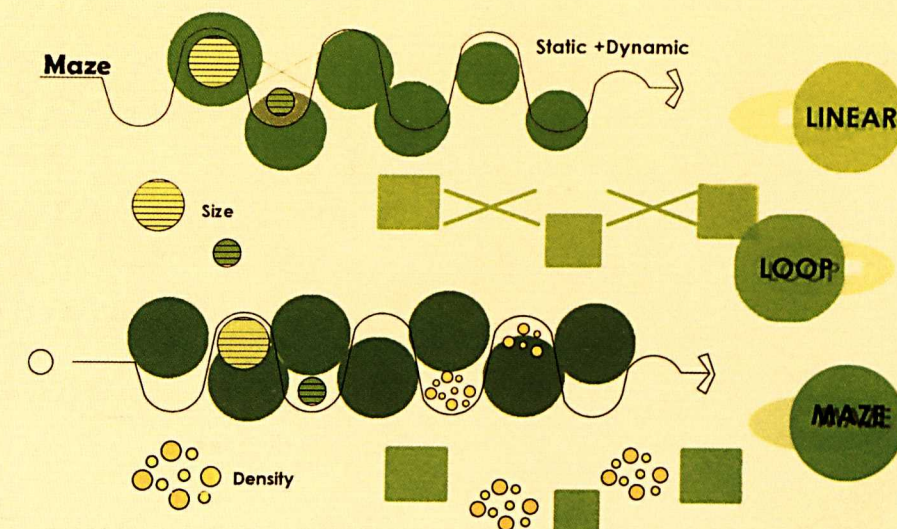
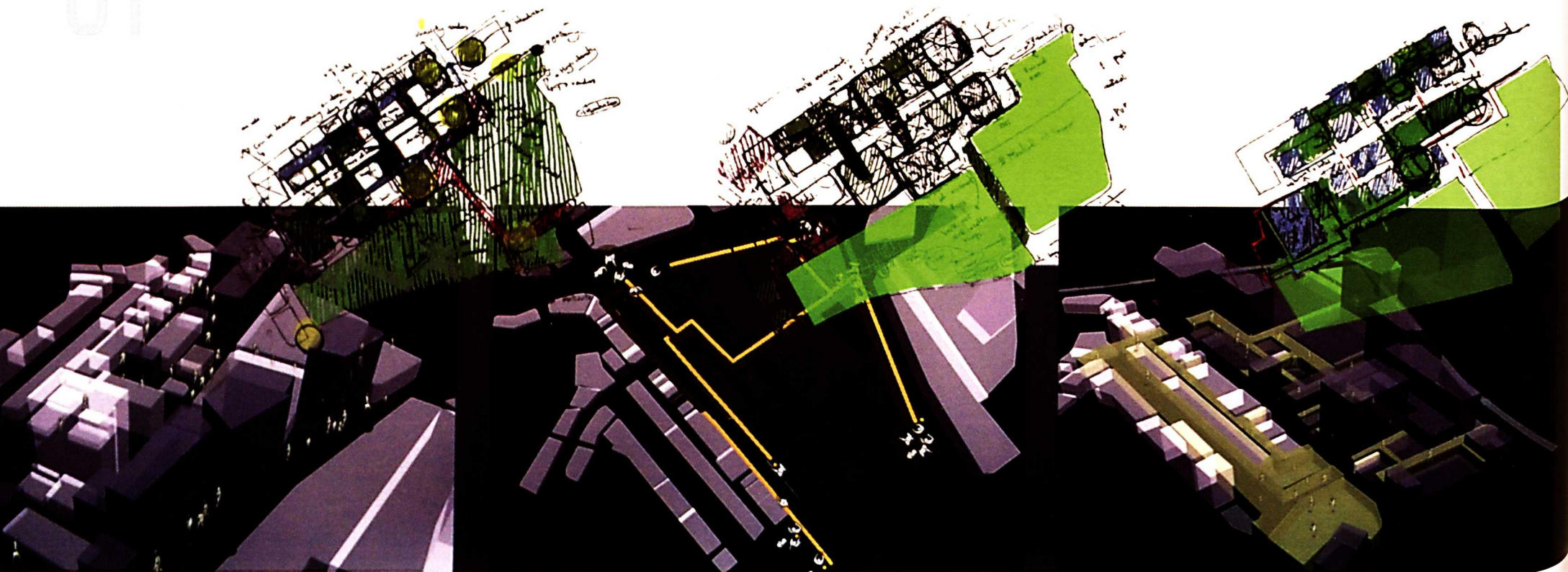
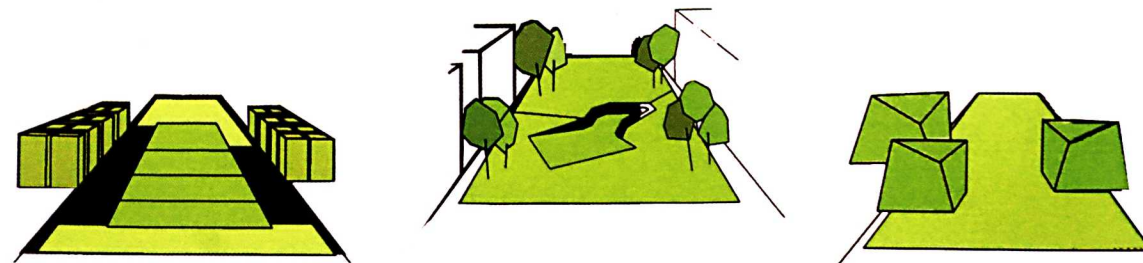
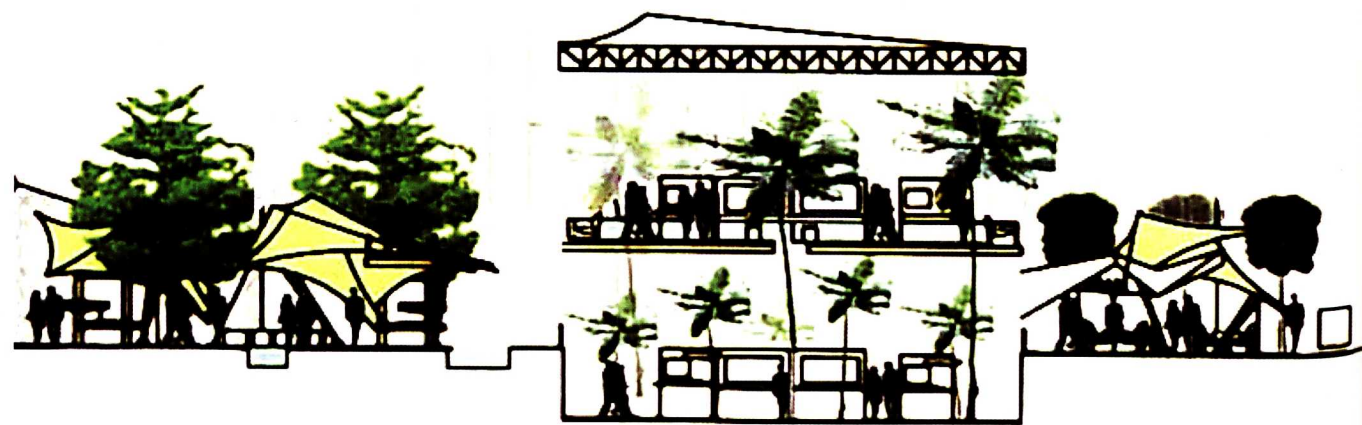
■ Muhammad Akbar Kamaruddin



The Bintang Urban Loop

Osman Mohd Tahir

Jalan Bukit Bintang which is situated in the heart of the capital city of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, has been transformed as one of the busiest shopping heaven over the past few years. It offers tourists as well as locals a variety of merchandise that suit every taste and budget. The famous Bintang Walk is located along this road which has been filled up with various shopping complexes including cafes, restaurants, clubs, shops and malls.



Maryam Sadeghi

However, through rigorous survey and analysis done by Maryam Sadeghi, it is noticed that the site needs to have a system, a hierarchy and connectors between spaces for pedestrian purposes. Therefore, the aim of this project is to improve and upgrade the pedestrian movement of Jalan Bukit Bintang through the concept of kinetic landscape which blends the urban area with mall and green to turn it into a Bintang Urban Loop. The design objective is to provide a conducive and favourable walking environment to attract tourists and locals which will eventually offer better business to the area. At the same time, it aims at reducing the amount of traffic especially private vehicles, reducing crime and creating more interaction between the indoor spaces and the outdoor surrounding environment.

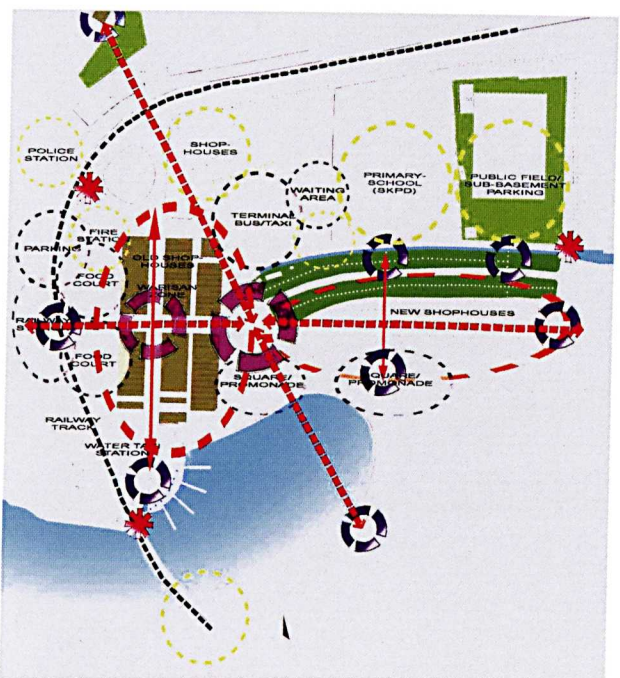
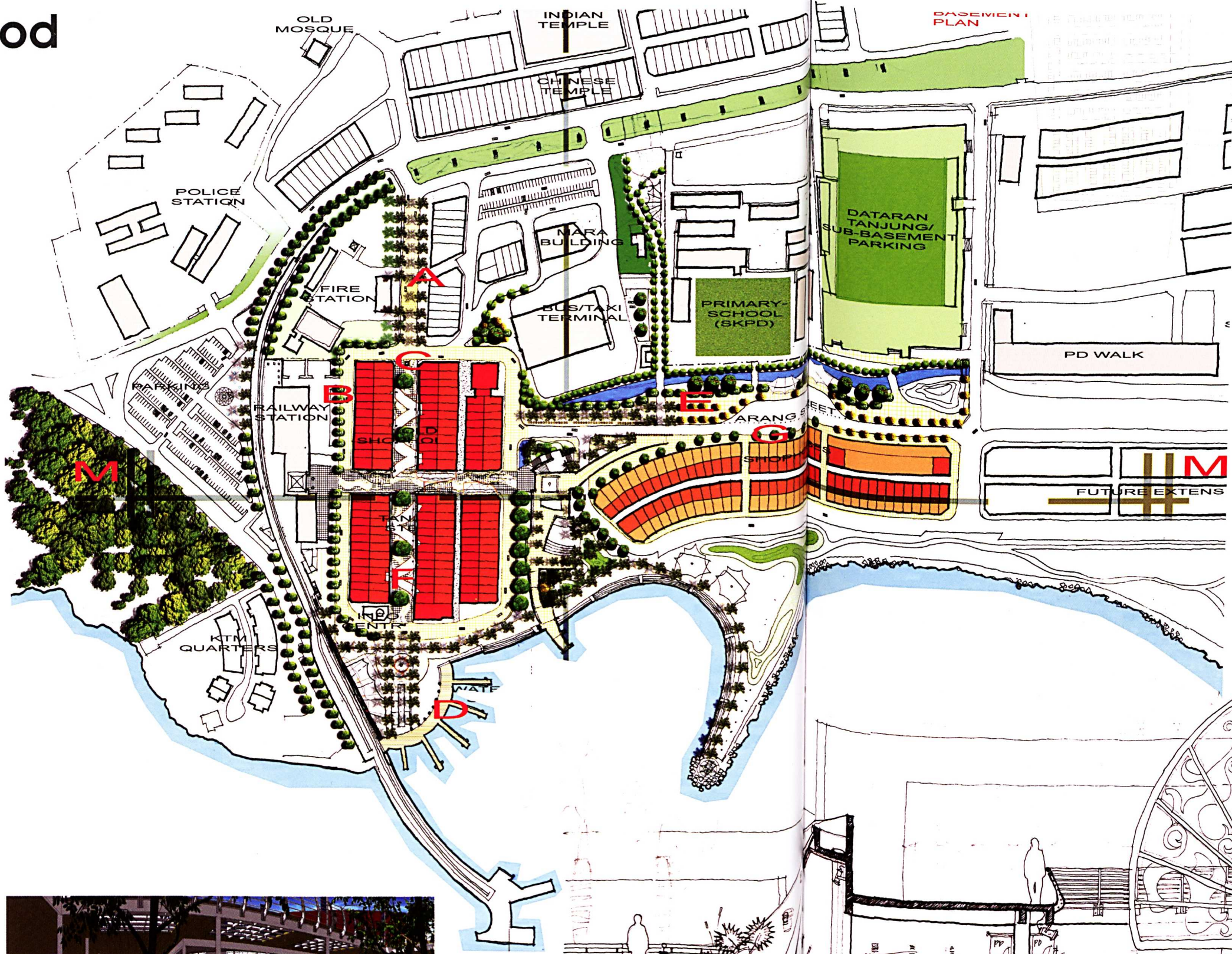
Civic spaces are the key features of the overall urban design of this area and are being integrated into the comprehensive landscape pedestrian network. Maryam Sadeghi initiates the idea of bringing green to the urban area. She demonstrates the idea by blending the green with the urban context. This is done by introducing green walls, turf pavement, hanging green bridge and green cooling benches at different levels of the site. The fragmentation of the solid and void areas creates movement which simultaneously static and dynamic. The introduced maze creates spaces along the path. At the same time, the void spaces with different hierarchy and sizes are turned into green vertical wall. The loop cycle created between these spaces would eventually encourage pedestrian movements. Since crime is an important issue of concern, the design stresses and promotes the feeling of safety which will motivate pedestrian use of these spaces. Planting concept in this project emphasises on safety issues by selecting plants which are layered, penetrable with clear trunk and loose foliage which could provide visual connection along the way. This overall design idea supports the concept of sustainability in the tropical urban context.

Neighbourhood Connectors

Osman Mohd Tahir

Port Dickson, also known previously as 'Tanjung' or 'Cape', used to produce charcoal, for Negeri Sembilan. Known for her beautiful beaches, the town also has significant British architectural influence during the colonial period. It has valuable historical places such as the railway track, railway station and old shop houses with a great potential to be developed as a Warisan Town for tourist attraction.

Hence, this project focuses on the redevelopment of the Port Dickson town into what is known as 'The Tanjung' by integrating past historical elements with the present new development. Employing the design concept 'Connectors', Noor Hayati has set a few objectives which include creating connections among the diverse neighbourhood and surrounding development with nature and existing human resources. A vibrant space for pedestrian is being introduced and the character of the town is being revealed in sustaining and linking the town history with the present development. At the same time, in creating this connection, the designer endeavour to create a hierarchy of access points based on their relative physical, cultural and historical importance.



Noor Hayati Ismail

The success of the overall redevelopment depends on the achievement of the connectors that are developed by the designer through its function, quality and urban character. Linkages that are being established will provide greater choices for public movement which will further accomplish the integration between the old and the new developments. These will eventually sustain Port Dickson as a living city and a meeting place, with the reflection of her rich heritage, diversity and character while at the same time, be enlivened by the everyday activities and cultural events.

