



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

***LANDSCAPE ELEMENT ASSESSMENT OF MELAKA HISTORIC
WATERFRONT THROUGH THE REVIEW ON THE IMPRESSION OF
PLACE***

MOHD AMIRUL BIN HUSSAIN

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By

MOHD AMIRUL BIN HUSSAIN

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra
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Degree of Master of Science**

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Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of Master of Science

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By

MOHD AMIRUL BIN HUSSAIN

September 2016

Chairman : Mohd Yazid Mohd Yunus ,PhD
Faculty : Design and Architecture

Abstract: Malaysia has lots of historic waterfront from Peninsular Malaysia until Sabah and Sarawak. Unfortunately, these historic waterfronts are less attention from Malaysians as a favorite destination for vacation. This problem caused by weaknesses of landscape element provided along the waterfront that cannot create the impression of places. According to the problem, this research aim is to concentrate on reviewing the ability of landscape element at Melaka historic waterfront to enhance the impression of places. Thus, it will accentuate our local tourism sector at the historic waterfront area. The qualitative method was used to fulfill the research objectives and also to gain the data collection. The Melaka historic waterfront was selected as a study location to evaluate the impression of its place. The finding of the research proposed a landscape element framework for the Melaka historic waterfront that portrays a vibrant design concept of landscape element that can enhance the impression of place. Furthermore, this landscape element framework can be used as a reference to urban planner, landscape architecture, architecture, local authority and related field in planning a vigorous historic waterfront at Malaysia. It will enhance the local tourism activities and economic sector.

Keywords: Landscape element, impression of place, historic waterfront.

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

PENILAIAN ELEMEN LANDSKAP DI PERSISIRAN AIR WARISAN MELAKA MELALUI KAJIAN GAMBARAN TEMPAT

Oleh

MOHD AMIRUL BIN HUSSAIN

September 2016

Pengerusi : Mohd Yazid Mohd Yunos ,PhD
Fakulti : Rekabentuk dan Senibina

Abstrak: Malaysia mempunyai banyak kawasan persisiran air warisan dari Semenanjung Malaysia sehingga ke Sabah dan Sarawak. Malangnya, persisiran air warisan ini kurang mendapat perhatian daripada rakyat Malaysia sebagai destinasi kegemaran untuk bercuti. Permasalahan ini disebabkan oleh kelemahan elemen landskap yang tersedia dalam reka bentuk di sepanjang persisiran air warisan yang tidak dapat melahirkan gambaran tempat. Merujuk kepada permasalahan, matlamat kajian ini adalah untuk menumpukan perhatian ke arah pengkajian keupayaan elemen landskap di kawasan persisiran air warisan Melaka dalam meningkatkan gambaran tempat. Oleh itu, ia akan menyerlahkan lagi sektor pelancongan tempatan di kawasan persisiran air warisan. Kaedah kualitatif telah digunakan untuk memenuhi objektif kajian dan juga untuk mendapatkan pengumpulan data. Kawasan persisiran air warisan Melaka telah dipilih sebagai lokasi kajian kes untuk menilai kesan tempatnya. Hasil kajian ini mencadangkan satu kerangka kerja elemen landskap bagi reka bentuk kawasan persisiran air warisan Melaka yang dapat menggambarkan konsep reka bentuk yang baik melalui elemen landskap yang boleh meningkatkan kesan gambaran tempat. Tambahan pula, kerangka kerja elemen landskap ini boleh diguna pakai sebagai rujukan untuk perancang bandar, arkitek landskap, arkitek, pihak berkuasa tempatan dan bidang professional yang berkaitan dalam perancangan kawasan persisiran air warisan bertenaga di Malaysia. Ianya bakal meningkatkan aktiviti pelancongan tempatan dan sektor ekonomi.

Katakunci: Elemen landskap, gambaran tempat, persisiran air warisan.

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This thesis was submitted to the Senate of the Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science. The members of the Supervisory Committee were as follows:

Mohd Yazid Mohd Yunos ,PhD

Senior Lecturer
Faculty of Design and Architecture
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Chairman)

Nor Atiah Ismail ,PhD

Senior Lecturer
Faculty of Design and Architecture
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Member)

Sumarni Ismail ,PhD

Senior Lecturer
Faculty of Design and Architecture
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Member)

ROBIAH BINTI YUNUS, PhD

Professor and Dean
School of Graduate Studies
Universiti Putra Malaysia

Date:

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Name and Matric No: Mohd Amirul Bin Hussain, GS41491

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Signature: _____

Name of Chairman
of Supervisory
Committee:

Dr. Mohd Yazid Mohd Yunos

Signature: _____

Name of Member
of Supervisory
Committee:

Dr. Nor Atiah Ismail

Signature: _____

Name of Member
of Supervisory
Committee:

Dr. Sumarni Ismail

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ABSTRACT	i
ABSTRAK	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iii
APPROVAL	iv
DECLARATION	vi
LIST OF TABLES	x
LIST OF FIGURES	xi
 CHAPTER	
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Research Problem: Landscape element that provided along the historic waterfront cannot portray the impression of place	2
1.3 Research Question	3
1.4 Research Objective	4
1.5 Scope of Study	4
1.6 Significance of the Study	5
1.7 Outline of the Thesis	5
 2 LITERATURE REVIEW	6
2.1 Introduction	6
2.2 Waterfront	6
2.2.1 The Structure of Waterfront	7
2.3 Cultural Heritage	7
2.4 Impression	8
2.4.1 Impression of Place in Landscape Architecture Perspective	9
2.5 Landscape Element can create the Sense of the Impression of Place	11
2.6 Vegetation	11
2.6.1 Analysis Profile Setting of Vegetation at Amsterdam Historical Waterfront That Enhance the Impression of Place toward That Area	17
2.7 Water Features	22
2.7.1 Analysis the Water Features Element That Contribute the Impression of Place toward Venice Historical Waterfront	29
2.8 Streetscapes	34
2.8.1 Analysis Streetscape Features Element at Amsterdam Historical Waterfront Which Effect to Enhance the Impression of Place	44
2.9 Human Activities Setting	50

2.9.1	Analysis the Human Activities Setting Element that Contribute the Impression of Place toward Venice Historical waterfront	57
2.10	Form	64
2.10.1	Analysis the Profile Setting of Form Element that Contribute the Impression of Place toward Marsaxlokk Historical Waterfront	67
2.11	Summary	70
3	RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	73
3.1	Introduction	73
3.2	Research Design	73
3.3	Qualitative Research	74
3.4	Content Analysis (Case study)	75
3.5	Develop the Theoretical Framework	75
3.6	Case study	75
3.7	Research Process	76
3.8	Summary	80
4	DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION	81
4.1	Introduction	81
4.2	Case study (Melaka Historical Waterfront)	82
4.3	Analysis of Vegetation at Melaka Historical Waterfront	82
4.4	Analysis Streetscape Features Element at Melaka Historical Waterfront	87
4.5	Analysis the Water Features Element at Melaka Historical Waterfront	91
4.6	Analysis the Human Activities Setting Element at Melaka Historical Waterfront	93
4.7	Analysis the Form Element at Melaka Historical Waterfront	98
4.8	Summary	99
5	RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION	103
5.1	Introduction	103
5.2	Recommendation	103
5.3	Conclusion	107
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	108
	BIODATA OF STUDENT	113
	APPENDICES	135
	LIST OF PUBLICATIONS	136

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
1.1 The research problem, gap, and solution for the research problem	3
2.1 Classification of waterfront according to P.Robinoff, 1997. Managing Coastal Tourism Resorts: A Global Perspective.	7
2.2 Historical perceptual according to A.Yahya, 2006. Heritage and reconciliation	8
3.1 Research design	73
3.2 Research Stage	77
3.3 List of world's top 10 famous Historical waterfronts (Source; from Travel & Leisure Magazine, UK magazine, November 2013 edition)	78
3.4 Combination of data from content analysis(case study)	80
4.1 Proposed landscape element framework for historic waterfront	102

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
1.1 Figure 1.1: Site location in red boundary along the Melaka riverfront. (Source from: 14-melaka-city-dc-may1).	4
2.1 Type of tree form (Source of image: www.chaplingonet.com)	12
2.2 Tree arrangement that create a sense of direction. (Source of image: www.chaplingonet.com)	12
2.3 The function of shrubs as a space divider as groundcover. (Source of image: www.chaplingonet.com)	13
2.4 Creepers cover the walls to get the texture. (Source of image: www.chaplingonet.com)	14
2.5 A climber as a cover for walls to get the texture. (Source of image: www.chaplingonet.com)	14
2.6 Coconut palms clusters along the beaches create a sense of sensuality on the site also as well as providing a welcoming image. (Source of image: www.chaplingonet.com)	15
2.7 Groundcover can control soil erosion.(Source of image: www.inspect.com)	16
2.8 Turf grass is planted at gardens to provide a natural impact as well as to control the glare. (Source of image: www.inspect.com)	17
2.9 The best place for the ancient trees with informal and pyramid form was planted in a central square, where everyone's can enjoy the same trees and the same open space beneath them, Oude Kerk, Amsterdam. Vegetation arrangement (Resource: www.augustana.edu)	18
2.10 The globular form tree was planted along the waterfront in both of side of the canal to create the sense of direction in these areas. On the other hand, during the sunny day, the huge canopies can be a natural shelter for visitors along the pathway. (Resource: www.toulouse.aeroport.fr)	18

2.11	Trees were planted in groups, to provide ornamental effects. It also shelters the pedestrians along the canal side. Besides that, it also decreases the temperature during hot day and also for glare control during the sunny day. (Resource: www.toulouse.aeroport.fr)	19
2.12	Tree was planted along the canal side at Amsterdam waterfront. A dome-like tree was used, and it has a straight trunk and spreading canopy form that create a beautiful ambience in these areas. (Resource: Michael Holland 2010)	19
2.13	Palm trees along the street create a sense of sensuality toward the place also as well as a welcome greeting. (Source of image: www.chaplingonet.com)	20
2.14	The functions of shrubs as a space divider and as groundcover along the promenade. (Source of image: www.chaplingonet.com)	20
2.15	A climber's plant at building wall enhances the view and softens the harsh texture of building façade. (Source of image: www.chaplingonet.com)	21
2.16	The function of groundcover is to control the soil erosion along the Amsterdam bank. (Source of image: www.inspect.com)	21
2.17	Hellenistic fountainhead from the Pergamon museum. (Source from: www.wikiwand.com)	23
2.18	Reconstruction of a Roman courtyard fountain as found in Pompeii (1st century AD) (Source from: commons.wikimedia.org)	23
2.19	Medieval fountain, the Lavabo at Le Thoronet Abbey, Provence, (12th century)(Source from: www.mygola.com)	24
2.20	The Fountain in the Court of the Lions in the Alhambra (14th century)(Source from: www.bridgemanimages.com)	25
2.21	Le Cento Fontane (The Hundred Fountains) (Source from: sandrajonas.com)	25
2.22	Fontana Trevi, the Trevi Fountain by Nicola Salvi, (1730). (Source from: blog.troygrosfield.com)	26
2.23	Baroque fountains of Versailles. (Source from: en.wikipedia.org)	27

2.24	Drinking Water Fountains in Venice. (Source from: www.slowtrav.com)	27
2.25	The Dubai Fountain. (Source from: www.her.ie)	28
2.26	The Splash Fountain in Krasnodar, Russia. (Source from: www.flickr.com)	29
2.27	A classical water wall fountain along the Venice street that creates the sense of uniqueness and symbolism of place. (Source from: waterfront.tova.co.za)	30
2.28	Drinking fountain at centre plaza drinking fountain is planned to offer ingestion water and has a vessel to unceasingly supply the water. (Source from: waterfront.tova.co.za)	31
2.29	Fontana Trevi, the Trevi Fountain by Nicola Salvi, (1730). The 17th and 18th era was wonderful eras for the fountains in Rome. (Source from: blog.troygrosfield.com)	32
2.30	A movement fountain or bathing fountain is planned for publics to reach in and calm themselves on hot sunny days. (Source from: blog.troygrosfield.com)	33
2.31	Some odd sizes are cut to give the impact of uniqueness. Street walkways, Amsterdam. (Source from: donwillms.wordpress.com)	35
2.32	Marshalls Granite Beige Paving Cladding steps tactile. Amsterdam waterfront. (Source from: donwillms.wordpress.com)	36
2.33	Road marking are legal requirements besides that they gives drivers essential information. Amsterdam waterfront. (Source from: penarthnews.wordpress.com)	37
2.34	Typical Dutch old light pole with royal carved pattern, Amsterdam waterfront has its own style of lamp and railing to represent their identity to visitors. (Source from: www.dreamstime.com)	38
2.35	However it is sometimes possible to reduce the clutter of post and supports by combining traffic signals with lamp columns. (Source from: www.dreamstime.com)	39
2.36	Urban camouflage equipment boxers that hidden behind the mirror wall, Amsterdam waterfront has its own style of idea to represent their uniqueness of its identity to visitors. (Source from: www.dreamstime.com)	40

2.37	Shelter, benches, litters bins, which are usually seen together, painted in a similar or matching color and patterns.(Source from: www.dreamstime.com)	41
2.38	A shelter, benches, litters bins, which are usually seen together, painted in a similar or matching color and pattern. (Source from: www.dreamstime.com)	42
2.39	The signs for pedestrians along the waterfront have an advantage; they can be designed and positioned to form part of the visual composition of the streetscapes. (Source from: typophile.com)	43
2.40	The uniqueness of traditional telephone kiosks in Amsterdam waterfront are often the focus of attention in the foreground of scene. (Source from: typophile.com)	43
2.41	Some odd sizes are cut to provide the impact of uniqueness. Street walkways, Amsterdam. (Source from: donwillms.wordpress.com).	45
2.42	Marshalls Granite Beige Paving Cladding steps tactile. Amsterdam waterfront. (Source from: donwillms.wordpress.com).	46
2.43	Road marking are legal requirements besides they gives drivers essential information. Amsterdam waterfront. (Source from: penarthnews.wordpress.com).	46
2.44	Typical Colonial old light pole design with royal carved pattern, the Amsterdam waterfront has its own style of lamp and railing to represent its identity to visitors. (Source from: www.dreamstime.com).	47
2.45	A good combination between light pole and traffic signal (Source from: www.dreamstime.com).	47
2.46	Urban camouflage equipment boxers that hidden behind the mirror wall, Amsterdam waterfront has its own style of idea to represent their uniqueness identity to visitors. (Source from: www.dreamstime.com).	48
2.47	The combination of bollards and pedestrian street lamps make pedestrian safer and provide more convenience for them. (Source from: www.dreamstime.com).	48
2.48	Shelter, benches, litters bins, which are usually seen together, painted in a similar or matching color and pattern. (Source from: www.dreamstime.com).	49

2.49	The signs for pedestrians along the waterfronts, this sort of street furniture have an advantage; they can be designed and positioned to form part of the visual composition of the streetscapes. (Source from: typophile.com)	49
2.50	The uniqueness of traditional telephone kiosks in Amsterdam waterfront are often the focus of attention in the foreground of scene, this scenery is justified by their important function. (Source from: typophile.com).	50
2.51	St Mark open space use as a place for festival space during the Carnival day (Source from: www.ibtimes.com).	51
2.52	A view of the tourist crowd & tourist trap of shops along the walkway, leading to the west end of the Rialto Bridge. (Source from: www.tim-thompson.com).	52
2.53	The noticeable activities in townscapes are that related to street peddlers and hawking Zetjhun Streets. (Source from: www.tim-thompson.com)	53
2.54	Water bus in Canals of Amsterdam is considered as one of the most significant place markets of the city and regarded as one of the symbols of city. (Source from: www.tim-thompson.com)	54
2.55	The markets place it is the most effective place for social interaction and has a significant impact to the townscape due to its concentration of activities. (Source from: www.tim-thompson.com).	55
2.56	These are small spaces between building that accommodate activities ranging from temporary hawking to passive recreation and leisure. (Source from: waterfront.tova.co.za).	56
2.57	Outdoor street lengthening the sense of place. (Source from: www.tim-thompson.com).	57
2.58	The open space in St Mark is often used as a venue for festival during Carnival day. (Source from: www.ibtimes.com).	60
2.59	A view of the tourist crowd & tourist trap of shops along the walkway, leading to the west end of the Rialto Bridge. (Source from: www.tim-thompson.com).	60

2.60	Carnevale Streets in the heart of the city centre and within the vicinity of the water transportation stations, the street is very accessible to the public. (Source from: www.tim-thompson.com).	61
2.61	Places such as the taxi gondola station are a place that can provide characters to townscape, due to the uniqueness of the types of gondola used and the way they operate. Venice waterfront city. (Source from: imgbuddy.com).	61
2.62	The unique water markets along the canal are filled with activities and are one of the city's main attractions. Venice waterfront.(Source from: imgbuddy.com).	62
2.63	Venice Central Mall where place that integrated with the entertainment and leisure activities that add to their attraction and intense activities. (Source from: www.venicecentremall.com).	62
2.64	The pocket park at both side of walkways become a part of green lungs for the city and also generate the activities for the townscapes. (Source from: www.airstreamtravel.com).	63
2.65	Waterfront promenade will create another activity setting in townscapes with a public access to the waterfront. Venice waterfront city. (Source from: waterfront.tova.co.za).	63
2.66	Centralized form. (Source from: Author).	64
2.67	Figure 2.67 : Linear form. (Source from: Author).	65
2.68	Figure 2.68 : Radial form. (Source from: Author).	65
2.69	Figure 2.69 : Clustered form. (Source from: Author).	66
2.70	Figure 2.70 : Geometry form. (Source from: Author).	67
2.71	Marsaxlokk waterfront district pattern can be seen in old town center where the street is inorganic pattern were creating a mysterious effect in this townscape. These types of relationship require two forms of corresponding planar surfaces which are parallel to each other, and consist of forms that are grouped together by proximity or the sharing of a common visual trait. (Sources from: www.flickr.com).	68

2.72	There is relationship between the block pattern and building use where the rigid irregular pattern is associated with the rows of shop houses, whereas the other building took on an irregular and loose waterfront form that create a sense of curiosity. These types of relationship rely on the close proximity of the forms or their sharing of a command visual trait, such as shape, color or material. Consist of a number of secondary forms clustered about dominant and central parent form. (Sources from: www.snipview.com).	69
4.1	Huge trees with a linear pattern were planted along the river sides. Melaka Historical Waterfront. (Source from; Author)	83
4.2	Globular form trees were planted together with trees with dome-like forms to create an ornamental sense Melaka Historical Waterfront.(Source from; Author)	84
4.3	Huge trees were planted along the walkways to provide a sense of direction and as shelter for the visitors. Melaka Historical Waterfront (Source from; Author)	84
4.4	Informal form of trees creates the sense of texture at the site. Melaka Historical Waterfront. (Source from; Author)	85
4.5	Palm trees and spreading form trees were planted along the waterfront in both of sides of the road to create a sense of direction. (Source from; Author)	85
4.6	The effect of simplicity is created in this landscape by planting shrubs with almost bare groundcover. Melaka Historical Waterfront. (Source from; Author)	86
4.7	Shrubs and trees planted at the Square create spaces in recreational landscape. Melaka Historical Waterfront. (Source from; Author)	86
4.8	Benches offer along the Melaka historic waterfront does not show any value of Melaka culture and heritage to the users and look so monotonous. Melaka Historical Waterfront. (Source: Author)	87
4.9	New stone paving in Broad Street lay in staggered bond. Melaka Historical Waterfront. (Source: Author)	88
4.10	Historic stone and other paving areas of historic paving should be retained wherever possible. Melaka Historical Waterfront. (Source: Author)	88

4.11	Where new posts are used, these should be as slim as possible and relate in form and scale to lighting columns. Melaka Historical Waterfront. (Source: Author)	89
4.12	Utility cabinet with an unprofaned surface. Melaka Historical Waterfront. (Source: Author)	89
4.13	Site utility cabinets unobtrusively. These should be sited as unobtrusively as possible, and where possible located underground or located within posts. Melaka Historical Waterfront. (Source from: Author).	90
4.14	Intrusive canal taxi terminal, particularly in sensitive locations, such as close to listed buildings. Melaka Historical Waterfront. (Source: Author)	90
4.15	The Queen Victoria fountain at the center of square provides the sense of uniqueness and symbolism of place. (Sources: Author)	91
4.16	The modern character of water features at the centre of Melaka historic waterfront was ruin the local character. There no sense of historical value toward this view. (Sources: Author)	92
4.17	This Fountain of Youth in front of Jonker Walk is located at the most strategic part of the Melaka historic waterfront, however the unknown character of this fountain was create an artificial character of local character. (Sources: Author)	92
4.18	The open plaza at the centre of waterfront was not well build designed and created unpleasant scenery in the historical site. Melaka Historical Waterfront. (Sources: Author)	94
4.19	These open spaces are one of the most unique activity settings in Melaka Historical Waterfront due to their ability to blend the functions of a public thoroughfare however lack of design and character create this areas become less function. Melaka Historical Waterfront. (Sources: Author)	94
4.20	Empty five foot walkways, there are no business activity along the five foot ways in attract the visitor to explore this areas. Melaka Historical Waterfront. (Source: Author)	95
4.21	Some of the five foot walkways become a passive area along the promenade. (Source: Author)	95

4.22	There is not safety first for market pedestrian user. The local council should add notice of road used during the business hour or add permanent bollard to ensure public safety is a safe.(Source: Author)	96
4.23	The role of beca (trishaw) is very important in Melaka historic waterfront in create the sense of symbolism. (Source: Author)	96
4.24	Lack of design and functional create the waterfront promenade silent during the daytime. (Source: Author)	97
4.25	Melaka historic waterfront promenade should add more majestic human activity in way to attract the crowd of people. (Source: Author)	97
4.26	An organic form along the Malaka historic waterfront was creating the sense of curiosity to the user. Melaka Historical Waterfront. (Source: Author)	98
4.27	Melaka Historical Waterfront. Form is one of the important components that can influence the character of the townscapes. It deals with the block of pattern of buildings that make up the built of the historical waterfront area. Melaka Historical Waterfront. (Source: Author)	99

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The term of historic waterfront was made popular by Elia Kazan in year 1954 when she produced an illustrious historical drama which depicts the unique charms of medieval waterfront cities in America; the concept of historic waterfront deals with effects of the relationship between different elements that form the fabric of the townscape. It is also about the art of weaving the landscape elements as well as the relationship between juxtapositions of these elements in creating a sense of drama to the audiences. Rapoport (1977) suggested that a perfect historical place can be appreciated using four different mediums, namely, physical element, pattern, cognition and human activities on the site. This is supported by Cullen (1986). In a book called '*Concise Townscape*', Cullen stressed on how the interplay of these elements impacted one's the emotional response when observing and experiencing the townscapes. Next, the public can differentiate between a good historical waterfront and bad historical waterfront by evaluating the quality of the juxtaposition of these elements though the experiences which develop the impression of place. This is because the physical elements of the landscape's complex structure, character and concepts that can create emotional responses toward the site.

Meanwhile, Cullen (1986) claimed that a historical site is about the relationship between the aforementioned items. He stressed that the effects of historic waterfronts depend on how it is being perceived by the public, for instance in the last decade, many historical places have more charming urban fabric due to the influences created by the impression of place which arouse the visitors' emotional reactions. This is achieved through the clever interplay of the positioning of the townscapes. Moreover, as mentioned by Shuhana Shamsuddin (2011), an obvious difference between historic townscapes and contemporary ones, is the attention to details in its physical elements that are often associated with historical townscape; one can even regard historic waterfront as a reflection of the soul of the town or the city that exposes the characters of the town and the secrets from its past, trapped within its fabric. Groat et al. (2006) opines that the coherent identity of a historic city is maintained by its physical element of landscape. Furthermore, in their book, Groat et al. clearly demonstrates how historical cities managed to produce many unique visual effects either by design, physical factors or by accident. On the other hand, the book claims that contemporary townscapes often forget about the effects of group composition and focus on highlighting single entities.





In Malaysia, most historic waterfront developments lack the impression of place in order to attract the visitor awareness and historic waterfronts struggle to create an impression of place, from whatever channel to help them stand tall in this

globalization era. Based on this claim, landscape element can be a good medium to create an impression of place due to its stronger structure and its unique characteristics, as a landscape element is not just about the planting trees at the site. B.Yuen (2003) mentioned that, most townscape development only concerned about the vegetation as the main physical structure of landscape element and has sidelined other landscape component that can influence the impression of place. Moreover, Shane et al (2005) mentioned that fundamental physical landscape elements, namely vegetation, water features, form, human activities setting and streetscape are enough to create a good townscape development based on its ability to create visitors' awareness through the features of impression of place. Relp (1987) also mentioned that physical landscape element consist of complex structures, characters and concepts that can evoke emotions toward the site. So the aim of this research is to evaluate the landscape element at Melaka waterfront through the review on the impression of place later on the findings of this research will redound to benefit for tourism sector that can rise up the local economic sector at Melaka waterfront.

1.2 Research Problem: Landscape element that provided along the historic waterfront cannot portray the impression of place

Most of the landscape element provided along the historic waterfront development was lack an impression of place in creating a good historical site, and they seem to lack the impression of place to help them retain their glory in this globalization era (Hussain. M.A 2015). As we known, in Malaysia scope on waterfront development design there still lack of framework design on landscape element that can portray the sense of impression of place that highlighting on landscape element. According to the book written by Elizabeth Barlor (2014), in landscape design framework, the designer or master planner is only focus on overall view of design element in portray the sense of impression of place, however not for landscape element. However in this study, the thesis will focus and review on landscape element that can portray the sense of impression of place toward the historic waterfront development. Hence, landscape element can be used as a good medium to create the impression of place due to their stronger structure and their unique characteristics, it's because landscape element is not only about planting trees at site (Sumarni, Hussain et al 2015). Meanwhile B.Yuen (2003) said that most townscape developments, particularly at waterfront area, are only focused on the vegetation element as the main physical structure of the landscape and sidelined other landscape component that can influence the impression of place. In this light, this research tries to highlight how landscape element can portray the sense of impression of place at historic waterfront development. Moreover this research is very important to the Malaysia cultural and historic tourism sector in role to enhance the local tourism sector later on can rise up the local economic sector by attracting the crowd of tourist.

Table 1.1 : The research problem, gap, and solution for the research problem

 <p>Problem</p>	<p>Landscape element that provided at Melaka Historic waterfront cannot portray the impression of place</p>
 <p>Gap</p>	<p>Landscape design field was not providing an appropriate landscape element framework in role to create sense of impression place at historic waterfront area. Most of the designer was focus on vegetation used only not for the other basic element (B.Yuen, 2003)</p>
 <p>Ideal situation</p>	<p>Historic waterfront design are need to be reshuffle, in way to portray the sense of impression of place, the design development are need to emphasize on landscape elements according to it ability in portray the sense of impression of place.</p>
 <p>Solution</p>	<p>An appropriate landscape element framework for Malaysia context and it suitability that can improve the impression of place at historic waterfront area by using landscape elements component.</p>

1.3 Research Question

To answer the research problems, this research concentrates on review the ability of landscape element at historic waterfront to evoke the impression of place. This research answers the following research questions.

1. How far the landscape elements provided along the Melaka historic waterfront that influences the sense of impression of place?
2. How does an appropriate landscape element conceptual framework in create a sense of impression of place?

1.4 Research Objective

1. To evaluate the landscape elements provided along the Melaka historic waterfront that influences the sense of impression of place.
2. To propose appropriate landscape element framework that can boost the sense of impression for Malaysia historic waterfront area in role to enhance the local tourism sector and at the mean time also can expand the local economic sector through the crowd of tourist.

1.5 Scope of Study

The reasons Melaka historic waterfront is chosen because it is seen as one of premier tourist attraction in Malaysia and it has been recognized as historical heritage site by UNESCO. Besides of that, the waterfront its self can be a good point to evaluate landscape element through the review on the impression of place in Melaka. The findings of this research will redound to benefit for tourism sector that can rise up the local economic sector. The impression of place that influences from the landscape element along the historic waterfront can be re-formulated in developing tourist attractions point for the next phase development. Thus, the local historic waterfront is suggested to apply the recommended approach derived from the result of this research in way to enhance the impression of place for a long time.



Figure 1.1 : Site location in red boundary along the Melaka riverfront.
(Source from: 14-melaka-city-dc-may1).

1.6 Significance of the Study

Historic waterfront preservation has been formulated as part of the Tourism Development Framework in most world-class in developing tourists' attractions. As observed, waterfronts or seashores is the birth place for culture and heritage of human generations for decades. In the modern and globalized life most of these areas are been demolished and replaced by modern commercial development, some of this heritage area is being blocked by commercial buildings.

Modern development at heritage area also decreased the function of the landscape element to attract the visitors' awareness. On the other hand, landscape elements provide good structures that can create an impression of place toward heritage area. Graham(1985) identified landscape elements at townscape area play major roles in attracting the visitors' awareness and can be a main component in role to create the Impression of place using landscape elements. Shuhana Shamsuddin(2011) claimed that a great historic townscape is significant when this component stands together with the other structures of townscape.

1.7 Outline of the Thesis

This thesis will contain five chapters. Following description is a brief outline of these chapters. Chapter one will give summary of the overall research and also present the justification of particular research work. It is comprised of research question, objectives, purpose of research, research scope, and significant of the research. Chapter two consists of reviewing the literature regarding the research topic starting from the early grey documents until the recent academic work done on this area. Chapter three describes the research methodology in detail and includes the research design, data collection methods, and modes of data analysis. Based on the selected methodology, an elaborate description of the research findings will be presented in next chapter. The findings will be organized in a suitable manner in order to adopt an appropriate method of analyzing the data. Chapter four will analyze the collected information based on a predefined approach that was derived from the literature review. Following that, recommendation will be proposed to make an attempt of answering the research question previously stated. The final chapter will present a brief discussion of possible studies that may compliment the present research and discuss its contribution for redefining the landscape element framework for development of historic waterfront in enhance the impression of place and also fill in the gap of the literature in a large context of body of knowledge.

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