DEVELOPING LANDSCAPE VISUAL CHARACTERISTICS FRAMEWORK TOWARDS PROMOTING PLACE IDENTITY OF URBAN ARISTOCRAT ENCLAVE IN KELANTAN, MALAYSIA

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By

NIK MASTURA NIK MOHAMMAD

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra
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Chairman : **Associate Professor LAr. Nor Atiah binti Ismail, PhD**
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The exclusivity of the built cultural landscape in Kota Bharu, Kelantan is historical, tangible and intangible about the importance of preserving the built cultural landscape in aristocrat areas as stated in the Nara Document of Authenticity (1994) and the Burra Charter (1999). Despite the intention stated, the reality is that the new development project in the city have slowly vanished and threatened the new city historical character. The conservation of built cultural landscape aims to balance the activities of the construction and development industry with the maintenance of the health of the built environment while at the same time achieving social, economic, and cultural benefits for present and future generations. This research aim to ascertain the built cultural landscape characteristics of the aristocrat area in Kota Bharu. Besides, this researched is important to preserve and conserve the visual characteristic of built cultural landscape Kota Bharu aristocrat area. Moreover, the research determine on the impact of visual characteristics of built cultural landscape in conserving and preserving Kota Bharu as an aristocrat area. Both quantitative and qualitative methods are used starting from interviewing, focus group and photographic record. Built cultural landscape in Malaysia nominates that only ten percent of overall preservation and conservation development have given over to the place attachment of an aristocrat enclave. A paradigm shift has to exist among the landscape architects, local authorities, NGOs, developers and government agencies. Visual image of the landscape architecture profession in Malaysia, which is known to prioritise physical built cultural landscape appearance into a profession that is able to support our government's mission to foster social and ethnic integration in Malaysia through sustainable built cultural landscape design. Implementing urban heritage in historic city, a landscape policy associated with old façade building is more preserving by considering the place identity and place attachment to sustain vibrancy of a heritage site.

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MEMBANGUNKAN KERANGKA KARAKTERISTIK UNTUK VISUAL LANDSKAP BUDAYA BINA DALAM MEMPROMOSIKAN IDENTITI SETEMPAT ARISTOKRAT BANDAR KOTA BHARU, KELANTAN

Oleh

NIK MASTURA NIK MOHAMMAD

Disember 2019

Pengerusi : **Profesor Madya LAr. Nor Atiah binti Ismail, PhD**
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Ciri eksklusif landskap budaya yang dibina di Kota Bharu, Kelantan adalah bercirikan faktor-faktor sejarah, secara nyata dan tidak nyata tentang kepentingan memelihara landskap budaya yang dibina di kawasan golongan aristokrat seperti yang dinyatakan dalam Dokumen Nara of Authenticity (1994) dan Burra Charter (1999). Walaupun unsur-unsur berkaitan landskap budaya yang dinyatakan, secara realitinya melibatkan projek pembangunan baru di dalam kawasan bandar telah mengancam rekabentuk asal bandar yang kaya dengan sejarah. Pemuliharaan dibina matlamat landskap budaya untuk mengimbangi aktiviti industri pembinaan dan pembangunan dengan penyelenggaraan, kesihatan, alam bina dan pada masa yang sama mencapai faedah sosial, ekonomi, dan budaya untuk generasi masa kini dan akan datang. Kajian ini bertujuan untuk menentukan ciri-ciri landskap budaya yang dibina daripada kawasan golongan aristokrat di Kota Bharu. Selain itu, pengkajian landskap budaya ini adalah penting untuk memelihara dan memulihara ciri visual landskap budaya dibina kawasan golongan aristokrat di Kota Bharu. Selain itu, kajian ini menentukan mengenai kesan ciri-ciri visual landskap budaya dibina dalam memulihara dan memelihara Kota Bharu sebagai kawasan golongan aristokrat. Kedua-dua kaedah kuantitatif dan kualitatif digunakan bermula dari sesi temubual dan wawancara, secara berkumpulan fokus dan rekod-rekod berimej seperti fotografi. Dibina landskap budaya di Malaysia mencalonkan bahawa peratus hanya sepuluh pemeliharaan keseluruhan dan pembangunan pemuliharaan telah diberikan kepada tempat pemeliharaan golongan aristokrat Diraja. Anjakan paradigma perlu wujud di kalangan arkitek landskap, pihak berkuasa tempatan, badan bukan kerajaan, pemaju dan agensi kerajaan. Imej visual profesion dalam senibina landskap di Malaysia, yang dikenali untuk mengutamakan fizikal dibina penampilan landskap budaya ke dalam profesion yang mampu menyokong misi kerajaan Malaysia kepada integrasi sosial dan etnik angkat di Malaysia melalui reka bentuk landskap budaya yang dibina berkekalan. Melaksanakan warisan bandar di bandar

bersejarah, dasar landskap yang berkaitan dengan bangunan hadapan bangunan lama lebih memelihara di bandar bersejarah dengan mempertimbangkan identiti setempat dalam mengekalkan kerancakan tapak Warisan aristokrat Diraja.

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

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Declaration by Members of Supervisory Committee

This is to confirm that:
- the research conducted and the writing of this thesis was under our supervision;
- supervision responsibilities as stated in the Universiti Putra Malaysia (Graduate Studies) Rules 2003 (Revision 2012-2013) were adhered to.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AWK	Akta Warisan Kebangsaan 2005 (Akta 645)
ADTP	ASEAN Declarations in Town Planning
BDGHPC(2005)	Building Design Guide of the Historic Preservation Committee (2005)
BWN	Department of National Heritage (Badan Warisan Negara)
JWN	Department of National Heritage (Jabatan Warisan Negara)
ECER	East Coast Economic Region
ECERDC	ECERDC East Coast Economic Region (ECER)
HUL	Historic Urban Landscape
ICOMOS	International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS Malaysia)
ICOMOS	International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)
MPKB	Kota Bharu Municipal Council (MPKB)
Malaysian Plan	Malaysian Five Year National Plans
NH Act 2005	National Heritage Act 2005
NHL Malaysia	National Landscape Department of Malaysia
OUV	Outstanding Universal Value
PC Act 1933	Planning and Country Act (Act 1933)
PC Act 1933 Hansard	Planning and Country Act 1993 Hansard
RSK 2020	Rancangan Struktur Kelantan 2020 (RSN)
CHCFE	Social Heritage Counts for Europe (CHCFE)
UNESCO	The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)
UNESCO Malaysia	The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO Malaysia)

WHS	UNESCO World Heritage Sites (WHS)
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Movements to conserve are scattered, we need to combine energies to become stronger and more effective. Instead of working individually, let's become one force combating the problems that we face every day.

(NHF, 2015:13)

This research is in the context of the historical past of the Malay Sultanate which is rich with the elements of pre-history, early kingdom, the colonial era in Malaysian city heritage and culture. Almost 60 years along the way, it finds and recognizes some intrinsic sources of the peculiar and rich multi-faceted Malaysian heritage and culture. This research deemed on the Malay aristocrat enclave in a Malaysian city, as the finest example of evolution of early Malay town dating from 16th century. However, a city without old places is like a man without memory. Many cities have quarters that confer on them a sense of place and identity through the historic and cultural associations they provide. The historic city is often regarded as integral part of the city's charm and appeal, and its visual and functional qualities are important elements to the city's image and identity (Ayob, 2010). This research is undertaken in recognition of the context of inheritance of the real legacy for future generations within the built cultural landscape profession. The aim of this research is to provide a framework built cultural landscape for aristocrat area. It sets to expand knowledge of those factors that influence the physical setting, design, and outcome of historical place. The contribution and added value of the built cultural landscape research are to offer better options and value ideals to enhance the existing provision structure within the conservation and preservation. This comes with the actual potential for making the conservation performance of local authority and non-government organization more effective in telling about the practices. The protection of local heritage trends of urbanization and new look of an iconic building is very surprising by contrasting with the identity of the royal area. In place making of a built cultural landscape in aristocrat enclaves in Malaysia will satisfy not only both visual and physical aspects, but also the social needs.

1.2 Research Background

Over the past few decades, the visual, physical and social aspects of our historical past from the Malay Sultanate have been subject to substantial international, national and local attention. Internationally, for example, today, many properties are being threatened, physically degraded, damaged or even

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destroyed leading to less tangible physical characteristics of urban anatomy fabrics such as street patterns, people's activities, historical areas, open spaces and natural features (WUF ICOMOS, 2018). UNESCO has provided important principles regarding the less tangible features which are excluded in the process of defining urban heritage (WUF ICOMOS, 2018). In carrying out urban conservation, which may contribute to provide a sense of place and identity, it maps people relationship with the land over time. They are part of the national heritage and each of the people's lives in a range in size of the historical periods, resulting from human activity and the aristocrat area of narratives of cultures and expression of regional identity (Edensor, 2002). Built cultural landscape refers to a physical landscape that has cultural significance and living cultural heritage that creates a movement known today as historic preservation. Historic sites are cultural landscapes significant for their association with historic event, activity or person (Venice Charter 1964). One of the main concerns of these Venice Charter 1964 guidelines was defining and establishing the scope of heritage that has broadened from a concern for physical heritage. These include historic monuments and physical landscape groups of buildings, historic urban and rural centres, and historic gardens. Besides, there are non-physical heritage including environments, social factors and, lately, intangible values. UNESCO and ICOMOS have been in the forefront in defining common terminology and scope of heritage since 1965. Hence, in 1965 during the Constitutive Assembly of ICOMOS, the scope of heritage was redefined including monuments and sites.

Malaysia has experienced rapid economic growth due to increasing new development stereotypical landscapes. However, it seems to fail in meeting the needs and lifestyles since the last three decades (Yusoff, 2000). The rapid growth of economic in the new development of built cultural landscapes has altered by the living cultural heritage expressed. It is appreciable of urban context and influence. The visual characteristics of built cultural landscape have been reflected in the quaint landscapes evolved through the use by the locals. Through social and cultural attitudes of individual locals whose activities or occupancy shaped those built cultural landscapes which reflected the physical, biological, and cultural characters of those in their everyday lives. The culture aspect of this built cultural landscape has a blended influence of traditional facade and architecture built on its own unique expression. This is influenced by the Malaysian architectural tradition in the everyday built cultural landscape as identified by the researchers.

The mission of heritage industry has its reference to the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and ASEAN Declarations in Town Planning. The latter was established in 2006 carrying with it, a similar mission. As the rule of thumb, the research analysis is based on the aristocrat area of the urbanizing world. Although the aristocrat area is geographically apart in culture and tradition, there are laws of similarity in spirit and intent in different forms, shapes, and landscapes (Geertz, 1993). Recently, the major heritage level provided at the related industry led by ICOMOS, UNESCO and Department of National

Heritage (Badan Warisan Negara), as well as are the organizations through their in-house education programmes, is well supported by numerous institutions of higher learning and institutes throughout the country. The state of built cultural landscape practices and the fate of aristocrat building in historic sites and cities reflects the critical issue on the value of a visual characteristic of heritage in Malaysia (Carolyon, 1996 and 2014). The idea of safeguarding built cultural landscape values has been low on the agenda of the government until recent years. There is now a new awareness of the potential of the heritage as a source for economic development. The consciousness of the importance of built cultural landscape has triggered the implementation of National Heritage Act 2005 which can trigger a place making in the area and focus on safeguarding the nation's heritage (Hashim, 2017). At national level, Malaysia has prioritized preserving the visual element of aristocrat enclave and this has led to quality of life (Hashim, 2017). Hashim futher reiterate that comprehensively, the meaning of aristocrat enclave in its physical policy agenda, has proven that the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia has enhanced and attracted thousands of visitors each day with massive entry to the attractions. Due to worrying levels of rapid development routes, this can trigger a place making in the area (Noraslinda et. al., 2018). The fastest urbanization has been a rapid and essential transformation of human social root on a global scale of measurement. Most probably, this may influences the replacement of rural and urban cultures. The tendency and patterns of urbanization, the nature of economic activities as well as management practices vary differences in physical, social, political and legal situations (Goh, 2015).

1.3   Research Issues

1.3.1   The Challenges of Maintaining Historical Built Cultural Landscape Characteristics of Aristocrat Enclave in Kota Bharu

Urbanization problems in Kota Bharu were typically related to the level of intensity of human activities, an element of populace thickness and movement. Some have been lost due to the nature of commercialization process; commercialization cities experienced historical challenges posed by rapid, large-scale urbanization business premises and other infrastructures (Hamid, 1988; Ezrin, 1985). A myriad of development activities taking place across the city does not leave this city untouched. Modern structures of the skyscrapers encroached into the city and historical area. The palace was the administrative centre, the mosque as a place of worship and the market as a place to conduct commercial activities (Abdul Ghafar, 1999). The extensive urbanization and rapid development occurring in most of historical towns have significantly eroded the identity, sense of place and physical attributes of the aristocrat enclave. Figure 1.0 displays the east economic region (ECER), including efforts to develop Kota Bharu. This effort is part of ECERDC's overall strategy to boost and strengthen the tourism sector in the Kota Bharu region. Therefore, many of the traditional villages in the existing quarters have been replaced with commercial buildings

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and modern structures without continuing with other remaining traditional surrounding (Nik Hassan Shuhaimi, 1998).

Figure 1.1 : East Coast Economic Region ECER
(Source: www.ecerdc.com.my)

There is a need for Kota Bharu authority to monitor and control the rapid development that affects the first existence of this aristocrat enclave. Besides, the local distinctiveness of the aristocrat enclave shows how places, aged approximately 100 years gain complexity in one's powerlessness and responded differently to their characters (Sundra, 1998). Regardless of the aspect of climatic limitation, that has given more experience for this aristocrat enclave constraint to a tropical climate. However, the experience as a landscape architect indicates that any idea capacity to preserve a historic city influences the cultural landscape of aristocrat enclave as the most challenged to their identity and uniqueness significance.

1.3.2 The Disregard on the Visual Built Cultural Landscape Characteristics in Historic Aristocrat Enclave of Kota Bharu

In carrying a study of aristocrat enclave in Kota Bharu, there have been some constraints identified. They require examination that focusses on feeling of the place within the city overall. There has to be also a comprehension of the significance found in spots, urban communities and people's lives. This significance could create an understanding of the phenomenon that portrays the sense of place. Hence, it is important to understand actions, attitudes, and perceptions of the society towards issue relating to the study of aristocrat enclave in Kota Bharu. Indisregard, there would be an understanding of what make places and city meaningful as a whole. This is an important concerns in Malaysian social and economic development programmes over the last three decades. Malaysia has been proactive in providing Planning and Country Act (Act 1933) which allows the state as well as local government to uphold the

responsibilities of conserving national policies related to conservation, development, and buildings in their state. In addition, this situation apparently is not applicable to all historical cities. Many of them need significant interventions from local authorities' responsibilities in arranging, controlling and planning all development of all types of buildings in their areas. Many situations of historic city strike a balance between conservation and development, therefore, retain the character of the places.

In a recent study of sense of place of aristocrat enclave, Nik Mohammad has revealed that the idea of protecting the aristocrat enclave need to be carried out through the observation on different big cities such as York, Bangkok and Istanbul (Nik Mohammad, 2012). The important place making aspects in aristocrat enclave focussing on visual elements and their meaning in built environments need to discussed as a qualities of place of aristocrat enclave in facilitating a meaningful existence between man and nature. Through the fracture between thought and feeling, Carmona et.al. (2003) asserts that creating places is evident to man's possibilities. The cultural values of a community are developed by other influences such as the physical environment and cultural heritage. This has been shared within the evolutionary process of cultural heritage in a community and the extended areas of influence as practiced through regional inter-migration. As argued by Hajeedar (2016) who goes on to debate that the ASIA and ASEAN experiences have subtle yet distinct characteristics as expressed in built-forms and life flavours. These create identities, although influenced by the environment and customary practices based on shared and inherited roots.

The aristocrat enclave is derived from the main place that has resulted in a wide variety of approaches to place making. Designers attempt to reinsert meaning into place that utilizes various elements of appearance in character. These are to highlight a differences observed through distinctions, such as memory, history, formal aesthetic and beauty. Based on imagery context, the growing sense of place, assumes new roles to foster a local sense of place that evolves storytellers and local historians that demand change within the field.

Hence, the place is the philosophical aspect of the architectural theory that recognizes the existence of man and the spirit of nature. The primary intense of modern movement by Plato and Aristotle were noticed by Le Corbusier, Louis Kahn, Alvar Alto and Tadao Ando (Le Corbusier, 1987). Since independence for the last sixty years, urbanization in Malaysia has become complex through its physical appearance, with varying forms of historical buildings which are overgrowing as in other developing countries. Syed Zainol Abidin Idid (1996, 2005) noted that the townscape, which consists of building layouts and all the surrounding properties, could be combined to form a vivid image and identity for the historic city. This responsive environment is a space for people to express their physical activities, social and cultural demands.

Physical element from a simple character renders into a building property that makes the character noticeable (Norberg-Schulz, 1988, 1971). In addition, symbolization allows the experience of meaning and implies transposition of meanings to one place and becomes an existential place. Lynch (1960) highlighted the importance of the building heights in the design of the city to affect the clear image of the city that relates deeper into the structure concepts of nodes, landmark, path, edge and district that symbolize elements that form the basis of man's orientation in space. The enclosing properties of historic buildings are determined by its openings, which is the general wall. This displays a more concrete concept than space in defining the visual experiences of daily life.

Furthermore, the deeper interpretation of the significant meanings is manifested by the aristocrat enclave and the landscape elements. As agreed by Bollnow (2017), any real presence is intimately linked to a character. Venturi (2016) said that the building facade in characteristic has its motives, types of windows, doors, and roofs from the visual element of the primary mode. Similarly, Lynch (1981) reiterated that identity as being the simplest form of sense, is a sense of place. The dimensions of visual, physical and spiritual, need to test the mechanism and attributes of visual study. The feeling of being home is serious about place making, place relations, texture, and culture. Lynch (1960, 1981)

1.3.3 Disinterest on the Visual Aspect of Preservation and Conservation of Built Cultural Landscape Characteristics in Kota Bharu Aristocrat Enclave

The *Rancangan Struktur Kelantan 2020* (RSN) *Isu Pembangunan dan Prospek Pembangunan Pemeliharaan Warisan* vision contained in the *Akta Warisan Kebangsaan 2005* (Akta 645) of RSN2020 Kelantan, Malaysia has constituted some formal requirements. They are related to the built cultural landscape process which requires the landscape consultant, on behalf of the developer, to submit a listing of building characteristics and landscape design plan to be approved by the respective local council. This procedure must be carried out before preservation of built cultural landscape works can be implemented in aristocrat enclave. The basic plan of built cultural landscape layout usually consists of building facade for the purpose of aesthetic pleasure as well as stimulates historical sites and aristocrat enclaves. Building Design Guide of the Historic Preservation Committee (2005) stated that historic buildings are inherently sustainable, and sustainability begins with protection. The view that all historic cities need major interventions from local authorities that hold responsibilities in arranging, controlling and planning development of all types of land use and buildings in their areas. Many situations of historic city strike a balance between conservation and development. Therefore, this retains the character of the place.

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Placelessness and sense of place in the built cultural landscape are possible reasons that drive a visual characteristics phenomenon that is taking place in the historic areas in Malaysia. Discontent with the visual characteristics may arise due to a divergence between government policy, NGO and local authority needs. Generally, the historic building preservation guidelines prepared by the Badan Warisan Malaysia focus on recognizing how people use the different areas to fulfill the practical needs of living. Alternatively, the historic city has value in the society with its combination of characteristics that give some unique feel and character.

It has to do with the identity of the aristocrat enclave that is associated with a peculiar feature of a location that tells people something about the physical and social environments. Recognizing the transition of the values associated with urban heritage conservation will open the way to the definition of the present and future value system (UNESCO, 2015). The clear understanding of the place and the articulation of the structure's heritage values in order to convey the spirit of place through the conservation work (WUF ICOMOS, 2018).

The obvious physical factor that triggered some merit on the old historical architecture in Kota Bharu began with a project in East Coast Economic Region (ECER) under the 9th and 10th Malaysia Plans 1, 2 and 3 (Department of Town and Regional Planning, 2010). Initially, with the government initiatives to encourage Department of National Heritage (Jabatan Warisan Negara) and non-government organization show an increased interest over the last five years in old modern age that includes tracking the physical part of the historical region and documents the data.

In practical terms for the responsible bodies are to understand more the aspirations of the local and to provide an opportunity for both parties to upgrade the built environment. The research may provide the understanding of the importance and valuable masterpieces in aristocrat enclave of the built cultural landscape in Malaysia. The concept of genius loci, as expressed in the writings of Norberg-Schulz (1971, 1988) can contribute to our understanding of place making and the interpretation of place. There is no doubt of genius loci, and character has formed through appropriate design and planning blend together to the view that these characteristics develop from individual and community perception, values, and experiences.

1.4   Problem Statement

On 1 January 1996, the re-position of urban conservation by the National Landscape Department of Malaysia was established. It was upon the Cabinet's decision on 29 November 1995 in ensuring the preservation and enrichment of national landscape resources of the cultural landscape. Its services are placed under the Seventh Malaysia Plan since its launching in 1996. The discussion on

the historical context of old architecture requires citizens to think about the social and historical issues regarding their building structure, which is related to the definition of properties and cultural landscape ideas. These elements represent the culture of the city history and the role of heritage in contemporary and future society vision (National Landscape Department of Malaysia, 2010). It is for a balance between the economic, physical, social and environmental development of the country, that leads harmonize and ensure a conducive, safe, healthy and beautiful environment for the people to live in.

Built cultural landscape in aristocrat enclave in Malaysia can be interpreted through the theoretical lens of placelessness (Hashim, 2017). People's use and experience the places of transition and if well designed, place that helps to integrate the physical landscape and the experience on it. The term place as it evokes a place, settings and other elements that weave into the area is called the city. Place includes the built environment and natural place where the society is structured. By analyzing the means, this case can both present a coherent tradition as well as reflect and respond to the current condition (Hay, 1988).

Many historical sites in Kota Bharu is fast losing its identity and sense of place because of rapid urbanization. This belief stems from the conviction that the success of rapid urbanization development projects is significantly contributed in part by the fast losing identity of a sense of aristocrat place. The phenomenon of urban design and conservation, as well as place quality research, has the role to ensure the place attachment as a component that gives the aristocrat place meaning. The importance of meaning in representing imageability of a place focused on identity and structure as a variable to achieve in research aim of this study.

In Malaysia, development schemes for historic cities revolve around the idea of introducing new modern development. It includes revitalization of the areas and refurbishment of historic buildings, which are often referred to as the tools for the improvement schemes of the cities. Heritage cities in developing nations including Malaysia, are currently facing intensified urban problems as a result of rapid population growth, economic development and urbanization. The research gap of built cultural landscape study findings obtained from the review process indicate that built cultural landscapes possess significant potential for enhancing heritage area and its visual characteristic reflecting the prosperous aristocrat places of Kota Bharu in Malaysia.

The government sees the improvement of new townships as a solution to disperse population pressure from city centres and to cater for the growing population. However, new townships at the edge of historic cities were sterile, reflected the adaptation of poor urban design guidelines. However, through periods of urbanisation development, this aristocrat area in Kota Bharu, Kelantan requires systematic documentation. The aristocrat area physical factor

that triggers some grandness on the old historical architecture is in Kota Bharu, share the knowledge on the identity of the aristocratic area of Kota Bharu is obviously blunt. The problem has open the relate to this research to explore the identity of the aristocrat area, a visual method used for describing and communicating features of the visual characteristic has been including in the study. Finally to provide a framework for built cultural landscape at landscape area.

1.5 Research Aim

The aim of the conservation of built cultural landscape is to identify the visual characteristics significance of an aristocrat enclave in Kota Bharu that has been lost due to urbanization. The research is based on understanding the visual of built cultural landscape characteristics in aristocrat enclaves and cultural benefits for present and future generations.

1.6 Research Objectives

The following research objectives were formulated to address the research goal and research questions. In line with the aim of the study, the research has three main objectives namely:

RO1: To analyze the challenges faced in terms of the characteristics of the built cultural landscape in selected aristocrat enclaves of Kota Bharu.

RO2: To identify the importance of preserving and conserving the visual characteristic of built cultural landscape Kota Bharu aristocrat enclave.

RO3: To evaluate the impact of visual characteristics of the selected built cultural landscape in conserving and preserving Kota Bharu as an aristocrat enclave.

RO4: To formulate an urban design framework for historical place built cultural landscape in conserving and preserving Kota Bharu as an aristocrat enclave.

1.7 Research Questions

The following are the research questions of the study:

RQ1: What are the built cultural landscape characteristics of aristocrat enclaves in Kota Bharu?

RQ2: Why is it important to preserve and conserve the visual characteristic of built cultural landscape Kota Bharu aristocrat enclave?

RQ3: What are the impact of visual characteristics of built cultural landscape in conserving and preserving Kota Bharu as an aristocrat enclave?

RQ4: How to formulate a framework based on the built cultural landscape characteristics, and preserve and conserve and the impact of visual characteristics Kota Bharu as an aristocrat enclave?

1.8 Research Significance

Addressing the research objectives and the research questions, this study will explain important cultural and social phenomena which exist within the aristocrat enclave. More importantly, this research will explore nation needs in the built cultural landscape.

This work will become a basis to review various existing planning and design implementation as well as and policy issues in Kota Bharu. The research will contribute to:

- Providing framework for the government sector by suggesting improvements of the current policy which are end-user unfriendly and by proposing the incorporation of sustainable built cultural landscape in the National Landscape Policy.
- Landscape architects, planners and built environment related professionals are shifting to a new modus operandi, inclined to the needs and requirements of the end-user, rather than only focussing on new iconic and new development in design which can be meaningless to the site context and place meaning as well as communities.

1.9   Research Limitation

The study confines itself to the analysis of the role of built cultural landscape in improving the visual characteristics of aristocrat area. The research limitation of the study are those characteristics of methodology that impacted and influenced the interpretation of the findings from this research. They are the constraints on generalizability, applications to practice, and utility of findings that are the result of the ways in which initially chose to design the study or the method used to establish internal and external validity or the result of unanticipated challenges that emerged during the study.

The discussion is mainly in the context of physical and non-physical elements of built cultural landscape, which influence the visual character of aristocrat area as a Malay royal town. Primarily, the research is focused on defining the visual characteristics of built cultural landscape aristocrat. It is carried out through literature review and historical research on aristocrat area (Chapter 2). In the historical research, Kota Bharu in east coast was selected for a case study to verify the historic significance of built cultural landscape visual characteristic.

The established features of past built cultural landscape in Kota Bharu aristocrat area has deemed to exist within the physical and non-physical elements of the built cultural landscape in the present Kota Bharu center. The field survey was carried out to identify the problems that contributed to the designed and reduced quality of built cultural landscape within the study area. At the end of the study, the research would come up with a strategy to improve the visual character of the place through built cultural landscape conservation framework.

1.10   Summary

The first chapter discusses the Research Context. It presents an overview of the research background, research issues and the aim as well as the objectives of the study.

Chapter Two describes the built cultural landscape in terms of the philosophy of conservation; Malaysia and the Malay journal records in Singapore as well as in Thailand. It also discusses adapting built heritage in historic city. Located in the context of urban areas, the Malay aristocrat enclaves which include Kota Bharu. Primarily, the research is focused on defining the visual characteristics of Kota Bharu built cultural landscapes in aristocrat enclave. Reviews the value and significances of built cultural landscape in making of social context, cultural and spiritual contexts as well as assessing built cultural landscape and heritage value.

To continue, Chapter Three outlines Research Methodology which engages a post-occupancy evaluation in built cultural landscape approach and a qualitative research approach which uses the pilot study. A visual method used for describing and communicating features of the visual characteristic has been included in the study. It is on how the visual characteristic communicates to the viewer, how to observe and document behaviours. The analysis of the data has made used of the Atlas.ti. This chapter present the data interpretation of the study. The interpretation is organised by themes, focusing on symbolism categories of city image such as path, edge, node, district and landmark directly which express universal scope. Next is Chapter Six, which focuses on the analysis of aristocrat enclave on the visual elements and their characteristics. The visual data analysis gathered during the fieldwork in aristocrat enclave of Kota Bharu measures the indicators and themes used in the fieldwork that provides a concise data explanation of the study.

Furthermore, Chapter Four focuses on findings and discussion on the fieldwork conducted in Kota Bharu royal enclave. It includes visual characteristic in defining of the heritage buildings in aristocrat enclave. The degree of accessibility is based on the physical proximity between origins where local people live and work. Today's experience is inclined towards the future development as outlined in the previous chapter. This chapter provides a review of the existing traditional architecture and facade in Kota Bharu.

Chapter Five provides the conclusions and implications of the study. The discussion in this chapter includes a summary of the study in terms of visual characteristics of the built cultural landscapes. This provides contributions on the body of knowledge and recommendations for future development.

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