

WOOD UTILIZATION IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR: THE ARCHITECTS' PERSPECTIVE

HAZIRAH BINTI AB LATIB

FH 2017 28

WOOD UTILIZATION IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR:

THE ARCHITECTS' PERSPECTIVE



HAZIRAH BINTI AB LATIB

BY



A Project Report Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the

Degree of Bachelor of Wood Science Technology in the Faculty of Forestry

Universiti Putra Malaysia

2016

DEDICATION

I dedicate my final year project to my family and friends. A special feeling of gratitude to my loving parents, Ab Latib bin Burok and Fatimah binti Rashid and my siblings, Mohd Helmi bin Ab Latib, Hartini binti Ab Latib, Hasni Akmar binti Ab Latib and Muhammad Hairi bin Ab Latib for their fully support faith that I can finish my

degree and for the joy they gave to me.

Not forget to all my best friends for their untiring efforts and support for me to complete this study successfully. May Allah SWT will bless you all.

Thank You.

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to analyze the wood utilization in the construction sector in Klang Valley. The specific objective of the study was to identify perception of architects on wood utilization in the construction sector. In addition, the study also aims to determine the choice of wood commonly used and also to determine the factors influencing architects' for not actively specifying wood for construction purposes in Klang Valley. The study was conducted through the assistance of the Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia (PAM) to which survey forms were provided. A total of 25 architects registered in the Klang Valley, volunteered to participate in the study. The study found that there is a general lack of wood use in the construction sector. Most architects who handled projects worth below MYR 1 million did not use wood in their projects. Meanwhile, the architect who handled projects worth more than MYR 1 million used wood as a construction material in their projects. Among the wooden materials widely used in the construction sector are particle board and solid wood such as Kempas (Koompassia malaccensis). There were several factors that contributed to the lack of wood use in the Malaysian construction sector. The lack of supply and its inconsistent quality are the major factors. Based on this study, the construction company did not have a problem with the cost of the wood materials, but the availability affected its use as specified by the architects. Construction companies have to find sufficient supply of wood material, if wood is to be used more widely in the construction sector.

ABSTRAK

Tujuan kajian ini adalah untuk menganalisis penggunaan kayu dalam sektor pembinaan di Lembah Klang. Objektif khusus kajian ini adalah untuk mengenal pasti persepsi arkitek mengenai penggunaan kayu do sektor pembinaan. Di samping itu, kajian ini juga bertujuan untuk menentukan pilihan kayu yang biasa digunakan dan juga untuk menentukan faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi arkitek yang tidak aktif menggunakan kayu untuk tujuan pembinaan di Lembah Klang. Kajian ini telah dijalankan dengan bantuan daripada Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia (PAM) dengan menyediakan borang soal selidik. Seramai 25 arkitek berdaftar di Lembah Klang, menawarkan diri untuk mengambil bahagian dalam kajian ini. Kajian mendapati bahawa projek-projek yang dikendalikan oleh arkitek kekurangan penggunaan kayu dalam pembinaan. Kebanyakan arkitek yang mengendalikan projek bernilai bawah RM 1 juta tidak menggunakan kayu dalam projek mereka. Sementara itu, arkitek yang mengendalikan projek bernilai lebih daripada RM 1 juta menggunakan kayu sebagai bahan pembinaan dalam projek mereka. Antara bahan-bahan kayu digunakan secara meluas dalam sektor pembinaan adalah papan partikel dan kayu pepejal seperti spesies Kempas. Tambahan pula, terdapat beberapa faktor yang menyumbang kepada kekurangan penggunaan kayu. Kekurangan bekalan dan kualiti yang tidak konsisten adalah faktor utama. Berdasarkan kajian ini, syarikat pembinaan itu tidak mempunyai masalah dengan kos menyediakan bekalan kayu-kayan, tetapi ketersediaan yang terjejas penggunaannya sebagaimana yang ditentukan oleh arkitek. Syarikat pembinaan perlu mencari bekalan bahan kayu yang mencukupi jika sumber kayu yang akan digunakan dalam sektor pembinaan.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all, Alhamdullilah praise to Allah S.W.T the most gracious, most merciful. His grace and guidance had leaded me down a path and given me strength to complete my final year project.

I would like to express my deepest appreciation and special thanks to my supervisor Prof. Dr. Jegatheswaran Ratnasingam for his guidance and constructive comments throughout the accomplishment of this project.

My sincere thanks to the examiner is Prof. Dr. Zaidon Ashaari and Dr. Norzanalia Saadun for the advice, help and evaluation and also Dr. Roslan for the help on the statistical analysis for the results.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my parents and siblings. Their love, care, understanding and moral support have been a source of inspiration to me. Last but not least, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to all my friends for their supports and ideas.

APPROVAL SHEET

Name of Candidate : Hazirah binti Ab Latib

Title of Thesis :Wood Utilization in the Construction Sector: the Architects' Perspectives

I certify that this research report entitled 'WOOD UTILIZATION IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR: THE ARCHITECTS' PERSPECTIVES' has been examined and approved as a partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Wood Science Technology in the Faculty of Forestry, Universiti Putra Malaysia.

Prof. Dr. Jegatheswaran Ratnasingam,

Faculty of Forestry,

Universiti Putra Malaysia.

(Supervisor)

 \bigcirc

Prof. Dr. Mohamed Zakaria Hussin,

Dean,

Faculty of Forestry,

Universiti Putra Malaysia.

Date:

TABLE OF CONTENT

Content	Page
DEDICATION	ii
ABSTRACT	iii
ABSTRAK	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	V
APPROVAL SHEET	vi
LIST OF TABLES	ix
LIST OF FIGURES	Х
CHAPTER 1	
INTRODUCTION	
1.1 The Malaysian Construction Industry	1
1.2 Timber use Practices in Malaysia's Construction Industry	2
1.3 Problem Statement	4
1.4 Objectives	5
1.5 Scope and Limitations	5
CHAPTER 2	
LITERATURE REVIEW	
2.1 Use of Wood in Construction Sector	6
2.1.1 Introduction	6
2.1.2 Wood as a Structural Material	7
2.3 Wooden Construction Systems and Use of Wood in Construction	9
2.4 Examining the Attitudes to the Use of Wood in Constructions	13
2.4.1 The Use of Wood as Construction Material in Different Types of Buildings	15
2.4.2 Aspects Important in Projecting the Buildings	18
2.4.3 Preferences for Building Material and Material for Interior Use	21
2.4.4 Assessment of the Selected Wood Properties	23
2.4.5 Preferences for the Use of Certified Forests Wood	25

CHAPTER 3

METHODOLOGY

3.1	Introduction	27
3.2	Research Design	28
3.3	Methof of Data Collection	28
3.4	Questionnaire Design	29
3.5	Data Analysis Methods	29
	-	

CHAPTER 4

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

4.1	Introd	uction	30
4.2	Demo	graphic Background	31
	4.2.1	Total Number of Architects by Gender	31
	4.2.2	Value of Property	32
4.3	Active	ely Specify	32
	4.3.1	Actively Specify Wood by Property Value Constructed	32
4.4	Practic	ces in Wood Utilization	33
	4.4.1	Major Material Used	34
	4.4.2	Major Species Used	34
4.5	Factor	rs that Influencing the Decision in Not Specify the Wood	35
4.6	Percep	otion on Wood Utilization	38
	4.6.1	Perception on Wood Species by Gender	38
	4.6.2	Perception of Architects Gender towards Specify Wood in	39
		Construction Sector	
4.7	Relati	onship of Wood Materials Use and Property Value	39

CHAPTER 5

5.1	CONCLUSION	41
5.2	RECOMMENDATIONS	42
REFERENCES		44
APPE	NDICES	
Appen	dix A: Questionnaire	49
Appen	dix B: Statistical Analysis	52

LIST OF TABLES

TABLES	
2.1 The results of life-cycle analysis	9
4.1 Percentage of architects who actively specified wood by	33
property constructed	
4.2 Major material used in construction sector	34
4.3 Major species used in construction sector	35
4.4 Factors Influencing the Decision Not to Specify Wood	36
4.5 Perception on Wood Species Utilization by Gender	34
4.6 Perception of Architects Gender towards Specify Wood in	39
Construction Sector	
4.7 Relationship with property value	39

6

LIST OF FIGURE

FIGURE	
1.1 Status of the Construction Industry in Malaysia	2
2.1 Preferences for wood as a construction material in residential buildings	16
2.2 Preferences for wood as a construction material in civil buildings	17
2.3 Preferences for wood as a construction material in technical buildings	17
2.4 Preferences for wood as a construction material in industrial buildings	18
2.5 The importance of functional and operational aspects in projecting	19
2.6 The importance of environmental aspects in projecting	20
2.7 The importance of economic aspects in projecting	20
2.8 Preferences for wood and wood products in projecting of residential	22
buildings	
2.9 Preferences for wood in designing of interior	22
2.10 Share of the positive assessment of the different attributes of	24
wood as a construction material	
2.11 Preferences for the use of wood from certified forests	26
3.1 Flow Chart of Research Procedures	27
4.1 The percentage of architects by gender in Klang Valley	31
4.2 The percentage of value of property in Klang Valley	32

 \bigcirc

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Malaysian Construction Industry

Malaysia is actively working towards achieving a high-income status by 2020. This involves intensive transformation of its economic structure. The government has outlined an economic road map to transform the country in order to be recognized as a developed nation. Since independence, the Malaysian economy has observed plans with five-year strategic driving force. The strategic trusts are in line with the goal to become a high-income nation by 2020. Looking towards the 2020 aim, the challenge is to sustain the impetus of a robust maturation. Specifically, this requires an average growth of 6.0 % in GDP per annum during the Tenth Plan Period. To achieve this objective, the economic sphere must play significant roles. The construction sector is active and features prominently in terms of policy conceptualization and implementations. A comparison of the size of the construction industry with other countries suggests that its contribution has been consistent and stable (Abdul Aziz, 2015). The status of construction industry in Malaysia, are show in the Figure 1.1.



Figure 1.1: Status of the Construction Industry in Malaysia Source: CIDB, June 2009

1.2 Timber Use Practices in the Malaysian Construction Industry

The timber industry in Malaysia caters timber products not only for the domestic but also for the international markets. Despite being an important market outlet for timber products, most domestic markets including Malaysia's, generally receive less attention as they are almost always overshadowed by exports (Bourke, 1991). In 2008, for example, domestic consumption of primary timber products and furniture in Malaysia was worth about RM7.6 billion, while export of timber and timber products was about RM22.5 billion (MPIC, 2009). However, the scenario in Malaysia was expected to change with the launch of the National Timber Industry Plan (NATIP) in 2009, which recognized the importance of the domestic timber market. NATIP calls for promoting and encouraging the use of timber products in the domestic market to sustain the growth of the country's timber industry (MPIC, 2009). The plan targets the construction industry as it has been the largest consumer of sawn timber, plywood and other wood based panels in the country. Even though Malaysia is a timber-rich country, the use of timber products in the construction industry is almost negligible (Wong, 2008). Jumaat et al. (2006b) lamented that the construction industry in Malaysia is not very keen in using wood material. Various reasons such as poor and inconsistent quality, association with low social status and fire performance, as well as high and fluctuating cost of the material have been cited for the construction industry's disinterest in using timber products (Tan et al., 2005; Ismail et al., 2008). Similarly, the lack of consumer awareness on the availability of Malaysian timber species and products in the local market has also been cited for the continued use of imported timber or alternative materials such as plastic in the building and housing sectors (MPIC, 2009). The diminishing number of timber craftsmen was also another factor for the use of concrete and masonry materials for residential buildings in rural communities in Malaysia (Ismail et al., 2008). The industry is also increasingly using other alternative materials such as bricks and concrete (Nor Haniza et al., 2007; Fujita et al., 2009; Abu Hassan et al., 2011). In 2008, for instance, timber products constitute only 8% of the total materials used by the Malaysian construction industry, compared to 23% each for iron and steel, and cement and concrete (SEAISI, 2008). There is, however, a general lack of detailed studies on the use of timber products not only in the Malaysian construction industry but also in other major timber product consuming sectors. A study was, thus, conducted to provide information on the use of timber products by the Malaysian construction industry, especially in the residential building sector as it is one of the major development projects undertaken by the construction industry. In more specific, the

study aimed to identify the types and to estimate the amount of timber products used in the construction and those installed in the completed single-family residential building units. In 2011, about 28% of the total 5,555 projects awarded to the construction Timber Use Practices in Malaysia's Construction Industry were for residential building construction (CIDB, undated). Therefore, this study focused on the use of timber products in the construction of single-family residential units by building construction firms; hence, it did not include units constructed by individual house owners. Singlefamily residential units include detached, semidetached and terraced houses, in which each unit is separated by a ground-to roof wall and where no other units are constructed above or below it. During the third quarter of 2011, about 63% of the 4.49 million residential units constructed in Malaysia were single-family residential units (NAPIC, 2011).

1.3 Problem Statement

Malaysia is a major tropical timber producer in the world besides Indonesia, Thailand and Burma. In Malaysia, the level of consumption of forest products as construction structures is still low. Wood is associated with the furniture industry and when used in the construction of wooden structure, it is deemed expensive construction costs, durability problems, substandard, low social status and unsafe. The use of laminated wood structures and laminated board is one of the ways to solve the problem. Although not yet widely used in Malaysia, it can provide a choice to the designer to meet the requirements of the design of a structure. In Malaysia, most construction wood structure still using sawn timber. Wood production is increasingly limited and to get a large supply of wood is also increasingly difficult to obtain due to the lack of forest resources. In the construction of the structure, sometimes the design required by designers needs the architects approval.

1.4 Objectives

The main objective of this study was to analyze the wood utilization in the construction sector in Klang Valley. The specific objectives for this study were:

- i. to identify perception of architects on wood utilization
- ii. to determine the choice of wood used
- iii. to determine the factors influencing architects' for not actively specifying wood for construction purposes in Klang Valley

1.5 Scope and Limitations

To overcome the limited study period besides achieving the objectives of the research, the writing of this project is limited by the scope of:

- i. limited respondents, and
- ii. focused in Klang Valley

REFERENCES

H, Abu., A. B., Mahyuddin, R., Mazlina, J., & Aulina, A. (2011). Awareness assessment framework for implementing the sustainable housing in Malaysia. *Asian Journal of Management Research*, 1, 703-713.

Olanrewaju, A.L., and Aziz. A.R. Abdul., *Building Maintenance Processes and Practices*, DOI 10.1007/978-981-287-263-0_2

Bayne, K., Taylor, S. (2006). Attitudes to the use of wood as a structural material in non-residental building applications: oppurtunities for growth. *Austrian Government: Forest and Wood Products Res. And Development Corporation*.

Begum, R. A., Siwar, C., Pereira, J. J., & Jaafar, A. H. (2006). A benefit-cost analysis on the economic feasibility of construction waste minimisation: The case of Malaysia. Resources, Conservation and Recycling, 48, 86-98.

Bourke, I. J. (1991). *Domestic timber markets: important outlets for the developing countries*. Retrieved from http://www.fao.org/DOCREP/ U4200E/u4200e05.htm

Buchanan, A. (2007). Energy and CO₂ advantages of wood for sustainable buildings. *Institute of Professional Engineers Convention*, p. 9.

Bysheim, K., Nyrud, Q. A. (2009). Using a predictive model to analyse architect's intentions of using wood in urban construction, p. 74.

Chmúrny, I. (2009). *Environmental nevlastnosti drevenych stavebnych konstrukcii*. Časopis stavebnictví. [online]. Retrieved 11,26,2016 from http://www.casopisstavebnictvi.cz/environmentalnevlastnosti-drevenych-stavebnych-konstrukcii_N2206.

Construction Industry Development Board. (2001). *Number and value of projects awarded by category as of December 2011*. Retrieved 10,12,2016 from http://www.cidb.gov.my/cidbweb/images/pdf/buletin/2011/ BahagianKeduaQ42011.pdf

De la Roche, I. & Gaston. C. (2001). The future of wood products : what is the prognosis. *The Forestry Chronicle* 77(6): 985-988.

Erdayu, O. O., Esmawee, E., & Masran, S. (2010). Adapting by altering: Spatial modifications of terraced houses in the Klang Valley area. *Asian Journal of Environment-Behaviour Studies*, 1, 1-10.

Fujita, Y., Matsumoto, H., & Ho, C. S. (2009). Assessment of CO2 emissions and resource sustainability for housing construction in Malaysia. *International Journal of Low-Carbon Technologies*, 4, 16-26.

Goetzl, A., Mckeever, B. D. (1999). Building codes: obstacle or opportunity?. *Forest Producst Journal*, p. 49.

Guiles, J. (2014). Evaluating the environmental performance of wood building materials. ESF. [online]. Retrieved 09,06,2014 from http://www.esf.edu/ecenter/eis/woodmaterials.htm.

Ismail, S., Abdul Malek, D., & Syed Ahmad Iskandar, S. A. (2008). A study of constructing timber architecture: Merging the skills of architect, carpenter and masonry workers. *Jurnal Alam Bina*, 12, 97-108.

Jumaat, M. Z., Rahim, A. H. A., Othman, J., & Midon, M. S. (2006a). Strength evaluation of oil palm stem trussed rafters. *Construction and Building Materials*, 20, 812-818.

Jumaat, M. Z., Rahim, A. H. A., Othman, J., & Razali, F. M. (2006b). Timber engineering research and education in Malaysia. *9th World Conference on Timber Engineering* (pp. 2494- 2497). Portland, OR., USA.

Kaputa, V., Paluš, H. (2014). Architects and wood as a construction material: a case of Slovakia. ISBN: 978-953-57822-1-6.

Kaputa, V., Parobek, J. (2009). Consumer preferences for wood framed houses. *Competitiveness of wood processing and furniture manufacturing, Šibenik, Croatia*. p. 11 – 16. ISBN 978-953-192-010-9.

Kozak, A. R., Cohen, H. D. (1999). Architects and structural engineers: an examination of wood design and use in non-residential construction. *Forest Products Journal* 49(4):37-46.

Kozak, R. et al (2009). Wood use in non-residential construction: a case for communication with architects. *Forest Products Journal*, Volume 59. ISSN: 0015-7473.

Lee, C. F., Ismail, A, R., Ade, A., Sasitharan, N., & Khairul. I. K. (2013). Classification and quantification of construction waste at housing project site. *International Journal of Zero Waste Generation*, 1, 1-4.

Lee, C. Y. (2002). Subterranean termite pests and their control in the urban environments in Malaysia. *Sociobiology*, 40, 3-9.

Lou, E. C. W., & Kamar, K. A. M. (2012). Industrialized Building Systems: Strategic outlook for manufactured construction in Malaysia. *Journal of Architectural Engineering*, 18, 69-74.

Loučanová, E. (2005). *Inovacie ako podmienka konkurencieschopnosti drevospracujuceho priemyslu na globalnom trhu*. Inovace: jediná účinná cesta k úspěchu v globální ekonomice, Praha : Soukromá vysoká škola ekonomických studií, s.r.o., ISBN 80-86744-26-4, p. 102- 105.

MacLean, J. D. (1941). *Thermal conductivity of wood. Heating. Piping and air conditioning*, 101(6). [online]. Retrieved 11,09,2016 from http://originwww.fpl.fs.fed.us/documnts/pdf1941/macle41a.pdf.

Mahmood, M. T., Thang, C. M., & Tan, C. S. (2005). Performance of locally produced cold-formed steel sections for roof truss system. *Jurnal Teknologi*, 42(B), 11-28.

Monerasinghe, M. N. (1985). Research needs and priorities in housing and construction in Malaysia. *Habitat International*, 9, 37-57.

Ministry of Plantations Industries & Commodities. (2009). *National Timber Industry Plan*, 2009- 2020. Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities, Malaysia.

National Property Information Centre (2011). Property Stock Report - ResidentialPropertyStockReportTableQ42011.Retrievedfromhttp://napic.jpph.gov.my/portal/content/Publication_PDF/q411residential.pdf

Ngian, S. P., Tahir, M.M., Siang, T. C., Hong, A. K. B., & Mohammad, S. (2012). Experimental investigation on locally produced cold-formed steel sections for roof truss system. *Advanced Science Letters*, 13, 620-623.

Nor Haniza, I., Zuraini, M.A., Yacob, O., & Helena, A. H. (2007). Case studies on timber defects of selected traditional houses in Malacca. *Journal of Design and the Built Environment*, 3, 81-90.

O'Connor, J., Kozak, R., Gaston, C., Fell, D. (2004). Wood use in non residential buildings: opportunities and barriers. *Forest Products Journal* 54(3):19-28.

Oregon Forest Resources Institute. (2009). Building to benefit the environment: The Role of Oregon Wood Products in the Green Building Movement. A special report on the Oregon Forest Resources Institute.

Paluš, H., Maťová, H. (2009). *End-user awareness of environmentally appropriate wood products in Slovakia*. In Competitiveness of wood processing and furniture manufacturing : Šibenik, Croatia, Zagreb: University of Zagreb, Faculty of Forestry, ISBN 978-953-192-010-9, p. 111-116.

Paluš, H., Parobek, J. (2011). *Changes in competitiveness of selected clusters in the Slovakia forest*. In Development trends in economic and management in wood processing and furniture manufacturing : International Scientific Conference, Kozina, Slovenia : proceedings. WoodEMA : University of Ljubljana, 2011. p. 155-159. ISBN 978-961-6144-31-5.

Paluš, H., Šupín, M. (2004). Competitiveness of selected clusters in the Slovakia forest industry. The growth and development in forestry and wood industry. Scientific book. Zagreb, Croatia, 2004. ISBN 953-6307-73-1. p. 17-20.

Rametsteiner, E., Oberwimmer, R., Gschwandtl, I. (2007). *Europeans and wood what do Europeans think about wood and its uses: a review of consumer and business surveys in Europe*. Warsaw, Poland: Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, 67 p. ISBN 978-83-926647-0-3. 74

Robichaud, F., Kozak, R., Richelieu, A. (2009). Wood use in nonresidential construction: a case for communication with architects. *Forest Products Journal*; 59, 1/2; p. 57.

Sedliaková, M. et al. (2008): *Vsetko dreve v interior a exterieri*. Prvé vydanie. Bratislava: Jaga Group, s.r.o., ISBN 1335-9142.

Štefko, J., Reinprecht, L., Kuklík, P. (2009). *Drevene stavby: konstrukce, ochrana, udrzba*. Druhé české vydání. Bratislava: Jaga Group, spol s r. o., ISBN 978-80-8076-080-9.

Štefko, J., Reinprecht, L., Osvald, A. (2014). *Moderne drevostavby*. 1/2014, Bratislava: Jaga Group, spol s r. o. ISSN 1335-9142.

Tan, Y. E., Ong, C. B., Khairul, A., & How. S. K. (2005). Use of laminated timber for trusses. *Master Builders Journal*, 3rd Quarter, 62.

Thanoon, W. A., Lee, W. P., Abdul Kadir, M. R., Jaafar, M. S., & Salit, M. S. (2003). The experiences of Malaysia and other countries in industrialised building system. *International Conference on Industrialised Building Systems* (pp. 255-267). Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The News Agency of the Slovak Republic TASR. (2012). *Dni drevostavieb 2012 maju zvysit zaujem l'udi o domy z dreva*. [online]. Retrieved 11,10,2016 from http://www.teraz.sk/ekonomika/dni-drevostavieb- 2012-maju-zvysit-z/24353-clanok.html.



Wagner, E. R., Hansen, E. N. (2004b). Environmental attributes of wood products: Context and relevance for U.S. architects. *Forest Products Journal*. Vol. 54, No. 1. January 2004. p. 19-ISSN 0015-7473.

Wagner, E., Hansen, E. (2004a). A method for identifying and assessing key customer group needs. *Industrial Marketing Management* 33:643-655.

Wong, T. M. (2008). Ensuring quality assurance in timber applications. *Master Builder Journal*, 1st Quarter, 84-87.

