

The Effect of Human Behaviour in The Light of Reflecting Townscape Setting in Malay Royal Town of Alor Setar

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Abstract: Human Behaviour or activities are one of the elements associated with the identity of a place. Activities are particular behavioural manifestations of man's reaction to his surroundings which pertains to a shape of practical transformation of relying on or information, for example, sleeping, eating, analysing and different comparable activities. This article intends to give an overview of the studies that have been done to understand human behaviour and activities in the townscape setting. The method of this research focuses on the setting of place for human activities in the town centre of Alor Setar by an in-depth literature review and site observation around a one-kilometre radius around Zahir Mosque, which is Alor Setar old town city centre. This article will discuss the human behaviour and activities in the Malay Royal Town of Alor Setar, especially on a one-kilometre radius from Zahir Mosque. The type of activities done by a human, the setting place of those particular activities, and whether those activities and place setting will affect the development of that town itself. The findings from this exploratory review could conclude that the human activities could be changed according to the place setting of that activities. All activities that occur in the town are followed up closely by the place setting, enabling the town planner to arrange or design those towns accordingly.

Keywords: Malay Royal Town, Alor Setar, Human Activities, Human Behaviour, Close Reading, Place Setting, Urban Design, Malay Townscape.

1. INTRODUCTION

Human behaviour is the second element of a place's image (Tugnutt, 1987). Sleeping, eating, reading, and other such activities are examples of particular behavioural manifestations of a person's response to their environment involving the deliberate transformation of matter or information. (Shuhana Shamsuddin, 1997). The activity itself, the specific way to do it, extra, adjacent, or associated activities that become part of an activity system, and the symbolic aspect of the activity can all be broken down into four

components. (Rapoport, 1977). Benz (in Shuhana, 1997) argues that human activities, motivations, and the environment are inextricably linked. Individuals' communication, movements, and other activities are channelled by the environment, which structures the human community by assigning places to them. The structure's definitions become more pronounced as the density of activity increases. (Shuhana Shamsuddin, 2011).

Finally, transparency is the reverse of activity vitality. Transparency is the extent to which one

will directly understand the operation of the varied technical function, activities, social and natural actions that occur within the town due to conveying a way of life. Hence, his competition is a lot more clear or visible the activities, the more they contributed to the identity of place (Lynch, 1981).

In order to find the qualities that make for a better city design, it's necessary to pay attention to the activities that people do in public spaces. There are three types of activities in public spaces: mandatory, optional, and social activities. The required activities for all three types of activities take place regardless of the physical setting's quality. The opposing two activities cultivated by a high-quality physical environment ensure that the town is successful and remembered by the public. (Litt, 1995). These activities contribute to the city centre's cultural significance. First, however, one must consider how these activities affect people's perceptions of place identity. Human activities reinforce a sense of community in the town, which is why they are noticed. These activities are similar to be differentiated further once the physical type and components improve the manifestation of the activities. (Shuhana Shamsuddin, 2011).

In Alor Setar, as same as another old Malay town, human activities could be seen in the city centre as we walk through the path in the city; the most dominant activity occurring in Alor Setar was economic activities such as sales of merchandise, tourism and recreational activity as these activities followed closely by its place setting. The design of the townscape allowing this kind of activity to be occurring over and over again. The primary goal of this paper is to allow us to see the type of human activities and their place setting. Besides that, the study will also examine the relationship between place setting and the type of human activities happening as a component of a place's identity.

2. LITERATURE

The mixture or type of activities and the intensity of activity are two key aspects that alter to give the townscape its personality. Urban space will trigger socially acceptable behavioural responses means around contrariwise counting on how the areas are being styled as a physical manifestation of cultural expectations. The activities related to what is going on in the area are a component of the city centre's identity. People are more likely to recall a location because

of the activities that take place there. There are two styles of activities that people keep company with the identity of a place. Its activities occurred among a building comparable to business operation and activities outside on the streets, such as hawker mercantilism merchandise on the side of a street. The character of the building within which the retail activities come about is very important in serving people to recognise places such as whether or not they are permanent buildings or temporary structures within the kind of stalls (Shuhana Shamsuddin, 2011).

In Alor Setar, these two types of activities can find widely as we walked across the city centre. In the first type of indoor activities, these places usually provide a sign, building façade or symbol that indicated what activity is happening inside the building. For the second type of outdoor activities, they usually display the goods and products they sold, provide signage or simply carry their business around the area to attract people.



Figure 1 – street hawker displaying their foods and sign to attract buyer, Jalan Pintu Sepuluh, Alor Setar – Graphic Adapted from google maps.



Figure 2 – Building for commercial activities indicates their activity by placing signage, Samila Business Centre, Darul Aman Highway, Alor Setar – Graphic Adapted from google maps.

The concentration of specific types of trades within specific buildings is important in influencing why a street accommodates a row of shophouses that specialise in certain types of trade such as crafts or groceries; this concentration of specific activities will make the street recognisable. These are because the intensity of comparable actions psychologically entraps the

eyes and delivers information regarding identifying that location from an activity standpoint.



Figure 3 – Strong message on the façade of the building and product displayed outside of the building the indicating activities that occur inside that premises. Jalan Putra, Alor Setar – Graphic adapted from google maps

The concentration of certain forms of trades among certain types of buildings is significant in deciding why a street accommodates a row of storehouses that specialise in certain sorts of trade, such as crafts or groceries; this concentration of specialised activities may make the road identifiable. This is frequently because the intensity of similar activities psychologically entraps the eyes and delivers information about identifying that location from the activity's point of view.



Figure 4 – Presence of food hawker on five-foot walkways and along the streets at Jalan Sekerat, Alor Setar – Graphic adapted from google maps.



Figure 5 – Food truck hawking activities during the night at MADA food truck garden, Jalan Teluk Wanjah, Alor Setar

The market is by far one among the numerous activity spots, and therefore the activities that

occur within the building and its compound provide a robust impact on the townscape. The market activities occur very early within the morning with the transportation of the market merchandise before the particular market activities take place. Moreover, food stall owners operate in the neighbourhood of the market to serve breakfast to those visiting the market, creating a cheerful effect on the townscape. The market activities give a strong impact because of the sound generated by the traders attempting to draw in the shoppers furthermore as the noise generated by the machines accustomed method a number of the market manufacture love poultry and coconut milk. This sound sensation is also important since the large masses inside a limited space add to the townscape's impression of vibrancy. (Shuhana Shamsuddin, 2011).

A combination of various activities inside a building is an important attribute in creating a building noticeably. A classic example is the old shophouses that are very distinguished to the people because of the mixture of residential and retail activities within a similar building. The presence of individuals living within the higher floors of the old shophouses creates a way of life and lend the cityscapes a unique character (Shuhana Shamsuddin, 2011). In Alor Setar town centres, the shophouses still operate traditional retail activities using traditional methods. The presence of visitors is attributed to the variety of activities happening on these streets by various people. A combination of use and activities produce prospering community and public areas that change the road to draw in visitors (Shuhana Shamsuddin, 2011).



Figure 6 – Multi used old shophouses at Darul Aman Highway, Alor Setar – Graphic adapted from google maps.

Civic use buildings are very distinctive and help make a street or place recognisable, therefore contributorily to its identity. These can be because of their activities regarding public use and vital to the lifetime of the residents like government offices, post offices, public toilets, public libraries, hospitals, and so forth. Finally, places of worship influence the identity of place due to the non-

secular activities and rituals performed within the buildings that increase the sensory expertise to an area and evoke meanings, particularly to the residents. These religious activities also add colours to the townscape, and the present crowd of individuals visiting these buildings includes a sturdy impact on the distinctiveness of the townscape. These happen throughout non-secular festivals, and within the case of the masjid, weekday prayers usually provide control to the townscape because of the presence of the male Muslims gathering in the mosque and its city district colleges even have an impact on the townscape character due to the versifying activities that have its peak during sure times of the day through the movement of traffic and folks to the school compounds. Because of the crowd that the building attracts, and hence the volume of traffic created, the activities created by the structures constitute a unique aspect to the residents. These actions provide a change to the environment of the surrounding places. (Shuhana Shamsuddin, 2011).



Figure 7 – Civic building in Alor Setar, Police Station and Post Office located beside each other at Jalan Raja, Alor Setar – Graphic adapted from google maps.



Figure 8 – Local crowd after Friday Prayer at Masjid Zahir, Alor Setar – Graphic adapted from sinarharian.com.my.

Activities require a physical setting to take place, and the variety of settings in which they can take place is dependent on the physical surroundings' adaptability to support such activities. After all, activities result from people's behavioural responses to their surroundings, influenced by cultural, social, economic, and climatic variables. Behaviour settings are places that foster a particular type of behaviour due to

their convenience or quality. As a result, it refers to the physical characteristics of a location that may assist specific behavioural responses or activities and attract various supplementary activities. (Chapman, 1996). Location, convenience, security, enclosure, comfort, visibility, and image are all factors that make it easier to come up with activities. Because of the variety of visual features of the townscape and sensory expertise experienced, the influence of activities on the cityscape is particularly important in inactivity settings. The additional activity settings that are gift within the townscape, the more can the town acquire its sense of vitality. This is because vitality is a feature that has to do with liveliness and how active a place is. It has to do with a constant flow of people, a high level of visibility, a mix of activity types, and complete various age groups of people. (Shuhana Shamsuddin, 2011).

3. METHODOLOGY

The method using in this research was site observation around a one-kilometre radius with the central location based on Zahir Mosque. From this observation, the visual data collected were processed in the form of pictures or videos. Picture or videos taken on-site were analysed carefully to gain as much information as possible. Besides that, the graphic also is retrieved from the internet, especially on the angle that was impossible to capture, such as the aerial view or historical footage. Not to forget maps from google was a great tool to do a site observation since some of those google street photos could be seen and compared their differences with the past few years photos taken as they allowed the street view to be viewed as current photos or a few years back.

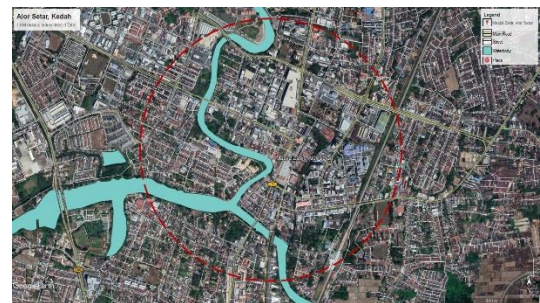


Figure 9 – Alor Setar old town centre – Graphic adapted from google maps.

Besides site observation, the literature review is also one of the methods in finding this research. A book, an article or internet information are reliable sources for this research. In urban design,

some elements could not be retrieved just by a site observation because some elements have already been demolished to make room for new development or simply destroy by mother nature. Thus, a literature review plays an important role to get this kind of information. Other than that, some terms in urban design that might need some definition or explanation could be achieved with this literature review method.

4. FINDING

Activities need a physical setting to take place, and therefore, the alternative of the settings within which activities can manifest themselves depends on the power of the physical surroundings to support such activities. Then again, activities result from people's behavioural responses to their surroundings, influenced by cultural, social, economic, and climatic variables. Behaviour settings are places that encourage a certain sort of behaviour because of their convenience or quality. As a result, it refers to the physical characteristics that may enable bound behavioural responses or activities and attract various complementary activities. (Chapman, 1996). Location, convenience, security, enclosure, and comfort are all factors that enable the user to get things done. Image and visibility Because of the variety of visual features of the townscape and sensory expertise experienced, the influence of activities on the cityscape is particularly important in activity settings. The more activity settings that are gift within the townscape, the more can the town acquire its sense of vitality. There is frequently a result of vitality, which is a feature related to the liveliness and the amount of traffic in a city. It has to do with a constant flow of people, a high level of visibility, various activity kinds, and entirely various age groups of people. (Shuhana Shamsuddin, 2011).

In Alor Setar, the activity setting can be divided into three categories which are:

- **Open space** – field, square, waterfront, open park / green pocket
- **Path** – street, five-foot walkways, sidewalk
- **Places** – markets, transport hub, shopping mall

4.1 OPEN SPACES

Open space is any open piece of undeveloped land (has no buildings or other built structures)

and is accessible to the public. As a result, residents have access to recreational areas, and open space contributes to a neighbourhood's aesthetic and environmental quality. However, with such a diverse range of recreational opportunities comes an equally diverse set of environmental concerns. Like any other land use, the way parks are organised can have positive or negative environmental consequences, such as pesticide runoff, siltation from overused hiking and logging trails, and habitat destruction (USA EPA, n.d.).

The preservation or conservation of a community's or region's rural natural or historic character; the conservation or preservation of a land or water area for recreational, ecological, environmental, aesthetic, or agricultural interests; or the management of a community's or region's growth in terms of development, industry, or natural resources are all examples of the purpose of an open space reserve. Open space reserves can be urban, suburban, or rural, and they can be actual selected areas of land or water or partitioning districts or overlays where development is restricted or controlled to form undeveloped areas of land or water at intervals throughout a community or region. For example, in Alor Setar, the open area setting for human activity that might be noticeable are field or Padang, waterfront, squares, and open parks.

Padang is a green open space usually located in the most strategic part of the old city centre and was used as the town's sports and recreational setting during colonial times. Apart from its field surface, the Padang differs from the adjacent open space due to its size and formal character, with minimal plantings. Therefore, in the past, it had been a typical scene to envision a cricket team taking part in a game in the afternoon or in the present time; this game is currently replaced by football. The other activity that sometimes takes place in this space is the open-air festival or celebrations such as the independent day celebration. a number of these activities are related to the buildings close to the 'padang', such as the religious festivals associated with the mosque. (Shuhana Shamsuddin, 2011). The main characteristic of the 'Padang', which is a turfed surfaced rectangular open space, makes it more suitable for sports and recreational activities. In Alor Setar, this padang can be found in front of Masjid Zahir and they called it Medan Bandar. Recent development has turned the padang' into a more formal space. They paved the lawn surface,

so they are no longer needed to maintain the lawn to make the space slightly hot and humid, especially during noon.



Figure 10 – Local people having iftar at Medan Bandar, Alor Setar, one example of open space setting in Alor Setar town centre

– Graphic adapted from [facebook.com/rizalhakimm](https://www.facebook.com/rizalhakimm)

The Waterfront area of a town or city is its dockland district or the area on the side of a body of water. Because of the importance of the river in determining the placement of the old cities in Alor Setar, one of the most distinguishing features of the old town centres is the riverfront. Water is an important component of life in cities where citizens and commerce are completely reliant on it, and the waterfront has become a popular gathering spot. (Benton, 2008). Four standards assess the urban waterways: the watercourse itself; the embankments appreciate the presence of piers or jetty, walkway on the waterside, and the nature of flanking buildings in regard to the dimension also the bridges that represent the walkways (Kostof, 1992). The ability of the waterways to generate activities is determined by their function in the city and the interchange between them. The river was once used as a transportation channel, which resulted in several buildings being built close to the water's edge and facing the river.

The Kedah River is a river in the Malaysia's state of Kedah. The river flows through Alor Setar before emptying into the Malacca Straits through Kuala Kedah. Although nowadays, the river was rarely used as a water transport channel, it's now served as an image of our past. Therefore, in order to educated people to love our environment, especially our waterbody, waterfront park play an important role to highlight those waterbodies that play a huge part in cities development in the past.



Figure 11 – Waterfront structure mostly converted into recreation space allowing local people to rest socialise along the riverside, view from Pintu Gerbang Muhibbah, Alor Setar. – Graphic adapted from google maps.

Squares is an open, generally four-sided, space enclosed by buildings during a village, town, or city. The square is like an outdoors area within the townscape, a respiratory space for the crowds on the street. It's an area dominant in the townscape and has the facility to draw in folks to interact in leisure-oriented activities in the city.



Figure 12 – Square around Alor Setar's Clock Tower beside Zahir Mosque, Alor Setar – Graphic adapted from [my.worlddorgs.com](https://www.myworlddorgs.com)

Open Park or **green Pocket** is a natural, semi-natural, or planted-house area for human enjoyment and pleasure or to safeguard wildlife or natural habitats. Within towns and cities, urban parks are green spaces set aside for recreation. Parks can include grassy grounds, rocks, soil, and trees, but they can also have buildings and other objects like monuments, fountains, and playground structures. Fields for sports like baseball and football and paved areas for activities like basketball may be found at various parks. Trails for walking, biking, and other activities can be found in several parks. Picnic tables and grills should be available in urban parks and benches for sitting (Wikipedia contributors, 2021, June 3).

Besides serving people as recreational space, a park or green pocket in the city could serve

aesthetical purposes. Some green spaces are built for display and maintain by local authorities regularly. This green pocket is sometimes located in a small plot of land between a building, above the building or in the middle of the roundabout. Although this kind of space does not serve as a recreational space, it plays an important role in townscape image and could be an attraction to an outside visitor or just a decoration to make the city more appealing in the aesthetical term. In Alor Setar, this kind of space was also built, and it was maintained by Alor Setar City Council or Majlis Bandaraya Alor Setar.



Figure 13 – Open green pocket in the middle of the roundabout, Jalan Sultan Badlishah, Alor Setar – Graphic adapted from google maps.

4.2 PATH

The path can be defined as a way or track laid down for walking or made by continual treading, the course or direction in which a person or thing is moving. In Alor Setar, path settings for people activity could be found on the street, pedestrian walkway and five-foot walkway.

The street could be a public road in a city, town, or village, usually with homes and buildings on one or each side. The range of activities taking place in the streets, in particular, make the old town centre vibrant and different, where the range of activities provide better choices in terms of activities with which people will interact or perhaps observe. A good street should be used by a variety of people for various activities and purposes, whether physical, economic, or social, to meet their daily needs. A nice and alive street can establish a healthy balance between various types of users and activities. Indeed, the more activities added, the more diverse types of consumers will be attracted at different times of the day and for diverse purposes. The variety of activities seen on the road, such as retail, commercial, residential, and civic use, creates a lively atmosphere and draws attention to the townscape thanks to the variation in colours, movement, and behaviour patterns of those engaging in the activities. Another uncommon activity on ordinary streets is that of

street sellers and artisans who use the street as their stage to demonstrate their abilities and draw an audience to their performance. (Shuhana Shamsuddin, 2011). The street has conjointly been long related to the concentration of retail activities wherever the merchandise is bought less expensive.



Figure 14 – Market activity setting on the street, Pasar Tani Taman Nur, Alor Setar – Graphic adapted from facebook.com/pasartanianalorsetarkedah

A pedestrian walkway, sidewalk, or footway is a path on the side of a road. Typically made of concrete or asphalt, it's designed for pedestrians. Like the street, a pedestrian walkway is also a setting for a few activities like hawking and civic use. Some restaurants used this sidewalk, usually in the front or on the side of their restaurant, as an outdoor eating area. People tend to sit down and eat outside, particularly throughout the evening and night, since it had been more comfortable and they could pick up native sense and consider whereas they eat their food or simply hanging out with friends and family. A wide sidewalk also could be an area for the local artisan to showcase their talent.



Figure 15 – Outdoor dining on the sidewalk, Nasi Lemak Haji Ali, Persiaran Sultan Abdul Hamid, Alor Setar – Graphic Adapted from google maps.

Five-foot walkways are one of the foremost distinctive activity setting Malaysian old city centres that mix public and private spaces. They're a typical configuration for pedestrian links that allow pedestrians to navigate a row of shophouses while remaining protected from the elements and vehicles. The alternative role could be a spillover

place for shopkeepers' trading activity, with the space being used to encourage passers-by to visit their businesses. (Shuhana Shamsuddin, 2011).



Figure 16 – Spillover space for the trading activities on the five-foot walkway, Jalan Sultan Muhammad Jiwa, Alor Setar – Graphic adapted from google maps.

4.3 PLACES

The place is one of the setting categories. The place is a specific spot in the town built to serve its purposes. In the old town of Alor Setar, important places could be found around this old city are markets, transport hub, shopping mall. These places play an important role as a setting for people activities around Alor Setar.

A **market** is typically where locals come to shop for their daily needs, such as food or cloth. One in all the foremost dominant activity settings is that the market. These take place within the form of a building with a compound addressing it for the spillover activities of the market. The market activities don't seem confined within the building but also in the compound outside the market building. The concentration of people and the intense market activities visible from far make the marketplace one of the unique features.

In Alor Setar, the Pasar Rabu (Wednesday Market) is the most distinctive place in the city, attracting crowds to the place where daily market activities occur here, although it used to be held only on Wednesday, thus reflecting the name given to it.



Figure 17– Market activity not confined within the building but also in the compound outside the market building, Pasar Kampung Berjaya, Alor Setar – Graphic adapted from agarakutidaklupa.blogspot



Figure 18 – Pekan Rabu, Pasar Rabu or Wednesday Market, Jalan Tunku Ibrahim, Alor Setar, a place setting for retail activities – Graphic adapted from google maps.

Transport Hub (also transport interchange) may be a place wherever passengers and cargo are exchanged between vehicles or between transport modes. Transportation hubs are important nodes in many cities and are one of the most active areas in a township. Bus stations, railway stations, jetties, ferry terminals, and light rail transit stations are examples. Because of the concentration of people who come in and out of that location, such an activity setting significantly impacts the town's image. (Shuhana Shamsuddin, 2011). In Alor Setar, transportation hubs are set slightly away from the city centre transfer away from one in all the major activity settings far from the town centre. The impact of the transportation hub on the townscape is due to the high level of activity that occurs there and the migration of people and vehicles into the area. As the point of arrival of many guests into the city, it always encompasses a robust influence on the primary impression that people have of the city.

Shopping Mall is a term referring to an outsized indoor shopping centre, typically anchored by department stores. A shopping mall is also a large, confined shopping space from which traffic is excluded. Shopping malls are also one of the most important nodes in the city, attracting crowds of people inside the environment structures. Their contribution to the townscape is in the form of acting as a place marker because of their size and façade style that's different from the shophouses in terms of their scale and proportion. Generally, it's the most outstanding building in the skyline of town and is one of the most important activity spots because of its mixed-use nature integrating commercial, transportation and retail activities. In Alor Setar,

many shopping malls might be found close to old town centres such as Aman Central, Sentosa Plaza, town Plaza and Star Parade.



Figure 19 – Aman Central, one of the shopping malls in Alor Setar located at Darul Aman Highway, Alor Setar – Graphic adapted from google maps

5. DISCUSSION

Discussion in human behaviour and its place setting is to know whether human activities and behaviour will be changed if there are some changes in the place setting. To prove that theory, someplace setting in the old town Alor Setar will be investigated to know their settings. Medan Bandar, Tanjung Chali and Pekan Rabu will become a subject or a place setting to discover the relation between people activity or human behaviour with its place setting.

5.1 MEDAN BANDAR – CENTRE OF ACTIVITIES

Medan Bandar in the royal city of Alor Setar is one of the main physical characters that characterise Alor Setar's identity. The Medan Bandar (Padang Court) is located in a unique location in Alor Setar's central district, where the High Court had stood since 1893 when the region was named. The activities that take place there is the royal event such as royal coronation and wedding, a public gathering that takes place throughout the royal city and includes pavilions, markets, and bazaars. (Shukri et al., 2020).

Medan Bandar is always a place where royal coronation and the Royal wedding took place the past. Because of its setting characteristic, this place is also where sports tournaments took place. Nowadays, Medan Bandar had become a place to celebrate a special occasion like the celebration of Independence Day. Since the lawn surface has been paved, the Padang in Medan Bandar is no longer could function as a sporting event place but only light recreational activities. People no longer hang out here during the afternoon due to hot

temperatures and no shading provided in that particular area. Besides that, the Royal family was no longer leave in the Yellow Palace beside Medan Bandar; that palace was already converted into a museum for a new generation to saw the legacy of Alor Setar, once a royal town to Kedah's royal family. Today, those open spaces are no longer serve as a lawn to the Royal palace but as a memorial to what it stands in the past.



Figure 20 – Medan Bandar, on the left side before the lawn surface has been paved



Figure 21 – Medan Bandar, on the left side current setting after lawn surface has been paved – Graphic adapted from azziamd1.blogspot.



Figure 22 – Medan Bandar in 1950 – Graphic adapted from Kedah Royal Museum

5.2 TANJUNG CHALI – AN ORIGINAL TRANSPORTATION HUB

Tanjung Chali is a cape in Alor Setar, Kedah. This is the confluence of Sungai Kedah with its tributary, Sungai Anak Bukit. The encircling space of Tanjung Chali has been improved and beautified and is these days referred to as Dataran Tanjung Chali. A look-out tower was built here some years ago. From here, guests can get a decent view of the two rivers and the Alor Setar Chinatown, pekan Cina. (Tye, n.d.)

In the past, Alor Setar's main transportation mode was waterway via the Kedah River that passes through the heart of Alor Setar. As a result, Tanjung Chali has become a prominent place setting for this type of transportation mode. The rivers and ocean played an important role because these two water bodies serve as the economy's primary source of supplies and meet the locals' need for a mode of transportation, which dates back to the seventeenth century. (Shukri et al., 2020). Due to this, Tanjung Chali is a transportation hub in the past. In addition, the location of Tanjung Chali makes it very suitable as a place setting transportation activities and economic activities. Tanjung Chali also is a location of original Pekan Rabu.

Nowadays, when the transport mode had switch primarily on land. Tanjung Chali has no longer become a transportation hub. The location was not suitable for a modern-day transportation hub since it was too close to the town centre, and there was simply no more room for development. No space for the vehicle to pass through as this location has highly congested due to local activities occurring here, and congested traffic prevents a newly dominant construction or development from taking place here. Today, Tanjung Chali has converted into a waterfront area that serves locals as a recreational spot and tourist attraction, a reminder of the past.

5.3 PEKAN RABU – A COMMERCIAL CENTRE

The market in Alor Setar sees itself as a vital location since it has evolved into a site where people conduct commerce and industrial operations (Shukri et al., 2018). Pekan Rabu is one of the Alor Setar Royal town's marketplaces that is easily accessible by foot. It was founded by the late Tunku Yaacob Almarhum Sultan Abdul Hamid, a prince from the royal house of Kedah,

as an impetus and encouragement for a broader spectrum of Malays to become more involved in the business. The prince proposed a weekly market gap on Wednesdays only, on the Kedah watercourse near Tanjung Chali, in the early 1920s, which also created the world potential to be accessed freely, thus cultivating the area along the riverbanks, deepening the trading activities, and attracting additional public attention. Several people considered the open-air market to be a good place for Malays to learn how to trade. Its popularity rose, and it finally became a daily market in 1932, when it was transferred to Jalan Tunku Ibrahim as an iconic picture of Alor Setar. (Shukri et al., 2020).

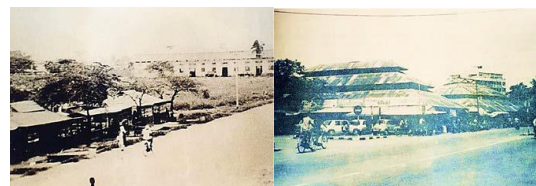


Figure 23 – Tanjung Chali, the first location of Pekan Rabu in 1905 (left) and Pekan Rabu in a new location, Jalan Tunku Ibrahim founded in 1932 (right) – Graphic adapted from Archive Kedah Royal Museum

Pekan Rabu provides a great example of how a place setting will affect human activities. With the location of place setting change, people activities also change along with its location. Since water transportation is no longer the main transportation mode in Alor Setar, their marketplace received an impact when the old location of Tanjung Chali is no longer suitable to act as a marketplace setting.

6. CONCLUSION

The findings from this exploratory review could conclude that the human activities could be changed according to the place setting (Brown et al., 2009; Yosef Rafeq Jabareen, 2006; Zeisel J., 1981; Jone C.J., 1970). All activities that occur in the town are followed up closely by the place setting, enabling the town planner to arrange or design those towns accordingly. This scene could be observed obviously when transportation mode was changed from water mode to land mode following latest technology or necessity as we know that water transportation is not reliable anymore. Moreover, some market places such as Pekan Rabu have been moved away from their

original location since Tanjung Chali are no longer suitable for daily market.

A good city planner or designer should study human behaviour or activities to produce a good city design. Listening to what people might need and consideration in preserving cultural activities and history should be practised from the very beginning of the design work. In order to find the qualities that make for a better city design, it's necessary to pay attention to the activities that people do in public spaces.

The existence of human beings and their daily activities in a city will measure the performance of a town, whether it is good or otherwise. Therefore, all place settings, whether it was an open space, a path, or a place, should coexist together to produce vibrant activities feel. A good city design allows or provides enough space for its folk to run their daily activities. For example, a good city should provide enough recreational space for their citizen to ensure a good life quality could be achieved among its citizen and their visitor or outsider. Besides that, a good city also could act as a medium to tell people its history through their last remnants of what our ancestors build, what they have gone through and what they already achieve before we came to this world.

Lastly, the conclusion from this finding is that all parties, whether it was outsider, local folk, government, local authority, architect, engineer, contractor, city planner, royalties etc. have their role ensuring our beloved heritage city will not lose its identity and value to ensure our future generation have a good opportunity to know their origin, culture, history, religion or tradition from this build environment perspective.

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