

Preserving Old Traditional Malay House: Case Study of Perak House of Rumah Kutai

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“Rumah Kutai” is one of the traditional Malay houses found in Perak. It began to exist around 1817 to 1900. This ancient house is located on the banks of the Perak River in the central district, downstream Perak and Kuala Kangsar. “Rumah Kutai” is different from other traditional Malay houses in Malaysia in terms of their construction, material, spaces and ornamentation. The purpose of this study is to discuss the importance of preserving the architecture of old traditional Malay house Rumah Kutai. This research method uses a subjective methodology that includes previous literature review of articles and reports focusing on the preservation of Rumah Kutai. Another method that have been used in this study is visual observation on site to identify the causes and solutions to overcome this matter. This paper will discuss about the historical elements of architectural found in this ancient house that need to be preserved. The findings from this exploratory review will conclude that the characteristics of Rumah Kutai have the potential to conserve and preserve for the future generation.

Keywords: Historical Architecture, Traditional Malay House, Preservation, Characteristics

1. INTRODUCTION

Traditional Malay Houses which refers to the vernacular dwellings of the old Malays, the ethno-linguistic group that settle down Sumatra, the coast of Borneo and the Malay Peninsula. Malaysia is a country rich in land, natural resources, human capital, culture, and history. It comes as no surprise, then, that so many dissimilar types of architectural styles can be developed in houses all over the country. Plenty of culture that adjacent Malaysian architectural history is something that valuables and should be preserve so that next generations will be able to admire, learn, and understand the significance of diversity and harmony.

Traditional Malay House that have traditional architecture, such as tropical suited roofs and

harmonious segment equipped with decorative components that are considered to still have great cultural value by most people in the region. Traditional Malay Houses requires significant preservation compared to modern construction such as in preserving its main material, wood, from the effects of tropical weather rot as well as termite swarm. This vernacular construction expertise are gradually vanished as Malaysia continues the industrial process and also requires high costs to maintaining and conserving the house. The Malay community which is synonymous with customs and art has showcased their skills and abilities in traditional house architecture. This common house construction method is carried out very carefully and emphasizes from site choice to house fixtures (Zulkifli, 1996).

Rumah Kutai is a Traditional Malay House in Perak. The structure of Rumah Kutai is historic and increasingly forgotten by way of the new generation. The locals in Perak themselves do no longer comprehend and recognize the existence of ancient standard Malay homes in Perak, or people outside of Perak. Generally, Rumah Kutai or 'Kotai' is a nickname given via the locals where the structure of the residence itself is very unique from different ordinary houses. The word Kutai or Kotai potential historic or old, so Rumah Kutai is a residence that has aged. Rumah Kutai is typically now not very well regarded when in contrast to other Traditional Malay Houses in Peninsular Malaysia. This is due to the fact the agreement of Rumah Kutai is restrained to specific areas such as around the banks of the Perak River, in particular in Central Perak, Lower Perak and also Kuala Kangsar. Other than that, the fundamental purpose it is not so well recognised is due to the fact its quantity is so small in contrast to other houses. In Perak Tengah and Hilir Perak, there are no more than 50 houses that still exist. Meanwhile, in Kuala Kangsar, in particular in Sayong, Kota Lama Kanan, Kota Lama Kiri and Menora, the variety does now not exceed 15. With a very small variety and its contract in sure areas, causing Rumah Kutai is no longer very well known. (A.H.Nasir, 1988).

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Malay Traditional House

According to (Ariffin & Talib, 2005), in Perak, they have a historic joint residence which is Rumah Kutai. As stated (Law.2000), heritage structures are tangible manifestations of town's recognition and a physical expression of the cultural heritage of the human beings of the town. The evolution and modernization of technology, the development of ordinary Malay houses have been forgotten and the property is now no longer occupied due to the determinants of death and resettlement. However, due to age and also typical features that make it more interesting to learn.

2.2 Architectural Concept

According to (Mitchell. 2002), the cultural landscape is a medium that can be used to recognize and acknowledge something by certain races. Therefore, the idea of landscape design owned via a race can be used as a basis to introduce their identity. According to (Abdul Hadi & Julaihi. 2010), implicit character is the foremost difference between the strategy of

standard Malaysian society with Western society in phrases of graph including environmental design. Malaysian Malays are no exception their cultural landscape and surroundings are hard to interpretation by means of researchers. In Malaysia this day, heritage buildings are considered as exceedingly precious assets due to their cultural significance and tourism prospective (Mustafa et al., 2011).

2.3 Architectural Influences

The geography of an area is something that needs to be taken into account in architecture. It is where architects can base their sketch elements. Some things to keep in mind when talking about geography are the topography or location of the location they want to build. This is one of the first things surveyors do, which is to consider the area first before building. Climate is all about the weather of a place. With this, architects have a priority to make difficult designs if the weather conditions in the place are harsh. On the other hand, a different diagram is made if the area is brighter than usual.

2.4 Culture Influences

Architecture is the manifestation and expression of Culture. Architecture is section of the identification of every neighbourhood and carries the cultural message of that community. Therefore, Architecture relies upon on the geography, culture, tradition, manners and expertise of the community as properly as its history. The structure and relationship of constructions and spaces act as a kind of 'cultural marker', which can describe the way of lifestyles and social repute of its inhabitants. There is no denying that the structure and format of the building, as well as its inner and exterior facades are amongst the manifestations of the civilization and culture of each community. The bodily characteristics of Architecture such as shape, size, decoration, and style of development etc. are practiced through the cultural machine of the society. (Koirala, S. 2016)

Architecture is the result of dynamic wondering growing spaces that are influenced through factors such as beauty, expertise and design. Arguably, the house defined by means of architecture is stable or no longer described with the aid of the wishes of today's society or the Culture of the inhabitants of that society. Culture is the result of journey from the past to the present.

3. METHODOLOGY

Why do historic constructions and environment have a motive for preservation? Because of Aesthetic value, Value for purposeful diversity, Resource value, Economic and business value, Value for continuity of cultural reminiscence and heritage, Value for environment variety and contrast, Value for architectural range and big difference (Fitch, 1990). To identify the preservation of these old traditional houses, on site observation is an appropriate method of determining whether there are any physically visible issues. The second technique is to focus on previous literature reviews to understand and identify specific points that occur at the historic building. In combined techniques, research can also mix qualitative and quantitative to find strategies for generating each breadth and depth in their findings and explanations (Allen, M. 2017). This study is to analyze previous research, look at areas of controversy and highlight feasible gaps. Throughout the observations, the factors that caused them to merge between the Physical Environment and the urban landscape were measured and created using adapted characters from the operational meaning (Ewing, R., & Handy, S. (2009).

4. FINDING AND DISCUSSION ON THE EXTINCT OF RUMAH KUTAI

4.1 SYSTEMS: Government Systems

Based on the visual site observations, why Rumah Kutai could not be extended to the whole of Perak was because it was closely related to the government system of government at that time where Rumah Kutai was only for members of the ruling government family and also big people who had close ties with the palace only. This Rumah Kutai can be considered now not far from the core of the authorities located on the banks of the Perak River, Lower Perak District, Central Perak and the Kuala Kangsar extension. In addition, the ninety-nine law that was once enforced through the monarchical device at that time also required all Rumah Kutai to be built, the Rumah Kutai format had to face the river bank which was the main communication route of the local community.

In addition, the rules in the traditional era of 'caste' and rank were one of the reasons why the Rumah Kutai could not thrive well.



Figure 1 shows abandoned of Rumah Kutai

4.2 MAINTENANCE: Expertise Skilled

Based on the findings and discussions studied thru studying materials, there are several elements that reason Rumah Kutai are now not well maintained and preserved. (Keromo, 2006) states that maintenance is one of the conservation activities. (Kayan. 2003) say, maintenance is the pleasant continuity in preservation and conservation operations. The combination of the two aspects is important because fact protection requires an aggregate of several movements that include the initiation, organization and execution of a collection of work to preserve the object or restore it to the situation in question (Wordsworth, P. 2001). In addition, it also hides the physical condition, maintenance can limit the risk of inconvenience in the operation of the building. Every constructing whether or not heritage or new, requires supervision and safety to restrict deterioration (Idrus et al., 2010) Maintenance is unlike from other things to do in conservation that need to be carried out on the modern-day foundation and not just relying on need. Skills that specialize in the development of historic constructions are very hard to find nowadays making the structure of buildings that have long been difficult to repair.

(Brereton. 1991) say all elements of heritage construction tend to rot however at increased or lower charges mainly based on age, function, location, excessive maintenance fees and lack of adequate protection funds. This is supported through employees stated to be on the authentic building materials more expensive than the new has made it tough to substitute in accordance to the unique design. (Amer Hamzah, 1994) states that in a normal case, nowadays the workforce involved in the upkeep of historic buildings

consists of unskilled employees and lacks knowledge of ancient building materials. Labor involvement is more to everyday work such as painting the exterior of a building. This also makes shop house proprietors uninterested in residing in old, excessive maintained buildings. This is the impact that we can see now the condition of Rumah Kutai. One of the motives was to beautify the price of the building and to protect funding (Preserve Our Heritage. 2004).



Figure 2 shows abandoned of Rumah Kutai due to lack of maintenance in Pasir Salak.

4.3 KNOWLEDGE: Next Generations

The architectural heritage found in an area will represent a reflection of the identity and culture of the region and the relationship between the past and the present. a continuing civilization. (Nasereddin, N. 2015). As stated by (Yahya.1996) dilapidated buildings that can be seen until now synonymous with historical evolution in a country. Ownership to an obscure generation also has a high adverse effect on their interests. The owner of the house finds it difficult to continue staying in their residence as they have to bear the cost of excessive maintenance and even repairs. This has an impact on visitors who come from outside areas to see the identity of Perak State which is becoming extinct unattended. It has been expressed as a link with historical elements in which architectural and cultural buildings are interrelated and neglected in the scope of conservation and preservation work. This is consistent and stated by (David, GS, 1984). In addition. If this Rumah Kutai is not taken care of, Perak will lose a valuable Identity in the future.



Figure 3 shows Rumah Kutai have been moved to UPM for preservation.

4.4 CLIMATE: Changes

High humidity, ample rainfall and consistent temperatures have been characteristics of the neighborhood local weather before it existed located on the equator. Wind typically has a very low mass. Generating a heat and humid climate at some point of the 12 months due to its place greater or less close to the sea and the equator (S. Hassan. 2001). The excessive temperature and humidity characterization of the Malaysian climate classifies it as warm and humid equatorial countries. The average air temperature in Malaysia is round 22 to 32 tiers Celsius with a small temperature day by day and annual levels (L. J. Yuan. 1987).

According to observations, lookup and reports, it indicates an amplify in humidity levels at some point of the year followed by using the look of clouds that frequently cover the water vapor content material in the air. Decomposition processes, algal growth and corrosion are effects of accelerating humidity in the nearby climate. This climate change is very likely inflicting injury to the structure, rotting and effect layout of local homes. Meanwhile, winds in local areas usually manifest at low speeds. This not directly offers comfort to the humans of the region. High rainfall stages are recorded in the course of the year with an common of 250 to 300 cm per year (L. J. Yuan. 1987). During the monsoon season, rainfall tends to be extra extreme. Spread the wind is more thorough due to the develop in surface top and lower above the floor due to friction in the area. The pace of the airflow is challenge to the outcome of friction which slows down the movement of air. Moreover, the monsoon season additionally poses a serious hazard due to the existence of strong winds.



Figure 4 shows the existing of Rumah Kutai that rotting and not well preserved

5. RECOMMENDATION

Based on the data collection, what can be concluded about this Kutai House is that this traditional house suffers from a lack of maintenance and also a lack of knowledge for the preservation of this Kutai House. Growing recognition among the public about the need to preserve the country's cultural heritage, many heritage structures in Malaysia are nonetheless in poor circumstance with symptoms of building damage severely threatening their survival (Kamal et al., 2008). This traditional house is able to preserve the history and identity of Perak for the younger generation to come.

5.1 Gazetted Historical Place

Conservation planning and clear guidelines are fundamental for the historic aspect structure of a heritage building; it is the excellent way to help and really helpful for the next generations. To find out about and pick out the traits of something will determine that a region is vital and the type of competition that is introduced is similar for its importance (Azmi et al., 2015). The predominant inspiration is being made through the authorities to gazette as a historical area that is over a hundred years. These matters directly attract the site visitors to feel the atmosphere and vacationer attractions as a historic place such as Kuala Kangsar. This can be used as an example of the Urban district vicinity such as ancient structures along the direction at Red-square, Melaka. Local authorities may additionally supply distinctive provisions to shophouses owners or tenants to hold the buildings to hold them from being severely damaged.

5.2 Responsible Parties

Using qualitative methods toward research allows researchers to understand the methods of how people describe and interpret their own experiences, to understand the definition of phenomena that involve them, and their journey to bring about their own experiences (Merriam, 2009). "The no -maintenance guidelines" (Idrus et al.2010) state that there are no unique recommendations on how to control the renovation work of heritage buildings and this results in poor maintenance work being carried out. The absence of standard recommendations as owner reference is also one of the causes of protection not being implemented according to the appropriate concept (Rahman, Ashraf, Akasah, Abdullah and Musa, 2012; Rahman, Akasah and Zuraiddi, 2012). Moreover, Abdul-Rashid and Ahmad, 2011) also show that there are no examples of tips in assisting maintenance workers, which in turn, leads to lack of maintenance policy for heritage buildings. (v-Sodangi et al.2013), who mentioned that there is no clear coverage regarding conservation work for heritage construction that can emphasize the importance of subculture as a key driver for maintenance planning and implementation.

"Improving conservation policies" (v-Sodangi et al.2013) emphasizes that a clear renovation insurance policy is necessary in linking the assessment of the cultural importance of heritage buildings to the implementation of conservation and can avoid lack of renovation of heritage buildings. Policies and guidelines in preserving heritage structures need to be reviewed and improved. Stricter insurance policies need to be implemented if current owners do not comply in maintaining their heritage buildings.

(Idrus et al.2010), who mentioned that proper maintenance methods for heritage structures can only be used when there are comprehensive recommendations and standards connected to act as a reference for construction owners. In fact, (Abdul-Rashid and Ahmad .2011) stated the need for indicators that can be used to assist in carrying out acceptable protection work and to achieve standardization.

6. CONCLUSION

Given that heritage conservation is considered as a new phenomenon in neighborhood architecture, it is important to highlight some of the issues and challenges

associated with conservation projects (S.N. Harun. 2011). Traditional Malay houses have personal values and importance, they need to be protected and preserved. Traditional Malay houses will decline over time and require constant care and daily maintenance to prevent defects and decay. The writer has proved in a statement, the absence of an attitude towards graph integrity between contemporary architecture and historic constructions will weaken the identity of the ancient area. (Noorfadhilah and Shamzani, 2013).

All protection issues that occur need to be studied first to find out the factors that contribute to the problem. Owners can leverage the findings in this study to assist them in managing and operating their buildings in a good way, especially in the maintenance aspect. This Traditional Malay House is a valuable asset for Malaysia and the neighborhood wants to appreciate and realize the important values that need to be overcome and passed down to future generations. In order to defend this house, the renovation work needs to be carried out properly and in an orderly manner as well as affecting the value of its originality. The factors that lead to the lack of standard home protection work need to be addressed. Standard guidelines on how to properly manage maintenance work need to be established. Everyone has a duty to take care of this precious building and not just rely on a particular party.

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