



HOUSING

FROM AN ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE:
Brunei As A Case Study

Prepared by
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ar Asiah Abdul Rahim



HC USING FROM AN ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE BRUNEI AS A CASE STUDY

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Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah Sultan
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DARUSSALAM

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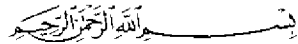
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FOREWORD



The quest for knowledge and learning should be a longlife journey. World communities today are continuously pursuing and competing to make new discoveries in various field of knowledge. It is certainly not too late for us to motivate ourselves by improving our own capabilities and competitiveness in this pursuit. Knowledge raises the status of communities enhance the nation and in that context Majlis Ilmu is the manifestation and intended to be the vehicle by which the importance of knowledge is realised.

This book one of the results of the previous Majlis Ilmu, is hoped to be of good use and a source of reference in instilling and enhancing awareness that knowledge is vital for the community and nation survival.

I wish to congratulate the committee members and all those involved in the publication of this book. It is hope that the good work and efforts will be well rewarded by Allah *Subhanahu wa Ta'ala. Amin ya Rabbal 'Alamin.*

[DATO EUSSOFF AGAKI]

Chairman of the Steering Committee,
Majlis Ilmu for the Celebration of the 60th Birthday of His Majesty
The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

Rabiulakhir 1427/Mei 2006.

PREFACE

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ، وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ
وَصَحْبِهِ وَمَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ ، وَبَعْدُ

It is thanks to Allah *Subhanahu wa Ta'ala* that with His permission, this book has been successfully published specifically for the *Majlis Ilmu* (gathering for knowledge) in Celebration of the 60th Birthday of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

This book was the result of a study conducted by Associate Prof. Ar. Dr. Asiah Abdul Rahim, which was presented as a working paper at the Islamic Industrial Design Workshop held on 26-28 Jamadilakhir, 1426, corresponding to 2-4 August 2005, at the International Conference Centre, Berakas, Brunei Darussalam. The workshop was one of the events at the Education and Professionalism Convention held in conjunction with last year's *Majlis Ilmu* in Celebration of the 59th Birthday of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam

In this book, the writer has carried out case studies on several selected villages, for example, Kampong Sungai Bunga, Perumahan Lambak Kanan, Kampong Rimba, Kampong Mentiri, etc. to conduct field studies and interviews and to analyse the plans of the houses studied and researched on.

What, according to Islam, are the features of a house? This book provides the knowledge, information and illustration to this question. It is hoped that the study and the views found in this book will be an inspiration to us as to what a Muslim house should really be like from the Islamic perspective.

Finally, taking this opportunity, I would like to express gratitude to the Chairman and the Steering Committee Members of the *Majlis Ilmu* in Celebration of the Birthday of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkihah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam for entrusting the publication of this book to the *Majlis Ilmu* Special Publications Committee.

I would also like to record our gratitude to the writer of the working paper, Associate Prof. Ar. Dr. Asiah Abdul Rahim, for her contribution and effort in re-editing the original working paper for publication.

Many thanks also to the Members of the Special Publications Committee for their hard work and cooperation that had enabled the publication of this book.

May Allah *Subhanahu wa Ta'ala* reward everyone with goodness in this world and in the hereafter. Amin.

[HAJI MOHIDIN BIN HAJI MUSTAPHA]

Chairman,

Special Publications Committee,

Majlis Ilmu in Celebration of the 60th Birthday of His Majesty

Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkihah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah

Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

Jamadiawwal 1427/Jun 2006

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Alhamdulillah, with Allah's blessing this short-term research can be completed for the purpose of Convention of Education and Professionalism in Brunei 2005 in conjunction with his Majesty's birthday. I would like to thank all those involved in completing this research project.

My deepest gratitude goes to the good office of Jabatan Perdana Menteri of Brunei Darussalam (JPM) especially to Yang Mulia Dato' Paduka Ahmad Bukhari bin PSRK Abu Hanifah, Secretary of the Steering Committee of Majlis Ilmu 2005, for giving me the opportunity to do this research in Brunei. My very special thanks goes to Yang Mulia Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Othman bin Pengiran Omar from Pertubuhan Ukur Jurutera dan Arkitek (PUJA) for his assistance. Credit also goes to Haji Mohd Talip Haji Karim and Madli Mohd Yusof from the Secretariat of Majlis Ilmu 2005. Many thanks also go to the Asst. District Officer of Brunei-Muara District Office, Tuan Hj. Jamain bin Haji Momin and his office for the generous help in the selection of case studies areas and in the distribution of questionnaires. Credit also goes to Jabatan Kerja Raya Brunei (JKR), Pertubuhan Ukur Jurutera dan Arkitek (PUJA), Housing Development Department (HDD) and the Town And Country Planning (TCP) Office for the valuable support and information, besides their time and contribution, during the interview sessions.

Special thanks go to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Khaliq Ahmad for his assistance and for the support from the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM). Further acknowledgement goes to all my research officers, Sri Wahyuni, Mohammad Fadzly and Nor Fazlina, for their dedication and effort leading to the successful completion of this research. Warmest thanks also go to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Saodah Wok, a lecturer at the Department of Communication, International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), for her help in

statistical work and analysis. Last but not least, very special thanks also go to the people of Brunei Darussalam, who have helped us in responding to the questionnaires.

May Allah reward all of you with kindness, goodness and happiness. I hope that this research and its findings will benefit the *ummah*.

ABSTRACT

HOUSING FROM AN ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE BRUNEI AS A CASE STUDY

Below are some examples of verses from al-Qur'an and quotations from *Ahādith* explaining the ideal Muslim home and Islamic neighbourliness.

The ideal Muslim home should be:

- *A place where there is the basic necessities of food and clothing as referred to al-Qur'an (2:233,235,236), where meals are eaten together and where there is hospitality and generosity.*
- *A place where the greeting of Peace (Salâm) is heard at dawn and at night and at times of going and coming.*
- *A place where love, tenderness and mercy is the norm for al-Qur'an says:*

وَجَعَلْ بَيْنَكُمْ مَوَدَّةً وَرَحْمَةً

Translated: "And We have made between you love and tenderness."

(Sûrah ar-Rûm: 21)

- *A cheerful place for "Smiling is charity."*
- *A place where the recitation of al-Qur'an is heard daily and where knowledge is imparted and pursued.*
- *A place where Šalât (prayer) is performed and everyone, young and old, has sense of time and place – time in particular related to the times of Šalât and place – determined by the direction of the Kiblah (Abdul Wahid Hamid, 1989, p. 90-91).*

In conclusion, the Islamic concept of space in housing should include: pedestrian, circulation system, privacy, building height, opening orientation, door orientation, high density and low rise, prevention of harming public rights, avoidance of causing damage to neighbours, avoidance of damaging neighbouring housing rights, avoidance of taking advantage of neighbour's property, providing specific room for bathing, house orientation, decoration, moderation in expenses, natural light and ventilation, design to follow local climate and cleanliness should be adopted as guidelines and standards. The feedback from professionals and users perception will also be considered.