

**A COMPENDIUM OF URBAN AND
REGIONAL PLANNING STUDIES
IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT
OF MALAYSIA**

MARIANA MOHAMED OSMAN
SYAHRIAH BACHOK
MOHAMMAD ABDUL MOHIT
MANSOR IBRAHIM



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INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

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CHAPTER 2

RESIDENTS' PERCEPTION OF SAFETY ON BACKLANES AT TERRACED-HOUSING AREAS IN KUALA LUMPUR

Alias Abdullah, Nurul Hana Mustaffa, and Muhammad Faris Abdullah

ABSTRACT

Terraced-houses are the most popular housing design in modern housing areas in Malaysia. However, due to their design, terraced-houses require back lanes, mainly for the purpose of ventilation. Nevertheless, back lanes also serve other functions including spaces for residents to interact and access for emergency and other types of services. Poorly maintained back lanes, however, are causes of concern to the residents. They may pose safety hazards as well as provide opportunities for criminals to break into houses without detection.

Keywords: terrace house, back lane, safety.

INTRODUCTION

The origin of linked or terrace housing design can be traced back to the Victorian era. During the period, a large number of people had moved into the new industrial towns to work in the mills and factories. To accommodate the surge in population number, rows of back-to-back houses were built to house them. The houses were joined together side by side in order to save land space. Each row was called a terrace (Barrow, 2000).

It is reported that terrace house design was introduced into Malaysia by the British during their early colonial rule in the country (Wikipedia, 2007). Since then, the design has caught on and seems to be the most preferred house design by housing developers in present day Malaysia.

Terrace housing is the most typical of the house design in the modern housing industry in Malaysia. Ahmad Sanusi Hassan (2002) states that:

'...the development of terraced housing is encouraging in Malaysia. There were about 456,7000 terraced houses in 1980, but by 1991 the number had grown to 1,074,000, representing 27% of the dwellings in Malaysia. The number increased dramatically in urban areas where about 40% of the total was terraced (house) in 1991. Thus, the terraced house represents the most common housing type in urban areas instead of detached and semi-detached, townhouse, townhouse link, traditional house, mid-rise and high-rise house type' (p.5).