

HERITAGE STUDY OF MUSLIM WORLD

ALI RAZA SOOMRO



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DR. ALI RAZA SOOMRO



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Nurul Hamiruddin Salleh, PhD

Department of Architecture
Kulliyah of Architecture and Environmental Design International Islamic University
Malaysia Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

ABSTRACT

Malaysia is one of the fortunate countries that have many heritage buildings which are of immense architectural and historical values. Statistically, based on the heritage buildings inventory study undertaken by the National Museum in 1992, it is found that there are more than 35,000 pre-war buildings (pre-1945) in the 265 surveyed towns throughout Malaysia. Although architectural conservation in Malaysia is a relatively new practice in the local architectural scene but it is gaining positive improvement continuously. This chapter explains the architectural heritage in Malaysia and is followed by the architectural conservation in the country. All conservation legislations and guidelines involved in the Malaysian conservation movement are also discussed. This chapter ends with some discussions on building conservation challenges.

Keywords: Malaysia, heritage buildings, building conservation, built heritage, heritage legislations and guidelines

INTRODUCTION

Heritage is defined as an inheritance or a legacy; things of value which have been passed from one generation to the next generation (A Ghafar, 2003) and countries or area's history and historical buildings and sites that are considered to be of interest and value to present generations⁹. It relates to the remains of the past, which arguably should be maintained for national pride and be cherished throughout the future generations. Heritage can be classified into two categories, namely tangible and intangible heritage that includes culture, artefacts, natural environment, historic sites and historic buildings. Malaysia is one of the fortunate countries that has many heritage buildings which are of immense architectural and historical values. Statistically, based on the heritage buildings inventory study undertaken by the National Museum in 1992, it is found that there are more than 35,000 pre-war buildings (pre-1945) in the 265 surveyed towns throughout Malaysia (Syed Zainol, 1995). Most of the buildings are shop houses, public buildings, bungalows and religious buildings that were built

⁹ Microsoft Encarta Reference Library 2005