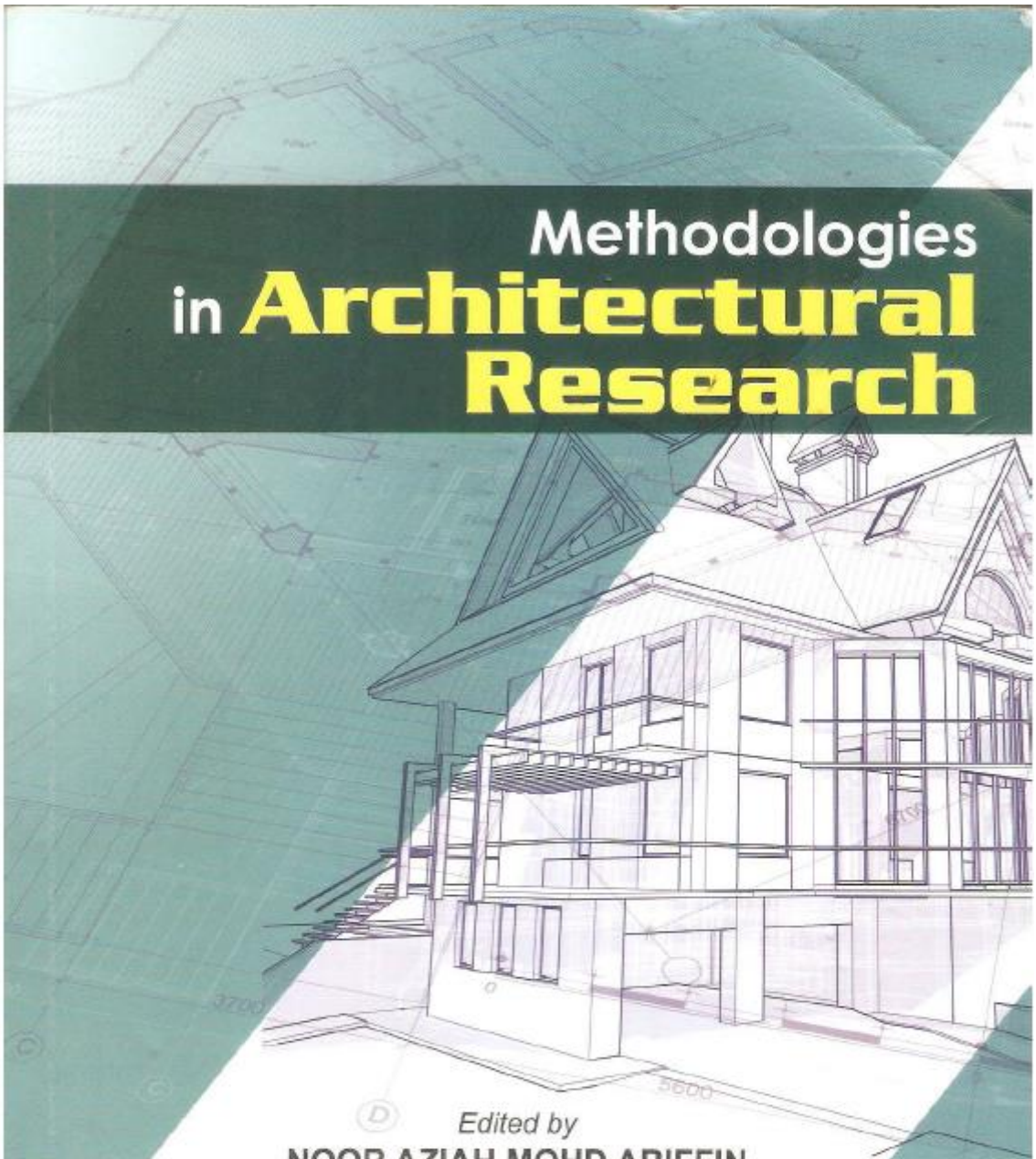
Methodologies in Architectural Research



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Chapter 5

Mixed Methods Inquiries in the Assessment of Development Guidelines for the Geodesic Dome Visitors' Centre at Pulau Payar

Zeenat Begam Yusof

5.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the methodology used in the in the assessment of the Federal Department of Town and Country Planning (JPBD) Island Development Guidelines and the impacts of Pulau Payar Geodesic Dome Visitors' Centre on the surrounding environment of the Marine Park. This research aims to understand the extent of the implementation of the JPBD Island Development Guidelines in the physical planning of the Visitors' Centre and the impacts of the development on the surrounding environment. This chapter explains the various methods used to obtain data regarding the assessment and the impacts of the Visitors' Centre. This research had used the qualitative method utilising several data collection tools such as semi-structured interviews, structured observation using checklist method, visual method and document analysis.

5.2 Background

Malaysia is a developing country with tourism sector being its second foreign exchange (Yeo, 1998). This industry is growing rapidly because it has wide range of natural asset such as marine parks, lakes, mangroves, limestone caves, waterfall, island and many others. Marine ecosystem is the most biologically diverse and productive ecosystem on earth among the entire natural assets (Ching, 1998). Tourism throughout the Marine Park islands in Malaysia has been increasing rapidly over the last decade and is set to increase further in the coming decades (Dirhamsyah, 2005).

There are seven Marine Parks in Malaysia. Four of them are located in Peninsular Malaysia such as Pulau Redang Marine Park (Terengganu), Pulau Tioman Marine Park (Pahang), Pulau Payar Marine Park (Kedah) and Mersing Marine Park (Johor). All these Marine Parks were established in 1994 under the Establishment of Marine Parks