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URBAN MASJID : THE HEART AND SOUL OF JOHOR BAHRU (MASJID AL-ATTAS)

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ABSTRACT

Urban Masjid is a new concept that will give more space and facilities to tackle current situation faced by Muslim who lives in a city area. This concept is proposed to be implemented in Masjid Al Attas in Johor Bahru, Malaysia to enhance the Masjid spaces and its functions, as well as to serve the architectural and social needs.

INTRODUCTION

Masjid Al Attas is located at the city of Johor Bahru, Malaysia. Johor Bahru is the central business district and the state capital of Johor. The city is Malaysia's 'Southern Gate Gateway' that receives 60% of foreign tourists. The site for the masjid is at the corner of Jalan Wong Ah Fook and Jalan Gereja. On the site is

the 'old Al-Attas' masjid that is currently inadequate in terms of space and facilities to accommodate the needs of the people. Hence, there is a dire need to provide an adept facility to tackle the present situation. The masjid is sited in a high density area that is surrounded by high-rised buildings with heavy traffic on the adjacent roads. The people in the surrounding are multiracial with multicultural values conducting economic activities such as financial services, commerce and retail, arts and culture, and hospitality. The development of the masjid aims to serve the architectural and social needs. The facilities provided by the masjid will accommodate the functions of ibadah, recreational centre, educational, economic, welfare and security.

The conceptual idea for the masjid is inducted from sentence 109 in Surah Yusuf. The keywords are extracted from the Ayah are REVELATION + EXPLORATION + NATURE + UNITY + SACRED

“And We sent not before you (as messengers) except men to whom We revealed from among the people of cities. So have they not travelled through the earth and observed how was the end of those before them? And the home of the Hereafter is best for those who fear Allah; then will you not reason?” (12:109)

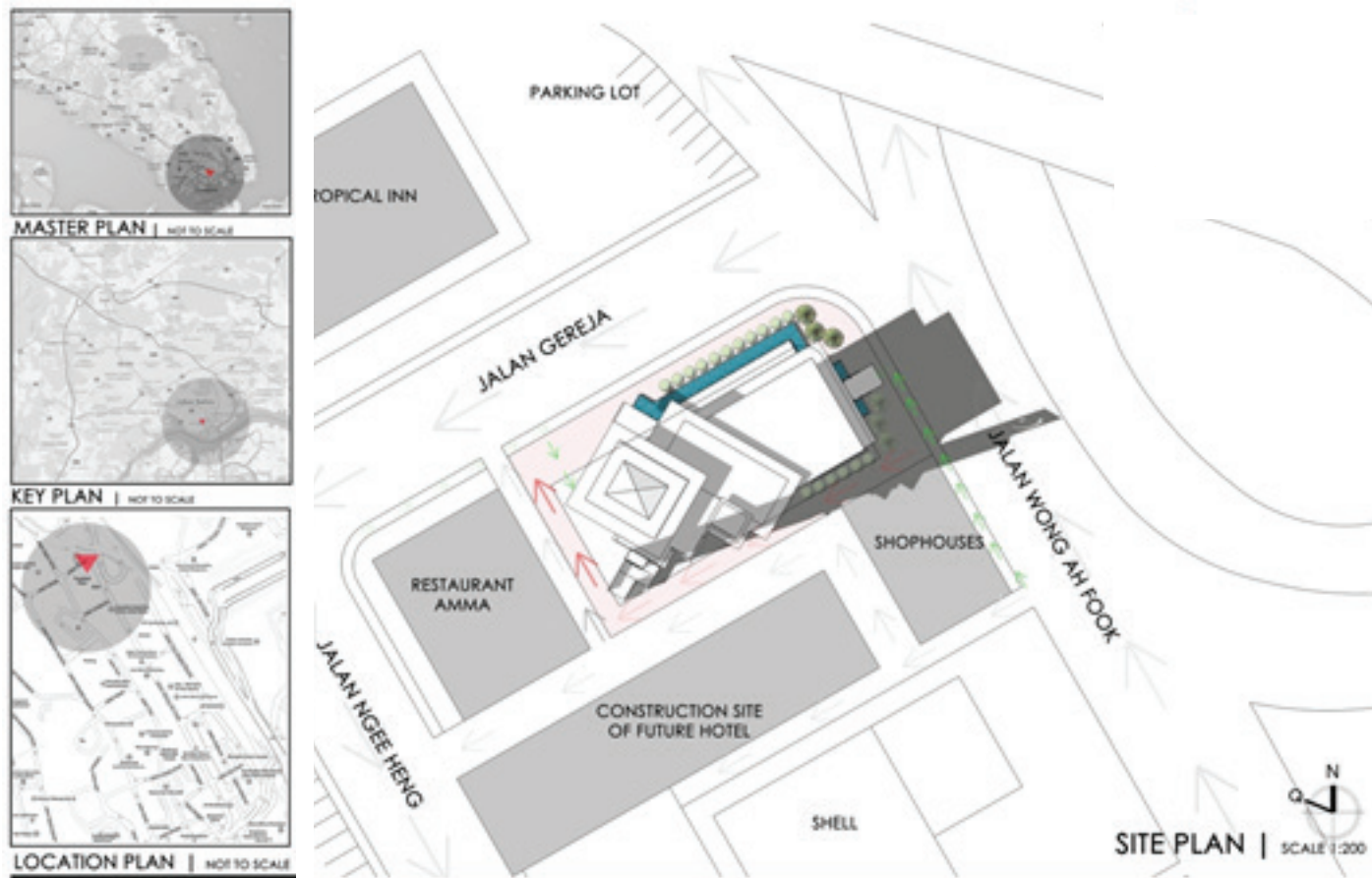


Figure 1 Site Plan



Figure 2 Floor Plan



Figure 3 Ground Floor Plan

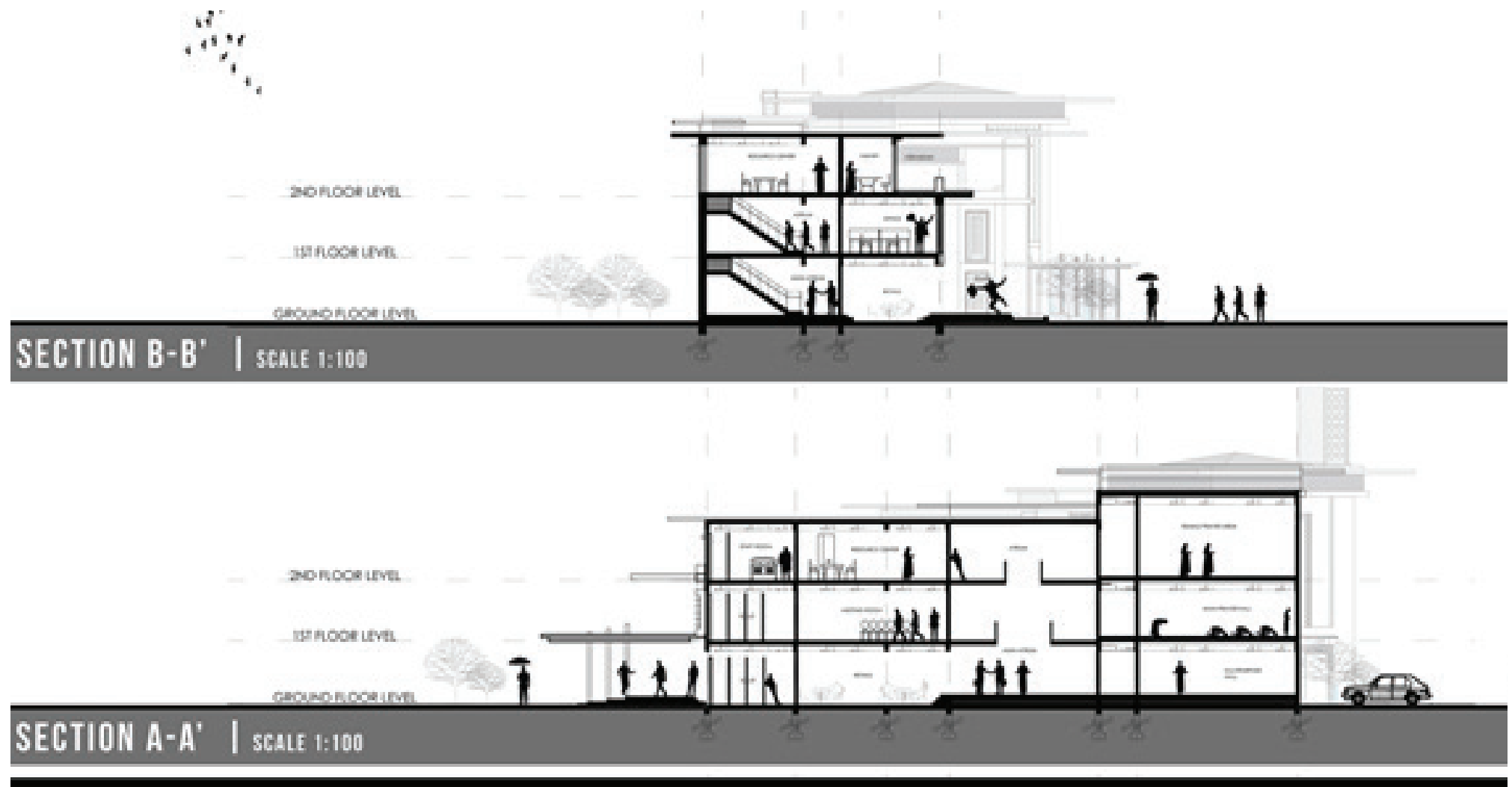


Figure 4 Section A-A' and B-B'

CONCLUSION

The masjid will be a place of REVELATION in realising the concept of '*hablunminallah*' and understanding the duty of oneself as a khalifah; EXPLORATION in search of the meaning of Islam; incorporating the element of NATURE and gain advantages through sustainable strategies; creating and providing spaces for people to interact in UNITY and above all emanating the spiritual sense of SACREDness of Islam as the true religion. The masjid will bring people from the surrounding areas; especially people who are travelling and working and accommodate their necessities.

The design approach is simple with a basic play of geometrical shapes. The utilization of simple forms in the design symbolized the humbleness and submission towards the Creator. Square as a simple and pure form is the perfect form to convey the purity of faith. Even in the earliest mosques the shape of the building based on the square or a regular planning from where everything is seen as equal since we are equal in the eyes of Allah. The prayer hall is rotated from the based grid toward the direction of the Qiblat creating a hierarchy of the overall planning.

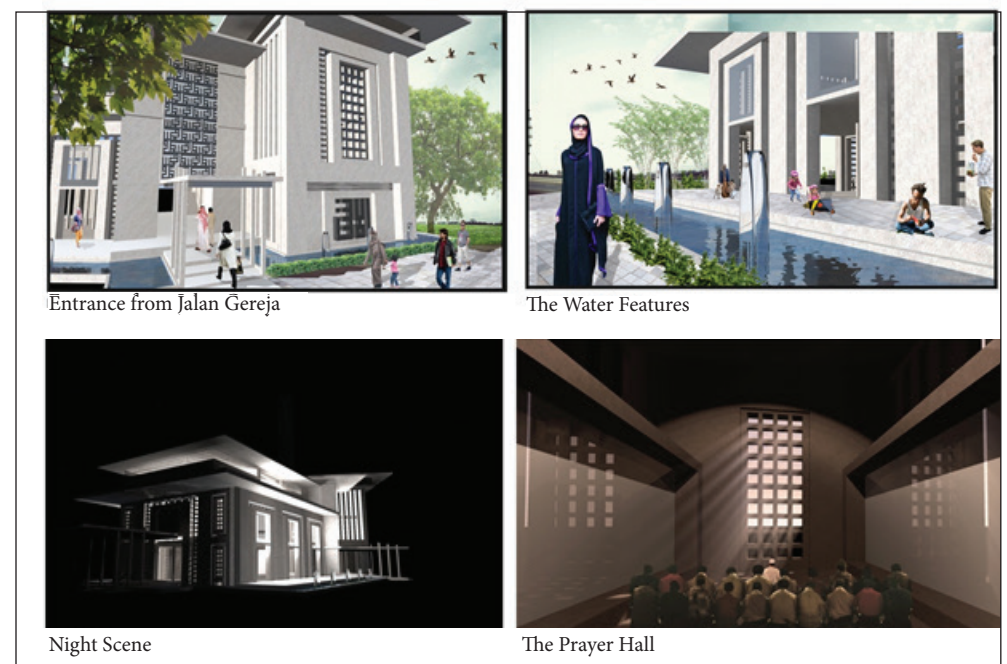


Figure 5 Proposal of Areas at the Masjid Al Attas

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Figure 6 & 7 Perspective Views