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A HISTORIC WATERFRONT REVITALISATION PROJECT IN TANJUNG EMAS, JOHOR

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ABSTRACT

This project addresses the importance of public open spaces in supporting the revitalisation of historic waterfront development along Tanjung Emas, Muar, Johor. At the domestic level, this place is popular as it attracts many visitors, particularly on weekends. Its location in the Royal Town of Bandar Maharani; thus, it plays an essential role in creating a catalyst for a sharp image of urban design elements.

The distribution of many historical buildings such as Masjid Sultan Abu Bakar, Muar High School, and Muar District Court, reflecting the influence of colonial architecture adds to its colourful and vibrant image of an old town. Hence, the proposals which mainly cover the public open spaces along Tanjung Emas are expected to revitalise the image of Bandar Maharani. The projects involve mainly the uplifting the facilities of the children playground, provision of the water fountain, open theatre, pavilion, and floating café.

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

According to Anola (2009), a waterfront area is part of a town located next to water elements such as a river or sea. Presently, it can be seen that many urban waterfronts throughout the world are facing deteriorated condition due to several environmental, social, and economic pressures. In many developments of human settlements, the waterfronts are considered as the most attractive water features in enhancing the image of urban design.

Many scholars and organisations suggest that the combination of physical, social, economic and environmental problems were occurred in waterfronts development (IBI Group (2013), Rukiah and Zainora (2012), and Hoyle (2001e). On the social aspect, the rapid urban development has destroyed many cultural and old buildings or places in waterfronts (El Deeb, AbelGalil, and Sarhan (2011). Therefore, this project at Tanjung Emas relates to the enhancement of the overall public open spaces located along the waterfront of Sungai Muar. The present conditions face several problems that require improvement works to sustain the development of the waterfront.

METHOD / PROCEDURE

This project focuses on the topic of improvement of public open spaces located along the waterfront of Tanjung Emas. The study involved primary and secondary data collection on-site. Site fieldwork was conducted to gather the information, particularly on its site strengths and weaknesses. Data for was collection covering the aspects of urban design, land use, and open space. Besides, secondary data was obtained, especially from the Planning Unit of Muar Municipal Council. After the analysis stage, the formulation of the development concept and strategy was followed to complete the work. Lastly, some detailed proposals were suggested, giving some workable illustrations that could assist the authority to plan and design the development of the waterfront at Tanjung Emas.



Figure 1 Site Plan of study area

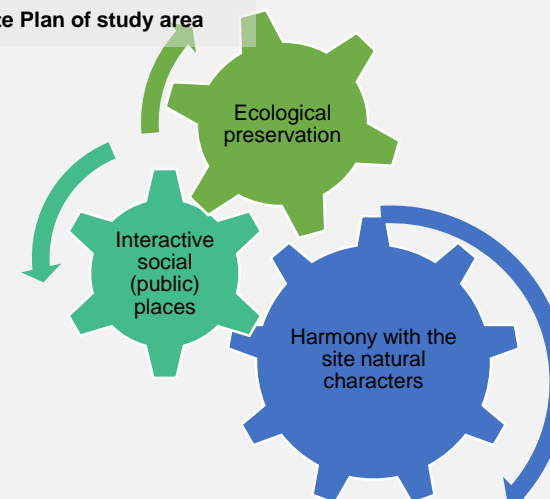


Figure 2 Development concept

CONCEPTUAL PROCESS, PROCEDURE AND SCHEMATIC

CONCEPT OF OVERALL PROPOSED DESIGN

The proposed projects take advantages of the strategic location of the waterfront concerning other environmental consideration such as the existence of the river water, and the vegetation of the site. The facelift of Tanjung Emas waterfront is anticipated can boost the local tourism sector in Muar.

This project improves the present condition of children playground by elevating its image.

The hard landscape elements will reflect the modern design yet maintain the its original concept as Bandar DiRaja. Meanwhile, more soft landscape will be planted for greenery areas.

- ❑ To create new walkways and livable environment.
- ❑ To act as a vibrant and interesting park
- ❑ To enhance the quality of facilities
- ❑ To children friendly playground.
- ❑ To make it a desirable place to spend time with family and friends.
- ❑ Encourage social interaction among community



Figure 3 Conceptual idea of proposed Tanjung Emas waterfront facelift project

PROPOSED DESIGN #1 PARK AND PLAYGROUND



Figure 4 Project #1: Illustration of Proposed park and children playground

PROPOSED DESIGN #2 OPEN THEATRE

The refurbishment work of open theatre is proposed to complement the overall new image of Tanjung Emas waterfront development project. The new setting of the theatre compliments the image of Bandar DiRaja. This place is suitable to hold cultural performance. It has terrace seating areas and large open space to occupy audience. The theatre leaves some natural grassy areas to be more environmental friendly.



Figure 5 Project #2: Proposed open theatre



Figure 6 Proposed open theatre and Aerial view

- The visitors can watch various traditional and modern performances while relaxing with the open air surrounding.
- To design an architectural feature that are visually pleasant.

PROPOSED DESIGN #4 WATER FOUNTAIN & PROJECT #6 WALKWAY

The projects of water fountain and walkway integrate the elements of urban design in a waterfront development. The creation of some artificial water bodies within the whole waterfront areas creates cooler environment. In addition, the improved softscape and hardscape features will enhance the new image of this waterfront. It is anticipated that more visitors will come to this place, once the new physical and infrastructure works taken place.

- To decorate the urban park with soft features.
- To give a sense of welcoming to the visitors and tourists.
- The fountain creates a relaxing atmosphere to the people and the environment.
- The fountain generally has the ability to increase the surrounding environmental quality.



Figure 7 Project #4: Proposed water fountain



Figure 8 Project #6: Proposed walkway enhancement



Figure 9 Aerial view of the proposed water fountain



Figure 10 Project #7 Proposed Pavilion

PROPOSED DESIGN #9 FISHING WALKWAY



Fishing walkway is a over-hanged bridge, allowing the visitors to be 'standing' on Sungai Muar. It also has some artificial beach extending to the riverside. This proposed fishing walkway is expected to attract visitors and also strengthened the urban design image of this area.



Figure 11 Project #9: Proposed view of fishing walkway

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PROPOSED DESIGN #7 PAVILION

Meanwhile, the proposed Project #7 on development of pavilion is expected to connect the walkway along the waterfront development. The combination of wooden and brick structures compliment to the overall environment of this place.

PROPOSED DESIGN #8 FLOATING CAFE

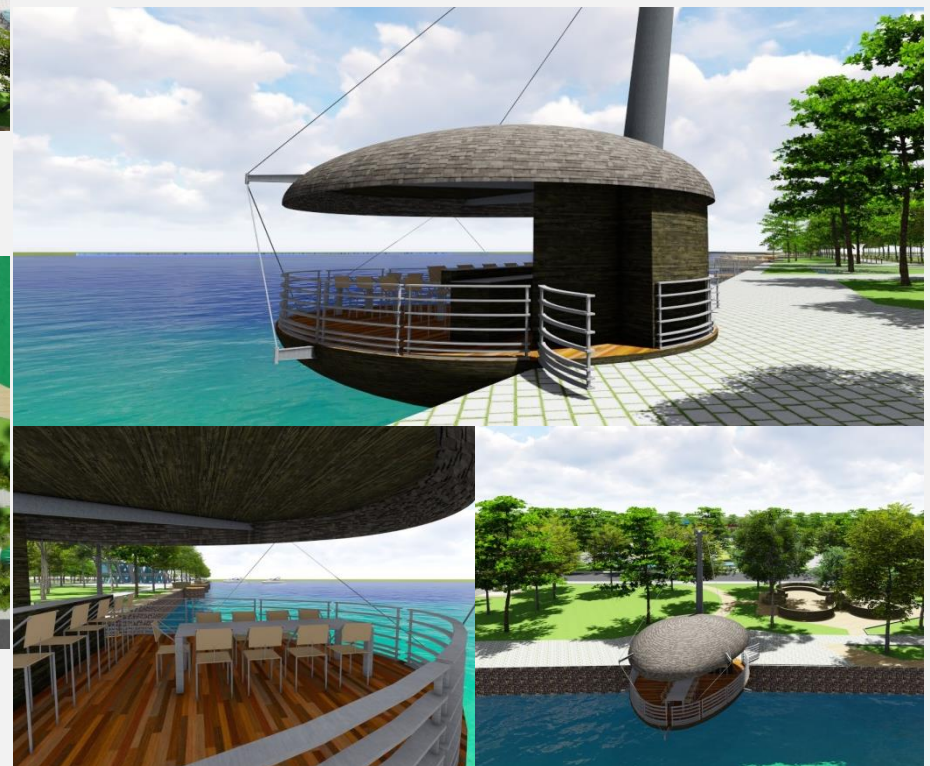


Figure 12 Project #8: Proposed floating cafe

On the other hand, Project #8 the floating café is proposed to be attached to the proposed pavilion. This concept of floating café allows visitors to have a cup of coffee while enjoying the view of the estuary of Sungai Muar. The following objectives are intend to be achieved from the project:

- To design an architectural feature that are visually interesting.
- To boost the business activities.

CONCLUSION

Overall, the city of Muar town can be improved through sustainable waterfront development. This should get participation from many aspects such as green areas and public spaces, heritage buildings, and efficient transportation system, community involvement, and environmental conservation. This paper addresses the reliable proposals for enhancing the image of urban design of Tanjung Emas taking advantage of the availability of Sungai Muar along its waterfront.

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