

## EDITORIAL

Assalamu'alaikumwarahmatullahiwabarakatuh

As in the previous issue 2 of Volume 5, 2023, the publication presented 13 papers addressing numerous subjects, challenges and solutions in the form of design concepts pertaining to the built environments. In this first issue of Volume 6, 2024, the publication presented 9 papers dedicated to case studies comprising academicians, final year studio projects and the design thesis of the students guided and supervised by the lecturers.

The first paper, Mangrove Ecotourism and Conservation Centre at Pulau Ketam, Klang, Selangor by Muhammad Syazwan Zakaria and Zeenat Begam Yusof. The paper discussed on the lack of awareness of the mangrove ecosystem and its potential benefits among the inhabitants of Pulau Ketam, in Klang. This project aims to create an ecotourism mangrove and conservation centre focusing on sustaining the future of the mangrove in Malaysia and experimenting with the mangrove potential through educative, recreational, and research approaches. The research methodologies adopted for this study are literature review, in-depth interview, case studies, and precedent studies. The proposed site is located at Pulau Ketam, Klang and was chosen due to the depletion of the mangrove area which needs to be revived urgently.

The second paper entitled Revitalizing Community with Traditional Design: Outlook Platform, Entrance Archway and Bridge Railings at KAED Malay Heritage Living Lab by Nur Aqilah Alia Mohamad Tajulddin Shah, Nur Ulfah Awatif Umairah Alias, Tan Chin Keng, Azrin Mohd Din, Fadzidah Abdullah and Aida Kesuma Azmin. This project intends to enliven and give back the sense of belonging to community through a familiar setting of the local Malay traditional elements. The ultimate goal of this project is to propose a design of an outlook platform, an entrance archway and bridge railings at the KAED Malay Heritage Living Lab at IIUM. This project is in line with the second mission of IIUM which is to emphasize sustainable development in Malaysia and the Muslim world.

As for the third paper by Ahmad Faisal Abdul Jamil and Aliyah Nur Zafirah Sanusi entitled The Paddy Innovation Centre at Simpang Empat, Perlis. The paddy sector is crucial in Malaysia, accounting for around 300,500 hectares of rice production. However, the sector must improve in order to become self-sufficient in rice production. Currently, Malaysia relies on rice imports to meet national food security needs. The paddy innovation center aims to enhance the quality and quantity of local paddy production, by introducing innovations in the paddy industry and integrating the farming community into a collaborative laboratory environment with researchers. Additionally, it aims to raise awareness and engagement among farming communities and attract the younger generation to participate in the process and improve the paddy industry in Malaysia.

The fourth paper by Muhammad Syakir Baharuddin and Norwina Mohd Nawawi entitled A Curation of Hope: Malaysia's East Coast Regional Cancer Centre. Malaysia's East Coast Regional Cancer Centre (ECRCC) endeavours to establish a novel facility dedicated to addressing the comprehensive needs of cancer patients and their families, extending beyond mere medical treatment. ECRCC seeks to provide essential emotional and psychological support to cancer patients and their families. Exploratory research from design precedent, technical case studies and a detailed understanding of the operational requirements of the centre were conducted. The ECRCC aspires to establish a compassionate and well-equipped space and facilities that attends to the multifaceted needs of cancer patients and their families, fostering emotional well-being, offering accurate information, and creating a supportive community.

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The fifth paper entitled Soft Shell Crabs Eco-Tourism Centre in Kuala Gula, Perak by Nur Farahadlin Adlan and Zeenat Begam Yusof. The paper discussed on the issue of depletion of mud crabs in Kuala Gula Mangrove area in Perak that leads to a reduction in soft-shell crab numbers despite their high demand as a seafood source. The objective is to design an ecotourism centre focused on soft-shell crab production and mud crab breeding, while simultaneously promoting tourism and aquaculture. Data collection methods employed include literature reviews, site studies, in-depth interviews, precedent studies, and case analyses. Findings suggest that the site's proximity to mangrove forests, the natural habitat of mud crabs, makes it suitable for the construction of an ecotourism centre.

The sixth paper by Sali Amalia Razali, Aliyah Nur Zafirah Sanusi and Zuraini Denan on Redevelopment of Boat Terminal Kuala Besar, Kota Bharu, Kelantan: Sustainable Design Approach Using Mixed Mode System in a Designated Building. The paper discussed on the lacks on several necessary facilities, such as a proper ticket booth, a decent waiting space for passengers, a functioning jetty, an accessible public restroom, and a prayer room at the boat terminal. Additionally, some environmental damages have occurred to the river, such as erosion and low and rising water levels. Therefore, the intention is to redevelop the existing Boat Terminal Kuala Besar to meet the needs and demand based on the large capacity of the visitors concerning their comfort and safety through a sustainable design approach by using a mixed-mode system in a designated building.

The seventh paper entitled Redefine: Cat Adoption Recreational Park and Discovery Center by Mubarakah Jailani, Asiah Abdul Rahim and Zuraini Denan. The paper raised on the issue of overpopulation crisis in cat shelters in Malaysia. The research identifies three key contributing factors to shelter overpopulation: misconceptions about shelters, limited interaction opportunities, and inadequate ventilation creating unpleasant environments. Thus, the thesis proposes a prototype for cat adoption centre integrated with a recreational discovery park. This innovative design not only aims to provide recreational enjoyment but also functions as a powerful tool for social change. The research findings are valuable to architects, animal welfare organisations, and communities seeking to redefine cat adoption and address the shelter overpopulation crisis through innovative design solutions.

The eight paper entitled Rehabilitation of Perak Traditional House: Repurposing Rumah Tok Sedara Bongsu into Edutourism Centre by Muhammad Amir Nasrullah Zabidi and Nurlelawati Ab Jalil. The paper discussed on Rumah Kutai, an old Perak traditional architecture has become extinct due to modernisation and lacking proper preservation and conservation efforts. This study aims to revitalise abandoned traditional houses, notably Rumah Tok Saudara Bongsu in Perak Tengah, with a dual purpose: conserving cultural and heritage values and transforming them into Perak pottery educational and tourism centre. The study is significant to enhance the lifelong span of the house with proper conservation approaches.

The ninth paper by Wan Aisyah Aqilah Wan Ahmad Nazri and Fadzidah Abdullah entitled Culture Catalyst: An Architectural Design Exploration to Revive the Traditional Splendor of Besut, Terengganu. This research aims to speculatively develop a culture catalyst, by having design exploration to revive the traditional splendor of Besut, a city in Terengganu State, Malaysia. This architectural design exploration has the objective of bringing together the illustrious elements of Besut culture to be enjoyed by both tourists and local community. This cultural center is planned to be a waterfront gateway destination that will honour the local culture and heritage in accordance with the Besut 2035 local plan.

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