

08

RESTORING HISTORICAL CITY OF MEDAN BANDAR ALOR SETAR

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ABSTRACT

The proposed landscape architecture project aims to restore the historic and cultural heritage of Medan Bandar Alor Setar and its surroundings. Since 1735, Alor Setar has become the centre of administration, under the Sultan Muhammad Jiwa Zainal Abidin Mu'adzam Shah II (1710-1778). He was the nineteenth Ruler of the state of Kedah. Uniquely, Alor Setar is one of the oldest Malay Royal Towns located on the northern part of the Peninsula loaded with authentic heritage treasures. Due to rapid urbanisations, uncontrolled developments can affect the heritage assets of the site. The spills of development within the city centre have potential to change the site's historic and cultural identity. Therefore, the project proposes a restorative solution using landscape solutions to protect the identity of the place and its society with a concept of 'Intertwine of Remembrance'.

Keywords: *Heritage assets, Landscape solutions, Conservation and preservation, Identity and royal Malay town*

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INTRODUCTION

The project aims to provide a restorative landscape design using outdoor linkages within the Medan Bandar Alor Setar. The issues are due to rapid developments that have the potential to implicate the heritage assets of the site and its precinct. Secondly, lack of heritage management and maintenance also contributes to that. The circumstances can influence the sustainability of the historic and cultural identity of the Royal Malay Town.

It is anticipated that the landscape design can upgrade the site's accessibility, heritage authenticity and identity. Thus, the proposed landscape design intends to balance between the new and old developments. The objectives of the project are as follows:

1. To conserve the historical and cultural values of the site for future generations;
2. To improve pedestrian accessibility to Medan Bandar Alor Setar
3. To restore the heritage identity of Medan Bandar, Alor Setar

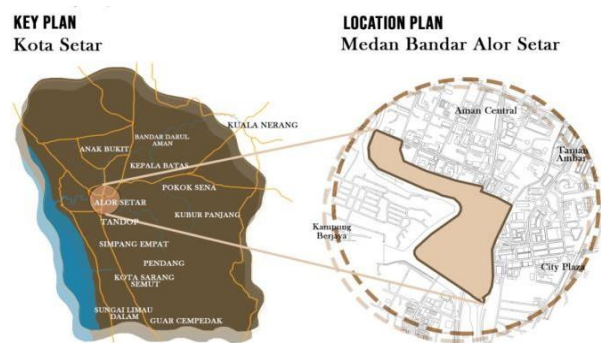


Figure 1: Key and Location plans of site

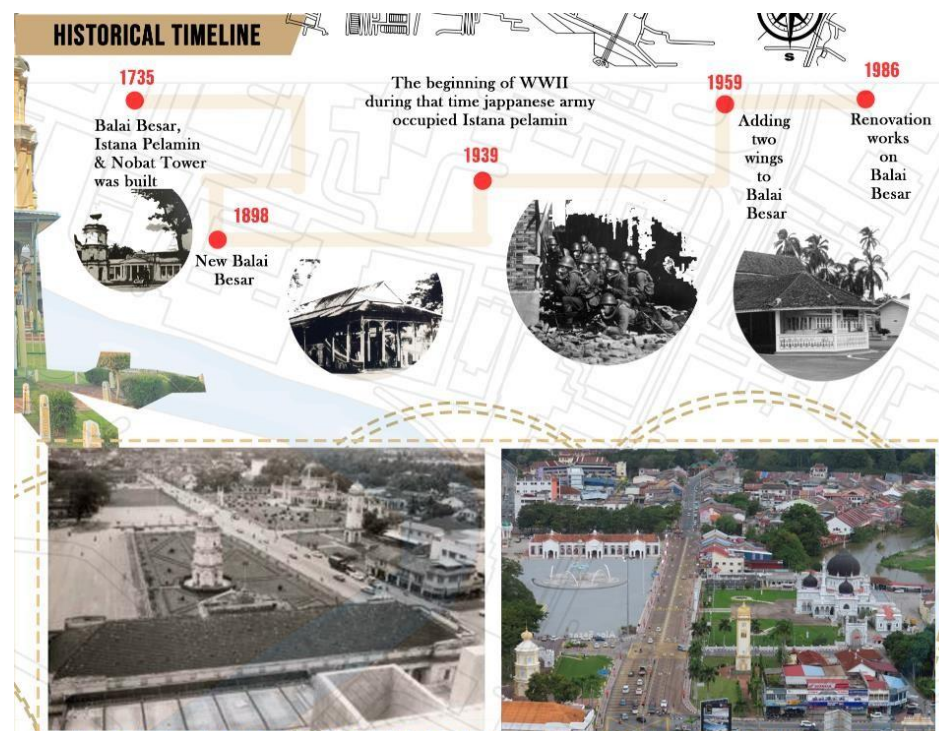
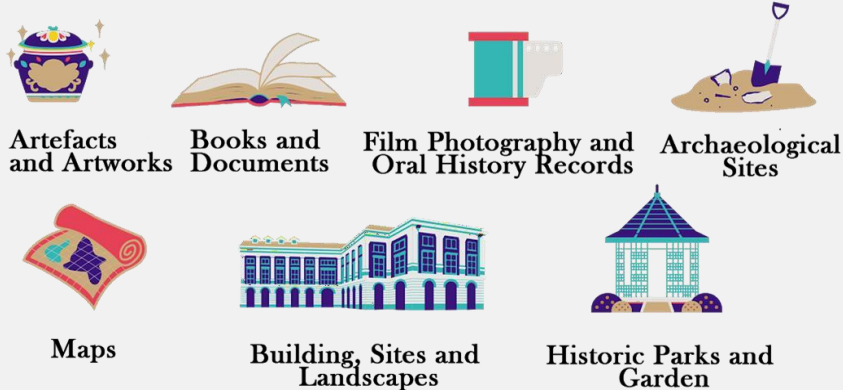


Figure 2: Historical background of site (Source: Archive Kedah Royal Museum)

LITERATURE REVIEW

Urban Heritage: Tangible and Intangible

TANGIBLE HERITAGE



INTANGIBLE HERITAGE



Figure 3: Tangible and intangible heritage

Tangible cultural heritage is measurable, which includes cultural landscape, historic monument and others similar to that. On the other hand, intangible heritage is unmeasurable described as social beliefs and practices transcending from ones' ancestors. Both tangible and intangible cultural heritage continue to influence the identity of a society. However, lack of appreciation, can implicate cultural heritage.

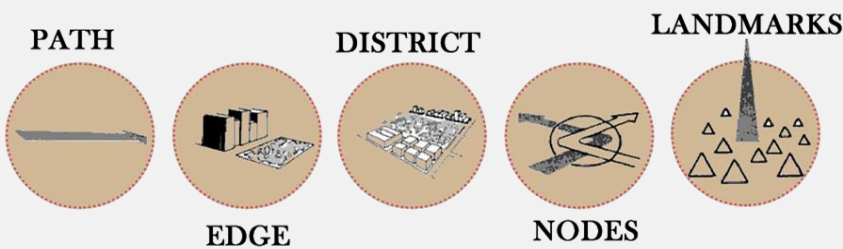


Figure 4: Town scape elements in urban design

Understanding the town elements is essential in the study of cultural landscape. Lynch (1960) comprehensively describes the issue in his book. For instance, the element of 'Place and Legibility' may trigger one's mind about an environment that he would want to remember and appreciate. The concept gives significant meaning and identity to a society. Every individual has different remembrance about his townscape with memories that may stand out more than others; different mental map, depending on the aspect of what interests a person.

Restoration

Returning something as nearly as possible to its original form or condition.

Historical City

Today's settlement is strongly influenced by the physical structures like monuments or buildings of the past. Historic city indicates significant human evolutions and identity.

Buildings and monuments • Streets, • Residents, • Customs, • Jobs, • Squares, • Fountains, • Arches, • Economic and social relations, • Sculptures, • Lamp posts, Beliefs and urban rituals.



1

PRESERVATION

To guarantee the sustainability of existing heritage assets

5 Strategies to Restore a Heritage City

5

RENOVATION

To upgrade the existing heritage assets through utilities, facilities and amenities

2

CONSERVATION

To adopt the best practices to maintain and manage heritage asset in good condition.

3

ACTIVATION

To re-activate existing activities by enhancing economic value for sustainability

4

ADAPTIVE REUSE

To guarantee the sustainable of built environment through minimum changes of heritage assets

METHOD / PROCEDURE

Checklist and Observation

While collecting the necessary data, a checklist of site inventory and observation mapped the existing site conditions with support of photographs .

Inventory and Analysis

PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES

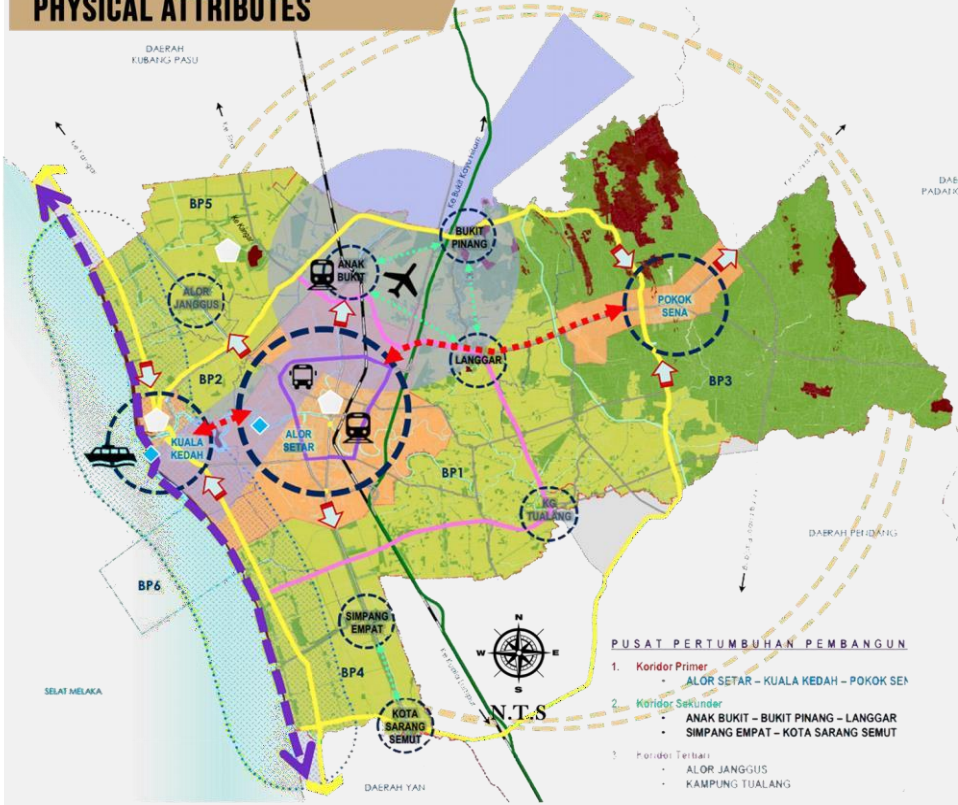


Figure 5: Site accessibility

SOLID AND VOID

The areas are occupied by social-economic and recreational activities; located next to the Menara Alor Setar.

Residential area at the river

Inappropriate to introduce tourism near the riverfront due to residential land use; others have potential

Medan Bandar Alor Setar create robustness where
A robust town centre of Medan Pasar Alor Setar with potential of communal space

Figure 6: Solid and void

LAND USE AND SITE CONTEXT

Source : Rancangan Tempatan Majlis Bandataya Alor Set

50%

Commercial

1. Pekan Melayu and Pekan Cina
2. Libong Kapal Business Centre
3. Teluk Wanjah Business Centre
4. Jalan Putera Business Centre
5. Jalan Gangsa Business Centre
6. Jalan Pegawai Business Centre



25%

Institutional

1. Kota Setar Police Head Quaters
2. Urban Transformation Centre
3. S.K.L (Chinese) Keat Hwa Selatan
4. Balai Bomba Daerah Kota Setar
5. Pejabat Tanah Kota Setar
6. Syarikat Air Darul Aman



15%

Heritage

1. Masjid Zahir, Alor Setar
2. Kampung Perak
3. Kampung Titi baru
4. Menara Jam Alor Setar
5. Rumah Tun Dr. Mahathir
6. Menara Alor Setar



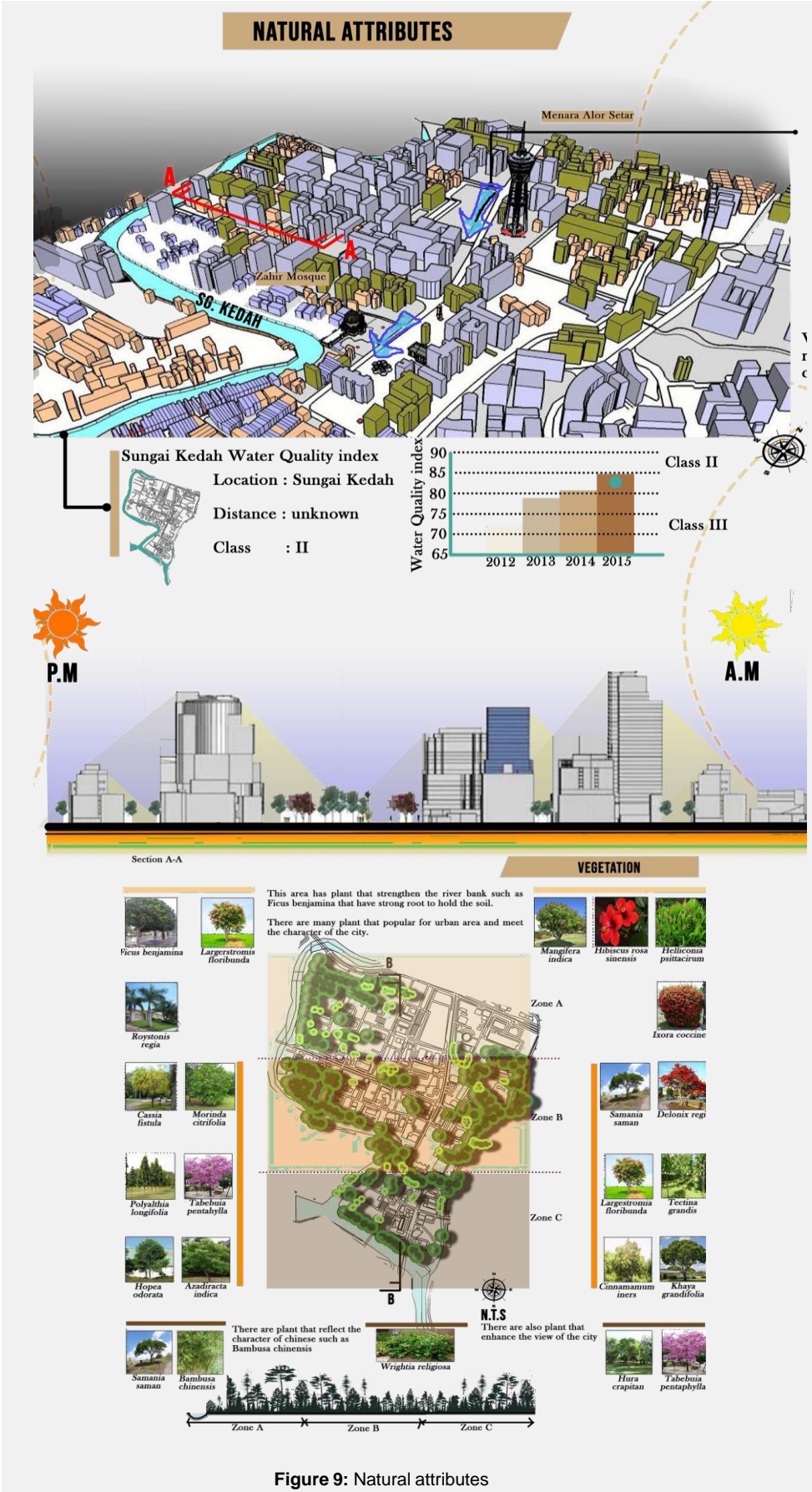
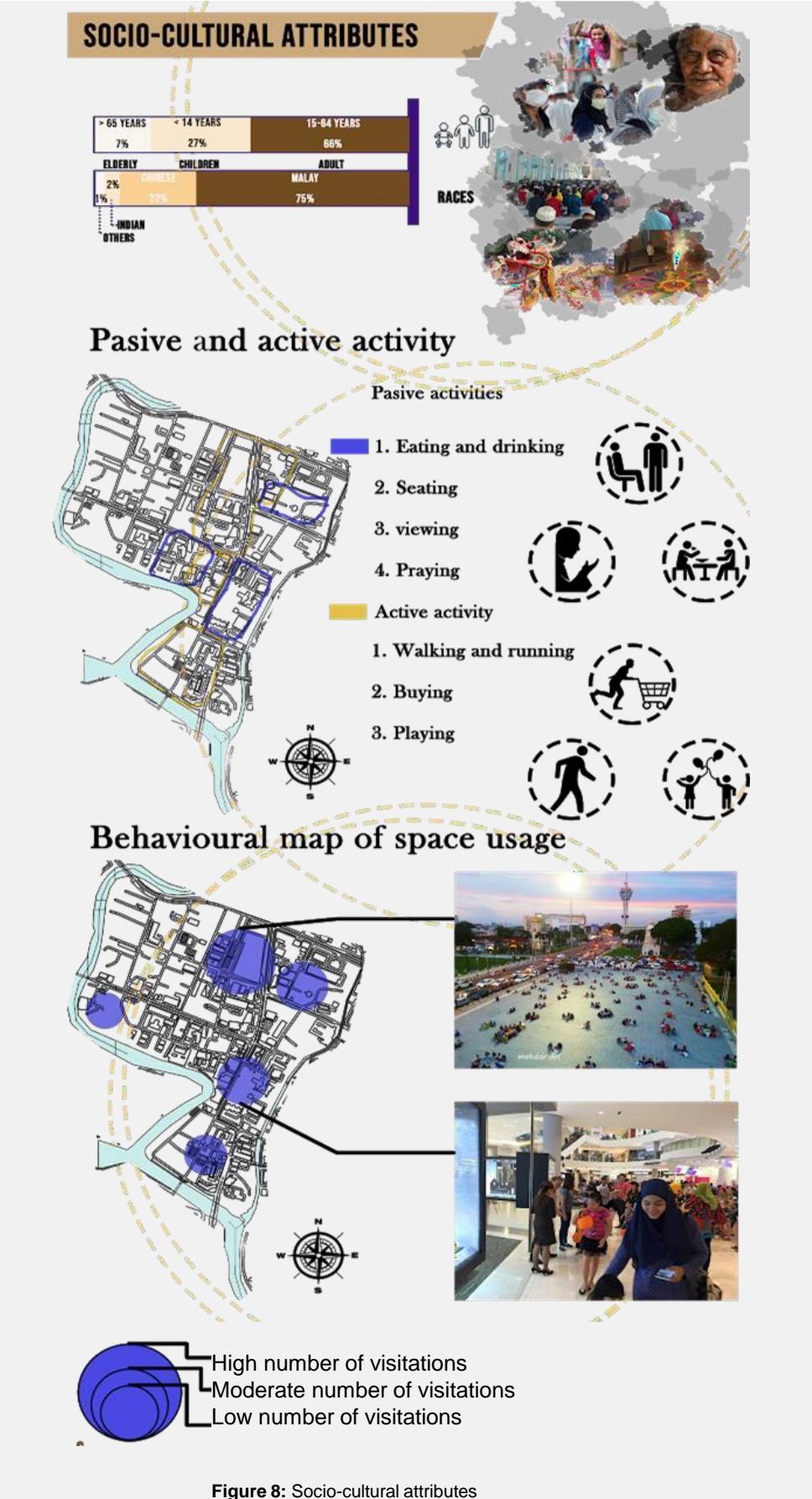
10%

Residential

1. Kampung Lubuk Peringgi
2. Kampung Perak
3. Kampung Titi Baru
4. Taman Tunku Habsah
5. Kuarter Penginapan Polis



Figure 7: Land use and site context



SITE SYNTHESIS

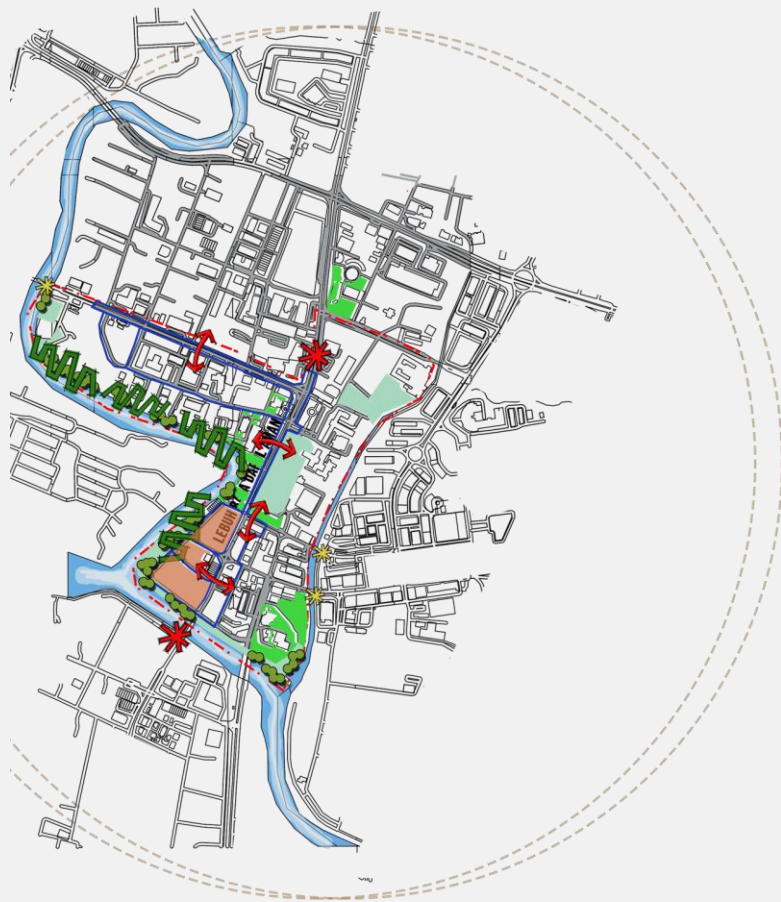


Figure 10: Potential areas for conservation and biodiversity park

Findings

Propose to link the outdoor spaces to the historical sites along Jalan Darul Aman using pedestrian walkway and bicycle lane. Some facades of old commercial buildings are in bad condition, due to flash floods effect. The area requires a sustainable landscape solutions to restore the existing heritage.

1. Walkable city

Connect all spaces and historical sites along Jalan Darul Aman by providing a connected pedestrian walkway and bicycle lane.

2. Riverfront recreation

The water body can enhance the natural heritage of the city; e.g. upgrading the river condition using riparian plant species can improve the water and visual qualities. One of the attractions of Sg. Kedah is the waterfront area of Tanjung Chali that has potential for a water theme park.

3. Restoration through treat prevention

Using porous paving materials can reduce the water runoff. Parking at the Dataran Masjid Zahir and other flood prone areas can be improved using similar materials. The approach can reduce issue of flash flood.

DESIGN CONCEPT

Intertwine of remembrance

INTERTWINE

Reuniting places of significant historical value with acceptable new developments.

REMEMBRANCE

Recalling the glory of the good old days

1 Loss of place character and culture.

Some of the local people not value Medan Bandar Alor Setar as a place that they can be proud of

2 Encroaching Development.

Rapid urban growth leads to the collapse of historic urban cores in large cities when urbanization occurs at a more rapid pace

To propose a landscape design that intergrates new outdoor spaces with old ones by sustaining the identity of the place and the people

ISSUES



AIM

OBJECTIVES



01 HISTORICAL

To conserve and preserve the historical values at the site while highlighting the architectural image around medan the site

02 LANDSCAPE

To connect the significant spaces at Medan Bandar Alor Setar become a new excitement for visitors.

03 PEOPLE

To design a landscape setting that represent the identity of Medan Bandar Alor Setar.

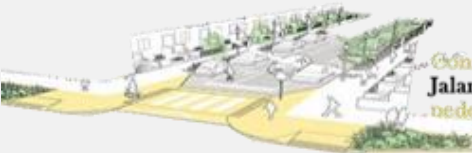
DESIGN APPROACHES

1 RESTORATION OF HERITAGE AREA FOR ATTRACTIVE PLACE MAKING

Restoring this heritage would sustain the Medan Bandar's historical and cultural values for future generations based on SDGs no. 3, 7, 13, 14 and 15.



WALKABLE CITY 2

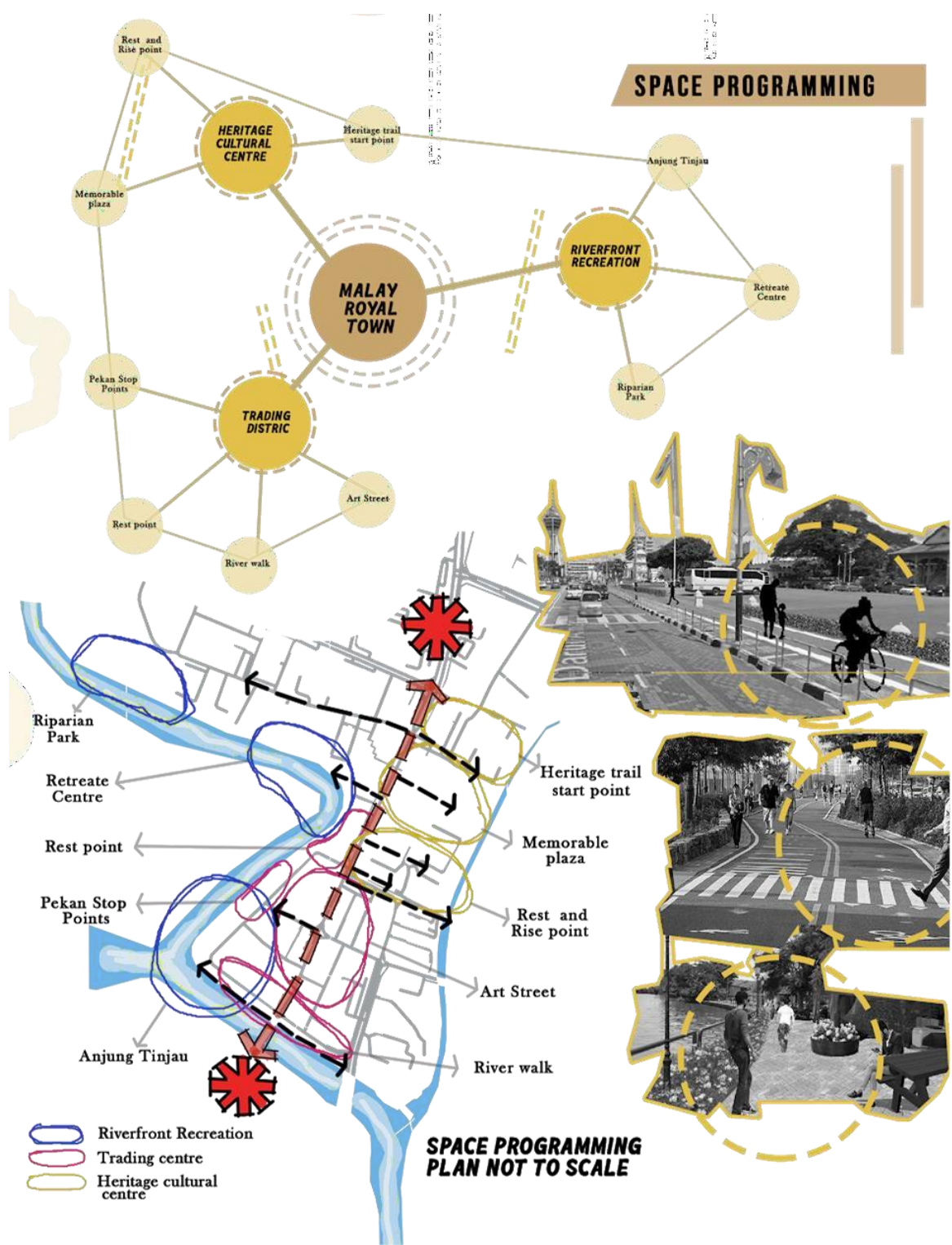


Connect all spaces and historical sites along Jalan Darul Aman by providing connected pedestrian walkway and bicycle lane.

3 RIVERFRONT RECREATION

This river also has a great contribution towards the city, redevelop the river with riparian planting can improve the the water quality and enhance the visual quality of this area.





The site can be the main spine connecting the nearby spaces. The schematic diagram is the outcome of design process.

Figure 11: Main spaces provide connectivity within the area.

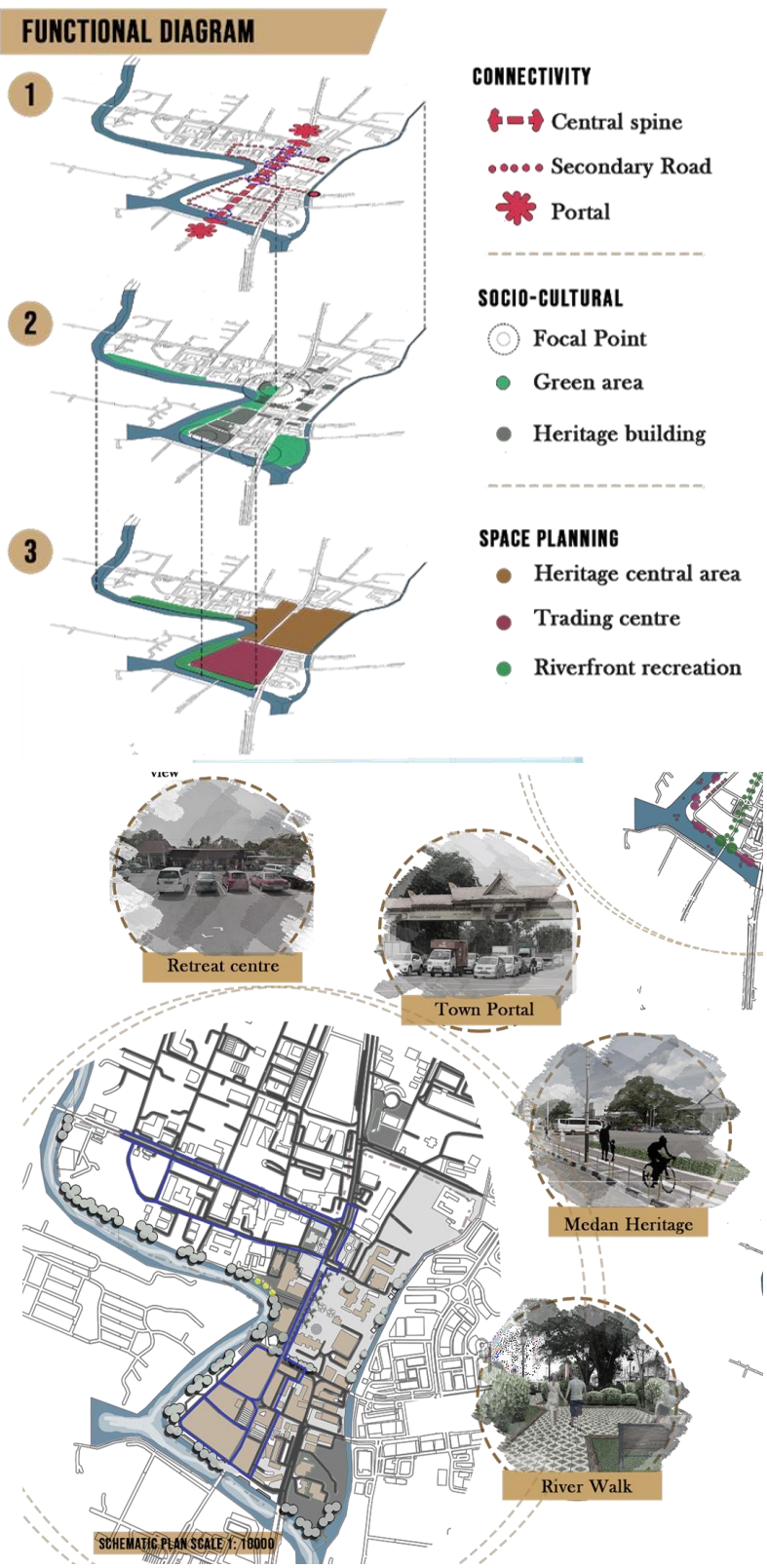


Figure 12: Schematic Plan

MASTER PLAN



Figure 13: Masterplan

INTRODUCTION TO DETAIL DEVELOPMENT AREA

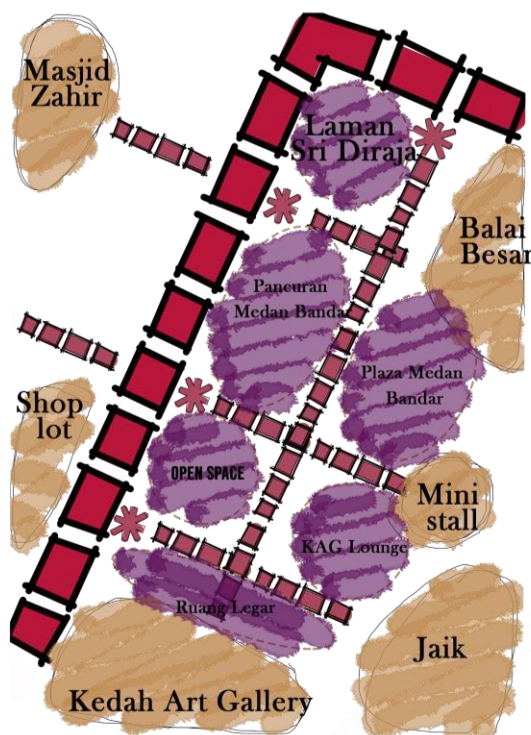


Figure 14: Detail Development Area



Main areas

1. Laman Sri Diraja
2. Bulatan Riadah
3. Plaza Medan Bandar
4. Pancuran Medan Bandar
5. Kedah Art Gallery lounge
6. Ruang Legar
7. Entrance



SPACE PROGRAMMING

AIM

To design a good landscape setting that connect existing heritage building while create spaces for people to visit.



DESIGN IDEA



Play area

Membran shades



Picnic area

New landmarks

CONCEPT



SPACE FOR PEOPLE

Space for urban activity by considering their current preference. This area will give them more facilities and more comfortability.

LANDSCAPE

Combine the heritage of sungai Kedah and Medan Bandar Alor Setar to create a better historical story.



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"INTERTWINE OF REMEMBRANCE"



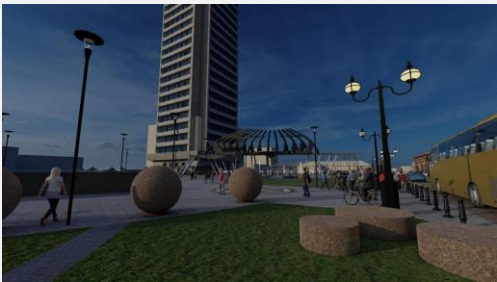
HERITAGE

To fully utilise the historical elements at the site. at the same time to preserve the value and its relation to the local people.

DETAIL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

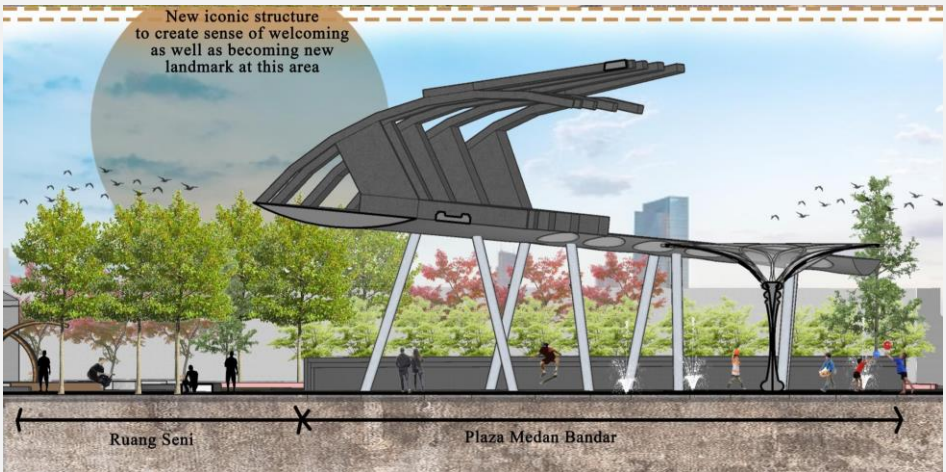


Figure 15: Detail Development Plan



The perspectives illustrate some design ideas; visitors can walk, seat, or conduct recreational activities.

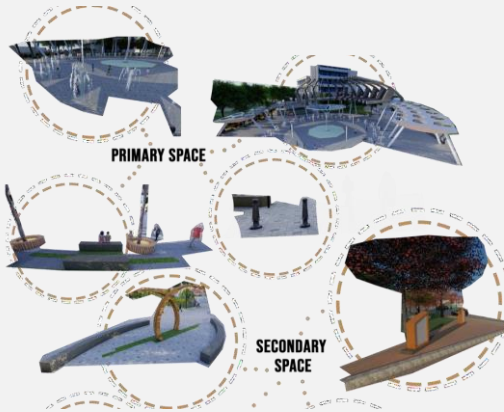
Figure 16: View at Sri Bungor



Sri Bungor proposed as the main attraction at the centre may become the new landmark to the Medan Bandar Alor setar

Figure 17: View of Sri Bungor

HARDSCAPE ELEMENTS



SOFTSCAPE ELEMENTS

PLANTING CONCEPT

BRIGHT IN CALIDITY

Cadility relates to hot weather experienced at the centre of Medan Bandar Alor Setar.

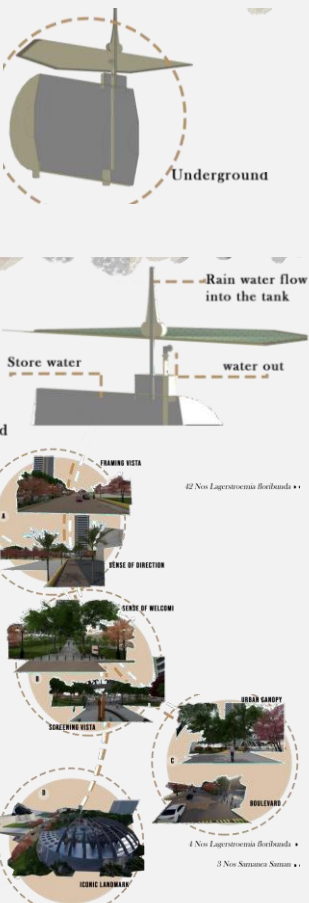




Figure 18: Hardscape and softscape elements

INNOVATIVE DESIGN IDEA AT SRI BUNGOR




Water Catchment

Tensile provides shade and rainwater catchment.




Water Catchment

Underground water storage is placed right below the structure to store rainwater with water filter.



Water Catchment

Solar panel on the surface of the tensile collects and stores energy for generator of water pump.



Water Catchment

An abulation water is pumped out 5 minutes before a praying time; designed as water feature

DESIGN INSPIRATION

Bungor Kedah is the official flower of the Majlis Bandaraya Alor Setar, Kedah



Lagerstroemia floribunda

Common name - Bungor Kedah.
The species belongs to the Lythraceae family. They are mostly found in the states of Kedah and Perlis. The Flowers are purple in colour and turn into white after a few weeks or so. The flowers grow in a bunch.

FUNCTION

Store rainwater, solar energy and water pump would start operation 5 minutes before a praying times. The mechanism reminds the Muslims who pass by about the praying times.

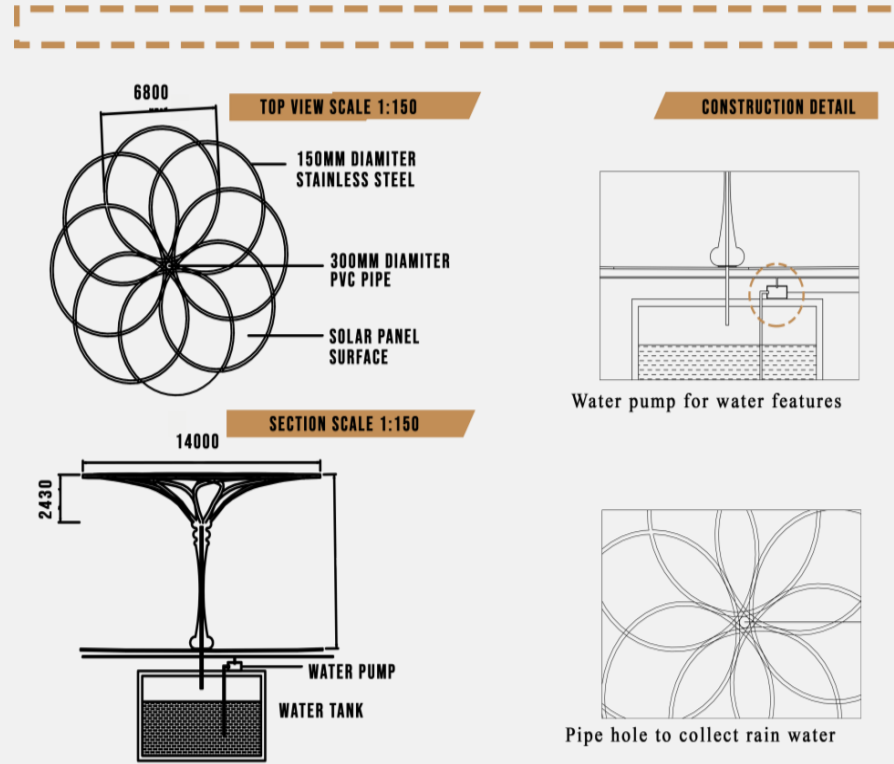


Figure 19: Proposed innovative design elements

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