

EDITORIAL

Assalamu'alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh,

Design Ideals Journal of the Kulliyah of Architecture and Environmental Design (KAED), International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) is delighted to produce a special edition. This edition features nine papers on the final year projects (design theses), supervised by the lecturers of the Department of Landscape Architecture at KAED, IIUM.

The first paper, "Revamping A Former Landfill into An Energy Park in Alam Impian, Shah Alam" by Nur Tihani Ab Maalek, Aniza Abu Bakar, Putri Haryati Ibrahim, and Maheran Yaman, presents a compelling project that aims to revamp a former landfill in Alam Impian, Shah Alam into an innovative and community-friendly energy park. The paper focuses on addressing three key aspects of sustainability: social, environmental, and economic. Through education and awareness-raising initiatives, the project aims to promote sustainable practices such as waste management and environmental care. Additionally, the park seeks to create opportunities for nearby sites to be developed into commercial land uses, while implementing self-sustaining systems that reduce its carbon footprint. By transforming a former landfill into a vibrant energy park, the authors hope to promote sustainable living, and support the creation of an environmentally conscious community.

The second paper, "Repositioning Fireflies Sanctuary at Northern Bank of Kerian River, Penang into Natural Landscape Heritage Tourism" by Mohd Ainul Hayat Abu Hashim, Mazlina Mansor, and Rashidi Othman, examines the potential of mangrove fireflies from the genus *Pteroptyx* as a natural tourism attraction, known as entomotourism. This species is particularly popular in Malaysia due to their synchronous bioluminescent flashing in large numbers on the mangrove trees at night. The authors proposed a design idea that aims to highlight the ecological and natural heritage values of the Kerian River firefly sanctuary, located at the physical border between the state of Penang and Perak in Malaysia. The project focuses on creating a new natural landscape heritage tourism experience by engaging visitors with the natural elements of the site. Through this approach, the authors hope to encourage visitors to appreciate and preserve the ecological and cultural significance of the area. By repositioning the firefly sanctuary as a natural landscape heritage tourism site, the authors believe that the site's potential as a sustainable tourism destination can be fully realised.

The third paper, "Instagrammable Transit of Kuala Lumpur Sentral" by Amira Arisya Mohamad Nadzri, Zainul Mukrim Baharuddin, and Izawati Tukiman, explores the potential of developing KL Sentral as an Instagrammable area. In today's world, Instagram has become a popular social media platform for sharing unlimited photos and videos. The term "Instagrammable" is used to describe a visually attractive and picturesque element in urban design. KL Sentral was chosen for this study due to its strategic location as a hub of global connectivity, surrounded by various types of development that can enhance urban lifestyle with unrivalled accessibility. The authors focus on three key issues: wear and tear, visual character, and walkability, to enhance KL Sentral as a state-of-the-art transportation hub. The paper suggests that by improving these three aspects, KL Sentral can become a popular destination for Instagram users and visitors alike, creating a new form of urban tourism. The paper also highlights the importance of enhancing the visual and aesthetic qualities of urban spaces to attract and retain visitors, promoting sustainable economic growth and development.

The fourth paper, "East Coast Identity of Kuantan: Taman Gelora as a Recreational Coastal Park" by Muhammad Amirul Hanis Md Nazir, Putri Haryati Ibrahim, and Haza Hanurhaza Md Jani, focuses on Taman Gelora, a famous public recreational park in Kuantan, Pahang that was established in the 1980s. The site consists of several man-made lakes, but is facing several issues including a disjointed shore, deteriorating water quality, and ineffective facilities. The authors proposed a project to address these issues and to promote Taman Gelora as a recreational coastal park that can be a source of pride for Kuantan as an east coast city. By improving the quality of the lake shore, water quality, and facilities, the authors hope to make Taman Gelora a more attractive destination for locals and tourists. The project's outcomes include enhancing the aesthetic qualities of the park, providing new opportunities for recreation and leisure, and promoting a stronger sense of community among residents. Ultimately, the authors hope that their work can contribute to the development of sustainable and vibrant coastal cities in Malaysia.

The fifth paper, "Ipoh Urban Heritage Village: Conserve and Revitalise Kampung Kepayang Through an Eco-Village Approach" by Nur Syaza Atina, Izawati Tukiman, and Norhanis Diyana Nizarudin, aims to conserve the historical elements of Kampung Kepayang in Ipoh and transform it into a sustainable urban heritage village that benefits the local community. The project focuses on enhancing the Malay characteristics of the village and preserving its valuable heritage elements, including the tombs of Kinta valley's rulers and Gunung Matsurat, the oldest limestone cave in Ipoh. The authors proposed an eco-village approach to conservation and revitalisation, which includes measures such as promoting eco-tourism, implementing sustainable development practices, and creating a community-based management system. The project's outcomes could include preserving the village's historical and cultural identity, providing new economic opportunities for residents, and promoting sustainable tourism in the area. Ultimately, the authors hope that their work can serve as a model for the conservation and revitalization of other urban heritage villages in Malaysia.

The sixth paper, "The Gems of Johor Bahru: Revitalising Sungai Segget as A Vibrant Heritage and Cultural Riverfront" by Sharifah Mariana Syed Mohamad, Mohd. Ramzi Mohd. Hussain, and Khalilah Zakariya, proposes strategies to revitalize the Segget River and its surroundings, which have been heavily polluted due to uncontrolled sewage management by business activities. The authors introduce the concept of "The Living Museum" to bring back the cultural and historical identity of the river and its surroundings, while also promoting sustainability and environmental awareness. The project proposes several trails, including Blue Trails, Green Trails, and Heritage Trails, that will help to activate the site and engage visitors with the riverfront. The authors suggest improving accessibility to the area through better public transportation and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure. The outcomes of the project include a cleaner and more vibrant riverfront, increased community engagement and pride, and new economic opportunities for local businesses. Ultimately, the authors hope to inspire other cities to revitalise their polluted riverfronts and promote sustainable urban development.

The seventh paper, "Bandar Bagan Datuk, Perak: Reviving Pekan Koboï as A Historic Town Center" by Nurul Azriana Khairuddin, Mazlina Mansor, and Jasasikin Ab Sani, focuses on the revitalisation of Bandar Bagan Datuk in Perak, Malaysia, also known as *Pekan Koboï* by the locals. The authors proposed transforming this historic town center into a dynamic living city that balances contemporary approaches with its historical built fabric. To achieve this goal, the paper outlines several strategies, including integrating the identity of Bagan Datuk District, promoting commerce activities that support sustainable living, and adopting smart energy solutions. By doing so, the town can become a thriving and sustainable hub that respects its heritage while embracing modern advancements.

The eight paper, "Restoring Historical City of Medan Bandar Alor Setar" by Mohd Tajul Ariffin Abd Halim, Mohd Ramzi Mohd Hussain, and Jamilah Othman, explores the cultural and historical significance of Medan Bandar Alor Setar. However, the rapid pace of urbanisation in the area has caused a decline in the site's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). The development of the city center poses a potential threat to the site's identity. To address this challenge, the authors proposed a restorative solution that uses landscape design to protect the place's identity and its society. Their concept, "Intertwine of Remembrance," aims to create an interweaving of memory and landscape to reconnect people with the site's rich history and cultural heritage. By implementing this proposal, the authors hope to revive the cultural value of Medan Bandar Alor Setar and preserve it for future generations.

The final paper, entitled "Kuala Perlis Gateway: Accentuating Kuala Perlis As New Waterfront Attraction" by Nurul Shuhaida Binti Azman, Aniza Binti Abu Bakar, Khalilah Binti Zakariya, and Mohd Ramzi Bin Mohd Hussain, focuses on reviving the waterfront area of Kuala Perlis by accentuating it as a new and vibrant tourist attraction. The project seeks to enhance the image of the site and unify its spaces by providing vibrant places for leisure and tourism activities that promote the identity of Kuala Perlis as the International Transit Hub. To achieve this goal, the paper proposes several strategies, including improving connectivity issues, promoting a pedestrian-friendly environment, and introducing unique design elements at the commercial area that will enhance the identity of Kuala Perlis. By implementing these strategies, the authors hope to attract more tourists and create a more vibrant and sustainable waterfront area that contributes to the overall development of Kuala Perlis.

It is hoped that academics, students, and practitioners in the built environments, will find this special issue of Design Ideals that focuses on Landscape Architecture in Malaysia interesting, useful and knowledge-expanding.

PUTRI HARYATI IBRAHIM
Guest Editor