EXPLORING METHODOLOGY TO EVALUATE A HERITAGE DISTRICT FROM THE ARCHITECTURAL PERSPECTIVES IN RELATION TO PALACES, RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS AND MAUSOLEUMS IN KUALA KANGSAR DISTRICT, PERAK, MALAYSIA

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ABSTRACT

Preservation and conservation of heritage sites is an essential effort to achieve sustainable development in Malaysia. However, due to rapid development, many heritage sites and buildings are at risk around the world including Malaysia where many developments encroach into heritage sites and diminish the traces of our culture and history that are embedded in these sites. Eventually, these traces that are important for the identity and sense of place of a particular area and crucial in the educational and cultural development of a nation may be lost. The aim of this research is therefore to explore and examine the methodology to evaluate Kuala Kangsar as a Heritage District from the selected architectural attributes. Kuala Kangsar is chosen as a case study to test the methodology. Employing qualitative method, this research documented and examined the palaces, religious buildings and mausoleums in Kuala Kangsar district on its heritage values through field observation, contents analysis and interviews. All the identified attributes are marked within the related grids in the GIS map of Kuala Kangsar district that has been divided into 2,711 grids according to 1 km x 1 km grid. The findings from this research concluded that Kuala Kangsar cannot be declared as a Heritage District from the architectural perspectives in relation to palaces, religious buildings and mausoleums.
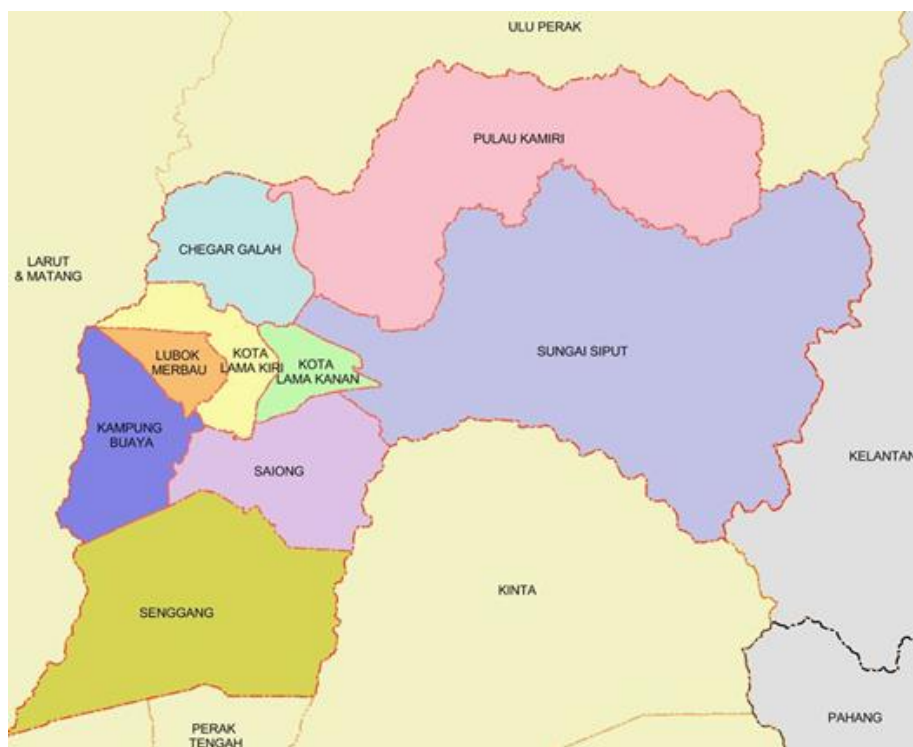
Keywords: Heritage, architecture, palaces, religious buildings and mausoleums

INTRODUCTION

The World Heritage Council of 1996 had defined the word 'heritage' as "our legacy from the past, what we live today and what we pass on to the future generations". Many studies internationally (Shipley, 2000) and locally (Shamsuddin, 2011, Kamal et al, 2008) have highlighted the importance of preserving heritage buildings for a sustainable development. Abdul Rahman (2010) highlighted that legacy of the heritage is an 'irreplaceable sources of life and for the future inspiration for our younger generation, our touchstone, our point of reference and our identity'. This is accorded by Shamsuddin (2011), whom stressed that conserving historic places are very important to retain the sense of place and identity of an area. However, majority of the studies concentrated on the method and technique of preserving buildings (Idrus et al, 2010; Kamal et al, 2008) or individual site (Abdul Rahman, 2010). Other than that, there a few studies that relate the importance of heritage legacy towards tourism (Mohamed et al, 2009; Rahim et al, 2005) but no studies have yet attempted a research on a heritage district in the context of Malaysia. Therefore, the main aim of this research is to explore and examine the methodology to evaluate a Heritage District and selected Kuala Kangsar as the case study.

Due to the non-availability of the template to evaluate a heritage district in Malaysia, example of the practice from other countries are referred to. According to the Ontario Heritage Conservation District Guideline, there are three prime ingredients areas that needed to make up a heritage district. These are evaluation, delineation and participation. For the purpose of this research the focus was based on the first two ingredients. The guideline outlines the aspects to be covered in the evaluation phase includes i) defining heritage ii) describing character area iii) historical association iv) architectural value v) vernacular design vi) architectural details vii) landmark status or group value viii) open spaces ix) vacant land and contemporary structures. The evaluation is based on the unique characteristic of the area and also the historical patterns of development (Old East Heritage Conservation District, 2006). Then followed through with the delineation phase where the boundary of the propose heritage district is established.

Kuala Kangsar has been chosen because it has been acknowledged as having many historical legacies such as heritage buildings, Malay traditions and handicrafts which dated as far back to the Malaccan Sultanate (Abdul Rahman, 2010). This is where the present 35th Sultan of Perak, Royal Highness Sultan Nazrin Shah resided. Aside from the royal legacies, there are many heritage buildings with various architectural styles in the district. Ranging from the oldest surviving traditional Malay houses such as Rumah Kutai (Wan Teh & Nasir, 2011), religious buildings, royal palaces to public buildings which some adopted colonial architecture (Chun et al, 2005).

Fig. 1: Map of Kuala Kangsar

It is hoped that through this research these heritage legacies which spread throughout Kuala Kangsar district (Figure 1) can be properly documented and the findings can be triangulated with the future findings from the landscape, urban planning and arts perspective in order to prepare a complete framework towards proposing Kuala Kangsar as a heritage district. The initial and primary objectives of this research are (1) to develop a set of heritage district criteria in the area of architecture (palaces, religious buildings and mausoleums), (2) to explore the methodology to collect data and evaluate a heritage district criterion and (3) to test the

methodology in a potential case study area - Kuala Kangsar.

PROBLEMS STATEMENT

It is acknowledged that there have been many buildings and sites being declared as heritage buildings/sites in Malaysia particularly under the National Heritage Act 2005. However, these heritage buildings and sites are localized in nature i.e. they do not cover an entire administrative district, a district herein refers to the definition as contained in the Malaysian Local Government Act 1976 (Akta Kerajaan Tempatan 1976). Therefore, this research explores the significance of the architecture of palaces, religious buildings and mausoleums in a heritage district. The documentation of architectural attributes of Kuala Kangsar district to support consideration of the area as a 'Heritage District' in Malaysia.

METHODOLOGY

The research employed qualitative to achieve the objectives. These include content analysis, interviews and field observation. The content analysis of secondary data serves as initial research information that enables meaningful inferences and interpretation about the research inquiry to be constructed. The next phase of research determines a set of criteria based on local and international standards obtained from the content analysis which are useful to evaluate the heritage attributes.

Another phase of the research involves qualitative approach of data collection through semi-structured interviews. The strategy was conducted at the case study area to obtain information about Kuala Kangsar as a heritage district. It involves local people and historian to give their opinion on heritage attributes related to Palaces, Religious Buildings and Mausoleums. This strategy of research is complimented by a preliminary field observation with the help of using appropriate research instruments including checklist of heritage attributes, digital camera, maps of Kuala Kangsar and recorder and GPS tools. As such this research has it owns cogent approach and rigor in the collection and analysis of textual and pictorial data whereby the interview and field observation were conducted concurrently. The overall findings gathered from both methods were discussed and evaluated leading to validity of data. With a particular emphasis on the heritage attributes, the research addresses the importance of interactive and non- interactive methods of investigation in which the subject of inquiry could rigorously be explored. It is effective measures of grasping subtle shades of meaning and putting together the divergent evidences (Groat and Wang, 2002).

An analysis of the data obtained from the interviews and observation conducted in the fourth stage of research. Hence, the final stage of research involves documentation of the overall findings that embraces three processes, namely data analysis and synthesis, evaluation of data and reporting of research findings. In short, like any other cultural heritage-based study, this research is best approached as part of qualitative measures of data- gathering technique and its subsequent analyses.

The following Table 1 shows the technique employed in accordance to the research objective, data needed and the expected outcome. Table 2 shows the tools needed and procedure for each technique.

Table 1: The technique employed in accordance to the research objective and data needed

Objectives	Data needed	Technique
Objective 1: To develop a set of heritage district criteria in the area of architecture (**palaces, religious buildings and mausoleums**)	key architectural attributes used to measure heritage buildings to make up a heritage district in relation to public buildings and residential building	Content analysis of the criteria used at the local and international standards to evaluate the value of heritage buildings
Objective 2: To explore the methodology to collect data and evaluate a heritage district criteria	Methodologies used to collect data on architectural attributes related to public buildings and residential building for the evaluation of a heritage district	Content analysis
Objective 3: To test the methodology in a potential case study area - Kuala Kangsar.	The list of architectural monuments, its value and location that can be part of the evaluation for heritage district	Interview with local people/ historian and preliminary field observation

Triangulation of the available data from content analysis, field observation, interview. |

Table 2: The tools needed and procedure for each technique applied in the research.

Technique	Procedure	Tools
Content analysis	Gather data from library, museums, archive, local authority and others	-
Field observation and photographic documentation	Observation according to district and typology of buildings/ monuments	Checklist of architectural attributes Related maps Camera
Interview	Identify relevant interviewee through content analysis and during the reconnaissance trip to Kuala Kangsar. Appointment with the interviewee by telephone calls and letters. Due to the explorative nature of the research, the interview has been conducted in an unstructured approach to allow the researcher to probe deeper into the subject matter.	Tape recorder
GIS Mapping	Gather data by positioning GPS equipment at exact location	GPS Equipment GIS Software Computer

SIGNIFICANCE OF RESEARCH

Exploring the method to evaluate a heritage district has yet to be pursued in Malaysia. Designating a heritage district to a place has both merits and support, in which it would facilitate protection and conservation of the numerous built and natural features that have significant values.

The protection of the heritage in a more structured and coordinated style is essential, involving the entire district (in contrast to the present building or specific approaches) through physical and legal means. For examples, upon completion of the study, the findings would be justified and imperative to recommend to the State and the Federal governments for Kuala Kangsar to be declared a heritage district. The findings from this research can be significant in the development of an appropriate framework to evaluate heritage district in Malaysia.

This is also important for the formulation of policy and decision-making concerning heritage district towards a more sustainable development in the future. Kuala Kangsar is significant as a case study site because seventy- five percent (75%) of the sub- districts (mukim/kawasan) within the district of Kuala Kangsar have heritage resources as defined by Articles 1 and 2 of UNESCO's World Heritage Convention 2008; and seventy- five percent (75%) of the respondents (they being persons who are residents of Kuala Kangsar) drawn randomly and interviewed support the idea of Kuala Kangsar being a heritage district.

Furthermore, the methodology established can be used to evaluate other heritage district in Malaysia. In addition, usage and enjoyment of the heritage resources by the local and international communities (to serve their needs and interests) that are present within the district of Kuala Kangsar could be better coordinated, in effort to achieve sustainability.
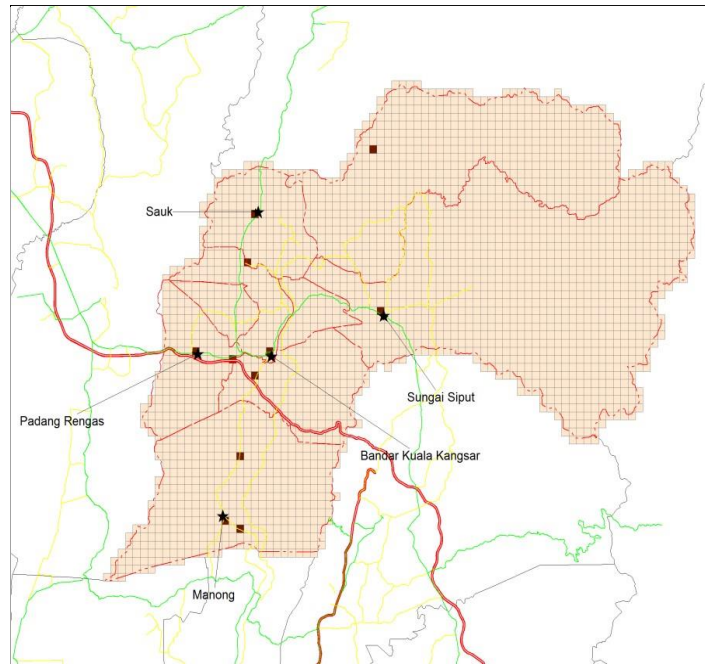
FINDINGS

This research is the architecture part of a bigger research framework that covered four sectors, namely architecture (Part 1: palaces, religious buildings and mausoleums) (Part 2: residential and public buildings), art and culture, landscape and urban planning. In order to identify the potential of each sector, the map of Kuala Kangsar District has been divided into 2711 grids according to 1 km x 1 km grid using Geographic Information System (GIS) software (Figure 2). All of the attributes that have been identified are marked within the related grids in the maps. The analysis was not solely based on the number of attributes but also based on how many grids that contained the attributes. One grid may contain more than one of similar attributes but only the highest score is being selected. The scores of the grid are divided into four categories as in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Category of scores

Score	Remarks
1 – 3	Not Potential
4 – 6	Locally Potential
7 - 9	Nationally Potential
10 - 12	Internationally Potential

There are three (3) architecture attributes were studied in this research which are palaces, religious buildings and mausoleums.

Fig. 2: Location of 1 km x 1 km grid using Geographic Information System (GIS)

Palaces

There are five palaces located in Kuala Kangsar (Table 4). These five palaces are Istana Iskandariah (AA37), Istana Kenangan (AA37), Istana Gahara (Y35), Istana Ulu (Z36) and Istana Raja DiHilir (Z36) which located in Kuala Kangsar Town Centre. However, four of these palaces are located in the same grids (AA37 & Z36), thus only one score is given for each grid. Palaces are an important building in architecture sector, thus high priority is given to this attribute. The Istana Kenangan has been gazetted as a National Heritage Building under the National Heritage Act 2005. All the palaces are known nationally; therefore, score of nine was given.

Table 4: List of palaces in Kuala Kangsar

No	Name	Grid No
1	Istana Iskandariah	AA37
2	Istana Kenangan / Kuning	AA37
3	Istana Gahara	Y35
4	Istana Ulu	Z36
5	Istana Raja di Hilir	Z36

Table 5: Scores for Palaces

Score	Nos	%
1 – 3	2708	99.9
4 – 6	0	0
7 - 9	3	0.1
10 - 12	0	0
Total	2711	100

Name	Istana Iskandariah	Year built	1933
Location	Bukit Candan, Kuala Kangsar	Architecture	The design of the palace is based on Art-Deco architecture, which is famous for its pointed arches and onion-shaped domes.
Current function	The official residence of the Sultan of Perak		

Fig. 3: Istana Iskandariah

Name	Istana Kenangan	Year built	1926
Location	Bukit Candan, Kuala Kangsar	Architecture	The design of the palace is based on traditional Malay architecture using timber structure.
Current function	The Royal Museum of Perak		

Fig. 4: Istana Kenangan

Name	Istana Ulu / Istana Kota	Year built	1903
Location	Bukit Candan, Kuala Kangsar	Architecture	The palace was inspired by Victorian architecture.
Current function	Royal Gallery of Sultan Azlan Shah		

Fig. 5: Istana Ulu / Royal Gallery of Sultan Azlan Shah

Name	Istana Gahara / Istana Bendahara	Year built	1966
Location	Bukit Candan, Kuala Kangsar	Architecture	The palace was inspired by Victorian architecture.
Current function	Abandoned		

Fig. 6: Istana Gahara

Religious Buildings

Buildings categorized under religious buildings in this research are masjids and churches.

Masjid buildings

There are numerous masjids throughout the whole Kuala Kangsar District. However, there are eleven of those have significant heritage values which located within eleven grids that score between four to six. Two of the masjids in Kuala Kangsar have been gazette as National

Heritage Buildings namely, Masjid Ubudiah and Masjid Ikhsaniah Iskandariah were given score of nine.

Table 6: Scores for Masjid

Score	Nos	%
1 – 3	2700	99.59
4 – 6	9	0.41
7 - 9	2	0
10 - 12	0	0
Total	2711	100

Table 7: List of heritage masjids in Kuala Kangsar

No	Name	Grid No
1	Masjid Ubudiah Bukit Chandan	AA37
2	Masjid Ikhsaniah Iskandariah	T36
3	Masjid Ridzuaniah	Y35
4	Masjid Al Maarif Kg Lempor	U48
5	Masjid India Muslim, Sungai Siput	AN30
6	Masjid Al-Hadri, Padang Rengas	O35
7	Masjid Rahmaniah, Pekan Sauk	W18
8	Masjid Sultan Abdul Jalil	W38
9	Surau Kg Lempur Hilir	T50
10	Masjid Nurul Huda	S56
11	Madrasah Kampung Pecah Batu	R53
12	Mausoleum Sheikh Mohammad Idris Al-Marbawi, Kampung Lubok Merbau	T31
13	Mausoleum Sultan Mansur Syah	Z34
14	Mausoleum Datok Maharajalela Pancung Tak Bertanya	Z34
15	Mausoleum of Tok Temong, Kampung Temong Ulu	AB2

Name	Masjid Ubudiah	Year built	1917
Location	Bukit Candan, Kuala Kangsar	Architecture	The design of Masjid Ubudiah was based on Moorish architecture.
Current function	Masjid		

Fig. 7: Masjid Ubudiah

Name	Masjid Ikhsaniah Iskandariah	Year built	1917
Location	Kampung Kuala Dal, Padang Rengas	Architecture	The design of Masjid Ubudiah was based on Malay architecture.
Current function	Masjid		

Fig. 8: Masjid Ikhsaniah Iskandariah

Name	Masjid Ridzuaniah	Year built	1915
Location	Jalan Raja Idris, Kuala kangsar	Architecture	The design of the Masjid was based on Islamic contemporary architecture.
Current function	District Masjid of Kuala Kangsar		

Fig. 9: Masjid Ridzuaniah

Churches

The result from the table below shows that there are four (4) grids that consist of churches (Table 9). From the four churches located in Kuala Kangsar, only one that is give the score of nine which is the Church of Resurrection. Church of Resurrection is a classic wooden church that was built in 1908 and is still being preserved until today. Its classic architectural style makes it as one of the building with high heritage value. The other three churches that were scored six are the Lutheran Church, Chinese Methodist Church Sg. Siput and Church of St. John the Baptist.

Table 8: Scores for Churches

Score	Nos	%
1 – 3	2707	99.85
4 – 6	3	0.11
7 - 9	1	0.04
10 - 12	0	0
Total	2711	100

Table 9: List of churches in Kuala Kangsar

No	Name	Grid No
1	Church of Resurrection	Y36
2	The Lutheran Church	Y35
3	Chinese Methodist Church Sg. Siput	AM30
4	Church of St. John the Baptist	AN30

Mausoleums

Based on table, there are ten (10) grids that consist of heritage significant mausoleums and mostly located in Kota Lama Kanan and Kota Lama Kiri. The Perak Royal Tombs that located in Bukit Chandan has significant heritage value and known nationally; therefore, high score is given while other mausoleums such as ulama's tomb, other sultan's tombs and other are given lower score. However, since only medium priority is given, all of the items fall under the same category which is under locally significant category.
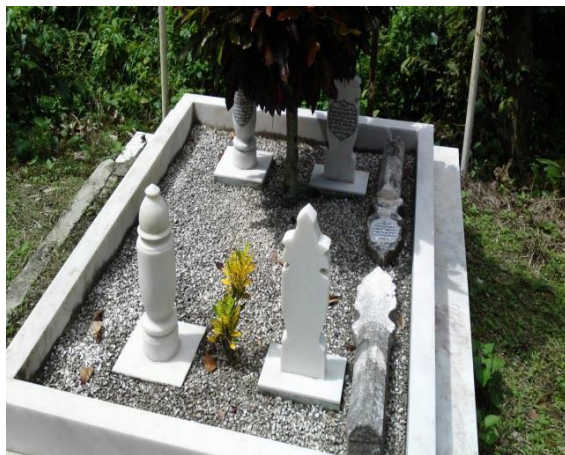
Table 10: Scores for Mausoleums

Score	Nos	%
1 – 3	2701	99.6
4 – 6	9	0.3
7 - 9	1	0.1
10 - 12	0	0
Total	2711	100

Table 11: List of mausoleums in Kuala Kangsar

No	Name	Grid No
1	Mausoleum Tok Subang, Kota Lama Kanan	Z34
2	Mausoleum Tok Makan Lambat (Tok Kuala Kenas), Senggang	B12
3	Mausoleum Daeng Osman bin Daeng Selili, Kota Lama Kiri	Z37
4	Mausoleum Sultan Tajul Ariffin, Senggang	B13
5	Mausoleum Temenggong Wan Hussain, Kota Lama Kanan	Z32
6	Mausoleum Panglima Alang Ishak, Kota Lama Kanan	Z34
7	Mausoleum Daeng Salili Pajung Luwuk, Sayong	AB37
8	Makam Kaum Keluarga Daeng Salili, Sayong	AB37
9	Mausoleum Daeng Uda Tahir (Tok Janggut Uda Tahir), Kota Lama Kiri	Z37
10	Mausoleum Temenggong Wan Hassan, Kota Lama Kanan	Z34
11	Perak Royal Mausoleum, Masjid Ubudiah	Z36
12	Mausoleum Sheikh Mohammad Idris Al-Marbawi, Kampung Lubok Merbau	T31
13	Mausoleum Sultan Mansur Syah	Z34
14	Mausoleum Datok Maharajalela Pancung Tak Bertanya	Z34
15	Mausoleum of Tok Temong, Kampung Temong Ulu	AB2

Fig. 10: (Left) Perak Royal Mausoleum at Bukit Chandan. (Right) Mausoleum Daeng Salili Pajung Luwuk at Sayung

Fig.11: (Left) Mausoleum of Sheikh Mohammad Idris Al-Marbawi, the renowned Islamic scholar located at Kampung Lubok Merbau, Kuala Kangsar. (Right) Mausoleum of Tok Temong at Kampung Temong Ulu, Kuala Kangsar.

CONCLUSIONS

All the maps of palaces, religious buildings and mausoleums are overlay and the scores are added to produce a composite map. From the Table 12 below, it can be concluded that there are only four (4) grids that falls under nationally potential category in which three (3) of the grids with the National Heritage Buildings namely, Istana Kenangan, Masjid Ubudiah and Masjid Ikhsaniah Iskandariah. Whereby, ten (10) grids are falls under locally potential range, while the others have no potential. There is no grid that falls under the category of internationally potential. In conclusion, only fourteen (14) grids falls under the categories of nationally and locally potential that represented 0.52 % of the total grid.

The majority of the grids (99.48%) have no potential to the heritage values of Kuala Kangsar District. Therefore, with the findings it is concluded that Kuala Kangsar is cannot be declared as a Heritage District from the architectural perspectives in relation to palaces, religious buildings and mausoleums.

Table 12: Overall Scores

Score	Nos	%
1 – 3	2697	99.48
4 – 6	10	0.37
7 - 9	4	0.15
10 - 12	0	0
Total	2711	100

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