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PREFACE

Assalamu'alaikum wrt. wbt. and dear all,

It is observed that in the specialized fields of Architecture, Planning, Landscape Architecture, Quantity Surveying, Building Technology And Engineering, Applied Arts And Design, Construction Management and others but related to the built environment there is a general lack of scholarly views and research reports, either collectively or individually, that are closest to Malaysia, Asia and the Islamic perspectives. Consequently, the Kulliyyah of Architecture and Environmental Design at the International Islamic University Malaysia (KAED, IIUM) considers it to be timely and appropriate for a journal i.e. Journal of Architecture, Planning and Construction Management (JAPCM) to be established. The key aim of JAPCM is therefore to provide a platform for such 'gap' in the body of knowledge to be addressed.

JAPCM offers an opportunity for researchers, research students, practitioners and authors to share their views, theoretical and empirical research findings; and readers, especially academics and students to appreciate and benefit from its contents. Research reports and theoretical papers, short practice notes, book reviews and abstracts from Masters dissertations/theses and PhD theses are welcome on any aspects of architecture, planning, landscape architecture, quantity surveying, building technology and engineering, applied arts and design, and others but related to the built environment.

It is with immense pleasure that I present to all this inaugural issue of JAPCM.

Happy reading.

Prof. Sr. Dr. Khairuddin Abdul Rashid Dip., BSc., MSc., PhD, MIS(M), Reg. QS
(BQSM)
Editor-In-Chief

EDITORIAL

Assalamu'alikum wrt. wbt.

Welcome to the first issue of the Journal of Architecture, Planning and Construction Management or in short JAPCM.

JAPCM endeavors to present original and peer-reviewed research based and theoretical papers, practice papers, book reviews and abstracts of Masters dissertations/theses and PhD theses related to the specialized areas of Architecture, Urban and Regional Planning, Landscape Architecture, Quantity Surveying, Building Technology and Engineering, Applied Arts and Design, Construction Management and others but important issues related to the built and natural environments. Admittedly, there exist established journals and publications addressing these areas. However, the Editorial of JAPCM observed the lack of published works addressing issues related to these specialized areas that are both packaged under 'one roof' and addressing them from the perspectives of Malaysia, Asia and Islam. JAPCM offers to act as a bridge in effort to narrow this gap in the body of knowledge.

This inaugural issue presents seven research papers, abstracts of four PhD theses and a book review. The papers and review are written by colleagues that are Malaysians or are currently based in Malaysia. The contents of this issue, although Malaysian in focus, offer lessons that are considered appropriate and applicable to the wider contexts of the built and natural environments. Collectively, the papers relates to Islamic Architecture, housing for the lower income segment of a nation's population, GIS, crime, safety and parking issues in residential and urban areas and green infrastructure and the practice of Value Management.

Generally, when authors discuss Islamic Architecture they would tend to focus on forms and shapes but seldom on function. However, in this issue the first paper by Spahic Omer discusses Islamic Architecture by defining its meaning, identifying some of its salient characteristics and stresses on the importance of function. The paper, philosophical rather than empirical, seeks to enhance readers' awareness on the importance of correctly conceptualizing and practicing Islamic architecture. Spahic Omer states that Islamic architecture is an architecture that embodies the message of Islam. It serves to both facilitates the Muslims' realization of the Islamic purpose and its divine principles on earth, and promotes a lifestyle generated by such a philosophy and principles. Thus, the core of Islamic architecture concerns function with all of its dimensions: corporeal, cerebral and spiritual. The role of the form is an important one too, but only in as much as it supplements and enhances function.

The second paper in this issue is by Md. Mizanur Rashid and Asiah Abdul Rahim. This paper discusses Architecture from both Islam and secular perspectives. The authors, by studying two historical buildings that exhibits Islamic Diaspora and other cultural characteristics, suggest it is possible that buildings initially labelled as 'Islamic' but in fact are not 'Islamic' after all. They argued by merely looking at rhetorical aspects of 'Islamic'

architecture - arches, Iwans, Muqarnas, Jalis, different motifs and Chaharbagh that are common in different buildings in the 'Islamic' world - pose a danger of putting 'Islamic Heritage' to retreat in antiquity therefore would not be adequate to categorize such buildings 'Islamic' heritage. The Editorial believes this paper, together with the first paper in this issue, set the tone for a scholarly debate on what exactly is 'Islamic Architecture'.

The third paper by Syafiee Shuid discusses the changing role of the state and market in the provision of low cost housing in Malaysia. He argues that since 1990s the global trend in housing provision shows a shift towards greater market role including for low income housing. The state relied on market to provide low income housing and confined its role as enabler and facilitator to support the market. Syafiee Shuid studied the roles of the state and market in Malaysia in the provision of low cost housing both in terms of production and allocation. His findings showed Malaysia gradually began to retreat from direct low cost housing provision and relied on market since the 1990s. Despite the 1997-98 economic crisis the market still played significance role in low cost housing provision in Malaysia while the state focused on solving housing problem among the squatters and reviving the economy through public housing programmes. The state however, retained control of the low cost housing allocation.

The fourth paper by Mohammad Abdul Mohit and Aishath Abdulla studied residents' perceptions on crime and safety in gated and non-gated neighbourhoods. In the context of Malaysia, their study is considered timely given that property crimes in residential areas in Malaysia have become concerning issues. Mohammad Abdul Mohit and Aishath Abdulla reviewed design based crime prevention theories such as Defensible Space, Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) and the 2nd generation CPTED that recommend the provision of gates and fences as target hardening techniques in residential areas to prevent crimes. They however conclude that these concepts have generated several issues, including the safe environment they offer. In their study they surveyed the safety perception of two Kuala Lumpur neighbourhoods i.e. residents in a gated and guarded (GC) neighbourhood and in a non-gated and guarded (NGC) neighbourhood. Their findings suggest that crime rates are higher in the GC than in the NGC thus providing an indication that GCs are not safer than NGCs. Based on the findings the authors made recommendations on how to move forward in terms of enhancing safety perceptions of residents in Kuala Lumpur.

The fifth paper by in this issue by Mohd Ramzi Mohd Hussain and Foziah Johar identified the key factors associated with the effective use of GIS by a planning department of a typical municipality given that nowadays the majority of information utilised for planning activities has a geographical component. Their findings suggests that skill, knowledge and training influence the planning staff to use GIS effectively and that GIS has various impacts on the department and its staff such as on the effective utilization process of automated systems in use in the department being studied.

The sixth paper by Mazlina Mansor discusses the concept of Biophilia or human's inherent affiliation with the natural environment. The paper draws the findings of a case

study exploration on the connection between residents with green infrastructure in Taiping Malaysia. Biophilic tendency of residents to green infrastructure in the town was elicited using questionnaire survey and semi-structured interviews. The outcome from the survey suggests that residents who participated in activities within the greenery and open spaces in the town experienced various benefits that fulfill their needs for nature. Physically, participating in activities provided the residents active living. Physical and visual experience afforded relaxation, comfort and calmness. More social interactions were experienced resulting in community satisfaction. The study concludes that existence of matured green infrastructure extends beyond aesthetic enjoyment. It provides urban residents with a connection to nature that induces affiliation with green infrastructure in a town environment. Drawing from her findings, Mazlina Mansor calls for urban planners and designers to include the provision of more green infrastructures in urban and more developed areas.

The seventh paper for this inaugural issue of JAPCM is co-authored by Sharifah Adibah Alyia Syed Adnan and Abdul Azeez Kader Hamsa. In this paper the authors studied the ever increasing problem of inadequacies in the provision of parking spaces and traffic congestion in urban areas and their solution in terms of the authorities' provision of park-and-ride facilities. Using Malaysia's Putrajaya as the focused area of the study the authors highlight the user's perceptions on parking utilization pattern and park-and-ride facilities. Their findings showed that most users prefer to park their vehicles for longer duration (more than eight hours) and multi-storey parking facility was found to have higher demand than surface parking, the reason being the later charges minimal parking fees and but opens for longer hours. As expected, factors that influenced the users in using the park-and-ride facility identified include the users' keenness to avoid traffic congestion and convenience.

This issue of JAPCM incorporates four abstracts of recently completed PhD theses. The theses relate to areas of architecture, building technology and engineering and construction management.

The book review by Khairuddin Abdul Rashid presents the *Panduan Pelaksanaan Pengurusan Nilai dalam Program Projek Kerajaan* or Guidance on the Implementation of Value Management for Public Programmes and Projects. The guidebook is published by the Economic Planning Unit of the Prime Minister's Department. On 29th December 2009 the Government of Malaysia issued a circular requiring its agencies to implement Value Management (VM) or *Pengurusan Nilai* in the procurement of public projects and facilities. The directive covers all programmes and projects valued at RM50.0 million and above, both physical and non-physical.

The sole purpose of the book is therefore to provide guidance on how VM should be implemented when procuring public projects and facilities. According to Khairuddin Abdul Rashid the guidebook offers excellent basis for practitioners of VM (beginners and experts), students and researchers, and the public at large to understand VM as envisaged. He also praised the Government's effort to implement VM and the publication of the guidebook.

The publication of this inaugural issue of JAPCM (and *Insya-Allah* the future issues too) has been the effort of many people and organizations. Here I would like to record my appreciation of the inputs provided by colleagues that serve as members of the editorial board, paper reviewer panel, JAPCM secretariat; the authors for allowing their papers to be published herein, and others (individuals and organizations). Funding for this issue is by the International Islamic University Malaysia.

Editor-In-Chief