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PREFACE

Assalamu'alaikum wrt. wbt. and dear all,

It has been observed that in the specialized fields of architecture, planning, landscaping architecture, quantity surveying, building technology and engineering, applied arts and design, 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, Asian and the Islamic perspectives. Consequently, the Kulliyyah (Faculty) 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 and PhD theses and dissertations are welcome on any aspects of architecture, urban and regional planning, landscape architecture, quantity surveying, building technology and engineering, applied arts and design, and others but related to the built environment.

Happy reading.

Prof. Dr. Mohammad Abdul Mohit Ph.D.(UK),

Editor-In-Chief

EDITORIAL

Assalamu-alaikum Wraahmatillahi Wabaratuhu

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

This issue (vol.5, no.1) of the Journal of Architecture, Planning and Construction Management (JAPCM), contains five research papers, and one book review, all of which discuss the various issues and challenges pertaining to the built and natural environments. The content of this issue, although dominated by Malaysian case studies, include two papers from Nigeria, which gives the journal an international platform. Collectively, the papers relate to Liveability in low income housing, Islamic Architecture, Park users perspective of neighbourhood parks, Islamic perspective of myths rooted in architectural studio, and implementation of EMS ISO14001 by the Malaysian construction companies.

The first paper by Sulle and Mohit explores the liveability dimensions and attributes reliability and also validates its usefulness in determining the liveability of selected housing estates in Minna, Niger State, Nigeria. It was found that not all identified liveability dimensions and attributes variables in the extant literature will be effective in measuring liveability in a cultural context like Nigeria. The data used for this study came from survey questionnaire administered to the residents of the three housing estates. Prior to the confirmatory factor analysis (CFA), the Cronbach's Alpha result obtained supported four-factor constructs. The variance explained as obtained from exploratory factor analysis (EFA) was good (67%). The CFA applied led to the construction of an 18 items measurement. The paper contributed to the empirical study of liveability of housing/residential estates in terms of establishing the reliability and validity of the measurement constructs. Hence, it is suggested that CFA analysis even with four-factor constructs can be used in future researches.

The second paper by Spahic Omer challenges an old belief that the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem was built between 65/684 and 72/691 by the Umayyad caliph 'Abd al-Malik b. Marwan. The paper is divided into two parts. The first part briefly examines the significance of the Rock (*sakhr*). Therein it is shown that the Rock (*Sakhr*) has no special religious significance whatsoever. The second part tries to answer who exactly built the Dome of the Rock and when. The paper concludes that the likely truth is that the caliph 'Abd al-Malik b. Marwan was able to commence building the edifice only after crushing the insurgence of 'Abdullah b. al-Zubayr in 73/692. Such were the socio-political conditions in the Muslim state during the insurgency that the caliph's actions could not transcend the planning and basic preparatory stages, at most. Whether the caliph 'Abd al-Malik b. Marwan was capable of completing the structure during his lifetime or not, remained a debatable point as well. The task of building one of the first and at the same time greatest masterpieces in Islamic architecture might have been completed by his son and successor, al-Walid b. 'Abd al-Malik.

The third paper jointly written by Zumahiran Kamarudin and Ismail Said explores the placement and fabrication of the wood carvings in the old Kelantan and Terengganu timber houses. Non-interactive and interactive methods of data collection were employed as research methods. The non-interactive method involved archival review of 25 sets of measured drawings of the Kelantan and Terengganu timber houses from the Centre for Study of Built Environment in the Malay World at the Universiti Teknologi Malaysia. The interactive method involved semi-structured interviews with five woodcarvers to obtain their verification on the findings from the analytical review which served as the primary data. The study found that architectural components of the houses especially perforated ventilation panels of walls, doors and windows were fabricated in different composition of carvings with intricate arabesque design. Regularity in the placement of these components give spatial identity to the principal spaces such as '*rumah ibu*' (core house), '*serambi*' (verandah) and main bedrooms. Fabrication of the carvings as house components was in parallel with their structural layouts and functions. This architectural inclination addresses the relationship of creativity, skill and intrinsic knowledge of the Malay craftsmen in keeping the tradition upon the exquisite forms of the houses in general and the carved arabesques in particular.

The fourth paper by Ujene and Edike examines the failure of project cost that has caused the public to lose confidence in the ability of cost advisers to effectively predict and manage construction costs. This study therefore aims at providing a basis for accurate anticipation, allocation and control of direct costs of buildings. The objectives of the study are to evaluate the perceptions of consultants and contractors concerning the factors that drive the escalation and disparities of the direct costs of building and evaluate the level of agreement in their perceptions of effect of the factors among the states in south-south, Nigeria. Sample of 335 consultants and 544 contractors were used for analyses. Data were obtained using structured questionnaire. The tools used for data analysis were descriptive statistics, mean score, Kruskal-Wallis test and Mann-Whitney U test. The results show high agreement in contractors and consultants' perceptions of the relative effect of 80 selected factors among all the states. It is concluded that direct costs are most significantly affected by 13 factors, while the influence of the factors are similar across the states. The study recommends that construction stakeholders should be mindful of the influence of these internal and external factors which cause cost escalation, variation and disparities over places and time during cost anticipation.

The last but the least paper by Zakiah Ponrahono, Syahriah Bachok, Mansor Ibrahim and Mariana Mohamed Osman highlights the urban-rural bus services gap in the selected settlements in Peninsular Malaysia. Four states were selected as case studies with Johor to represent the southern states, Penang to represent the northern states and for east-coast states, Pahang is selected. Meanwhile, Perak represents a developing state, which is yet to reach the advanced level of large conurbations. The main objectives are to evaluate the urban and rural bus service quality through passenger satisfaction survey. A total of 1130 survey questionnaire forms were administered. The results confirmed that there are gaps in urban and rural bus services based on the level of satisfaction among the passengers from different localities.

This issue of JAPCM incorporates one book review by Sulle and Mohit. The book detail is - Fadamiro, Julius .A.B. Olujimi and Olaniyi Okedele. 2014. *Urban Environmental Sustainability: Liveable Cities, Nigeria*: Federal University of Technology Akure, Ondo State. ISBN: 978-978-768-250-4 (hbk). The book is a collection of twenty one original researches that covers a wide spectrum of the built environment aspects which includes; urban design, architecture/landscape architecture, visual art (colour),

transportation planning, housing issues- crime prevention, city management, urban conservation issues, building life-cycle and green infrastructure.

The research papers included in this issue of JAPCM covers a wider geographical scale by including two studies from Nigeria. It is hoped that professionals, lecturers, researchers and postgraduate students, in built and natural environments, will find this issue (vol.5, no.1) of JAPCM interesting, useful and knowledge-expanding.

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