

# INVENTORY OF ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE SHOPHOUSES IN JALAN MENDALING, KAJANG OLD TOWN

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## ABSTRACT

This study sheds light on the current condition of heritage shophouses in Jalan Mendaling, Kajang, underscoring the urgency of their preservation. By recognizing these structures' architectural value and historical significance, it is hoped that appropriate measures will be taken to conserve and protect Kajang's unique heritage for future generations. Located in the southeastern part of Selangor, Malaysia, Kajang stands as one of the oldest towns in the region, with a rich historical background. Formerly a bustling trading center and tin mining area, Kajang now holds significant cultural heritage through its assortment of shophouses, reflecting the town's past architectural styles. These shophouses, constructed in various designs, including Early Shophouse, Eclectic Shophouse, and Neoclassical, play a pivotal role in shaping Kajang's distinctive identity. This research aims to assess the existing state and architectural characteristics of heritage shophouses in Jalan Mendaling, Kajang. Through observation, the study highlights the pressing need for preservation and intervention by relevant authorities to safeguard these invaluable structures. Regrettably, many shophouses have undergone renovations that compromise authenticity, demanding immediate attention to ensure long-term conservation. Nevertheless, the research successfully identified seven shophouses that have remarkably maintained their original façades, thus retaining their historical significance and architectural allure. Data collection for this research involved the utilization of a comprehensive checklist. Initial observations revealed a total of 42 shop lots on Jalan Mendaling, Kajang, out of which only 39 retained their structures. Consequently, the final phase of observation concentrated on a select group of seven shop lots that preserved the original façades and architectural elements, signifying the true essence of heritage without substantial alterations influenced by modern practices. The findings of this research possess significant implications for raising awareness regarding the importance of conserving and preserving heritage shophouses. Furthermore, the outcomes can be utilized to formulate comprehensive guidelines tailored explicitly for the conservation and preservation of heritage shophouses in Kajang, ensuring the sustainable safeguarding of these cultural treasures.

**Keywords:** Heritage shophouses, Jalan Mendaling, Kajang, Architectural value, Historical significance.

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

In regards to the 1965 National Land Code, Kajang is a town located in the southeastern portion of the state Selangor, serving as its mukim or subdistrict under the Hulu Langat district alongside the mukim of Ampang, Beranang, Cheras, Ulu Langat, Ulu Semenyih and Semenyih (Merican, 2019). Based on Rancangan Tempatan Majlis Perbandaran Kajang Selangor 2035, Kajang is under the jurisdiction of Majlis Perbandaran Kajang that comprises 9,298 hectares out of 78,761 hectares total area of the Hulu Langat District. While the population of Kajang in 2020 is 43,330 out of the 1,00,150 total population of the district and is expected to increase to 499,50 out of the 1,350,10 total population by 2035. Regarding its etymology, the term '*Kajang*' can be defined as a material woven from Nipah leaves to serve as the roof or as a shelter, especially from the sun (Pustaka, 2005). Moreover, Lubis (2018) stated that the name '*Kajang*' is heavily based on the event of the early settlers that erected huts with attap or thatched roofs when they first arrived on the riverbank of Langat River. Kajang is also one of the oldest towns observed in Selangor, with records

corroborating its establishment as early as 1840, predating the country's capital, Kuala Lumpur, which was only established in 1857 (Teng, 2019). The establishment of the old town of Kajang can be traced back to the early 19th century when a notable figure of Mandailing descent named Raja Barayun, alongside other Sumatran Malays, opened the town located on the present-day Jalan Mendaling, Kajang, paving the way for early forms of architecture, establishments, and villages in the region (Lim, 2020; Lubis, 2018). Despite its rich history and cultural significance, Kajang faced a shortage of heritage preservation initiatives and efforts by the authority. Not to mention, Christy (2019) described the present condition of various shophouses in Kajang are either dilapidated or have been ruined by hasty renovations or insensitive extensions towards the original shophouse architecture, resulting in the defaced facade. Some heritage buildings located in the heart of the old town of Kajang were also demolished to make way for much more modern structures (Christy, 2019; Lim, 2020).

## **2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 History of Kajang**

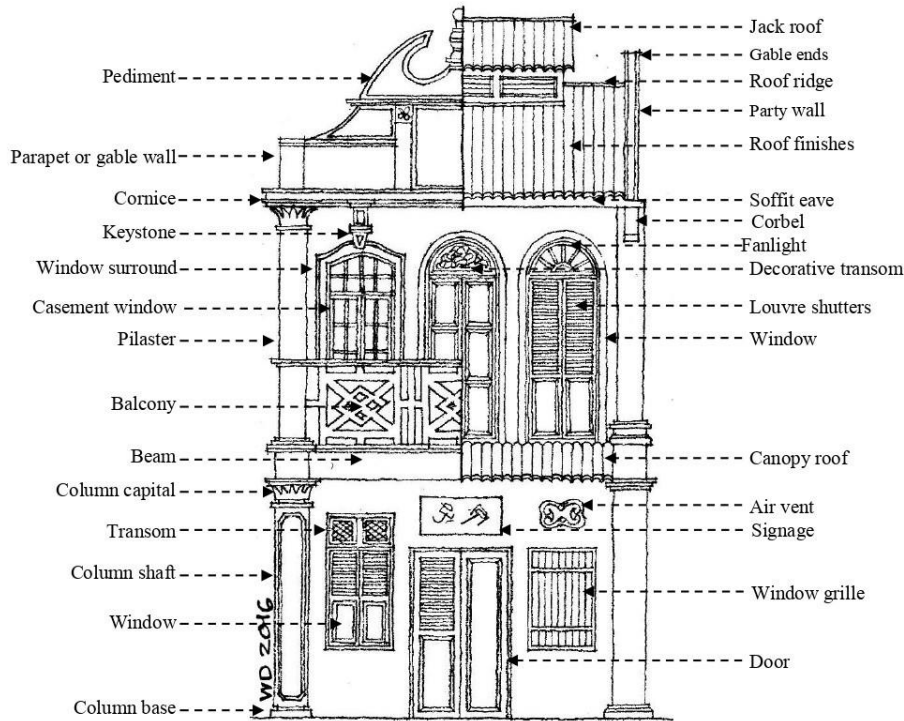
Kajang was commonly believed to be founded after the Selangor civil war that occurred in 1867 until 1874 and was well reflected in its etymology, '*berkajang*' which means to stab or fight in Bugis language, was named as such due to the animosity between the Sumatran Malays and the Bugis newcomers (Lim, 2020; Zain, n.d.). However, According to Lubis (2021), Raja Barayun was the one who founded Kajang and ruled the district as Tengku Panglima Besar, also known as Tunku Panglima Raja. Christy (2019) described the existence of mines in Reko, Kajang, and the ever presence of the Mandailing community dwellings as they led the tin mining activities and became the first community to carry out such activities around the late 1840s or early 1850s (Christy, 2019). Thus, paving the way for early forms of shophouses with attap roofs to eclectic versions of shophouses with influences from Chinese, European, and Malay architecture after the colonization of the British in Selangor (Fee, 2007; Lubis, 2018).

### **2.2 Shophouse**

Shophouse is defined as a shop that opens into the street while also being dwelled by the proprietor at the same time (Lim, 1993). Shophouse is also a form of urban building typology that serves residential, industrial, or mixed-use purposes. Shophouses are also characterized as a means for merchants to reside and work under the same roof of two or three stories shophouses adaptable to various commercial uses such as light industry and warehouse (Gurstein & Malaysia, 1990). According to Nasution & Berbar (2009), Chinese shopkeepers commonly inhabited shophouses due to their involvement in trading and business enterprise, especially during British colonization. Thus, paving the way for commercial architectural characteristics in the nation from the early 18th to 19th century (Nasution & Berbar, 2009).

### **2.3 Architectural Features of Shophouses**

Identifying architectural features for the shophouses is highly significant in identifying the selected shophouse's style (Johar et al., 2022). The earlier style of shophouses, as shown in Fig. 1, is typically characterized by its 6 to 7 meters width, followed by 30 meters in length but often extended up to 60 meters deep (Fee, 2007). Moreover, archetypal shophouses are typically constructed two or three stories high with a narrow front and deep rear (Davison & Invernizzi, 2010). Shophouses are also constructed in rows or terraces, divided by party walls shared with the neighbors, including a five-foot way on the front (Gurstein & Malaysia, 1990). It was specified that the fundamental architecture and construction of the shophouses incorporate materials like timber, mortar, mud, and lime.



**Fig. 1** The architectural features of a typical heritage shophouse in Malaysia  
 Source: Wan Ali et al. (2016)

**2.4 Architectural Styles of Shophouses in Kajang**

In terms of the typology of shophouses in Kajang, various architectural styles reported by Warisan Seni Bina Malaysia are highlighted in Table 1 below;

**Table 1** Architectural styles of heritage shophouses in Kajang

Street Name	Early Shophouse Style	Eclectic Style	Neoclassical Style	Total Buildings
Jalan Tukang	-	10	-	10
Jalan Sulaiman	-	23	-	23
Jalan Besar	4	37	8	49
Jalan Mendaling	-	29	-	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>111</b>

Source: Inventory Warisan Seni Bina Malaysia (1992/1993), as cited from (Idid, 1995)

**2.5 Present Condition of Shophouses and Heritage Buildings in Kajang**

According to Yip (2019), numerous shophouses in Selangor's oldest townships are 100 years old. Still, the responsible authorities seem unaware of their historical importance and let the pre-war shophouses deteriorate (Teng, 2019; Toong & Utaberta, 2015; Wan Ali & Ahmad, 2022). Similarly, Zainuddin & Yapp (2019) also mentioned that Kajang faced a shortage of preservation initiatives and efforts, despite having a distinctive and unique legacy and history. Thus, this is reflected in the state and condition of the shophouses in the old town of Kajang. Accordingly, Lee described the present condition of various shophouses in Kajang are either dilapidated or ruined by hasty

renovations or insensitive extensions towards the original shophouse architecture, resulting in defaced façade (Zainudin & Yapp, 2019). Moreover, Christy (2019) also detailed that the façade of the shophouses is being covered by billboards or signages over the frontage or even constructing sculptures that are not evocative of the history of Kajang itself. However, Lim (2020) & Christy (2019) also noted a few heritage buildings demolished in Kajang. Hence, Singh (2013) described a need for a preservation initiative regarding the heritage buildings in Kajang (Singh, 2013). Otherwise, many tangible heritages will be demolished and lost in time (Christy, 2019; Lim, 2020). In retrospect, the present condition of shophouses and heritage buildings in Kajang reflects a lack of awareness and preservation efforts, resulting in deterioration and loss of historical significance. The urgent need for a comprehensive preservation initiative is emphasized to safeguard the tangible heritage and prevent further demolition and degradation of these valuable architectural assets.

### **3.0 METHODOLOGY**



This research employed a qualitative approach to address the research questions, aims, and objectives. The selected methodology involved data collection and analysis, which was crucial for the research process. The site selection was the initial step in the methodology. Jalan Mendaling was chosen based on its historical significance, proximity to the Langat River, and its role in the town's development as a traditional transportation hub. The road's selection also considered the contribution of the ethnic groups involved in the growth of the old town of Kajang, reflecting the rich cultural traditions associated with the area's past as a tin mining and commercial zone. Data collection involved using a comprehensive checklist to assess the heritage shophouses' present condition and architectural features. The checklist encompassed information regarding the physical condition of the shophouses, including the roof, walls, windows, and doors. Additionally, it covered the architectural features of the shophouses, such as the façade, windows, doors, and interior layout. Furthermore, the cultural significance of the shophouses was also considered. There are a total of 45 lots that can be observed on Jalan Mendaling, Kajang. However, only 42 lots still have existing structures, while the buildings at Lot 11, 12 and 13 were demolished. Out of the 42 buildings, 29 lots still retain some characteristics of the original structures. However, despite various challenges and threats, seven (7) heritage shophouses managed to retain the original façades, making up to 17.5% of the entire heritage shophouses inventory. These authentic heritage shophouses are located at Lot No. 9, 10, 19, 22, 26, 27 and 31. The final phase of observation focused on seven selected shophouses, as presented in this paper which preserved the original façades and architectural elements, representing the true essence of heritage without substantial alterations influenced by modern practices. The data collected through the checklist was subjected to qualitative analysis. The qualitative analysis involved coding and categorizing the data to identify patterns and themes. The analysis findings were then used to draw conclusions and develop recommendations for conserving and preserving the heritage shophouses in Jalan Mendaling. The methodology employed in this research aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the present condition and architectural features of the heritage shophouses in Jalan Mendaling, Kajang. It allowed for exploring their cultural significance and formulating recommendations to ensure their long-term preservation.





### **4.0 FINDINGS**

Based on the primary data collected, 42 shop lots were observed in Jalan Mendaling, Kajang. However, only 39 shop lots still had existing structures, as three shophouses (lot numbers 11, 12, and 13) had been demolished. Some existing shophouses were also demolished to make way for

taller commercial buildings. The study found that most of the shophouses in Jalan Mendaling had undergone major and minor renovations, accounting for 64.29% of the sampled shophouses. However, a small percentage, around 11.9%, which includes five shophouses (lot numbers 9, 10, 19, 26, and 27), still retained their original façade. Among these shophouses, lot numbers 9, 10, 19, 26, and 27 were selected for further observation due to their authenticity to the original façade and the absence of major renovations. These heritage shophouses are highly significant as they preserve the original architectural features and façade without modern influences. The selected shophouses provide valuable insights into the historical and cultural significance of Jalan Mendaling, Kajang, as they offer a glimpse into the architectural styles and character of the past. Preserving and protecting these heritage shophouses can contribute to conserving the area's cultural heritage and maintaining its unique identity.

**Table 2** The architectural features and styles of the authentic shophouses in Jalan Mendaling

Shophouse / Architecture Features	Roof	Walls	Openings
<p>1) Lot No. 9</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Roof Type</b> Jack Roof.</li> <li>• <b>Roof Ridges</b> Tile and Plaster Roof Ridge.</li> <li>• <b>Gable Ends</b> Gold or Metal (Round Shape).</li> <li>• <b>Roof Eaves</b> Visible timber eave with rafters.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Brick</b> Traditional Clay Bricks</li> <li>• <b>Parapet Wall</b> None</li> <li>• <b>Plaster</b> Lime Plaster</li> <li>• <b>Column</b> Column head with capital.</li> <li>• <b>Bressummer Beam</b> Timber bressummer beam and granite corbel (bracket).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Main Door</b> Folding flat-paneled metal door.</li> <li>• <b>Windows</b> Hardwood frame and fixed louver fanlight above and timber fixed louver below. Door-height louvered shutters (Venetians or jalousies) with solid wood lower panels. Without iron bars for security.</li> <li>• <b>Air Vent</b> None</li> <li>• <b>Prefabricated Air Vent</b> None</li> </ul>
<p>2) Lot No. 10</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Roof Type</b> Jack Roof.</li> <li>• <b>Roof Ridges</b> Tile and Plaster Roof Ridge.</li> <li>• <b>Gable Ends</b> Gold or Metal (Round Shape).</li> <li>• <b>Roof Eaves</b> Visible timber eave with rafters.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Brick</b> Traditional Clay Bricks</li> <li>• <b>Parapet Wall</b> None</li> <li>• <b>Plaster</b> Lime Plaster</li> <li>• <b>Column</b> Column head with capital.</li> <li>• <b>Bressummer Beam</b> Timber bressummer beam and granite corbel (bracket).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Main Door</b> Folding flat-paneled metal door.</li> <li>• <b>Windows</b> Hardwood frame and fixed louver fanlight above and timber fixed louver below. Door-height louvered shutters (Venetians or jalousies) with solid wood lower panels.</li> <li>• <b>Air Vent</b> None</li> <li>• <b>Prefabricated Air Vent:</b> None</li> </ul>
<p>3) Lot No. 19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Roof Type</b> Jack Roof.</li> <li>• <b>Roof Ridges</b> Tile and Plaster</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Brick</b> Traditional Clay Bricks</li> <li>• <b>Parapet Wall</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Main Door</b> Folding flat-paneled metal door.</li> <li>• <b>Windows</b> Hardwood frame and fixed louver</li> </ul>

	<p>Roof Ridge. • <b>Gable Ends</b> Gold or Metal (Round Shape). • <b>Roof Eaves</b> Visible timber eave with rafters.</p>	<p>None • <b>Plaster</b> Lime Plaster • <b>Column</b> Column head with capital. • <b>Bressummer Beam</b> Timber bressummer beam and granite corbel (bracket).</p>	<p>fanlight above and timber fixed louver below. Door-height louvered shutters (Venetians or jalousies) with solid wood lower panels. Without iron bars for security. • <b>Air Vent</b> None • <b>Prefabricated Air Vent</b> None</p>
<p>4) Lot No. 22</p>  <p>(Source: Kajang Town Blogspot) <a href="http://kajangtown.blogspot.com/2008/04/great-kajang-flood-70s.html">http://kajangtown.blogspot.com/2008/04/great-kajang-flood-70s.html</a></p>  <p>Currently the façade is completely blocked by billboard</p>	<p>• <b>Roof Type</b> Jack Roof. • <b>Roof Ridges</b> Tile and Plaster Roof Ridge. • <b>Gable Ends</b> Gold or Metal (Round Shape). • <b>Roof Eaves</b> Visible timber eave with rafters.</p>	<p>• <b>Brick</b> Traditional Clay Bricks • <b>Parapet Wall</b> None • <b>Plaster</b> Lime Plaster • <b>Column</b> Column head with capital. • <b>Bressummer Beam</b> Timber bressummer beam and granite corbel (bracket).</p>	<p>• <b>Main Door</b> Folding flat-paneled metal door. • <b>Windows</b> Hardwood frame and fixed louver fanlight above and timber fixed louver below. Door-height louvered shutters (Venetians or jalousies) with solid wood lower panels. Without iron bars for security. • <b>Air Vent</b> None • <b>Prefabricated Air Vent</b> None</p>
<p>5) Lot No. 26</p> 	<p>• <b>Roof Type</b> Jack Roof. • <b>Roof Ridges</b> Tile and Plaster Roof Ridge. • <b>Gable Ends</b> Gold or Metal (Round Shape). • <b>Roof Eaves</b> Visible timber eave with rafters.</p>	<p>• <b>Brick</b> Traditional Clay Bricks • <b>Parapet Wall</b> None • <b>Plaster</b> Lime Plaster • <b>Column</b> Column head with capital. • <b>Bressummer Beam</b></p>	<p>• <b>Main Door</b> Folding flat-paneled metal door. • <b>Windows</b> Hardwood frame and fixed louver fanlight above and timber fixed louver below. Door-height louvered shutters (Venetians or jalousies) with solid wood lower panels. Without iron bars for security. • <b>Air Vent</b> None</p>



		Timber bressummer beam and granite corbel (bracket).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Prefabricated Air Vent</b> None</li> </ul>
<p>6) Lot No. 27</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Roof Type</b> Jack Roof.</li> <li>• <b>Roof Ridges</b> Tile and Plaster Roof Ridge.</li> <li>• <b>Gable Ends</b> Gold or Metal (Round Shape).</li> <li>• <b>Roof Eaves</b> Visible timber eave with rafters.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Brick</b> Traditional Clay Bricks</li> <li>• <b>Parapet Wall</b> None</li> <li>• <b>Plaster</b> Lime Plaster</li> <li>• <b>Column</b> Column head with capital.</li> <li>• <b>Bressummer Beam</b> Timber bressummer beam and granite corbel (bracket).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Main Door</b> Folding flat-paneled metal door.</li> <li>• <b>Windows</b> Hardwood frame and fixed louver fanlight above and timber fixed louver below. Door-height louvered shutters (Venetians or jalousies) with solid wood lower panels. Without iron bars for security.</li> <li>• <b>Air Vent</b> None</li> <li>• <b>Prefabricated Air Vent</b> None</li> </ul>
<p>7) Lot No. 31</p>  <p>(Source: Google Street Map)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Roof Type</b> Jack Roof.</li> <li>• <b>Roof Ridges</b> Tile and Plaster Roof Ridge.</li> <li>• <b>Gable Ends</b> Gold or Metal (Round Shape).</li> <li>• <b>Roof Eaves</b> Visible timber eave with rafters.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Brick</b> Traditional Clay Bricks</li> <li>• <b>Parapet Wall</b> None</li> <li>• <b>Plaster</b> Lime Plaster</li> <li>• <b>Column</b> Column head with capital.</li> <li>• <b>Bressummer Beam</b> Timber bressummer beam and granite corbel (bracket).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Main Door</b> Folding flat-paneled metal door.</li> <li>• <b>Windows</b> Hardwood frame and fixed louver fanlight above and timber fixed louver below. Door-height louvered shutters (Venetians or jalousies) with solid wood lower panels. Without iron bars for security.</li> <li>• <b>Air Vent</b> None</li> <li>• <b>Prefabricated Air Vent</b> None</li> </ul>

## 5.0 DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The heritage shophouses in Jalan Mendaling, Kajang, have undergone significant changes. In the past, most of these shophouses were constructed with timber structures and thatched roofs. However, from the 1980s to the 1930s, they were gradually replaced by the current heritage shophouses. The heritage shophouses in Jalan Mendaling hold colonial historical significance and reflect the presence of the Sumatran Malay communities, particularly the Mandailing and Minangkabau descents. However, due to diverse migrations during the British occupation, these communities were pushed out of the area, leaving only one heritage shophouse (Lot No. 9) still owned by the Mandailing community.

Lot numbers 9, 10, 19, 26, and 27 are particularly significant in preserving the authentic facades of the heritage shophouses in Jalan Mendaling. These shophouses have retained their original facades without renovations and represent the essence of heritage, reflecting the town's architectural styles and historical context. Despite the changes and challenges the heritage shophouses face, including hasty renovations and demolitions, these selected lots have preserved their architectural allure. They

serve as a testament to Kajang's historical and cultural traditions as a tin mining and commercial area. It is crucial for the local authority, Kajang Municipal Council (MPKJ), to prioritize the conservation and preservation of these authentic heritage shophouses, including those located at lot no. 9, 10, 19, 26, and 27. By recognizing their significance and implementing appropriate measures, these shophouses can contribute to safeguarding Kajang's unique heritage for future generations.

Based on the discussion, the following are some recommendations for maintaining the authenticity of heritage shophouses through conservation guidelines:

- Conduct comprehensive documentation and research: Create a detailed record of the originality and historical significance of heritage shophouse facades, including architectural features, building materials, and design elements. This documentation will serve as a valuable resource for future preservation efforts.
- Establish a dedicated research team: Form a specialized team or collaborate with heritage preservation experts to conduct in-depth research on heritage shophouse facades. This team can contribute to the documentation process and provide expert insights on preservation techniques.
- Develop preservation guidelines for shophouse facades: Create specific guidelines outlining the best practices for preserving heritage shophouse facades. These guidelines should address issues such as appropriate restoration techniques, maintenance procedures, and the use of traditional building materials.
- Foster collaboration with heritage agencies and organizations: Establish partnerships with heritage preservation agencies, organizations, and experts to raise awareness about the value of heritage shophouse facades. Collaborative efforts can include joint preservation projects, workshops, and educational programs.
- Conduct public awareness campaigns: Launch campaigns to educate the general public about the heritage value of shophouse facades. Utilize various channels such as social media, exhibitions, public talks, and guided heritage walks to engage and inform the community about the importance of preserving these architectural gems.
- Engage with shophouse owners and stakeholders: Establish effective communication channels with shophouse owners to promote their active involvement in preservation efforts. Provide resources, incentives, and support to encourage owners to maintain and protect the original facades of their properties.
- Establish heritage conservation incentives and grants: Introduce financial incentives, grants, and tax benefits for shophouse owners who prioritize the preservation of heritage facades. This can serve as a motivating factor for owners to invest in facade restoration and maintenance.
- Implement a heritage conservation plan: Develop a comprehensive plan that outlines strategies, goals, and actions for preserving heritage shophouse facades. The plan should include a clear timeline, budget allocation, and monitoring mechanisms to ensure the effective implementation of preservation efforts.

## **6.0 CONCLUSION**

Reserving heritage shophouses' architectural styles and façades is crucial in the face of rapid urban development and uncontrolled conservation and renovation works. These historical buildings embody the city's history and culture and contribute to the local economy by attracting tourists and businesses. However, large billboards obscuring the façades, as seen in Lot No. 22 pose a severe challenge to their preservation, diminishing their historical and architectural significance and hindering their economic potential. To address this issue, the government must establish stricter



regulations governing the size and placement of billboards over heritage shophouse facades. The unique architectural character can be maintained by enforcing guidelines prioritizing the visibility and preservation of shophouse façades, and the negative impact on foot traffic and business can be mitigated. Moreover, encouraging property owners to undertake conservation and renovation works in a manner that respects the historical integrity of the shophouses is essential. Providing incentives, grants, and support for sensitive restoration efforts can motivate owners to preserve the façades actively.

Additionally, raising public awareness about the significance of heritage shophouses is crucial to garnering support and understanding for their preservation. Educational campaigns, guided heritage walks, and public exhibitions can educate the community on the value of these architectural gems and instill a sense of pride and ownership. By fostering a collective appreciation for preserving heritage shophouses, individuals and communities will be more inclined to protect and celebrate these historical treasures. Preserving heritage shophouses extends beyond mere aesthetics; they contribute to the city's sense of place and identity, boost the local economy, serve as cultural and educational resources, and even offer environmental benefits by reducing noise and pollution. By implementing the recommendations of stricter regulations, owner engagement, and public awareness, we can safeguard the architectural styles of heritage shophouses' building façades, ensuring their continued presence in the urban cityscape for generations. Through these efforts, we can preserve our cultural heritage, promote sustainable development, and maintain our cities' unique charm and character.

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