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## Identification of Perak Malay Hard Landscape Elements along the Perak River in the Perak Tengah District

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### Abstract

This study is a continuation of previous studies with respect to the Malay landscape in the state of Perak. The purpose of this study was to obtain a list of hard landscape elements that exist in the residential compound of the Malays in the present. The objective of the study was to determine the function of each component of a hard landscape. The scope of the study is along the Perak River in Perak Tengah District. The need for this study is to reveal the identity of the Malay landscape and improve the self-esteem of the community indirectly.

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*Keywords:* Perak Malay garden; Malay landscape; Malay garden concept; cultural landscape

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## 1. Introduction

Referring to Abdul Halim Nasir (2007), in 1528, a prince of the Sultan of Malacca was crowned the Sultan of Perak in the place called Tanah Abang. The Tanah Abang location is on the edge, the right bank of the Perak River. The history of Perak has shown us, how the Malay race was so fond of their people. However, Perak Malay landscape from the beginning until today cannot be highlighted for the public. According to Zamil et al., (2014), one of the reasons why the concept of Malay landscape cannot be emphasized is because the community has a strong sense of inferiority. It is the reason there are so difficult for them to compete with other races in Malaysia nowadays. Traditional Malay people develop their garden to attain synchronization with the environment that is the concept, activities and function of the interior Malay house is tolerant toward the external spaces (Yuan, 1991). Lynch (1960) defines identity as the level of a person's ability to recognize and remember a place as special compared to other places or have unique and has a character of its own. Culture is a way of life that developed and shared by a community and handed down from one generation to another. Based on the cultural context, researchers have been searching for hard landscape elements in the Perak Malay culture.

### 1.1. Problems statement

At present, the characteristics and the identity of the hard landscape of Perak Malay have not highlighted while it is an art and a way of life which has inherited a long time ago. Through this study, hard landscape elements of Perak Malay will be exposed to the knowledge of all.

### 1.2. Research objective

The objective of this study was to identify elements of the hard landscape, which mentioned in the old Malay manuscripts. Besides, it is also to determine the elements of the hard landscape with its function in the present.

### 1.3. The scope of the study

The extent of this study covers traditional houses Perak Malay, along the Perak River in Perak Tengah district. Furthermore, the study also identifies some sample criteria (see 3.1) to facilitate the researchers get a sample of the study. The Kutai house is among the important criteria in the selection of the sample because it classified as the types of the oldest traditional Malay houses in the district of Perak Tengah. Perak Tengah District chosen as the study area is because, there are several studies conducted by previous researchers that declare this area as one area that has a lot of Kutai house. The advantage of the case study is can afford a detailed study in depth and breadth.

## 2. Literature review

There are several references used in the research literature. This literature review has focused on the existing design, selection of research methods, introduction to the subject of study, and also the importance of the old manuscripts in this study. It helps to explore the reasoning behind a particular perspective, evaluate its strengths and weaknesses, and assess its contribution to our understanding (Gray & Malins, 2004).

### 2.1. Design concept

According to Mitchell (2002), the cultural landscape is a medium that can be used to identify and understand a particular race. Therefore, the concept of landscape design that is owned by a race could be the basis for introducing their identity. According to Abdul Hadi & Julaihi (2010), the implicit character is the main difference between the approaches of traditional Malaysian society with Western society in the aspect of design, including the environmental design. Malaysian Malay is no exception; their cultural landscape and the environment are difficult to interpret by researchers.

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