

Neighbourhood Revitalization

Sustainable Tropical Environmental Design Exhibition 2011

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STEdex'11 – Azizah Salim Syed Salim, **Neighbourhood Revitalization, Sustainable Tropical Environmental Design Exhibition 2011**, ISSN : 2180-0685, Vol : 3, [68], Faculty of Design and Architecture, Universiti Putra Malaysia

UPM 5th year Bachelor of Architecture programme (2009 -2010) comprehensive design project is the final design exercise in the formal education of a student architect. It tests the accumulated knowledge and skills in handling architectural problems. It also provides opportunity for students to showcase their talent to design a complex building from the preparation of brief to design proposal accompanied by a full documentation of investigations, findings analysis and conclusions.

Initially, the students were required to study a particular Malaysian urban entity before embarking on an individual project. Working in a group, 3 urban entities in Kedah i.e. Alor Setar town, Kuala Kedah town and Gunung Keriang District were studied. The typical site contextual issues including environmental, socio-cultural and physiological of each entity were analysed and considered as design generator in the process. Major aspects of the urban fabric were identified and influences which had shaped the study areas were examined. The complexity of issues was reduced at this stage for the students to embark upon their preliminary proposals.

In the next phase, the proposed new development was derived from the old urban fabric and transformed into a refined urban code to emphasize the importance of the place in local context. The four proposals were recommendations for sites along the peripheral of Sungai Kedah. They needed to address the provision of an active functional network which linked the locals and the environment of Kuala Kedah development in order to revitalize the riverfront or urban area. The four projects selected have demonstrated appropriateness in terms of human needs, environmental, social and cultural contexts as well as aesthetic response. They have also opened up a new pathway in understanding a sustainable riverfront urban development.