

Case Study of Modern and Postmodern Styles Impact on Administration Architecture in Independent Malaysia Since 20th to 21th Century

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The main purpose is to expound the modern and postmodern architectural styles of administration architecture in Malaysia and outlined the possible causes that may influence the conception of these styles. Despite the fact that studies of administration architecture in other countries have revealed a relationship between administration architecture and politics as well as symbols of a certain race's identity, no such studies that express administration architecture in Malaysia. The research on administrative architecture in Malaysia focuses on six main components: historical documentation, strategies of preserving and conserving past administrative buildings, documentation of administrative buildings in the form of measured drawings, and conversation of theory for designing administrative buildings in urban cities. A case study strategy, as outlined by Yin (1993), was used to collect data by using two significant case studies from different periods of Malaysian government (20th to current). In contrast to the three typical types of administrative architecture suggested by various historians, such as Colonial, and Modern styles, the research has identified two key styles with a recommendation of the reasoning and effects of those styles. The finding for practising architects to understand that the current syntax of 'administrative architecture,' with its references in Middle Eastern and Western models, is not always the best precedent for projecting one's nation's architectural message due to country's own identity and the value of regionalism.

Keywords: Administration Architecture, Architecture Styles, National Identity

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Definition of Administrative Architecture

A government administrative architecture is a style of building that accommodates the function of administrators at all levels and houses the legislative office of the government (Vale, 2008). There is a large variety of well-known administrative architecture available all around the world. An administrative architecture is purposefully designed at the national level to

demonstrate their strength and position in society, in addition to serve as a building to house the government's seat of power (Markus, 1993). Administrative buildings, like any other design of architecture, have a large vocabulary, particularly in the area of styles and the places where these styles are adapted. This paper aims to clarify the various styles that are likely to be used in the design of state administrative architecture in Malaysia over each of the major eras, ranging from the 20th century to the present day. Because current administration architecture concentrates

on eclectic styles such as traditional vernacular, colonial, Islamic revivalism, modern, and postmodern styles rather than referring to local identity and values, the study is significant. The study is crucial for working architects and designers to understand that current and existing examples of administrative architecture may not be the best representation of Malaysia as a multiracial society and democratic country.

1.2 Research Scenario of Administrative Architecture in Malaysia

Architects and academics have written published works on the subject of administrative architecture. Their work, on the other hand, discusses historical development, preservation and conservation strategies for former administration buildings, documentation of administrative buildings in measured drawings, and theory for designing administrative buildings in urban cities. However, many of these writings do not provide a full analysis of the overall administration building's spatial organization and physical form, nor do they analyse the reasons that impacted its style and design. In addition, their investigation did not provide much information on important transitions in the evolution of Malaysian administration buildings.

Furthermore, earlier works did not follow the development of the administrative building in a chronological order from the earliest eras to the present day. Studies on the documentation of prominent historical administrative building typology have been documented by scholars like Rasdi (2001), Ismail (2008), Endut (2001), Vlatseas (2001), Kosman (2002), Nik Ibrahim (2008) and Jaafar (2010). Nonetheless, these publications merely analyse the general design aspects of Malaysian administration buildings and categories them according to their exterior look and style. Their research, on the other hand, did not include a comparison of administration buildings constructed during different periods of Malaysian history or a study of the changes in administrative architecture in Malaysia from pre-colonial to colonial era.

Another type of research is on how to maintain and conserve old Malaysian administrative buildings. Vis (1982) recommended strategies and approaches for preserving historic administration buildings, and

also a future rehabilitation programme to maintain the deteriorating state of Malaysia's rustic administration buildings. Izani (2009), on the other side, merely goes through the basics of using computer simulation and software to reconstruct a demolished administrative structure from the past.

Another type of research on Malaysia's administration building is in the form of measured drawing works documented by students from the University Technology of Malaysia's Architectural Department and compiled by KALAM. Scaled drawings, details, written reports, and visual images and illustrations of administration buildings make up this project. Their focus, on the other hand, is on the administrative centers of districts and states. Scholars such as Moser (2009), King (2008), Johan Ariffini (2003), and Siong (2006) did a study on the placement and setting of administrative centers in urban city centers. Their research focused on the function of urban planning and layout in emphasizing administrative buildings as the center of state power and authority.

2 PUBLISHED SOURCES DEMONSTRATES THAT THERE IS A VOID IN THE LITERATURE ON MALAYSIAN ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDINGS

In finding, a review of published sources demonstrates that there is a void in the literature on Malaysian administrative buildings. None of the works discussed above provide comprehensive documentation of the development of administration buildings, particularly the state administration government building in Western Malaysia built from the pre-independence period to the post-independence period, or explain the possible factors that influence the architectural style of administration buildings. To fill this void and meet the study's goal, this article focuses on recording Malaysia's important administrative buildings in chronological order, including historical evolution and detailed architectural descriptions.

3 ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING IN MALAYSIA

3.1 Brief History of Administrative Building in Respective Scenario

Independent Malaysia

A. Post-independence era

Malaysia's administration is built on a federal representative democratic constitutional monarchy structure, with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong as the head of state and the Prime Minister of Malaysia as the head of government, following the country's independence in 1957. The Malaysian administrative system is separated into two distinct functions in this regard. The Yang di-Pertuan Agong is the head of Malaysia's Islamic faith. Besides that, he is also the head of Islam for kingdoms without kings, such as Melaka, Penang, Sabah, Sarawak, and all of Malaysia's Federal Territories, whereas the prime minister is the leader of the country's religion. Malaysia's Prime Minister is the countries indirectly elected (executive) head of government, and he leads the Cabinet, whose members are selected by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong on the prime minister's advice.

Malaysia's political system is based on the Westminster parliamentary system, which is a remnant of British colonial authority. The federal government has three main branches the legislative, executive and judiciary. Malaysia has two sources of law: the national constitution, which is the ultimate law of the country, and the Syariah law, which exclusively applies to Muslims in the country. The executive branch of the government, on the other hand, is headed by the Prime Minister, who is followed by the Cabinet's numerous ministries. The executive branch has no authority to meddle in the state's legislative or judicial branches. For the overall development of the country, the executive branch of the government formulates numerous sociolect-economic policies and development plans. The cabinet, led by the prime minister, is in charge of the executive branch. The judiciary, on the other hand, is supposedly separate from the executive and legislative branches. Nonetheless, the executive branch of government in Malaysia wields more influence than the legislative branch. Tunku, Razak, and Onn's administrations in the early years after independence portrayed a

political agenda that was heavily focused on country building and national progress. The authorities principal aim, techniques, and actions during these periods were to unite all races and religions in the country while maintaining the prominence of Malay culture and Islam as the primary religion.

The major goal is to find a common identity that will represent Malaysia as a newly independent country. As a result, the country's architectural scene, particularly government and public buildings, not only generates nationalistic sentiments among the people due to the portrayal of the national identity picture, but also represents the idea of unity among the populace and the country's progress. The Parliament building, constructed by Sir Ivor Shipley in 1962, is one such noteworthy example. Despite comments that national identity should be expressed through local traditional forms, the Parliament building was designed to have a modern aspect to reflect Tunku's political vision of modernization and growth for Malaysia. Furthermore, because Malay Muslims are the majority ethnic group in the country, the building represents the manifestation of 'Malayness' through its design form as a symbol to unify the Malay Muslim community.

B. Present era

In contrast to earlier years, Malaysia's 20th century political objectives and strategies were quite different. This is due to the fact that the country's leadership under Mahathir, Badawi, and Najib focused heavily on establishing the Malay race and the Islamic faith as vital aspects of the nation-building process, as well as a strong emphasis on economic and social growth. Many nation-building activities were carried out in the country to ensure the country's prosperity, such as the construction of mega-projects to provide a direct return to the economy through job creation and other multiplier effects, as well as to serve as the country's national icon and pride.

This nation-building effort includes not only the construction of public buildings but also government buildings across the country. The North-South Expressway, the Multimedia Super Corridor, and Cyberjaya, the Kuala Lumpur International Airport, the Sepang Formula One circuit, the 2.4 billion Bakun Dam, and the Petronas Twin Towers as symbols of modern

Malaysia and Malaysia's new administrative capital Putrajaya are examples (see Kheng 2002; Shome 2002; Teik 2007). Even though it is projected in a contemporary outlook employing advanced materials and technology, replete with modern infrastructure and services, the city of Putrajaya embodies characteristics that are steeped in the people's heritage and culture.



Figure 1: North-South Expressway

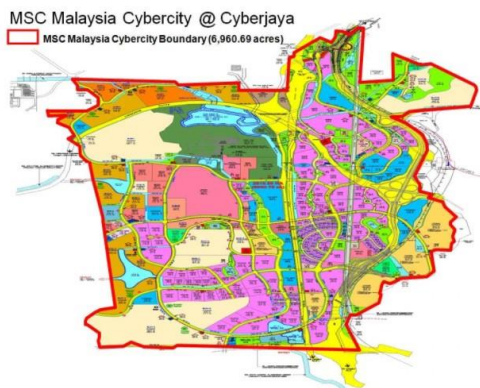


Figure 2: Multimedia Super Corridor, and Cyberjaya



Figure 3: Kuala Lumpur International Airport



Figure 4: Sepang Formula One circuit



Figure 5: Petronas Twin Towers

The Putrajaya project was magnificent in scale, and it was billed as Malaysia's greatest real-estate project and one of the world's largest and most expensive ventures. The total project cost was estimated to reach 24 RM billion in the end (Putrajaya Holdings 2003: 74). The Prime Minister's Office Complex, commonly known as the Perdana Putra, is the most visible architecture in Putrajaya's Government Precinct (Precinct 1), as it houses the prime minister's office and serves as the administrative centre.



Figure 6: The Prime Minister's Office Complex, commonly known as the Perdana Putra

The architectural style of this building, which was completed in 1997, exhibits the Indo Saracenic design approach, which was heavily influenced by the architectural style movement launched by British architects in late 19th century British India. It drew inspiration from indigenous Indo-Islamic and Indian architecture, as well as a mash-up of Malay, Islamic, and European civilizations like Palladian and Neoclassicism. The appearance could indicate the government's political goals in propagating the idea of an indestructible and untouchable Malaysia in the new age.

3.2 Function and Typology of Administrative architecture

This section will be discussing on two types of functions that the administrative architecture possesses. The first kind is direct functions and the second is the indirect functions.

A. Direct Functions

The administrative architecture's direct functions are closely related to the building's purpose. In this sense, administrative buildings often house offices ranging from the lowest to the highest levels of government in order to maintain control over the country's political climate. An administrative building is a place where decisions are made about the country's policies and affairs, as well as international issues. It could possibly become a landmark with a crucial location in the country's capital.

B. Indirect Functions

The administrative building may also serve indirect duties or represent a variety of meanings related to the prevalence of identity. According to Vale (2008), there are three sorts of identity when it comes to administration buildings. This identity

creation is necessary to convey the purpose for the construction of the administration building. There are three main purposes, according to Vale (2008). First, there are functions that are a result of a sub-national identity. Second, it signifies personal identification, and third, it denotes supranational identity. The term "sub-national identity" refers to the symbol that the country wishes to express through architecture. As a newly formed state, it is vital to display the structure as a national representation symbol in order to satisfy four key objectives.

The first is to draw attention to the identification of a dominating group within a plural society, which would generally resemble the leaders in power. Second, indicate the political climate of the country. Third, as a national emblem, it represents the country's cultural, social, and economic qualities, and fourth, it denotes the current government's political standing. Personal identity, on the other hand, is defined as an individual's aim or agenda in determining the building's architectural design. In this way, the sponsor of the building played a significant part in establishing the required structure. Because it is critical for politicians and leaders of a newly founded country to acquire the respect of the public, architecture is viewed as a medium through which political authority can be symbolized in order to empower the masses. To put it another way, the design of the structure not only certifies the ruler's presence among the people, but it also represents the ruler's own taste.

Supranational identity, which is comparable to sub-national identity, is the third type. In this way, the built environment serves not only as a symbolic representation at the national level, but also as an international image for the country. To gain public recognition and persuade the populace, as well as to portray that the ruling government is capable of promoting progress and defending the status of religion and the built form, it was necessary to present the extension of social control and political manipulation at the international level.

3.3 Typology

There are two types of administrative architecture Malaysia.

A. Postcolonial administrative complex construct as a resurgence of nationalism or national identity.

During the first decade after independence, colonial elements were still deeply established in Malaysia's system and way of thinking. Foreign design approaches were used in administrative architecture during the time. This features ideas by Le Corbusier, Frank Lloyd Wright, and a few other notable modernist architects in the west by Alice (2002). New technologies and mechanisms were incorporated into the designs of government administrative buildings as well as other large-scale projects such as rail stations.



Figure 7: Wisma Permodalan Nasional Berhad, had a modernistic approach with a touch of Malay architecture

The new Malaysian government was looking for a new vocabulary for architecture that could reflect the country's identity, and as a result, most government buildings took a modernistic approach in addition to being functional and containing metaphoric interpretations. The concept of bringing the country's races and communities together had also resulted in administrative architecture. As a symbol of nationalism, architectural aspects that suited the local conditions were famously copied and incorporated into official buildings throughout this century.

B. Post-independence advancement in polity-government trying to portrait new established political agenda.

As Malaysia develops into a developed country, new sentiments and political agendas emerge, such as in the case of administrative architecture, where the design now had a new order and was more open, in contrast to previous eras where the dominant group's agenda was kept hidden within a plural society. Malaysia has established itself as an economically and politically stable country, and it is now more vociferous in expressing its desire to be viewed as a Malay-Muslim state.



Figure 8: Palace of Justice Putrajaya

Because it is the most appropriate building to describe the government as a whole, the administrative building played a part in articulating this agenda openly. The new Federal administrative city reflects how our political leaders intended Malaysia to be seen in the eyes of the world. The design of this new metropolis, Putrajaya, had a foreign architectural vocabulary, a revivalism of a once-glorious governmental system from the Middle Eastern countries, which was the brainchild of the political leaders by Moser (2009), King (2008), and Siong (2006).

It is clear that historical development fostered different types of administrative buildings and the two main types of administrative architecture in Malaysia each have its own unique characteristics.

4 METHODOLOGY

The publication used multiple case study analysis to gather information for the study, using the methodology provided by Yin (1993). The case studies were chosen based on key eras in

Malaysia that were separated by changing regimes and political climates from the twentieth century to the present. To begin the research, data was gathered to identify the important administrative buildings of each significant era as case studies, which were divided into two categories such as Post Independent era and Present era. These case studies are then evaluated using indicators that can be used to determine the architectural style and its impact. The architectural styles of each case study were observed for this study based on the form of the building, with a focus on the facade structure.

Classification of Styles and possible influences

In Malaysia, there are two categories of styles that are available in the design of the main administrative architecture in each main era from the 20th century to the present era, with reference to the different types of administrative buildings. A case study of each era's administration building will be developed. The principal administrative buildings of Malaysia's important eras influenced these two styles.

A. Modern Expressionism style

The newly independent government developed the country in a style that resembled all races and religions in Malaya, and it is thought to be a symbol of the government's democracy.



Figure 9: Parliament of Malaysia a symbol of democratic and modern architecture

The architectural language of a modernistic building, such as Malaysia's Parliament House, has clearly changed dramatically in comparison to past eras. This is related to the government's transition from being a colony to being an independent country. Buildings constructed after 1957 have little or no historic revivalism features in their architecture.

Parliament House has a variety of meanings and serves as a symbol of the country. It's also very structural, with a functional minimalist style that emphasizes expressionistic architecture. As Rasdi pointed out in his article, Malaysia's Parliament House has a modernistic expressionist style that is ready to be translated by society. The Parliament House is divided into two sections: the main structure, which is 3 stories tall, and the tower, which is 17 stories tall. The main building's roof is in the Malacca traditional Malay style, which clearly defines Malay architecture. While the tower bears no ethnic references and is the larger and more imposing component of the structure, it focuses more on the building's adaptation to its surroundings, with its facade set back to protect the inside from direct sunlight. During that time, new techniques were used to integrate steel frames into the structural system.

It is easy to deduce from the building's design that it was attempting to develop a nationalist architectural vocabulary. This is most likely owing to the government's purpose at the time, which was to create racial unity while preserving the dominant race, the Malays. The design had a modernistic touch due to the architectural background of the building, where the architect in charge of the design was Sir William Ivor Shipley, who travelled to India to study the modernistic Chandigarh constructed by Le Corbusier. As a result, it is natural for the Parliament to have both a modernistic expressionism style and a traditional style in its design. Aside from that, invited engineers such as Messers Hennessy & Edmonds, Messers Frank & Vargeson, and many more, who were the most advanced structural engineers at the time, produced novel structural ideas.

B. Post-modern revivalism style

The postmodern revivalism style was popular in the past and is now being used in new modern structures. As we speak, it is critical to distinguish between foreign and vernacular Postmodern revivalism styles. The highest administrative building in Putrajaya, the new Federal Administrative Center, is Perdana Putra, which contains the Prime Minister's office. The Perdana Putra has a distinguishing feature that may incorporate classical, Islamic, or Mogul architectural elements. Perdana Putra is a building with a mix of architectural language that uses the

pitch roof and domes to give the building its strongest character. It is built on stone cladding walls that go up to about 50 metres in height and has a mix of architectural language where the pitch roof and domes are used to give the building its strongest character. The green onion dome, which topped the building's highest point and reflects the Arabic and Islamic character on its surface, is, however, the more striking element. The building is also surrounded by smaller domes. The building's facade is classically designed, with columns and arches, and a classically adorned cornice just below the roof line, evoking Roman temples.



Figure 10: Rear view of the Perdana Putra



Figure 11: Viewing the Perdana Putra from the parade like gateway that has a long terminus point.

The structure is most likely influenced by brilliant eras in the past, such as Islamic and Western civilizations. This is to show that the government is as glorious as previous times and to demonstrate the growth of the administrative system as well as the country's social and economic position. The edifice, as the most visible political model, is the ideal way for the government to demonstrate its status as an

advanced Malay-Muslim polity, as expressed by the country's political leaders.

5 CONCLUSION

It is obvious that Malaysia has a diverse spectrum of modern and postmodern architectural styles, each of which predates a specific source of inspiration. It can be stated that each of Malaysia's important administrative buildings has its own distinct qualities that have been formed by various variables such as political, social, economic, religious, and time and place spirit brought in by various regimes.

Despite their eras, every administrative architecture in Malaysia sought to reflect grandeur in governance, as evidenced by the case studies above. They either adopted foreign architectural styles or adapted to our unique design qualities. Ideally, this indicates that the patron sought to impose political power through the built environment, particularly in the construction of the main government structure, such as the administration building.

However, none of the structures represented actual Malaysian architecture capable of portraying the country's national identity.

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