

COMPLETION REPORT

Universiti Malaya

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【Subject of Research Project】

Comparative Study of Traditional Machiya in Kyoto and Traditional Townhouses in Malacca

Results and Conclusion

While Kyomachiya and Malacca townhouses evolved in distinct cultural and geographical contexts, a comparison reveals shared functional purposes and spatial strategies alongside notable differences in architectural style, construction materials, and cultural meanings. One of the most significant similarities between Kyomachiya and Malacca townhouses is their dual-purpose design, serving both residential and commercial needs. Historically, these structures accommodated the livelihoods of merchant families, integrating living spaces with shops or workshops in a compact urban form. This combination of functions is deeply tied to the economic life of both Kyoto and Malacca, which were thriving commercial hubs during their respective historical eras. Both forms maximize the use of limited urban space, with deep, narrow designs that reflect high land value and dense population pressures in their urban environments. Despite their functional similarities, Kyomachiya and Malacca townhouses exhibit pronounced differences in architectural style and construction materials, which reflect their distinct environmental conditions, cultural aesthetics, and building traditions. These stylistic and material differences highlight the distinct cultural contexts of Kyomachiya and Malacca townhouses. Both Kyomachiya and Malacca townhouses serve as more than just functional spaces; they are deeply embedded in the cultural and social fabric of their respective cities. Both architectural forms, however, play essential roles in maintaining a sense of historical continuity and cultural identity in their respective regions. Additionally, Kyomachiya and Malacca townhouses are facing significant challenges in the face of rapid urbanization, changing economic conditions, and evolving social norms. In both cases, the preservation of these buildings is not just about maintaining architectural forms but also about sustaining the cultural practices and ways of life they represent. As urban environments continue to evolve, finding ways to integrate traditional buildings like Kyomachiya and Malacca townhouses into the fabric of modern life will be crucial for ensuring their survival.

In conclusion, Kyomachiya and Malacca townhouses, despite their differences in architectural style and cultural origins, share common ground in their responses to urban density, environmental conditions, and the socio-economic needs of their communities. The study highlights that the survival of these architectural forms faces significant challenges. Rapid urbanization, economic pressures, and shifting societal preferences threaten their existence. Preservation efforts in both Kyoto and Malacca have had some success, but ensuring the sustainability of these efforts requires balancing modern demands with cultural heritage conservation. The findings emphasize the importance of adopting holistic preservation approaches that integrate cultural, economic, and environmental considerations. By pursuing these directions, future researchers can contribute to the development of more effective conservation strategies that preserves the historical and cultural values of Kyomachiya and Malacca townhouses while ensuring their relevance and resilience in a rapidly changing world. This work will hopefully provide some insight towards enriching our understanding of the intricate relationship between culture, history, and the built environment.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)

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Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.)

Draft outline of booklet is being written for publication.