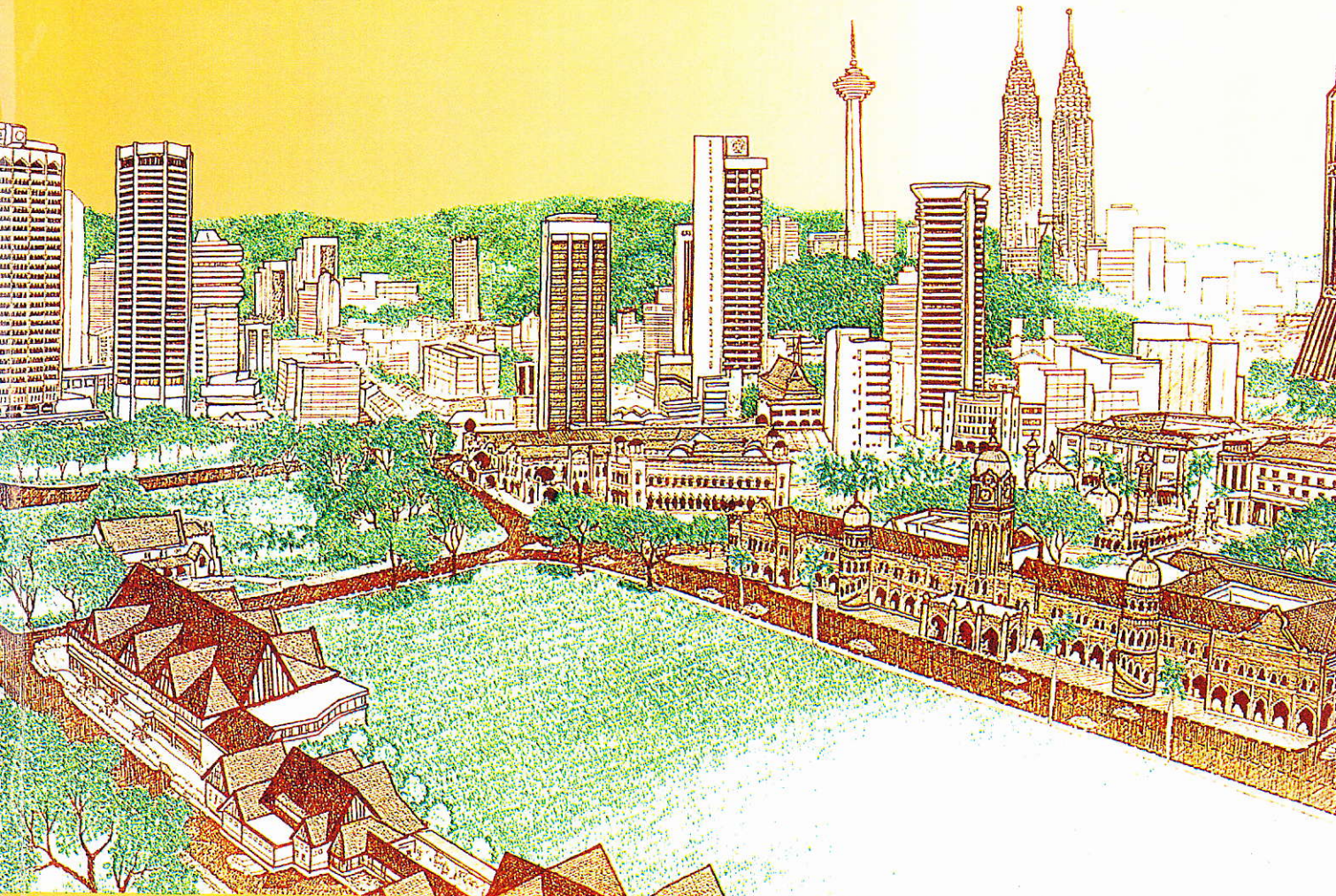


Kuala Lumpur City Image



KUALA LUMPUR CITY IMAGE



**DEPARTMENT OF TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
PENINSULAR MALAYSIA**

Ministry of Housing and Local Government, Malaysia



View of Kuala Lumpur from KL Tower.



CONTENTS

CONTENTS	6
FORWARD	7
1 Introduction - The Image of Kuala Lumpur	9
2 Themes of The City	19
3 The City Landscape	43
4 Regeneration of The City	53
5 Urban Links	69
6 Formation of The City Centre	77
7 Sustainable Development	91
8 Appendix	99
9 Further Information	103

KUALA LUMPUR CITY IMAGE

– BEST PRACTICES OF TOWN PLANNING

Foreword

A city is defined as a habitat or human settlement where its residents compete for progressive development, and advancement in career and wealth, reflecting the growth of its society. From the 1800s, the capital city of Kuala Lumpur has matured and beckons a redefinition in its structure, planning and image. As a developing nation, the capital city of Kuala Lumpur is currently undergoing a transformation of image to reflect its importance as a metropolitan city within a global context. Consequently, a new city image is needed to identify Kuala Lumpur as a developed and technologically advanced metropolitan that exemplifies a modern and efficient city.

In the last two decades, Kuala Lumpur faced tremendous challenges in the formation of an image that will specifically benefit the growth of the country. Today, the image of Kuala Lumpur reflects a developed and competitive country. The image of a safe and central environment has attracted foreign investments, feeding to the growth of the capital's economy. The dynamic relationship between the environment and man has been strongly emphasized by academics and theorists and is deemed important within the context of social, economic and physical development. Consequently, the environment has become the main element for the improvement and advancement of a city's image. This image will consequently mirror a responsive, civilized and developed society that is sensitive towards global issues.

As an Islamic nation, each development is planned and implemented to assure the integration of ethnical values towards developing a civil society and adhering to sustainable development

principles. As a capital city, Kuala Lumpur faces many challenges to achieve a developed status that symbolizes sustainability, cultural integration and accelerated economic development. Guidelines and policies that were established form the backbone of sustainable town and city planning for Kuala Lumpur and other emerging cities in the country. The Vision 2020, structure plans, sustainable development laws and acts have provided significant importance in the formation of a globalised capital city – a city of e-commerce, k-economy, rich cultural and social diversity, progressive development and economic importance.

As a growing nation, every single development is accurately planned and implemented to assure the integration of all its natural elements at its best. This book reflects some of the major elements that forms and shapes the image of a metropolitan Kuala Lumpur. Beginning with an introduction to Kuala Lumpur, the scene is set with preceding chapters which places an emphasis on key re-development projects. Supported by strong guiding principles and plans, proper city planning has helped heightened and redefined the image of Kuala Lumpur. This is the nation's biggest step towards realising our vision of a developed nation.

I commend those that have been instrumental in seeing this timely book published. This is clearly a landmark contribution towards realising our vision of a developed nation.

Y. Bhg. Dato' Wan Mohamad Mukhtar bin Mohd. Noor
Director General
Department of Town and Country Planning
Peninsular Malaysia.

The Image of Kuala Lumpur



Introduction

The aim has been to attain an image of a tropical garden city. The objective is derived from the need to create a city that seeks to achieve a balance and sustainable development, economically, socially, spiritually as well as environmentally. The basic principle underlying the philosophy embodies the concept of a fundamental balanced relationship, between a Man and his Creator, Man and his fellow men, and, Man and Environment.

Kuala Lumpur is integrating these three principles and at the same time incorporates the seven following concepts in shaping the image of the city.



Peaceful

The image of a peaceful city is reflected through efforts that are aimed at providing the society with an environment that is safe, harmonious, clean, and pollution-free. In an ideally peaceful city, principles such as individual and community rights, peace and thoughtfulness are highly regarded and respected. These principles touch on aspects that include the needs for security as well as the ample provision for privacy. A safe city also minimizes the risk of natural disasters such as flooding, landslides or forest fires, which are achieved through the careful adherence to regulations and guidelines.

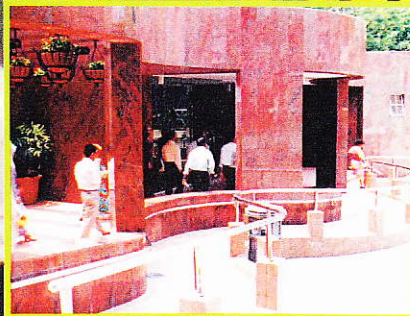
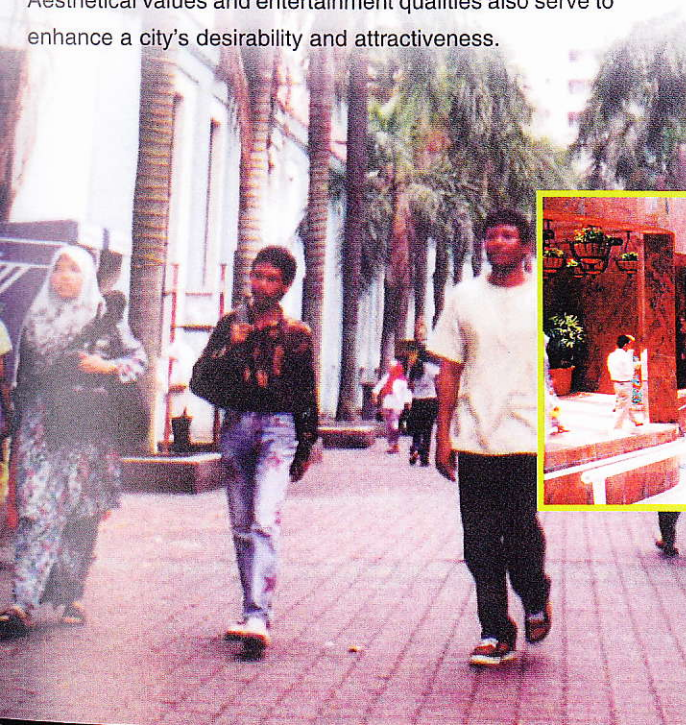
A peaceful city also stresses on aspects such as tolerance, hygiene, beauty and conservation. Peaceful living for a society is achieved through a balanced development, and proper planning and implementation. A symbiotic relationship between the physical and social elements is accentuated to provide an environment that guarantees tranquillity, peace and comfort to society. This is attained through careful but subtle segregation of spaces for intra-community and inter-community interaction (private and public spaces), as well as the provision of green areas, buffer zones, green corridors, and cultural elements in the form of monuments and architecture. This will in turn shape strong, progressive and caring local communities.



Friendly

A friendly city provides ample amenities for a comfortable and convenient living to both its dwellers and visitors. The principles that are applied in developing a friendly city are fairness (in planning and development according to needs and allocation), friendliness (to encourage community interaction), effective transportation systems (that caters to all pedestrians including the physically-challenged), balance (to provide physical, social and economic balance in the formation of a caring society) and the human-nature relationship (to emphasize on values like cleanliness, beauty, and conservation).

A friendly city places a strong emphasis on welfare and consumer benefits, and hence a suitable environment for urban communities. The priority in the fabrication of a city lies in the equally distributed and strategically located amenities and excellent provision of infrastructure and utilities catering to all urbanites including the underprivileged or handicapped. Efficient transportation and pedestrian facilities connect major locations especially between recreational areas and tourist attractions. Aesthetical values and entertainment qualities also serve to enhance a city's desirability and attractiveness.



Smart

A smart city portrays itself as an intelligent city that is fully equipped with state of the art information technology (IT) facilities. This city also stresses on knowledge aspects as well as the 'smart' concept that focuses on effective approaches in the development of learning institutions. Smart cities also refer to the active use of technology in activities such as e-commerce, e-banking, k-economy and other contemporary activities involving electronic transactions and are based on knowledge. IT is also used in the planning of cities. The city is increasing its reliance on GIS (geographical information system) to analyse development feasibility and potential through the use of digital drawings for plans and layouts.

In general, smart cities are intended to further strengthen characteristics such as knowledge, moral values and humanity. Among other related development criteria, this can be especially achieved through the use of smart technologies that will increase management efficiency and effectiveness that involves development control, transportation systems, building facilities, infrastructure support systems and utilities such as sewerage, water supply and electricity.



Beautiful

Beautiful cities require detailed and organised planning that can portray the characteristics and personality of the societies living within them. Its values are not only stressed upon architectural aesthetics but also on the strengthening of the relationship between human beings and the environment and between human beings and its maker. Beautiful also means a beautiful society, having a Malaysian or Eastern image, friendly, peaceful, tolerant and attentive.

A main criterion in the development of beautiful cities is the creation of spaces within the city based on the garden city theme. Other than for beautification purposes, these areas can function as rest and recreational areas for the urban population, especially during rest periods in the daily office hours. These areas also serve as a balancing factor to the skyscrapers and fast-paced city living.

The main agenda in creating beautiful city images is beautification – including creating urban parks and landscaping. Both contain components of softscape and hardscape. But their importance is not only in terms of beauty, but also providing easily accessible areas for urbanites to undertake all sorts of activities from a simple walk to organised outings. They also reduce the need for urbanites to travel to the urban fringe for weekend recreation.





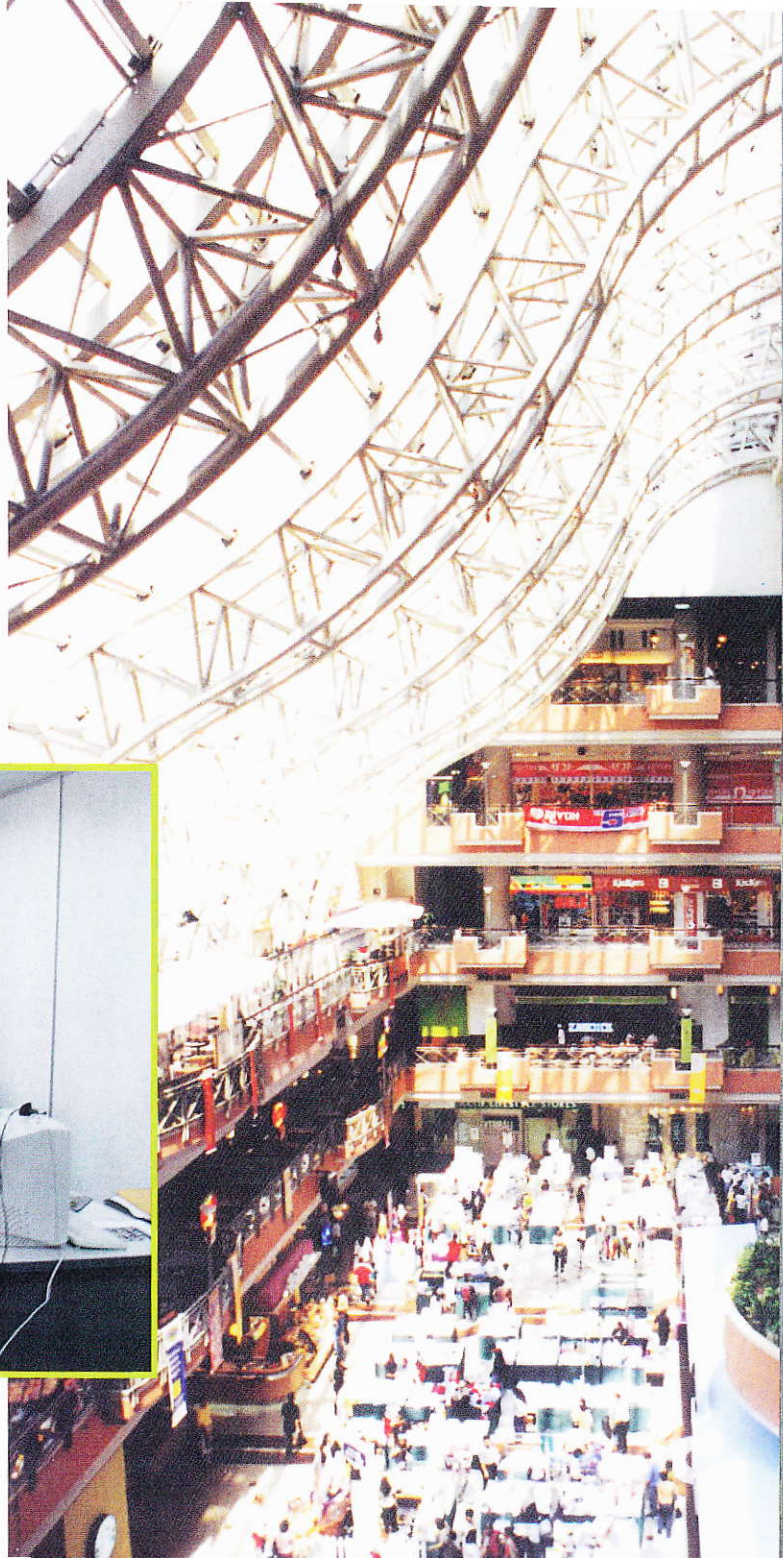
Active

Active cities are cities that are active twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. They provide late licences to food and entertainment outlets so they can run all night long and public transport operate special late night services to bring people to and from their homes and different parts of the city. The streets are well lit with decorative lighting to make them look lively and living in the city centre is encouraged, so you are never far away from the activity.

An active city also caters to the needs of man's health and fitness. Promoting a healthy living concept to further enhance the quality of life of its people. Health and fitness centres are norms and within driving distances from most office blocks. Sports complexes cater to a variety of indoor and outdoor sports. Open areas are converted to parks and gardens while providing adequate exercising facilities like jogging paths. Hospitals and clinics utilise high-end technological and medical advancements to provide better healthcare facilities and services to people from all walks of life. This is in line with the objective of building a productive,

Prosperous

The image of a prosperous city is mirrored in the planning and development of commercial centres that revolve within the city's edge. Conventional business centres are located strategically within the city to enhance business interactions and subsequently, escalating economic growth. Shopping malls have increased expenditure from the consumer and tourism sectors. Financial facilities are ample within the city centre to cope with the needs of the business sector. Recent emphasis has been given to strengthen business infrastructure with the support of information technology (IT). The city will then become a hub that combines revolutionary IT advancements and business opportunities to bridge the gap towards becoming a developed nation.



Multicultural

A multicultural city is one that is vibrant, colorful and exciting. A multicultural city integrates various evident cultural elements and encourages cooperation among the people. This reflects on the harmonious and pleasant environment within the city. To add, insatiable appetites are satisfied with its wide array of food selection, cultural festivals and fine arts. A multicultural city carefully blends traditional cultural heritages with the international inheritance of a modern cosmopolitan city. Even shopping provides ultimate satisfaction as a plethora of gifts, handicrafts and unique services describe the city's rich fusion of cultural *mélange*.







Themes of the City Kuala Lumpur



Desirably, cities must be developed based on unique or specific themes. Themes can be based on natural or man-made features and characteristics that are prominent or identifiable within a city.

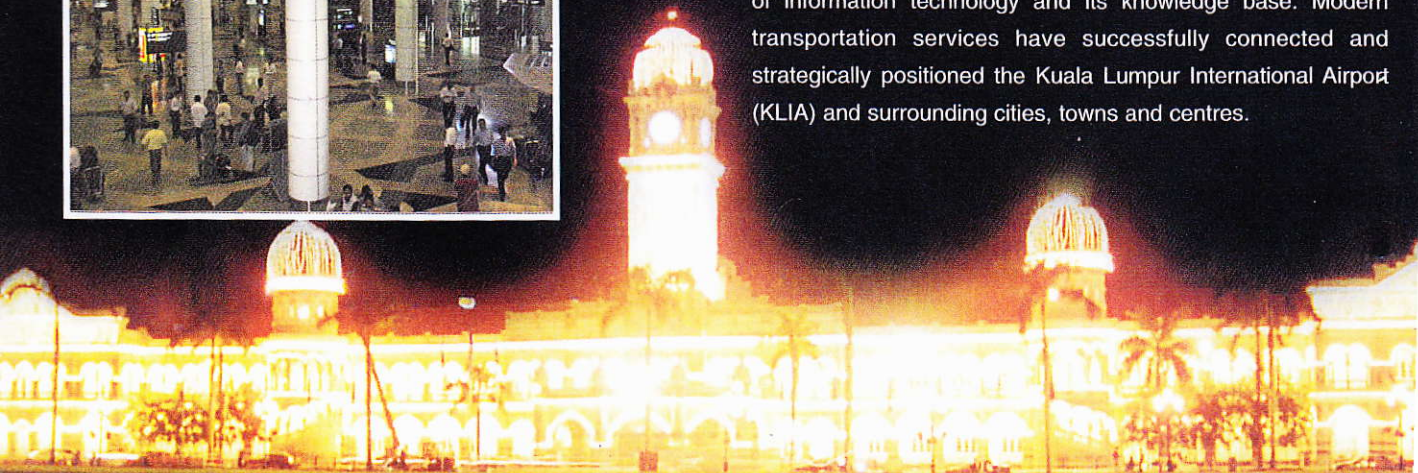


Vision City

From the Malaysian point of view, a Vision City incorporates elements that can either directly or indirectly improve or motivate its citizens towards a particular goal or level of intellect. The Vision 2020, which was conceptualized by the Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Bin Mohamad emphasizes the need to become a developed nation through the creation of a caring society and acquisition of scientific and technological prowess. In line with these needs, the Vision City must be based on both the peaceful and smart city concept in its development and planning.

The city possesses the right elements to motivate and educate its citizens, in accordance to the creation of a caring society. Strict regulations govern construction activities within and surrounding the city, assure the safety of housing, recreational and commercial buildings and infrastructure. The allocation of spaces for individuals and communities is well adjusted to respect privacy requirements. In other words, the provision of the city's urban facilities is dedicated to the development of the minds that will shape the country's future.

Besides excellent provision of basic infrastructure and utilities (electricity, clean water, sewerage, drainage, roads, and telecommunications), Kuala Lumpur emphasizes on the development of infrastructure and networks for information. It also provides research and development facilities for the growth of information technology and its knowledge base. Modern transportation services have successfully connected and strategically positioned the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) and surrounding cities, towns and centres.



The availability of institutions listed below are some of the elements of a Vision City that motivate its citizens and adds pride to being a citizen of Kuala Lumpur. Those institutions are not only important to the charisma of the city but some also play a national role.

National Palace

The National Palace represents the sovereignty of the nation and it is situated in an ideal location in the city that has an aura of strength, peace and tranquility.

Malaysian High Court

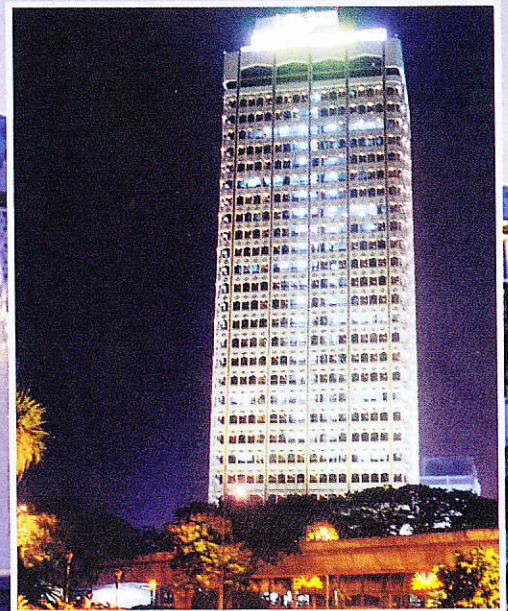
The Sultan Abdul Samad building has been preserved and its use is relevant today with it being used as the High Court. The High Court sits at the top of the legal system in Malaysia and it represents the laws of this society.

Kuala Lumpur City Hall

The City Hall is situated in the administration node of the city. The management of the city comes under their jurisdiction.

National Mosque

Within the administration node of the city, the National Mosque is supported by various Islamic institutions such as the Islamic Arts Museum and the Federal Islamic Department. The National Mosque represents the foundation of the country and the importance that religion has in the country and the city specifically.



Garden City

A Garden City is one that embraces the 'beautiful city' concept in its planning and development. A main focus in the development of Kuala Lumpur is the allocation of spaces and the arrangement of structures and facilities within the city. This includes recreational areas, open spaces and other elements that incorporate greenery and floral decorations. These areas also serve as a balancing factor to the skyscrapers and modernization of the city.

One can easily identify Kuala Lumpur as a Garden City by the tropical gardens and lush greenery that accompanies and dictates its rapid urban growth. The focus of development in this city is based on the topographical constraints, climate and the local culture but taking into consideration other factors such as economic, social, and physical development. Parks such as botanical gardens, pocket and roof top gardens, therapeutic facilities and arboretums are built in tandem with every new development or urban expansion. These parks also focus on the diversity flora and fauna that have gelled into a delicate relationship with the urban community. Developments must preserve valuable and unique natural landscapes.







Kuala Lumpur's Bird Park

Located within the serene and scenic Lake Garden, the Kuala Lumpur Bird Park is the largest "Walk-in Free Flight Aviary" in the world, housing more than 200 bird species from all over the world. Among the birds are Hornbills, Flamingos, and Waterhens gathered together from countries all over the world.

Developed over approximately 20 acres of verdant valley terrain, birds and nature lovers can have a field day watching colourful sights and melodic sound of birds perching and winging about freely while enjoying the natural and beautifully landscaped surroundings.



Kuala Lumpur's Butterfly Park

More than 15,000 plants have been used to create this setting of a tropical rainforest within a park. This park houses over 6,000 butterflies. In addition, there is a nursery and breeding area for butterflies. Rich varied scenery and landscape leave visitors thoroughly entranced with the magnificent gifts nature has bestowed on this park.



Forest Research Institute Malaysia

Forestry Research in Malaysia was formalised in 1918. The Research Branch was transferred to the present premise at Kepong in 1929. The Branch was named the Forest Research Institute (FRI), Kepong. In 1985, the Malaysian Forestry Research and Development Board Act was passed which allowed the Institute to change its status to that of a statutory body called Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM). This was to enable the Institute to serve a wider clientele and interact better in an international context.

The Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) is a well-managed forest science park. Located in Kepong, 16km northwest of Kuala Lumpur, the Institute covers 600 hectares of experimental plants, arboretum and forested areas. FRIM is the nearest nature destination for Kuala Lumpur visitors who wish to see and experience the wonders of a tropical rainforest without the rigors of travelling to the national parks. A myriad of exotic flora and fauna form an intrinsic part of the wild life and unspoilt beauty found throughout the area. There are jungle trails, canopy walkway, waterfalls, a herbarium, a library and a museum housing different species of wood, their uses and products. A nominal fee is charged for the canopy walk.

Although not a public park (it was actually set up in 1929 as a forest reserve, meant for research) its many attractions and accessibility have attracted both local and foreign visitors.



Rimba Ilmu Botanic Gardens

Rimba Ilmu (the "Garden of Knowledge") is the botanical garden of the University of Malaya. Occupying a core 40-hectares site forested site within the university's campus, this botanical garden is directly accessible to both university students, and local and foreign visitors. As Malaysia's first university botanic garden, the Rimba Ilmu is emerging as an important conservatory for indigenous plants and one of the country's key sites for conservation and botanical research and education.

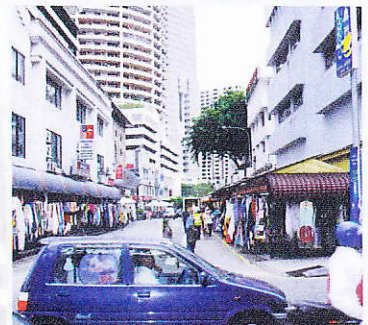
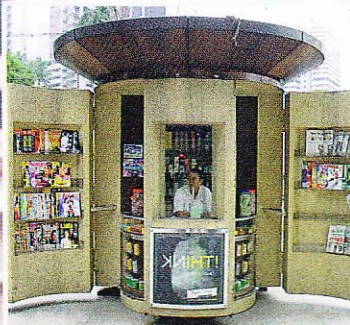
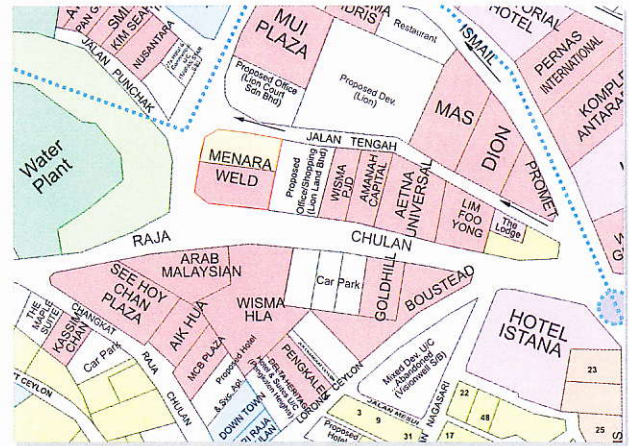


Commerce City

Commercial and business sectors form a very important part of the city. In fact, Kuala Lumpur came into being in the late 1860s as a centre for tin trading. A band of these tin miners landed at the meeting point of the Klang and Gombak rivers and imaginatively named the place Kuala Lumpur – “Muddy Convergence”. From then on, Kuala Lumpur had attracted more miners and quickly became a busy and booming centre for commercial and business activities. The city provides an excellent variety of commercial products with prices ranging from expensive, affordable to bargain. Business areas are mainly located within the city centre, intertwined with commercial complexes that provide support facilities such as cafes and restaurants.

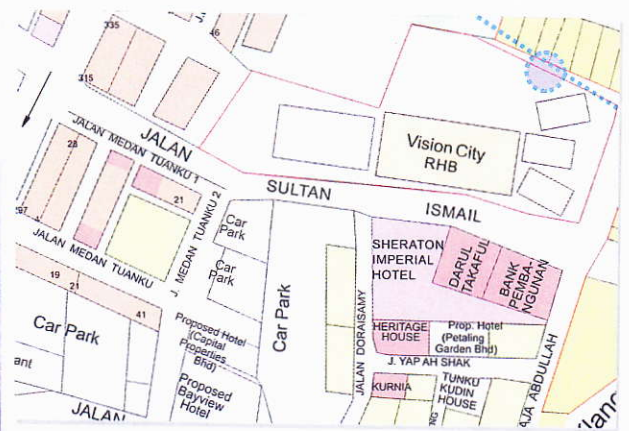


RAJA CHULAN FINANCIAL NODE



The clustered arrangement of commercial, retail and banking facilities within the Kuala Lumpur town centre creates a conducive environment for the growth of the financial and commercial sectors. The Commerce City theme focuses on the banking activities in the town centre. The retail centres comes in the form of shopping malls and lifestyle outlets. A Commerce City also requires a dedicated and efficient public transportation system along with world class hotels and lodgings.

JALAN SULTAN ISMAIL FINANCIAL NODE



Trade and Convention Centres

Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC)

Completed in 1985, Putra World Trade Centre is one of the oldest exhibition centres in Malaysia. The centre has hosted international conventions, conferences, banquets, trade shows, meetings and concerts. With over 133,000 square meters of exhibition space, the centre has attracted many prestigious events over the years.

Malaysia International Exhibition and Showrooms

Opened in 1997, this international exhibition and trade centre has been one of the more popular venues used by both Governmental and the Business sectors. The centre provides 38,000 square meters of net usable space and 8,766 square meters of column-free exhibition space. The centre is part of a prime real-estate development, which includes a beach resort and spa, shopping fair, theme park, resort and country club and the waterfront business park.





Financial Institutions

Kuala Lumpur is the heart of the commercial sector in Malaysia. The commercial banks form the largest and most important group of financial institutions. Since 1999, there has been a total of 33 commercial banks. Some examples of banks operating in Malaysia include: Maybank, Hong Leong Bank, Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, and Citibank Berhad. All banks in Malaysia are regulated by the Central Bank of Malaysia (Bank Negara).

Apart from commercial banks, finance companies are the second largest financial institutions in the country. These companies provide the essential financial backing for commercial, industrial and residential developments.



Educational City

In the past 10 years, KL City has experienced immense growth in terms of education and the facilities involved. The city's learning institutions include universities and public schools that operate under the comprehensive education system administered by the Ministry of Education. Private colleges and international schools however may choose to employ similar systems or their own individual education systems.

Newer institutions are mostly located in suburban areas or within fringe communities to avoid the hustle and bustle of the city. They are also strategically placed among supporting facilities such as affordable eateries, bookstores and printing outlets. Sometimes, institutions are purposely located in certain areas to act as catalyst to development. When there is university with 10,000 students, businesses in the surrounding areas are expected to grow and this will attract new development into the area. Established institutions within the city centre are being reconditioned to keep pace with the growth of the city.



Public Universities and Institutions

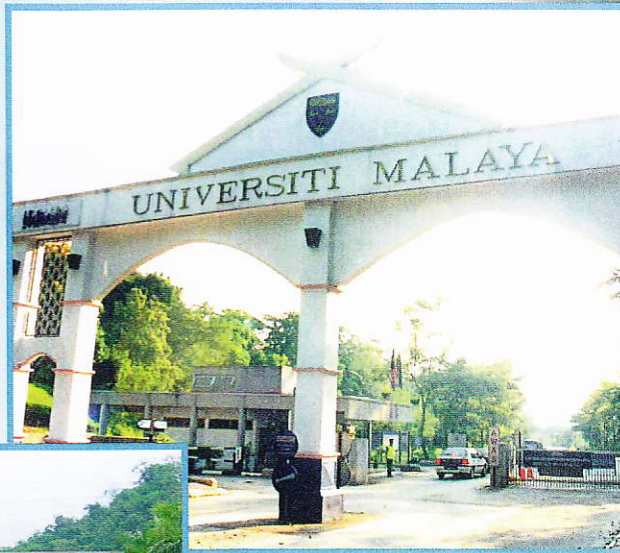
KL City is home to a number of public universities. Major institutions include the University of Malaya (UM) which is one of the oldest tertiary institutions of higher learning in the country, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) and the International Islamic University (IIU). There are also professional institutions that deal with education that is an extension of the university education. The National Institute of Public Administration (INTAN) is an institution that trains civil servants and Government officials not only within the country but is also attended by members of foreign Governments.

The environment within the campus is planned and designed to enable students to enjoy studying. Student accommodations in the form of hostels and residential villages are provided so that students can stay within the campus, and usually within walking distance to the academic zones, and thus avoid unnecessary travelling costs. Coupled with excellent recreational facilities and beautiful landscaping, these universities are among the top choice for local students as well as foreign. At the moment, there are foreign students from over 90 countries studying at these universities.

Private Colleges and Institutions

This is one sector of education in Malaysia that is fast expanding. There are private schools offering Sixth Form level courses or their equivalent (e.g., A Levels); and institutions (such as private colleges and universities) offering twinning programmes with foreign universities, as well as professional, technical or vocational courses. Other private colleges and institutions also offer language courses, computer and IT courses or higher degrees. There are also now a number of international schools in the city, which offer either American, English and Japanese education for the expatriate community. Some of the more popular international schools include the International School of Kuala Lumpur (ISKL), Garden School International and Mont Kiara International School.





Public Schools

The public school system in Malaysia is one of the most successful systems in the region. To support it, the development of schools and related facilities is carefully controlled and monitored through strict construction guidelines and standards. These often concern the choice of locations, building materials and the designs of major and supporting facilities. The public schools in Malaysia are currently experiencing a facelift in terms of design and construction to support the integration of multimedia and information technology in education as well as the increasing number of students.

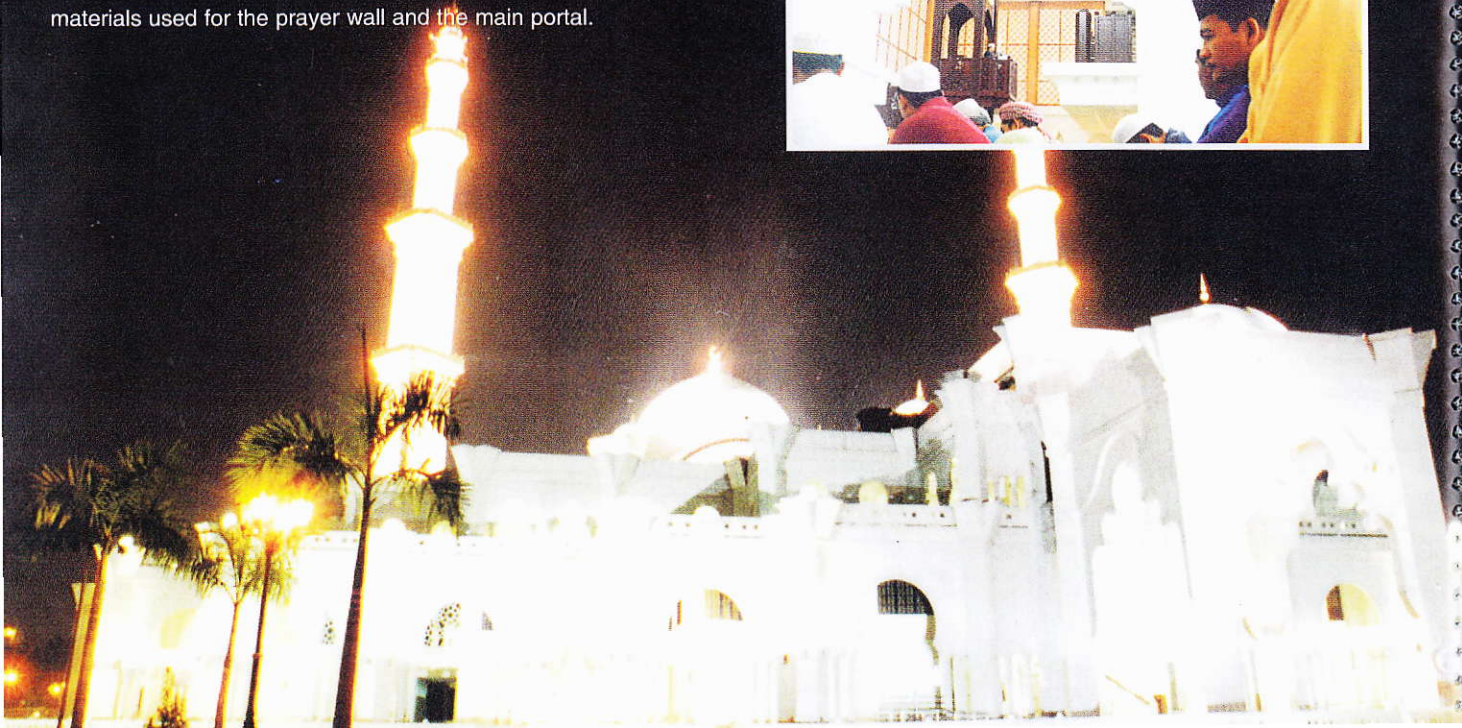
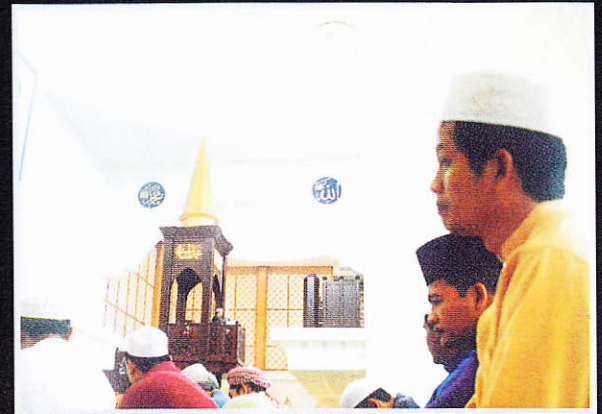


Non Formal Educational Institutions

A mosque has many facets to it. Besides being a place of worship, it is also a place for education. In this atmosphere of peace and tranquillity, man is taught human values, society values and practical knowledge. The mosque offers a different approach to education. Education that is available is of all age levels, from the pre school level all the way to adulthood. It is the best examples of a continuous education as leaning is a foundation that has to be developed from childhood onwards.

Wilayah Mosque

This mosque consists of a central building with four domes, a large arcaded courtyard, seminar rooms, facilities for special functions and administrative areas, all set in an extensive park with numerous fountains. Two tall, slender minarets tower above the complex. The design of the mosque emphasizes the use of natural light, and the prayer hall is brightened up by the use of heliostats and daylight-reflecting blinds. Directed natural lights bring out the contours of structures, revealing differences in materials and render colours true to life. Considerations of this kind play a particularly important role with regard to the precious materials used for the prayer wall and the main portal.



National Planetarium

The National Planetarium is situated on top of a hill at the Lake Gardens. Among the interesting facilities found within the planetarium are the Space Theatre, Space Science Exhibition, Viewing Gallery and Ancient Observatory Park. There is also an observatory tower equipped with a 14-inch telescope that allows you to view the "heavens-above". Built for the study of astronomy and space science, the National Planetarium is dedicated to the nation's aspiration to foster a society built on scientific and technologically driven values.

National Science Centre

The centre is an institution that aims to promote the public interest, appreciation and understanding in science and technology. The centre houses many different exhibits designed to stimulate, excite and encourage visitors to take an active interest in science and technology. The exhibits located in various galleries are based on different themes which can be categorized into two groups namely basic science and technology. The overall concept of the centre is to link science to environment and religion, as well as to relate science with all aspects of life, knowledge and applications in our daily life.



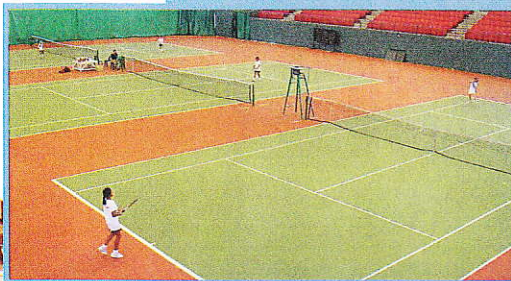
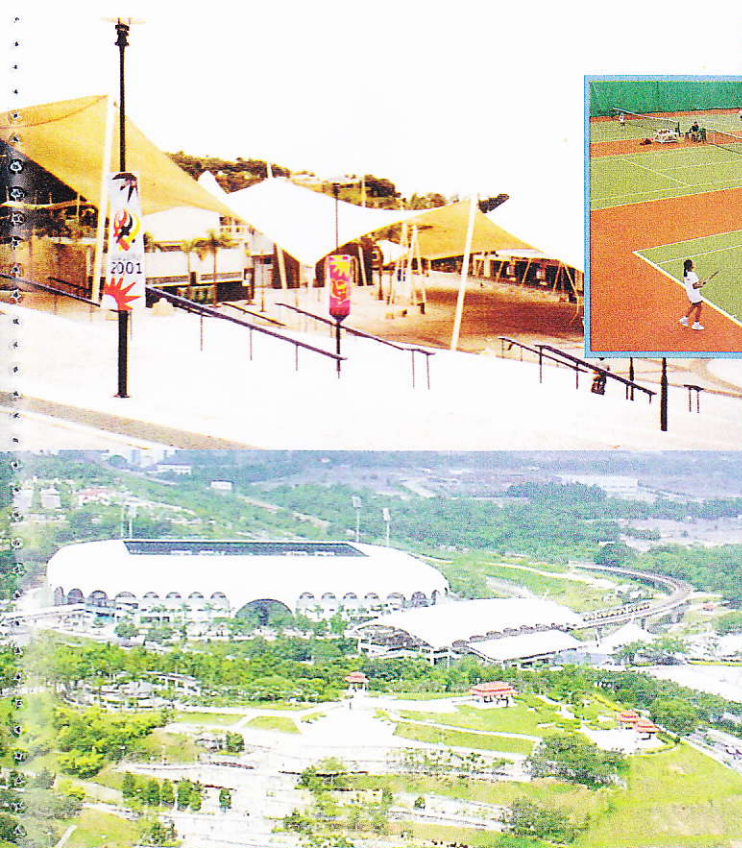
Health City

Amidst the hectic city lifestyle, citizens of the city are provided with a diverse range of recreational alternatives to relax and unwind. Various sports and fitness facilities are centrally located in the heart of the city and range from indoor gyms, spas and saunas to golf ranges and jogging paths. Parks occupy open spaces between skyscrapers to provide a perfect balance between working and practising a healthy lifestyle. Such parks are beautifully landscaped to enhance the scenic surroundings. For those who seek more vigorous activities, swimming, tennis, kick-boxing and even indoor wall climbing is readily offered. To reduce city stress, one can also indulge in therapeutic activities like yoga, and tai-chi. Apart from recreational activities, the city also boasts some of the finest and biggest sports facilities that are architecturally stunning. The Bukit Jalil National Sports Complex is exemplary of the active

concept adopted in the planning and development of a capital city.

As a healthy city, Kuala Lumpur offers an array of health and medical facilities. Ranging from traditional medical therapy (roadside reflexology services along Jalan Bukit Bintang) to Western medication, Kuala Lumpur is furnished with endless variety of options. Kuala Lumpur also provides some of the best and advanced medical and healthcare facilities and services within the nation. Government-aided (University Hospital) and private hospitals cater to a variety of needs. With the advent of sophisticated medical technology, the people of Kuala Lumpur can look forward to further improvements in their health requirements. Among the best medical centres is the Pantai Medical Centre.





The Bukit Jalil National Sports Complex

The Bukit Jalil National Sports Complex is the premier sports complex in the country. It was the centre of the 1998 XVI Commonwealth Games. The National Sport Complex houses the National Stadium, National Aquatic Centre, National Squash Centre, National Hockey Stadium and Putra Stadium. The National Stadium has a total area of 76,000 square meters and its three-tier spectator stands can accommodate a maximum of 100,000 spectators.

Pantai Medical Centre

Pantai Medical provides nursing and undergraduate medical education, a clinical laboratory network, hi-tech clinical waste disposal service and telemedicine. The telemedicine unit is one of the most recent developments. Meanwhile, the telemedicine unit allows the hospital to treat patients from other states as well as communicate with medical specialists in other hospitals. The telemedicine unit also functions from other branch hospitals in Klang, Cheras, Penang, Ipoh and Malacca. Other facilities planned are a Mother and Child Centre, an Integrated Rehabilitation Centre and a Well-Women Centre.



International City

The International City theme takes shape from the embodiment of the 'friendly city' concept in terms of the capacity to provide sufficient entertainment and the infrastructure needed to support them. Based on this concept, an International City is best described as a metropolitan area that has the attractiveness as well as the support required in becoming a focal point for international tourism and events.

In one perspective it is a vibrant city or a city that is energetic, exciting, bright, and lively. This city is capable of entertaining its foreign visitors with avenues ranging from flea markets to nightclubs and round the clock delis and from street functions to world-class events. In another perspective it should be able to connect these points of attractions with the transportation network needed as well as supporting facilities such as hotels and souvenir shops. Components of an international city include amphitheatres and various cultural and entertainment venues while supporting components include museums, shopping malls, arcades, art institutions, hotels and resorts.

When it comes to entertainment outlets and event venues, Kuala Lumpur provides the best for its visitors. The commercial complexes and shopping malls are well equipped with facilities and street furniture to provide an excellent environment for entertainment activities. Emphasis on entertainment precincts, hotels, theme parks, resorts and banking and monetary exchange facilities is evident in the layout of the city. The townscape itself consists of structures adopting entertainment themes as well as artistic and creative values.

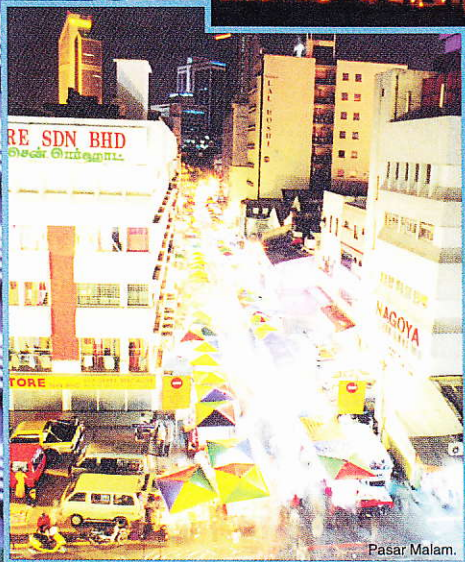


National Theatre

Completed in 1995, the theatre is one of the most sophisticated theatres in Malaysia. It aims to promote the development of all forms of theatrical art. Its architectural design is based essentially on authentic and ethnic characteristics.

Pasar Malam

Throughout Kuala Lumpur, one will find a number of evening pasar malams (literally, night markets). For locals, these are popular centres to buy daily provisions for the family. Pasar malams are the cheapest places in town to buy just about anything from clothes to fresh seafood. Most of the pasar malams are held once or twice a week, but the Petaling Street night market is held every night and is very popular among local foreign tourists alike.



Eating Out

For Malaysians, food is an obsession. It is therefore not surprising that you will find food just about anywhere you are in the city. Malaysians often dine at roadside hawker stalls, or in restaurants. For many, eating outdoors is simply the best way to enjoy Malaysian delicacies. Food corners on Petaling Street are popular, as are the hawker stalls in the popular night-spot of Bangsar. If it is seafood that takes your fancy, the Nelayan Floating Restaurant on Tasik Titiwangsa is the place to go. Small wooden huts have been built over the lake, reminiscent of traditional floating fishing villages, and they serve some of the best cuisines in town. If it's western food you fancy, Bangsar or Desa Sri Hartamas are the areas to head for. Here you will find a wide selection of upmarket western cuisines. To taste western food in historic-surroundings, the Coliseum Hotel, off Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman, will not disappoint you. The place provides a colonial experience, which has changed little over the years.

Accommodations

Kuala Lumpur has a wide range of hotel accommodation, which caters to all kinds of travellers. Backpackers or budget travellers can stay at hostels such as the Kuala Lumpur International Youth Hostel close to Chinatown or the YMCA in Brickfields. Throughout Kuala Lumpur, mid-budget hotels are common. For wealthy tourists, four to five-star hotels such as the Pan Pacific, Concorde and the Mandarin Oriental which provides first class comfort in the city of lights. Modern hotels of Kuala Lumpur are designed to provide comfort and endless facilities to cater to holiday makers and business travellers. Muslim visitors will also not be left out as many hotels provide facilities for Muslims like halal food and prayer rooms.

Cultural City

Kuala Lumpur is a culturally rich city because of its multi-racial population. It is not surprising that cultural centers have been planned and developed to accommodate and promote the local cultures. Historical buildings that reflect the architectural influences from each culture has been restored and revived to further add a distinct flair to the colourful city.



National Art Gallery

Located off Jalan Tun Razak in Kuala Lumpur, the National Art Gallery houses some of the nation's art treasures. The building has a distinctive architecture with the main construction of polished slate, tinted glass and an eye catching metallic roof. The National Art Gallery houses a 144 seat auditorium, a creative workshop, a resource centre and five different galleries. Malaysian artworks are proudly displayed in the halls. The range of art medium on display includes photography, oil paintings, wood carvings, posters, visual art and multimedia art.

National Museum

The National Museum, or Muzium Negara, was established in 1888 as the Selangor Museum. After the Second World War, proposals were drawn up to develop a central museum for Malaysia to be called the National Museum. Collections in the museum range from ethnographical objects, and archaeological artefacts to natural history specimens. Thematic exhibitions are held at intervals to promote awareness of the country's rich cultural and historical heritage. This museum includes an on-going exhibition on birds.



Islamic Arts Museum

Inspired by our Prime Minister, YAB Dato Seri Dr Mahathir bin Mohamed and the conscientious efforts of Yayasan Albukhary, with the assistance of Jabatan Kemajuan Islam Malaysia, the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia is another proud educational landmark in the capital.

With a built-up area of more than 22,000 square meters and it houses some of the most precious and timeless works of Islamic art reflecting the achievements, the aspirations and the cultural conviction of one of the greatest human civilizations.

Apart from existing and previously acquired artefacts, the museum also exhibits material that are donated, sponsored or loaned. The Museum has also focused its resources towards the conservation, preservation and restoration of manuscripts, metal work, woodwork, stone ceramics, textiles, carpets and rugs.

Central Market

A short walk away from Kuala Lumpur's China Town, is Central Market, a popular recreational area for many locals and tourists. Previously a fresh food market built during the First World War, Central Market is today a centre for showcasing local Malaysian Culture, arts and craft. Visitors are able to witness local craftsman demonstrate their skills on batik painting, portrait drawing, glass blowing and fine arts. There are also a number of restaurants that specialize in Malay, Chinese, Indian, Siamese and Western cuisine. Outside the Central Market, an open air stage serves as the regular venue for traditional and contemporary dances as well as concerts. It is certainly an interesting place to visit, and has made Central Market one of the more famous tourist attractions in Kuala Lumpur.





Bus stand that is spacious for the comfort of the passengers

Wide pedestrian walkways outside the National Mosque also serve as prayer areas when the main hall is full



Well landscaped pedestrian walkway incorporating greenery



Wide and open spaces at the National Zoo making it a serene and peaceful setting for visitors

Big television screens that can be viewed by pedestrians provide information and advertising



Canopies provide shade for pedestrians entering the Commonwealth Stadium



Entrance to car parks are designed to be visible and easily identified

Trees provide shade as part of their landscape design



Sidewalk cafe's provide a modern alternative for foodstalls

Spacious and shady pedestrian walkways provide ideal comfort



Sidewalk cafe's that incorporate greenery into their design

A shady boulevard provides an ideal pedestrian walkway



Trees are protected by concrete planters which also serve as benches for pedestrians

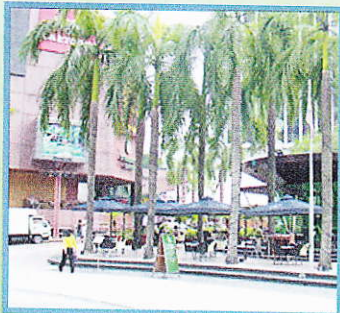


A well designed pedestrian area with a mini forest

Various types of plants provide an eye pleasing design to this sidewalk cafe

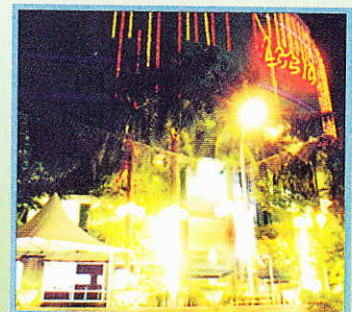


Palm trees incorporated into the design of a sidewalk cafe showing a tropical image



Underground walkways are an alternative way to cross a street

A sidewalk cafe incorporating lights and greenery to accommodate patrons at night

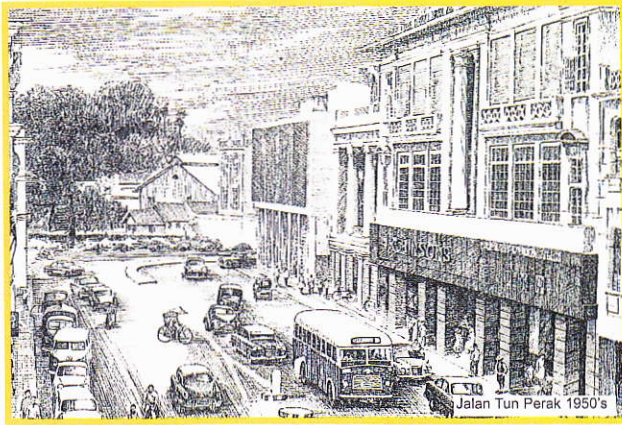


The City Landscape



Introduction

Kuala Lumpur is a city of contrasts. The tallest and most modern buildings in the world, such as the Kuala Lumpur Tower and the KLCC towers, dominate its skyline. Amidst the modernity of the city's image, old historical buildings that date back to the 1890s are nestled comfortably between skyscrapers. The Kuala Lumpur landscape, taken as a whole, is a mosaic that reflects the city's long history, from a tin-mining settlement, to a trading post, to major population centre and administrative capital, to thriving metropolis. In short, Kuala Lumpur has captured the progressive evolution of a city that is about 100 years old.

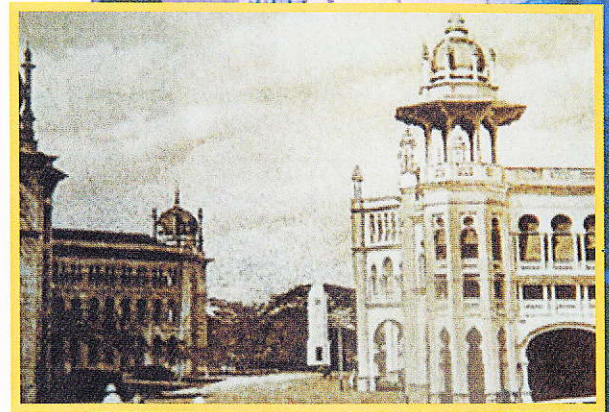


The Birth of a City

In the early 1800s, a group of miners prospecting for tin found a settlement at the muddy crossing of two rivers, the Klang and Gombak, giving it the name, Kuala Lumpur, which literally means "Muddy Confluence". Kuala Lumpur originally played the role of a supply and trading center for the various tin-mines upstream. Soon after, a small town of attap huts grew around the trading post and as the tin trade prospered, the town developed, covering the river's east bank from where it is now Jalan Ampang to Central Market.

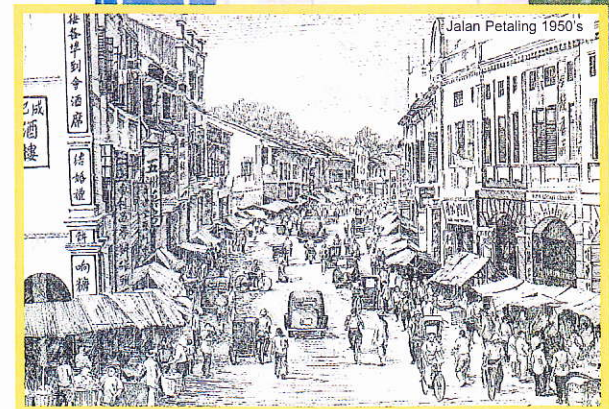
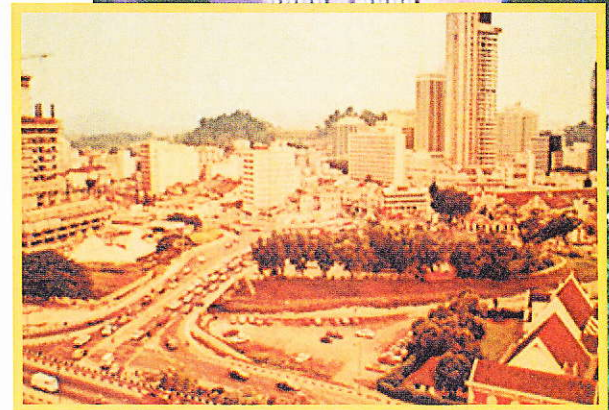
As time passed, the settlement not only prospered, but came into prominence as the result of the peace settlement that terminated the Selangor Civil War of 1857. In 1857, with the death of Sultan Muhamad, a civil war started in Klang over the tin resources of the area. The Straits Settlement, with the help of the British Empire, ended the war and established Frank Swettenham as the British Resident. Under the terms of the Pangkor Agreement, the four kings involved in the war agreed to the creation of a neutral Federated Malay State in 1897, of which Kuala Lumpur became the capital. Thus, the small tin mining settlement became catapulted to global importance as the seat of British administration in the Malay States.





Kuala Lumpur inherited from this period, its history, a system of roads and the fine examples of gracious colonial architecture, which are still evident today. It soon became the transportation hub of the Peninsular's road and rail network because of its ideal central location in the Klang Valley. The introduction of rubber plantations to the Peninsular emphasized Kuala Lumpur's important position with trading and research centres established there. Kuala Lumpur prospered not only as the administrative centre and meeting point, but also as the Peninsula's economic and financial centre. The city's prosperity attracted residents of various ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Their cultural influences were reflected in the buildings built: townhouse and bungalow residences, buildings for religious worships, club and clan houses, and administration offices. Today these heritage buildings stand amidst some of the world's tallest buildings and architectural feats.

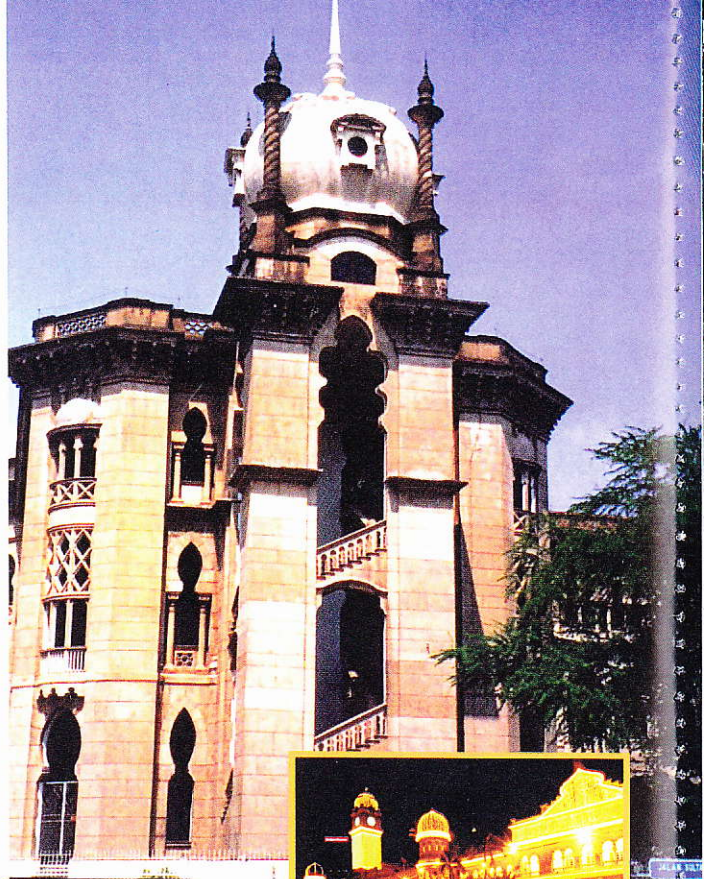
When the Federation of Malaya gained its independence in 1957, Kuala Lumpur was declared the Federal capital, remaining, at the same time, the capital of the state of Selangor, a status it had attained in 1887. However, on the 1st of February 1974, it was officially declared a Federal Territory, which also marked the end of Selangor's jurisdiction over Kuala Lumpur.



Architectural History

Ethnic Influences

Although the predominant inhabitants of Kuala Lumpur were Malays and Chinese, the West predominantly influences the architectural designs. However, historical buildings that are mostly shop houses now helped make up the mosaic of Kuala Lumpur. The designs of these old buildings have been influenced by maritime cities in Southern China. The shop houses are typically placed in parallel rows separated by an alleyway at the back and a pedestrian walkway up front. The shop houses of Chinatown characterizing retail architecture of Kuala Lumpur replaced the wooden thatched roof structure after a fire destroyed most of its buildings in 1881. The concept of retail on the ground level with the pedestrians and its hybrid has proven to be successful in Kuala Lumpur. With reference to its past Kuala Lumpur has produced such jewels as Bangsar and Mount Kiara. Both areas promote public interaction thus creating a vibrant urban population.

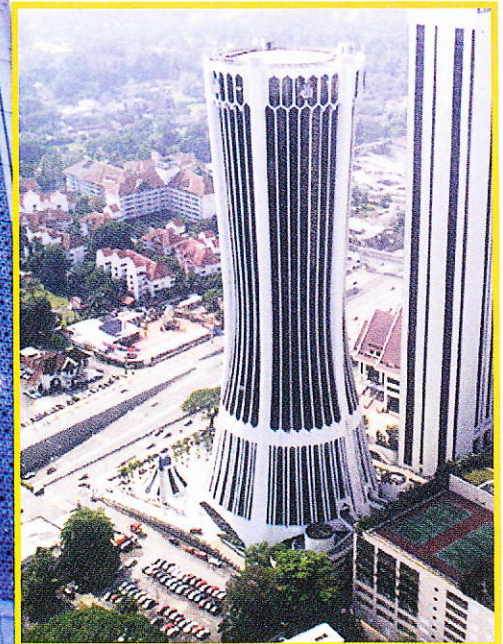
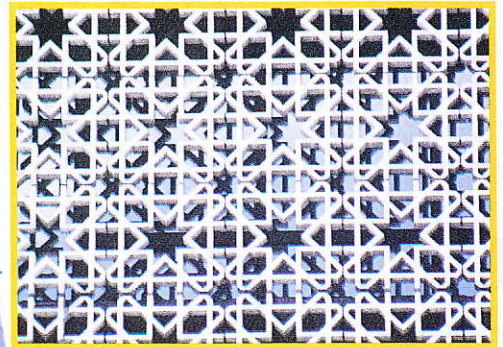


Western Influences

The predominant architectural designs in Kuala Lumpur reflect those of Western influence. Be it a piazza or square the Seville and Naples styles, with the concept of buildings radiating from around a central space, is very much in evidence. Symbolic and monumental structures such as a church, Government offices and palaces occupy areas around these modern buildings. In the very heart of Kuala Lumpur, for example, lies around an area presently known as Dataran Merdeka (Independence Square). The first surrounding structures includes the administrative office, Sultan Abdul Samad Building (1897), St. Mary's Church (Cathedral) and the Selangor Club, all of which

Islamic Influences

Built in 1984, the Daya Bumi complex sets the precedence of modern Islamic architecture. The complex's simplicity in design signifies its emphasis on urban integration. Intricate sun-shading devices give this complex a distinct feature while the arched window opening symbolizes its Islamic trait. The General Post Office, City Point within the podium, occupies the complex while the tower reserved for the offices. The Tabung Haji and The National Mosque are also examples of traditional Islamic architecture manifested in modern buildings.



Modern Architecture

The progression of mega-projects has increased in quality and quantity further proving Kuala Lumpur's metropolitan façade globally. Kuala Lumpur has preserved architectural trends of its time. Classical motifs and their neo variants during 20's and 30's were popular followed by Art-Deco till the 40's. The charismatic international style and the birth of modern architecture led the way during the 50's. Sometime during the 80's Kuala Lumpur produced mega-projects of global caliber, however it was not till the 90's did appear a distinct architectural style.

The National Museum is a classic focus on the re-emergence of an ethnically Malay and vernacular style. The museum is placed at the edge of Lake Garden offering the public a natural backdrop, which leads to other social facilities. Another fine example would be the Bank Bumiputra and the Putra World Trade Centre. Malaysia has a fair share of modern architecture. However there are a few that have put Malaysia on the map. The Petronas Twin Towers and Kuala Lumpur International Airport are prime examples.

Securities Commission.



Telekom Tower.





Kuala Lumpur Today

Clean and beautiful, with tree-lined streets, parks and public flower gardens, Kuala Lumpur transforms into a veritable wonderland of lights at night, earning its name 'Garden City of Lights'. Kuala Lumpur's strategic location in the region has made it an important international centre for trade, business and commercial activities. The city is served by comprehensive and modern transportation systems. More than 40 foreign airlines fly in from various parts of the globe through the Kuala Lumpur International Airport, which is an hour's drive south from Kuala Lumpur. Railway lines and roads radiate from the city providing swift access to other parts of the country. Within the city, stage and express buses as well as taxis ply regularly. A commuter train service has been introduced to connect the city to neighbouring towns. The Light Rail Transit (LRT) has further augmented the city's public transportation. Kuala Lumpur is also served by the country's largest seaport, West Port.

Politics played a major role in driving Kuala Lumpur into international status. The Look East Policy was practical in its embracing of Asian engineering, and the Vision 2020 is an ambitious endeavour to maturely develop Malaysia technically, socially and economically. Kuala Lumpur will be the country's physical proofs of the success of such a bold vision. Economically, Kuala Lumpur makes direct foreign investment attractive, coupled with a tactful public spending policy.





Kuala Lumpur Tomorrow

Globally Kuala Lumpur has the potential to be the model of a sustainable city, that has a holistic approach, comprehensively planned and a quality of life that is unsurpassed. New technologies brought in by the electronic renaissance such as the Internet requires infrastructures - Kuala Lumpur is young and has the flexibility to adapt. Space can prove to be costly especially in a metropolis where it is also limited by density itself. Hence, cities that have achieved such status find a free space to be expensive. Coupled with quality time and thoughtful design, however, this may be overcome.



Visionary Architecture: The Kuala Lumpur City Centre

The heart of Kuala Lumpur has been transformed by one of the most ambitious building projects in the world today. Twin spires, tapering gracefully towards the apex, reach towards the sky in a unique blend of state of the art technology and traditional serene Islamic detail. The project is the Kuala Lumpur City Centre and that describes exactly what this remarkable building is. It is not only the new heart of Kuala Lumpur, but also a recognisable symbol of the region, in the same way that Big Ben, the Eiffel Tower and the Empire State Building are symbols of their respective cities. At eighty-five stories, the Kuala Lumpur City Centre is nearly three times as high as its neighbouring buildings, and the view from the top is quite spectacular.

This building represents the latest in world technology, not only in construction techniques, but in the design and materials used in its construction and finish. The architects and engineers have set exacting standards and specifications for all the materials and equipment supplied to this project and the electrical specifications are no exception. Lighting this massive project is no easy task. Strict energy codes, lighting levels and light distribution were set and all designs submitted were subjected to rigorous international laboratory testing to determine the optimum design for this landmark project.



Regeneration of the City





Urban Design

Kuala Lumpur is currently in transition. The old city, with its haphazard developments, is being restructured, and in some cases, conserved. Central to this redevelopment lies a range of development nuclei, which have been initiated to create the vision of the modern city of Kuala Lumpur. Regeneration is not only restricted to buildings, complexes and neighbourhoods but also other aspects of the city such as pedestrian walkways and car parks. Aesthetics are an important part of the city. New landscaping, street furniture and public areas are designed keeping this in mind. Urban planning is conducted to please the eye, in addition to their respective function. The current urban design represents Malaysia's cultural heritage and incorporate aspects of greenery where applicable.





Street Lights at Dataran Merdeka.



Street Furniture.



Overhead Pedestrian Bridge.



Water Fountain.



Access for the disabled



Shaded pedestrian walkways



Wide pedestrian walkways
with proper street furniture



Pedestrian walkway
along a lake



Street sculpture that visually enhances
its surroundings



Jogging track in a
recreation area



Proper street signage that



Water fountains and rest



Rest space in recreation areas



Covered taxi stand for the comfort of waiting passengers



Ample parking space to complement LRT transportation



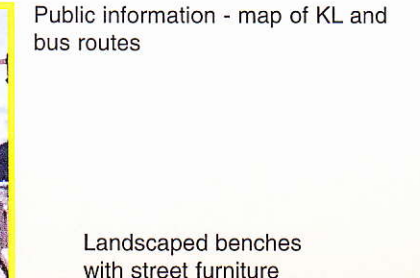
Open areas for recreation and rest



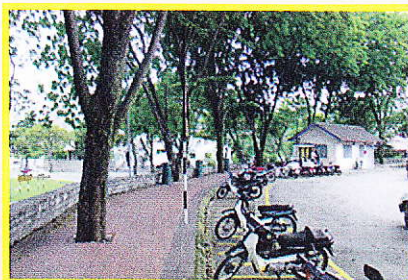
Public information - map of KL and bus routes



Shaded pedestrian walkway and motorcycle parking bays



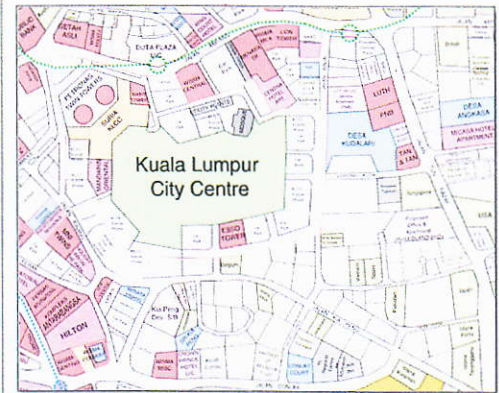
Landscaped benches with street furniture



Pedestrian walkway that is wide and paved for the comfort of pedestrians



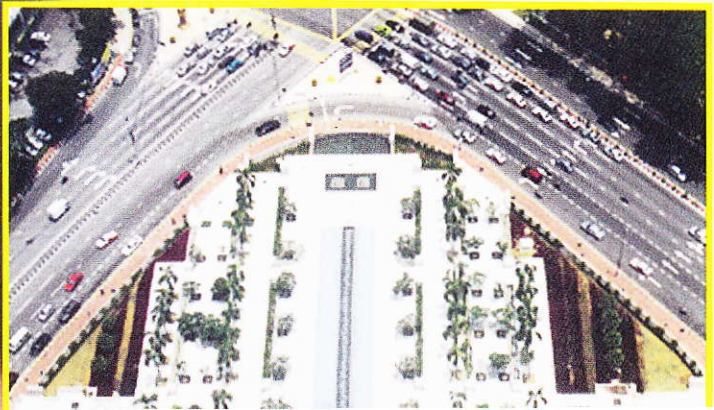
KUALA LUMPUR CITY CENTRE SHOPPING NODE



Business Centres

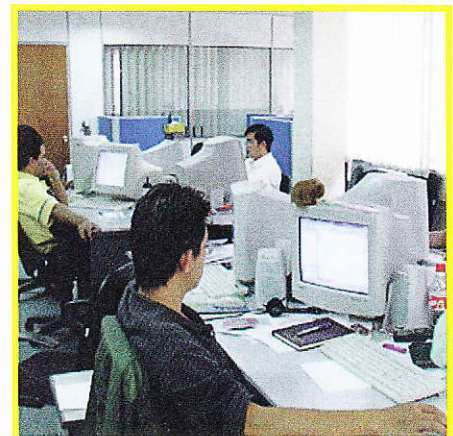
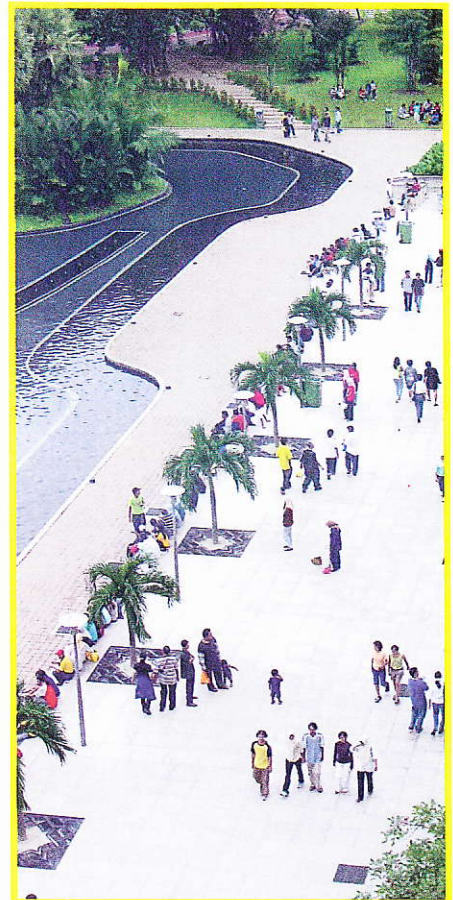
Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC)

Once the city's horse racing course, the area has been transformed by this mega project into one of Kuala Lumpur's central landmark. Developed over an area of 40 hectare of land, the project had not only developed prime business real estate, but also a recreational complex that included a 20-hectare public park, a mosque, an entertainment and shopping complex and a luxury hotel. Of course, the key feature of this development was the twin-towers, which currently stand as the tallest towers in the world.



TAMAN KLCC

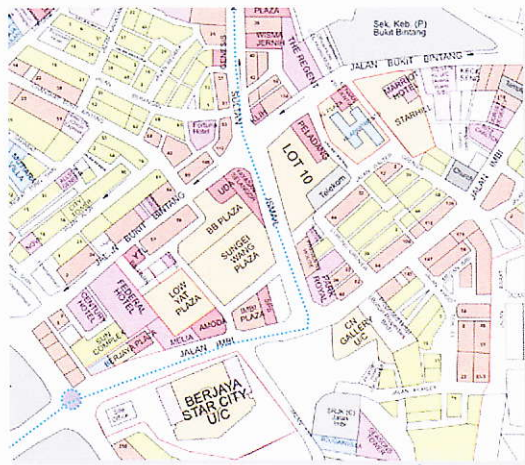
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JALAN BUKIT BINTANG SHOPPING NODE



Bukit Bintang

The Bukit Bintang area of Kuala Lumpur city or better known as the city's golden triangle is one of the busiest shopping locations in the city. It caters not only for the wealthy but is also a place where best bargains for many items can be found. Most of the triangle consists of ageing buildings and some post war structures that has been regenerated to fall inline with current image of the area.

City regeneration has also resulted in the emergence of a number of shopping malls, premier shop lots and specialty restaurants. This includes the Bintang Walk, which was intended to provide its patrons with the ultimate shopping and recreational experience. It is a stretch dotted with novelty stores, fashion outlets and sidewalk cafes and bars. The area is also well connected by a system of conveniently placed taxi and bus stops. An elevated monorail station is also under construction to provide an alternative mode of transportation.



Bangsar

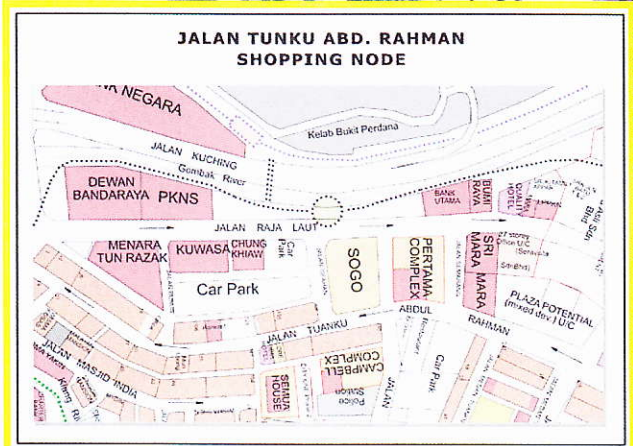
Outside of the town centre, Bangsar has become an important centre of development. In particular, one has Bangsar Baru, or the new Bangsar, which is a popular nightspot between both the local and the expatriate community. Developing away from strictly residential property, the area is transforming into a vibrant business district. Alongside the businesses are high-quality condominiums, which provide luxury accommodation for the upper middle class.

Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman

One of the busiest shopping areas in central Kuala Lumpur, which is a popular shopping location among both tourists and locals. Part of the area was successfully redeveloped to convert a low-cost public housing area into a commercial centre.

Midvalley

Billed as one of the largest shopping mall in South East Asia, Midvalley Megamall is one of the city's most popular malls. Another example of redevelopment, the area was previously no more than a sprawling "village" community. Its central location is the key to this development; Midvalley Megamall lies between several important population-centres like Bangsar and Petaling Jaya.



Transportation Centres

Previously, a sprawling community within Kuala Lumpur, two visionary projects have been initiated to transform these areas into a modern transportation hub. These will become the two key transport gateways within the city.

Kuala Lumpur Sentral Station

The site for the new rail terminus in Kuala Lumpur was previously a site for rail works and warehouses. It has been transformed into a complex transportation centre that will integrate four different rail networks. The old railway station could not be expanded without conserving its architecture and there was not enough space to serve the needs of the 21st century. The Kuala Lumpur Sentral Station is seen as a primary gateway to KL. It combines its transportation facilities with a mixed development of housing, hotels and offices.

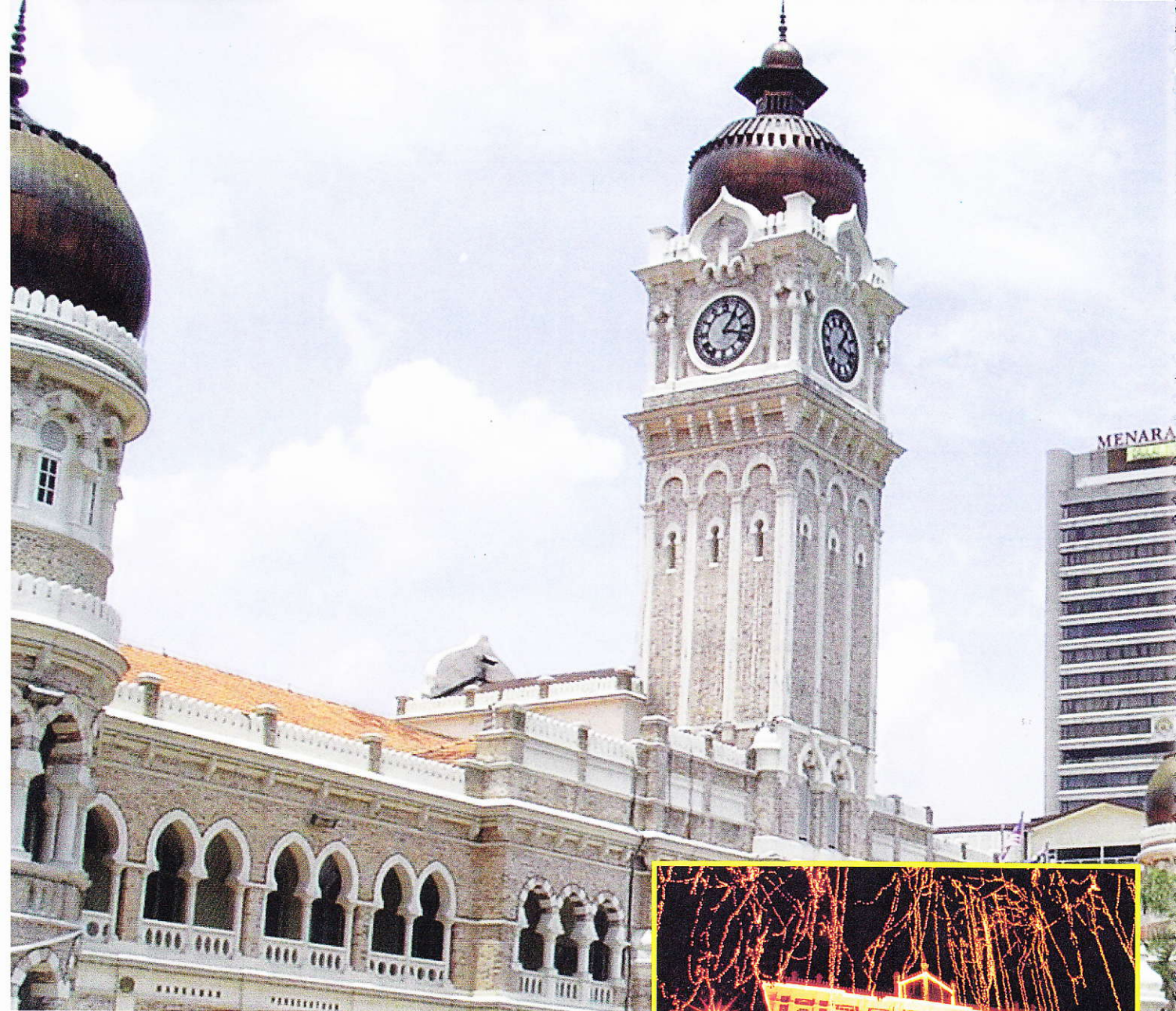


Pudu Raya Bus Station

As rail links do not reach all destinations in Malaysia, the main mode of travelling is by bus. the Pudu Raya Bus Station has served as the primary bus station to destinations all over Malaysia. As economic progress is achieved, it can no longer serve in that role due to space constraints. The bus station will be integrated with an adjoining development, the Plaza Rakyat and most southern and northern bound buses will be relocated to other parts of the city. Decreasing the buses serving this station will enable it to integrate bus, taxi and light rail transportation more efficiently and effectively.







Heritage Centres

Sultan Abdul Samad Building

This building represents the heart of the city. In line with its role in administration it also sits on the shoulder of Kuala Lumpur's protocol road. This is where cultural, sports and national events take place. It has been witness to numerous historical events

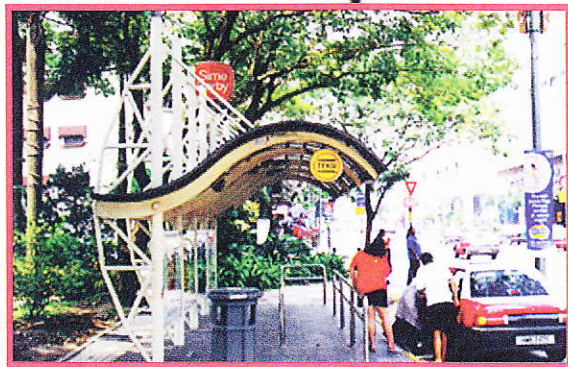


Garden City of Lights.

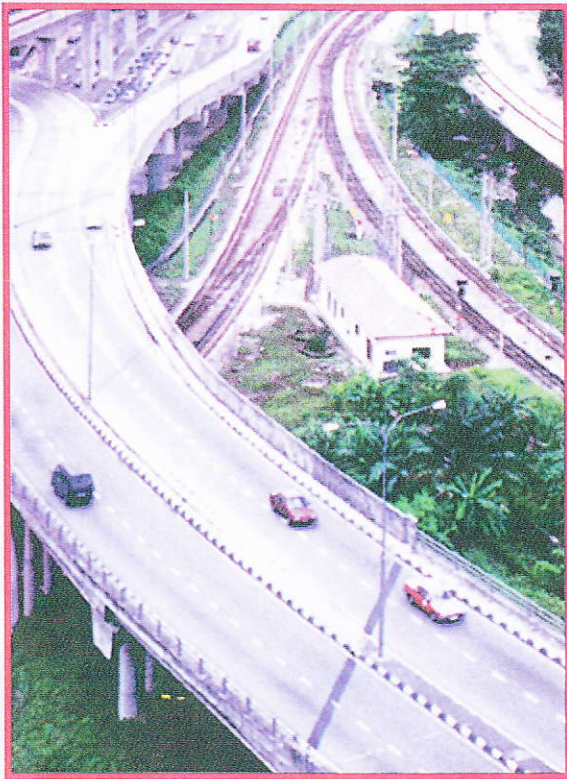
Dataran Merdeka

The Dataran, as it is commonly known, is on the opposite side of the protocol road. This area complements the Sultan Abdul Samad Building with a green open space. It shows the past architectural influences of Malaysia combined with modern influences. It encapsulates the past, present and future.





Urban Links



Infrastructure and urban design are crucial in the proper growth of Kuala Lumpur. Some concerns such as rail lines, phone, internet, power lines are improving; pedestrian and vehicular issues are of utmost concern especially in Kuala Lumpur's growth. Given its traffic problem, Kuala Lumpur has started to expand its mass transit system in 1999. The development of Kuala Lumpur's monorail was established by Star and Putra Lines, the national rail system KTM, had re-establish itself as a commuter train. The third rail expected to be operational by this year will be the new PRT line. A typical modern urban society has both public and private mode of transport. The rails of Kuala Lumpur serve as a backbone for outside links. KTM's commuter links some housing districts within its Seremban and Klang route. Advantages could be seized to link other numerous districts to Kuala Lumpur, property around transit stops are a hot commodity or could potentially be one.

Expansion of Kuala Lumpur was initiated with suburbs around the city starting with Petaling Jaya in 1953 with numerous others following its success. Kuala Lumpur outgrew itself and gave birth to other suburbs, which in turn outgrew and gave birth. The cycle of metropolis is still growing as new suburbs are planned and developed.

Economic impetus through national institutions has encouraged the increasing numbers of automobiles on the road. Vehicular roads, fortunate or not, are a top priority. Kuala Lumpur is transforming into a city in the midst of highways, flyovers and tolls. However, it does not ignore pedestrian considerations, environmental and quality urban design factors. One can now enjoy the scenery through the car screen as well as a brisk walk through pocket gardens spread all over the city. Natural environment considerations have been included in a fruitful urban framework. For instance, a simple pedestrian walkway full of flowering trees provides a greener and healthier environment.

Transport Hubs

In an effort to centralise the existing and future urban transportation developments within the capital, two key developments have been initiated that will fulfil this need. The two projects are Kuala Lumpur Sentral and the Pudu Raya bus station.

Pudu Raya Bus Station

In the coming years, the terminal will be part of a new development to reconsolidate the land-transportation network, with Pudu, as its hub. The Pudu bus-station will merge with the Plaza Rakyat LRT station to create a multi-interchange terminal, which includes local and outstation busses, taxi, and the light-railway transport.



Kuala Lumpur Sentral Station

The development of the new Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) and the network of Light Railway Transport (LRT) is a demonstration of the grand vision of city transportation. Kuala Lumpur Sentral will be the central-hub that links all the rail services within the city and its suburbs, including the KL international airport. For international travellers, the airport will be linked to Kuala Lumpur Sentral by high-speed express rail link (ERL). The ERL will be the gateway for many visitors to Kuala Lumpur. The Sentral is home to the City Air Terminal, which has been in operation from April of 2002. This gives travellers an advantage because they can check in and clear immigration and customs within the city before boarding the ERL, it is in another name, an airport in the city.





KLIA

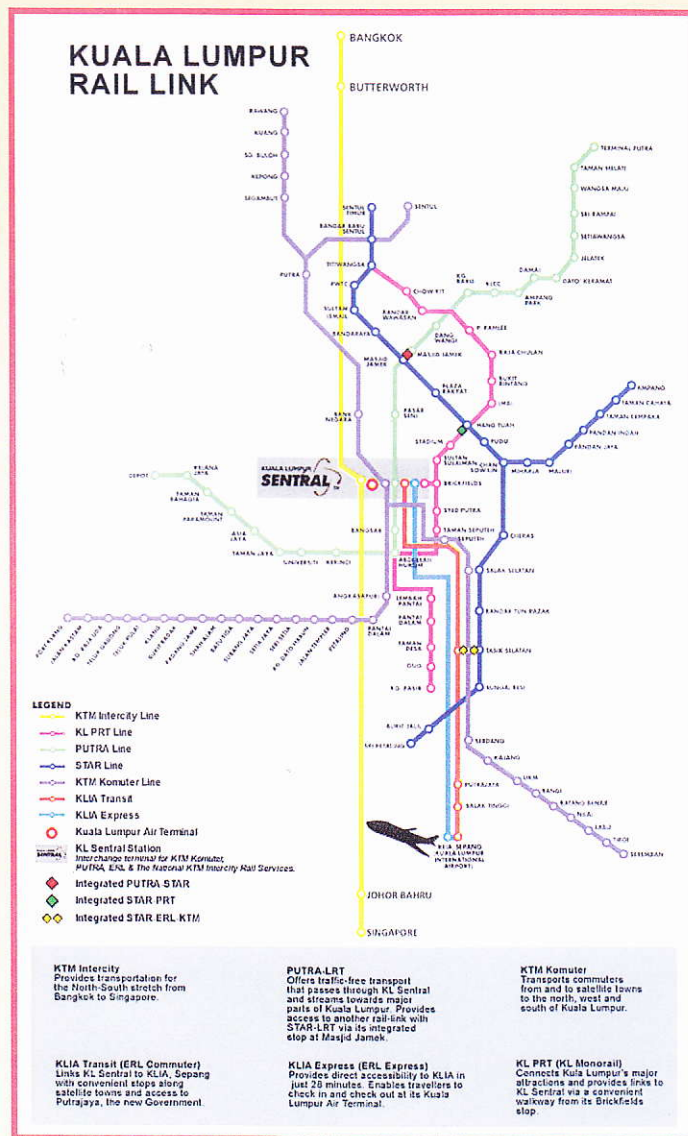
The Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA), one of the most advanced airports in the world today, is situated in Sepang, about 50km south of the city centre. This is about an hour's drive on the spacious and modern KLIA highway, but an express rail link (ERL) between the airport and the city centre provides a comfortable half-an-hour travel-time between the two. The airport has integrated nature and greenery with its high tech structure inline with its concept of being an "airport in the forest and a forest in the airport". A golf course is also under construction in the vicinity of the airport forest reserve. With the completion of KLIA, the airport is now closer to Malaysia's new administrative centre, Putrajaya. The airport is also linked electronically as well as physically to Cyberjaya, which is a multimedia catalyst created for global research and development. A 5-star hotel is located just a walking distance from the main terminal of the airport. The Pan Pacific Hotel has 450 rooms to add to the 80 day-rooms located in the airport. The terminal and satellite building offers the very best facilities to passengers. The buildings have simple and clear routes to take passengers quickly through check-in and control processes to the main lounge. The terminal is also surrounded by lush greenery to support the motion of an environmental friendly airport.



Roads And Highways

The Malaysian Government has developed a vast set of road links to feed the nation's capital, linking international ports and airports as well as other population centres, to cater for the needs of a rapidly growing economy. Safety, capacity and efficiency were the main goals of the road designers, and immense planning and effort has been invested to seeing these goals through. Furthermore, with the high-levels of rainfall here in Malaysia, drainage is of a special concern.





Light Rail Transport

PUTRA LRT

The PUTRA LRT (Light-Rail Transport) covers a total distance of 29 km, linking the eastern and western suburbs of Kuala Lumpur and servicing some of Kuala Lumpur's most affluent and heavily populated areas. It uses the Advanced Rapid Transit Mark 2 technology specially designed to meet the needs of Kuala Lumpur. The system starts from the depot in Subang and ends at the Terminal Putra in Gombak. The PUTRA LRT operates using 35 two-car units travelling at an average of 40km per hour. These units are fully air-conditioned and provide services every 90 seconds during peak hours. A feeder bus services a radius of 3 kilometres from each station. All the PUTRA LRT stations as well as their trains are fully equipped with facilities for the disabled. Currently, the PUTRA LRT is the world's longest fully automated LRT.

STAR LRT

The STAR LRT was opened to the public in 1998. Its 27 km long route is divided into 2 phases. The first phase links the central business district with the eastern suburbs of the city. It mainly follows the route of the abandoned state railway and rises onto an elevated viaduct as it enters the city centre. The second phase consists of a southern link to the Commonwealth Games village and a northern extension of the city centre viaduct.

INTRAKOTA

Intrakota is the nation's leader in safe, convenient, and reliability bus transportation. The transportation services range from short journey intercity travel to long distance interstate luxury class coaches.

Kuala Lumpur People Mover Rapid Transit (Monorail)

The Kuala Lumpur Monorail is a soon to be the next inner-city public transit system that will serve the central business, hotel, and shopping district of Kuala Lumpur. The monorail will be 8.6 km long starting from the Pekeliling bus terminal in the north and ending at the Kuala Lumpur Sentral located in Brickfields. It will have 11 stations on its way. The project is scheduled to be operational by July 2002.

Express Rail Link

The Express Rail Link (ERL) was designed to connect the Kuala Lumpur International Airport with the Kuala Lumpur City Air Terminal (Kuala Lumpur CAT) located at the Kuala Lumpur Sentral Station. There are 2 types of services. One is non-stop while the other stops at several stations. The service was designed to provide a fast, reliable, and safe travelling to the airport and back.







Formation of City Centre



Properly planned development in any area integrates the significance of its location. Kuala Lumpur's main urban hierarchies can be divided into three levels namely City Centres, Communities and Neighbourhoods.

A city, like Kuala Lumpur, can be made up of a city centre and a collection of communities which in turn are made up of smaller units called neighbourhoods. Emerging cities are encouraged to adopt the 'precinct' concept as the structure to suit different communities. Each city must portray its own unique character and can be displayed through the designs of structures such as gateway arches and bridges.

Communities consist of the combination of different neighbourhood units arranged in clusters, each with specialisation in areas such as commerce, education, enterprise and agriculture. The formation of communities may comprise of at least four neighbourhoods clustered within the particular area. These communities must have efficient and congestion free road networks and transportation facilities. Grid like road designs must be avoided for all main access roads into the community. In the case of existing cities that were developed in grids, community blocks may be created through the closure of certain roads.

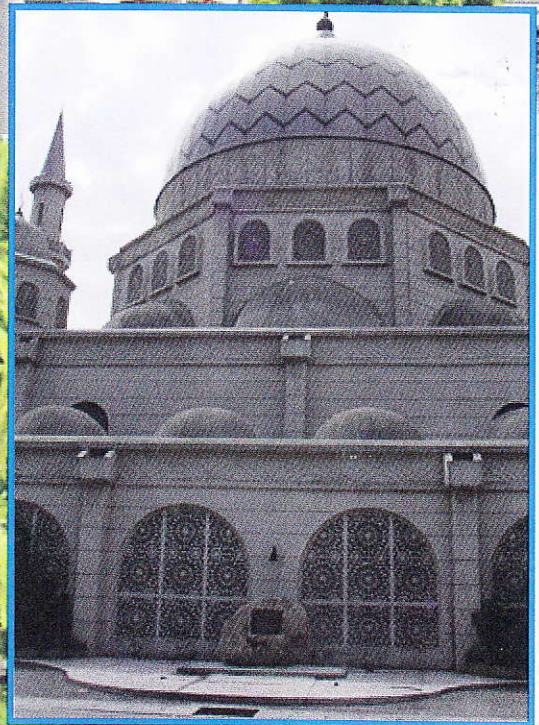


Kampung Baru - located in the city centre

The different neighbourhood cells within a community shares public facilities that are provided on a greater and expanded scale than their own. In a general context, social interaction is encouraged through centralisation of facilities and public spaces. Neighbourhoods are the smallest units within the hierarchy. A neighbourhood may be made up of smaller clusters of structures and areas such as neighbourhood public facilities, residential and religious buildings as well as recreational spaces. District or territorial concepts can be used as a foundation in the development of these neighbourhoods and in the portrayal of their respective images. It is encouraged that specialised facilities such as medical centres and institutions of higher learning be placed in different neighbourhoods based on the principle of creating neighbourhoods with unique identities.

Apart from their physical form, neighbourhoods can be viewed in terms of the social relationships among residents. These social bonds may be in the form of cooperative efforts in organising local functions, funerals as well social and religious festivals. These bonds are also important in the character development of children through healthy social interactions and in shielding them from dangerous external elements or influences.

Where we live, in essence, provides an essential part of the character of ones city. In the past, traditional wooden homes housed much of our city population. Double-storey shop-lots provided both a business front and home for the entrepreneurs. And the elite, lived in large, spacious bungalows. Today, homes in the city are centered around flats, apartments, condominiums and low-rise housing-areas. As land is a high premium in the capital, increasingly, businesses, offices and luxury condominiums, are dominating the city. As a result, satellite-townships, such as Petaling Jaya, are carving out the suburbs and expanding the city's boundaries. To generalize, as development is spread outwards from the city's core, the housing becomes a type that is lower density to take advantage of land space.







Modernisation of the Malay Village

To some, the idea of traditional Malay kampungs or villages in the heart of Kuala Lumpur may seem surprising. But to thousands of city dwellers and commuters in Kuala Lumpur, the picturesque kampung settlements that they pass through on their way back and forth from work are just another of the familiar - albeit more interesting - landmarks. Indeed, this is just another of these intriguing contrasts that one encounters when exploring the city.

Kampung Baru

Kampung Baru, is the first and largest Malay settlement in Kuala Lumpur. This was initially established under the Land Enactment Act of 1897 and 1900 as a Malay Agricultural Settlement, to introduce the Malay society into the growing city of Kuala Lumpur. Today, it covers an area of almost 113.3 hectares, and is located in the heart of the city next to one of the most popular shopping district (Chow Kit Shopping District) in the city. Distinctive landmarks, all of which are very familiar to most of the city's inhabitants and commuters – Masjid Jamek, Pasar Minggu and Sultan Sulaiman Club, characterize Kampung Baru. Kampung Baru will soon be a major tourist attraction of Kuala Lumpur with a facelift through the construction of plazas that will serve as centres for arts, handicrafts, and traditional foods.





Kampung Sungai Penchala

Kampung Sungai Penchala is accessible via the Damansara – Puchong Highway and the federal road off Kepong. Covering an area of 290 hectares, Kampung Sungai Penchala is surrounded by established residential areas such as Taman Tun Dr. Ismail and Kampung Kayu Ara. Located on Malay Reserve Land, the biggest land use of the area is idle agricultural land, followed by residential. Other land use includes commerce, industry, education, Government institution, and roads. Demographically, the population of the area stood at 1,915 in 1980 with a density of 6.7 people per hectare. Over the recent years, suburban development has been emphasized. Such development imposes pressures on urban fringe areas, including Kampung Sungai Penchala. This resulted in the area experiencing growth and expansion in terms of residential and other types of development including commerce and industry. The growth and expansion have been accompanied with excellent provision of public facilities such as religious centres, public halls, and a lake. Presently, Kampung Sungai Penchala functions as settlement areas catering the demand from Kuala Lumpur residents and it is anticipated that the prevailing development pressures originating from Kuala Lumpur city will increase the land value of the area.





Affordable Housing

Urbanization in the city has seen many of the traditional village communities within the city housed into apartment blocks. These flats are usually medium to high-rise buildings and some of the previous projects were designed specifically for the lower income group. These flats are simple in design and provided with electricity, water, playgrounds and usually a multi purpose space. Such low-cost flats are aided by the Government as a means to provide cheap, affordable accommodation for the lower-income group.

Some typical examples of the older flat developments within the city are found in Brickfields, Kerinchi and off Jalan Tun Razak.





Ungrading the high-rise

From simple, utilitarian flats, the modern concept of apartment living began to develop in Kuala Lumpur. These high-rise apartments increased population-density per unit area and provided more recreational facilities to incorporate a holistic living environment. The available space would be used in upgrading the quality of life and facilities that enable this.

Medium Class Apartments

A medium class apartment is one that contains more than one block and includes various facilities. Taking an example from an existing apartment, it would be divided into five centres: three high-rise apartments and two low-rise apartment blocks. The apartments are equipped with extensive amenities like a swimming pool, tennis courts, playgrounds and a multipurpose hall for indoor games. Recreational facilities, security and ample car parking have also been included.

Upper Middle Class Apartments

An example of this type of apartment is situated in Taman Tun Dr. Ismail at the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur. They are high-rise blocks with a wide range of amenities such as a badminton hall, tennis courts, swimming pools, a sundry shop as well as a launderette. The residences consist of middle-income groups that typically work in the city centre, or in nearby satellite towns like, Taman Tun Dr. Ismail, Petaling Jaya or Bandar Utama.



Luxury Condominiums

At the upper-end of apartment developments are condominiums. Designed specifically for the rich or expatriate community, these condominiums can be comparable to 5-star hotels. These apartments place great emphasis on aesthetic landscaping of surroundings and modern facilities. Another emphasis is on location and accessibility, where their residents pay a premium on these two features.





Planned Townships

Modern housing of Kuala Lumpur is usually centred on planned township. Here, the planned townships are built up of a mixture of housing-types: bungalow-units, semi-detached or terrace/link houses, and high-rises. These township are designed to include parks, schools, and shop houses. In essence, the present-day developers are re-creating the traditional village community with the modern amenities and facilities. This is the concept of a planned township.



Sustainable Development



The Federal Department of Town and Country Planning

Operating under the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, the Federal Town and Country Planning Department is the overall planning agency responsible for the proper planning for the use, development and conservation of the land in the Peninsular Malaysia.


JABATAN PERANCANGAN BANGSA
KEMENTERIAN PERUMAHAN DAN KERAJAAN
MALAYSIA

Building Management

Kuala Lumpur offers various types of space for different interests in the city. Affordability is the deciding factor for most cities dwellers as to where one decides to settle down or work, but location also plays a role. The high-rise environment can be very cosy and relaxing if it is well designed and planned. Many complexes have gone out of their way to create a very appealing atmosphere, by extensive landscaping and thoughtful incorporation of many amenities and features into the complex design, from swimming pools to gyms and saunas.

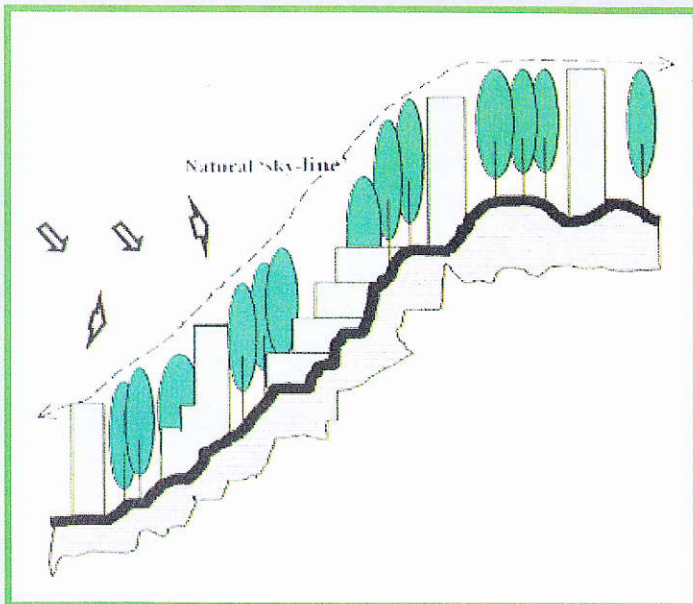




Urban Ecology Management

Proper ecological development enables Kuala Lumpur to manage the environment in such a way that it decreases the risk of harm to the residents. Flood Management, Drought Management and Landslide Control are some of the forms of Urban Ecology Management. Each deals with their respective functions in such a way that it enhances the environment. An example is how retention ponds are also used as a recreational spot for picnicking, exercising and fishing. It also teaches new values to residents such as appreciating and conserving water. A part of Urban Ecology Management is education of the public.





Pollution Management

Air and water are non-renewable resources, and once polluted, recovery and rehabilitation is very challenging. Pollution and development, unfortunately, often go hand-in-hand. The challenge is to control and safely deal with pollution, as the city progresses. The Environmental Quality Act 1974 is the primary legislative instrument, which addresses the issue of pollution. Sewerage is one of the major sources of pollution in the city, and, as such, wastewater treatment and management is a major effort. The biological wastewater treatment plant that treat the sewage from the residential area around the Old Klang Road is an excellent example of how treatment system can be compatible with other land uses – with careful design, planning, operations and maintenance of the treatment plant, adjacent areas are not only not affected, but continue to thrive – for example, the Desa Water Park, which sees thousands of visitors.



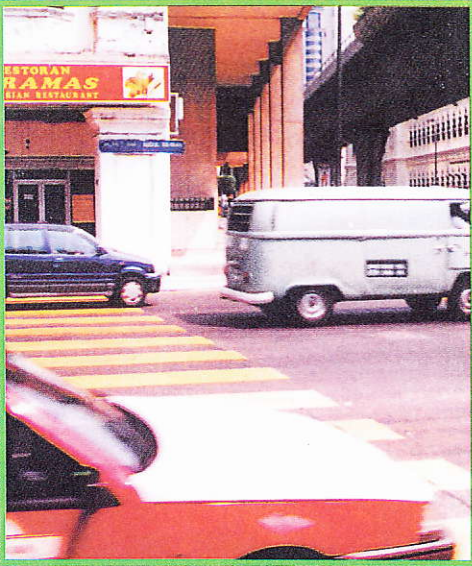
Solid Waste Management

Solid waste from city dwellers demands careful management, and the final destination of the waste generated requires proper planning and design. As more and more waste is generated with the increasing population and activities of the growing metropolis, the existing system of managing solid waste needs to be reviewed. Waste minimisation and reduction at source will be the best option. The culture and practice of the 3R's - Recycling, Reuse and Reduction - must be adopted by the growing city of K.L. The present practice of recycling of old newspaper to other products is an example of this. Public awareness on the importance of recycling needs to be enhanced, because a city like Kuala Lumpur can no longer continue to convert its precious land into a dumpsite. The adoption of the 3Rs - Recycle, Reuse and Reduce concept is timely. The history of the existing system for recycling old newspapers started with the declaration of Kuala Lumpur as the Federal Territory. The recycling of papers is very effective, as there is relatively less newspaper found in the dumpsites around city. The monetary value attached to the old papers make it attractive for the household to collect and sell it to the newspaper vendors, and thus the load on the city's solid waste disposal systems is markedly reduced.



Traffic System Management

Managing the flow of vehicle traffic through the city's roads has been one of the major challenges of any developing city. In Kuala Lumpur, all traffic movement in the city is being monitored by a central traffic network system. One simple way the city has reduced the traffic flow was by staggering the working hours of administration and commercial offices in the city to reduce traffic congestion during peak hours. Engineering developments are also being implemented to reduce the traffic congestion. For example, the construction of new and modern flyovers and highways such as the Kerinchi Link and New Ampang Expressway. Public transportation has also been upgraded to include more efficient bus transportation and the development of light railway transport such as the STAR and PUTRA LRT and MONORAIL, as well as the Express Rail Link (ERL).



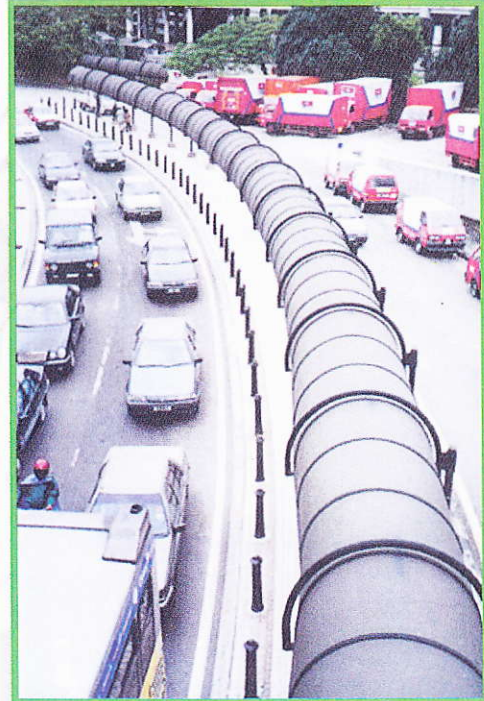
Pedestrian Management

The friction between pedestrian and motorway is a complicated matter to solve. The main problem with the reluctance of the public to walk is the weather. Adding greenery has been an advantage, but this alone is not enough. Other enhancements are required, such as commercial and retail services.

Creating a pedestrian-friendly city increasingly becomes the emphasis when designing mechanisms to manage traffic in the city. Pedestrian walks along Jalan Masjid Jamek, Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman and the Bukit Bintang area are examples of this. These pedestrian walks will create a sense of safety to the public, where they can carry out their activities without the fear of motor-accident and they can walk freely, which increases the accessibility of and to the numerous businesses. Introducing a bicycle lane to increase accessibility will also boost pedestrian safety and comfort. Introduction of facilities such as ramps, safe crossing zones, textured paths are all examples of how the city is changing to accommodate pedestrians from all walks of life.

Part of the structure plan of Kuala Lumpur includes the development of key pedestrian pathways in the city, some of the more important centres include:

- Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman – to create a specialty shopping district.
- Kg Baru – as a cultural corridor linking the cultural precincts of Jalan Tun Razak, Karyaneka, and the shopping precincts of KLCC and Chow Kit.
- City Walk – a green pedestrian network, utilizing the river corridor of Sg Klang, connecting the LRT station at Dang Wangi and the nearby hotels to the cultural precincts around Karyaneka and the National Heritage Council. This route will pass the Malaysian Tourism Information Centre (MATIC) and the roadside cafes at Jalan P. Ramlee with a forested connection via the Bukit Nanas forest reserve and the KLCC Park.
- Green culture corridor – Linking the National Library and Titiwangsa and Kampung Baru, with the City Centre utilizing Sg Bunus as a major linear open space. This route will connect to Chow Kit Market via Jalan Raja Bot.



Appendix

1.1 The Philosophy behind the TPDD Doctrine

The philosophical characteristics of the Total Planning and Development Doctrine are as follows:

1. Comprehensive

The concept of total planning and development should cover all values, moral and spiritual aspects besides physical and material aspects. These elements cannot be separated because the objective of total planning and development is to achieve sustainable wellbeing.

2. Man as the Focus of Development

Man's needs, attitude, feeling and aspiration are some of the most important factors that should be taken into account in the formulation of policies and development approaches. Nevertheless, all considerations should stress on the achievement of a balance between the needs of man and the capacity of the environment to fulfill and support these needs.

3. Multi-dimensional Activities

Planned development must be multi-dimensional in nature. All aspects of man's life and development activities which are variables, must be given due consideration and thus, is a complete and balanced model for development.

4. Quantitative and Qualitative Change

The process of development will lead to quantitative and qualitative changes. Total planning and development stresses on the balance between these two aspects whereby each progress and change will make Man grateful for the benevolence of the Creator.

5. Equitable Utilization and Distribution of Resources

Total planning and development emphasizes on the optimum use and equitable distribution of all natural resources between man based on rights and justice.

1.2 Planning the Urban and Commercial Center

The urban centre represents the mode for learning, economy and civilisation of a country, state or district. It is also the place for social development where the public interacts through shopping, learning, working and recreating whilst obtaining Government services.

In keeping with its important role, an urban centre should have the following outstanding characteristics:

- History - Preserve and maintain buildings which are historic and symbolise the noble values of a civilisation;
- Knowledgeable - The urban centre as a centre of academic excellence through the provision of integrated facilities such as schools, mosques and science centres;
- Beneficial - The economic activities and facilities of the urban centre is of benefit to all levels of users;
- The Mosque as a focus - In its role as the pulse of a successful network of development;
- Interaction centre - Urban activities that provide opportunities for interaction towards achieving unity;
- Harmonious - Design of a city that is in harmony with its environment;
- Beautiful and clean - Systematic planning and development of infrastructure, public and social facilities so that they will appear harmonious, beautiful and easily maintained; and
- Accessible - In planning for the urban centre, focuses on the accessibility criteria which should be adequate, strategic and integrated.

1.3 Planning of Open Space and City Infrastructure

- Provide plazas, green spaces and parks as well as various categories of open spaces to in order to make a liveable garden city;
- Provide commercial and parking facilities, drainage and waste disposal systems, and other comprehensive and user-friendly urban facilities; and
- Provide service protocols for electric cables, water pipes, sewerage, telephones, etc.

1.4 Planning a Housing Development

Housing represents the foundation for creating a happy family and a harmonious society. Therefore, housing facilities should provide quality living environment which can contribute to comfortable living. It should be located in areas that encourage interaction, and enhances family values.

In line with its function and role, the characteristics of a good residential area are:

- Comfort - A comfortable internal space design and environment areas will assist in the formation of a harmonious family system;
- Friendly - Providing facilities that promote a human-friendly neighbourhood;
- Beautiful, with quality and identity - A design that symbolizes beauty, quality, room for growth and with its own image and identity;
- Adequate and Affordable - Adequate choice of housing, that is affordable by the people;
- Clean and harmonious - A housing area and environment that is clean, healthy and in harmony with it's surrounding;
- Complete - Has complete social facilities and utilities (self-contained); and
- Safe - Located in an area that is safe from natural disasters.

1.5 Planning for a Green Environment

Open space, recreation and landscape are important aspects that need to be given emphasis in development efforts for the well being of man. Among the functions of landscape and open space are as follows:

- Recreation at areas for public use;
- Preservation of historic places;
- Natural areas and habitat for wild life;
- Areas of integrated use comprising recreation, sports and flood control functions;
- Zones separating conflicting land use activities;
- Ecological areas with an important function in the evaporation system; and
- Increase visual and physical quality of the city.

Among the good characteristics that deserve attention in outlining related guidelines are:

- Responsible to the user - Open and recreational space which can be put to good use with recreational activities which are healthy, educational, mentally stimulating and promotes positive social interaction;
- Integrated - Recreation, open spaces and suitable landscape are integrated with other components such as residential, industrial and business areas and the urban centre;
- Beautiful and functional landscape; and
- A balanced design - A creative and innovative designs in the hard and soft landscape.

1.6 Planning and Islam

It is a compulsory requirement for Malaysia, being an Islamic country to provide places of worship for the Muslims. Being a multi-racial country, places of worship for the non-Muslims are not neglected and specific facilities for worship are permitted, such as temples and churches.

Apart from being a place of worship, the mosque also functions as a civic, administrative, education and strategic centre for a civil society and as a base to strengthen solidarity and unity among the Muslims.

The mosque also functions as a place for meeting or discussion and as an institution of national development. Provision of this facility is not only meant for worship but embraces a wider scope and in line with Government's effort to achieve Vision 2020 towards the formation of a civil society without sacrificing high moral values.

The seven primary roles of the mosque are:

- As a place of worship;
- As a centre of education and knowledge;
- As a place for lectures for the local residents;
- As a 'house of piety' - creating an atmosphere of tranquillity with beautiful landscape, that is clean and relaxing;
- As a daily meeting place for the local residents to carry out welfare work;
- As a centre for the dissemination of knowledge, a computerised Islamic information centre, a place for revision and exhibition which can also be provided with courts for games; and
- As a centre of education, information, dissemination, welfare, moral rehabilitation, promotion of the arts and other activities for the Muslims.

1.7 Planning for Transportation

The transportation system is one of the main components in any settlement because it connects all the activities within the settlement. It aims to fulfil several objectives, including:

- To facilitate accessibility to places of worship, work, recreation, shopping, education, etc.;
- Opens up opportunities for interaction and strengthens unity and relationships among the residents; and
- Increases economic activities and opens up employment opportunities.

A good transportation and traffic system will have the following main features:

- Informative - Provides accurate information for the convenience of users;
- Quality - A transportation system which is caring, user friendly, artistic, environmental-friendly, clean and orderly with respect to various users;
- Comprehensive - Complete with supporting facilities, adequate, suitable and attractive;
- Efficient; and
- Easily accessible, competitive and children, disabled and elderly-friendly

1.8 Planning for a Civil Society

Planning for the provision of social facilities should be of good quality and adequately planned in terms of distribution, number and suitability of size based on existing standards so as to promote interaction among the residents. A consolidated planning of social programmes and activities will create a caring and united society which will indirectly strengthen the

local community.

- Social facilities which should be provided to inculcate the values of a caring and united society are as follows:
- Health facilities;
- Education facilities;
- Service facilities; and
- Rehabilitation Centre facilities.

1.9 Planning and the Laws of Malaysia

All developments in Malaysia must be carried out within the framework of the National and State legislation. All developments must comply, at least, to the following:

- The Environmental Quality (Prescribed Activities) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Order 1987 ensures that any activity that is specified submit an environmental impact assessment report. Nineteen categories of activities that are specified are agriculture, airports, drainage and irrigation, land reclamation, fisheries, housing, industries, infrastructure, ports, mining, petroleum, power generation, quarries, railways, transportation, recreation and hotel development, disposal and treatment of wastes and water supply.

Conservation Areas

Generally, development is not encouraged in hilly areas which have been identified for preservation, that is:

- Areas which have been declared as hill land under Part 11, Section 3,
- Land Conservation Act 1990 (Act 385);
- Hill areas of geological interest;
- Hill areas of historical value;
- Areas which have been gazetted as water catchment areas; and
- Areas which have been gazetted as permanent forest reserves.
- To preserve the natural topography as far as possible.
- Cutting of the hills should be kept to a minimum and will only be allowed for the provision of infrastructure;
- Development in areas more than 150 metres above sea level is not allowed;
- Areas which have outstanding natural beauty such as waterfalls and lakes should be preserved. Should development be proposed in such areas, a detailed conservation study should be carried out;
- Forests and logging activities which affect the environment should have an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA); this includes, development of forest land involving an area of 500 hectares of forest land, 100 hectares of virgin forests and 50 hectares of mangrove swamp forest; and logging areas exceeding 500 hectares.
- Open forest burning is strictly prohibited.

Riverine Development

Guidelines for the Riverfront Development Concept, JPS 1995:

- The shifting of river alignment is prohibited;
- River reserves can only be developed as recreation and green areas;
- River reserves can be used as buffer zones to control pollution and erosion;
- Permanent buildings and infrastructure are not permitted within the river reserves such as buildings, electric poles, Light Rail Transit, etc.;
- Buildings and infrastructure should not obstruct the scenery surrounding the river;

- The natural state of the river should be preserved for the continued living of its flora and fauna;
- The outflow of sewage from development areas should be channelled into one main outlet before being drained into the river;
- Sewerage facilities equipped with a central treatment system before being drained into the river; and
- All buildings erected should face the river
- Flow of the River and Tributary:
- The natural flow and direction of the river should be maintained and conserved;
- River reserve can be made into a buffer zone to control surface pollution.

Buffer Zone

- Activities producing in air, noise and smell pollution are not permitted within buffer zones; and
- Activities which are permitted as buffer zones are those which do not result in pollution and nuisance such as roads, open spaces, crop plantations, waterways and swimming pools.

For further information

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