

Kuala Kubu Bharu

The Garden City Heritage of Malaya



Kuala Kubu Bharu
Garden City Heritage of Malaya

Copyright © 2014
Federal Department of Town and Country Planning
Peninsular Malaysia

All rights reserved.No parts of this book may be
reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or trans-
mitted in any form by any
other photocopying,, recording or otherwise, with-
out
the prior permission in writing of the publisher
ISBN
Printed 2014

Kuala Kubu Bharu

The Garden City Heritage of Malaya



Content

Foreword

Preface

1 Welcome to Kuala Kubu Bharu

2 Kuala Kubu Bharu – Time of Yore

The Mining Saga

Time of Restoration and Dawn of British Administration

The rise of Kuala Kubu Bharu

3 Kuala Kubu Bharu -The Garden City of Malaya

Charles C. Reade

The Garden City Concept

The Garden City Plan

4 Kuala Kubu Bharu - Way of Life

The Residents

The Visitors

5 Wandering Wanders in Kuala Kubu Bharu

6 Kuala Kubu Bharu - Outlook and Anticipation

Appendix

Acknowledgement

References



Foreword



Preface

The British built many towns during their reign in Malaya but for the town of Kuala Kubu Bharu it is extraordinary especially from the Town Planning point of view. This book although presented in a leisurely way as a coffee table book, it is hopeful that the town planning aspects can be appreciated by the readers. Similar to the *saying behind a successful man there is a great woman*” for Kuala Kubu Bharu it can be said that *behind a successful town there is a great planner*. This book not only commemorates Kuala Kubu Bharu as a Town Planning heritage, it also pay homage to the person who had thoughtfully created the townscape and the person who had mooted the planning concept which the town was built upon.

Capturing the stories from written and verbal mediums as well as observations, this coffee table book were assembled to narrate the history of Kuala Kubu Bharu to what is presented to us at the present time and into what lies in the future for Kuala Kubu Bharu. The pictures which were selected to represent the events and moments of the past, the present and the future of Kuala Kubu Bharu are hopeful in capturing the readers’ imaginations.

Pictures are frozen moments of the past and present, pictures are usually taken as mementos of those passing moments. Although the nature of coffee table books are book of pictures let these pictures in this coffee table book not just be a memento of Kuala Kubu Bharu but a guide in visiting and exploring Kuala Kubu Bharu in the reality.



An aerial photograph of Kuala Kubu Bharu, Malaysia. The town is nestled at the base of a large, forested hill. The foreground shows a mix of traditional and modern buildings, including a prominent white building with a red-tiled roof and a large, multi-story building with a grey facade. A road with a yellow cross marking runs through the center of the town. The background is dominated by the steep, green slopes of the hill.

Welcome to

Kuala Kubu Bharu



Welcome to Kuala Kubu Bharu

Tucked away amidst the green trees and standing against a blue mountainous background, is the town of Kuala Kubu Bahru. The unassuming administrative town of Hulu Selangor District casually greets visitors as they approach the locality with a sense of relief and serenity was felt all at once after a long journey from the city. Its location at latitude: 3.5667 degree north and longitude: 101.6500 degree east is 66 kilometre away from the City of Kuala Lumpur. One could reach the town via Federal Route 1 or the North – South Highway. Alternatively one could board the commuter train from KL Sentral and exchange to another train in Rawang Station before arriving at Kuala Kubu Bahru Station.



For first time visitors Kuala Kubu Bharu, seems to hold a thousand clandestine, unseen by their naked eyes and can only be imagined by what had drawn them to the sleepy town. The unfamiliar destinations' name etched in black on white wooden signage that was planted onto the ground at the town centre poses more questions than answers even to frequent visitors. To those who speak Malay, comprehension of the word, Bharu which literally means new are faced with yet another brain teaser. So, if Kuala Kubu Bharu is the “new” Kuala Kubu, then where is the old Kuala Kubu? Narration from the notes of history will hopefully provide more enlightenment on this mystery.





Kuala Kubu Bharu

Time of Yore

The Classic Mining Saga

The history of Kuala Kubu Bharu is tightly related to the history of a mining settlement known as Ulu Selangor. According to Frank Swettenham's journal in 1875, the mining settlement known as Ulu Selangor were already in existence approximately 80 years prior to their first visit to the area. An obvious indication of the long mining activities in the areas was the presence of a purpose built dam above a huge old mining area which he believed to have been built during the reign of Sultan Ibrahim Shah as the second Sultan of Selangor (1778 – 1826) through Bugis partnership with early settlers.

The early settlers of Ulu Selangor were the natives or better known as orang asli. They roam the surrounding jungle hunting and gathering food for their livelihood. They were later joined by the Malays from Sumatra known as the people of Rawas and Mendelings who came to Ulu Selangor by navigating up the Selangor River in search of tin mines which were abundant especially at the headwaters.



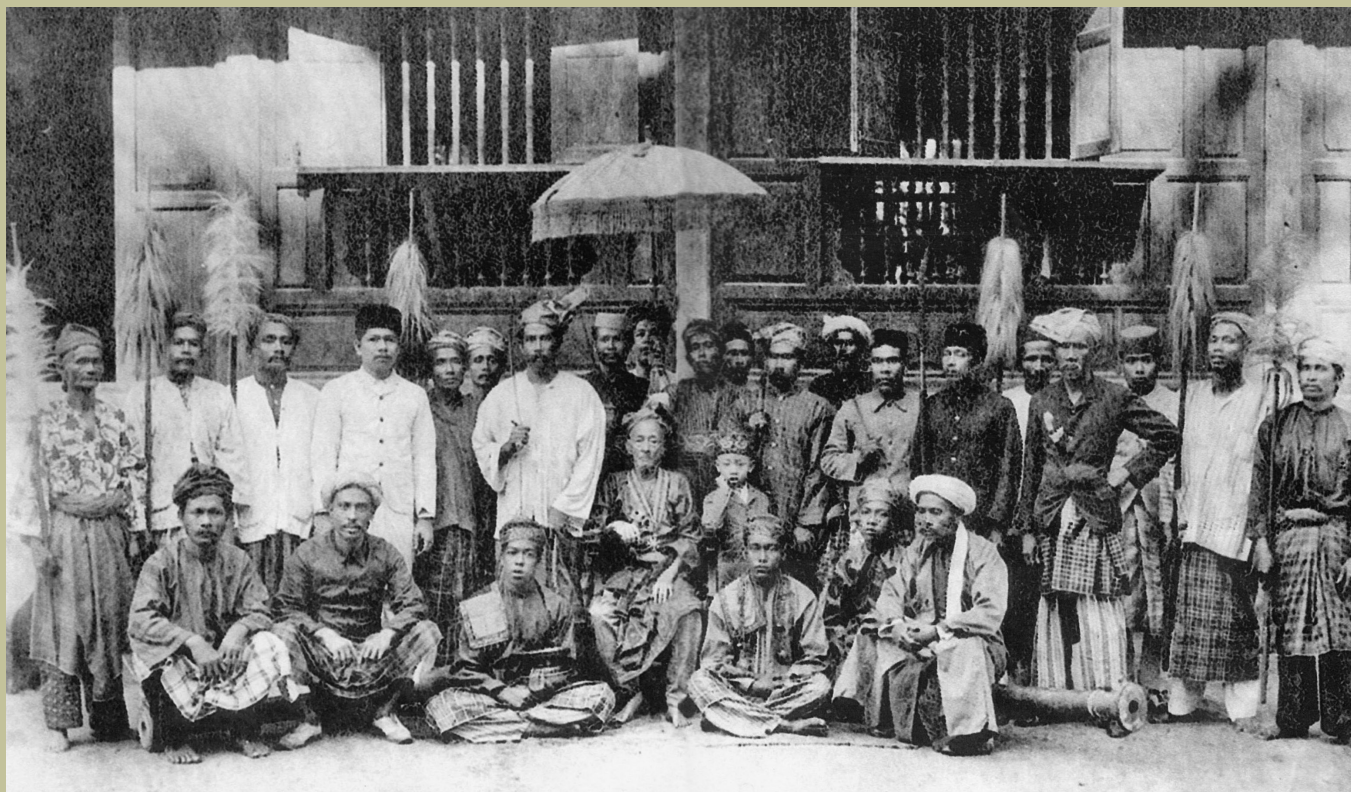
Mining using sluice



Mining tin ore by panning

Swettenham's estimates of the dam's age is sustained by an account that in 1784 Sultan Ibrahim and his royal consort had retreated to Ulu Selangor when the Dutch attacked and captured his Kuala Selangor fort. However his entourage had escaped the on coming Dutch to the neighboring state of Pahang. Sultan Ibrahim had managed to recapture Selangor from the Dutch only the following year but still his position was not fully stabilized until 1876 through a peace treaty with the Dutch.

The abundance of tin ore in Selangor continued to attract miners even after Sultan Ibrahim's reign. The Rawas and Mendelings continued to settle the area and in no time the Ulu Selangor mining settlement became larger, attracting more people including the Malays from neighboring state of Pahang and Chinese clans from around Selangor as well as from the main land China. Ulu Selangor at that time was the second biggest mining settlement in Selangor after Kuala Lumpur.



Syed Mashhor bin Syed Muhammad Ash Sahab of Langat among Sultan Abdul Samad of Selangor and his council staff at Jugra in 1886.

The classic mining saga in Ulu Selangor were fixated on the character of Syed Mashhor bin Syed Muhammad Ash Sahab in the Selangor Civil War (1866 - 1874). During the reign of Sultan Abdul Samad, the fourth Sultan of Selangor (1859 – 1898), Syed Mashhor bin Syed Muhammad Ash Sahab of Langat, who were a great warrior during his time were called to assist the Sultan in a warfare against Raja Mahdi in controlling of mining areas in Kelang. However, upon hearing of his brother's death; suspected murdered by the Sultan's followers, Syed Mashhor instead turned his alliance to Raja Mahdi. As a result in 1872, the Kelang mining areas including Kuala Lumpur fell under Raja Mahdi's control, and with the help of Syed Mashhor a month later Kuala Selangor was captured.

During the war Syed Mashhor gained support from the villagers in Ulu Selangor and they constructed a fort as their headquarters at the confluence of Kubu river and Selangor river. The fort provided, refuge for Syed Mashhor and his alliances and forces consisting of the Ulu Selangor villagers when they were attacked by Tengku Kudin's forces in their effort to recapture Kuala Lumpur from Syed Mashhor and Raja Mahdi. And in 1873 Syed Mashhor forces were defeated by Tengku Kudin's army from Pahang which was led by Haji Muhammad Noor.

The Selangor Civil War which were entangled in the tussle for mining power were two folds; it was a war among the royal families as well as among the Chinese leaders in Selangor. Fundamentally, the war was for controlling the mining resources in Selangor particularly the areas in Klang River basin and Selangor River basin. The 1870 event, where Yap Ah Loy, the leader of Hai San's clan from Kuala Lumpur raided the mining settlements in Kanching and murdered members of Ghee Hin's clan had caused Chong Chong the leader of Ghee Hin's clan to retaliate. Thus in order to avenge his followers death, and as means, to protect the Kanching mining area from falling into Yap Ah Loy's hand, Chong Chong formed alliance with Syed Mashhor and Raja Mahdi to fight against Tengku Kudin and his alliance Yap Ah Loy and the Malay army from Pahang.

Unfortunately their defeat saw the allies driven out of Ulu Selangor and the British gained access to the mining areas in Selangor including Ulu Selangor. Syed Mashhor however was later installed as the chief of Kerling by Sultan Abdul Samad in 1882. He served as chief of Kerling until 1899.



Tengku Kudin or Tengku Dziauddin Ibni Almarhum Sultan Zainal Abidin Shah was the brother of Sultan Ahmad Tajuddin Mukarram Shah III.

Tengku Kudin married to Sultan Abdul Samad's princess, Raja Arfah in 1867. As the son in law of Sultan Abdul Samad he was much favoured by the Sultan and was made the viceroy of Klang.

After the civil war ended sense of security slowly picked up and the people of Selangor started to rebuild villages and settlements that were destroyed in the war. However when the world tin price fell in 1875 the Selangor local economy were badly affected. The situation in Ulu Selangor were no different, after being defeated by Tengku Kudin and his allies the area was put under Pahang headmen. This lasted until 12th May 1883 when Kuala Kubu seemingly fell into the British hand. Worried over the social conditions in Kuala Kubu, under the Pahang administration, Tengku Kudin as the viceroy of Selangor had requested the British in Singapore to restore peace in Kuala Kubu by seizing control of Ulu Selangor from the Pahang headmen.

Although social chaotic occurred under the Pahang leadership, the slump in tin price worldwide did not stop the mining activities in Ulu Selangor. While having the richest tin deposit within the vicinity and had just opened five mines prior to the economic recession, Ulu Selangor had maintained to be an important contributor in the tin mining industry. When tin price eventually started to rise in 1879 Ulu Selangor become more prominent as a tin mining town.

During the British administration, the name Ulu Selangor was used to refer the district's name. Consequently Ulu Selangor settlements were named Kuala Kubu; presumably taking the name of the fort which were built by Syed Mashhor at the confluence of Kubu River during the Selangor Civil War. Kuala Kubu was made the centre of British administration in the interior land of Selangor River basin and Cecil Ranking was made as the first Collector and Magistrate on behalf of the British Government to reside in Kuala Kubu. Under the British administration mining activities thrive and the British strengthen their hold by developing the town. This gave major thrust to the economics in Kuala Kubu as well as Ulu Selangor District which includes other mining towns such as Serendah and Kanching

Time of Restoration and Dawn of British Administration



Kuala Kubu Townscape in 1906

The Golden Age of Kuala Kubu

Redevelopment of Kuala Kubu since the 1883 flood saw Kuala Kubu emerged into a complete town equipped with many facilities such as shops (1885), Mosque (1885), Malay School (1885), Hospital (1887), holding cell (1889), Mortuary (1892), Rest House (1893), Government Staff Quarters (1893), Police Quarters (1893) and Train Station (1894)



Kuala Kubu Train Station was completed in 1894. This station were built along Kuala Kubu Road which linked Kuala Kubu to Kerling and Tangjung Malin in the state of Perak. The train station is now closed and had been replaced by a new station,

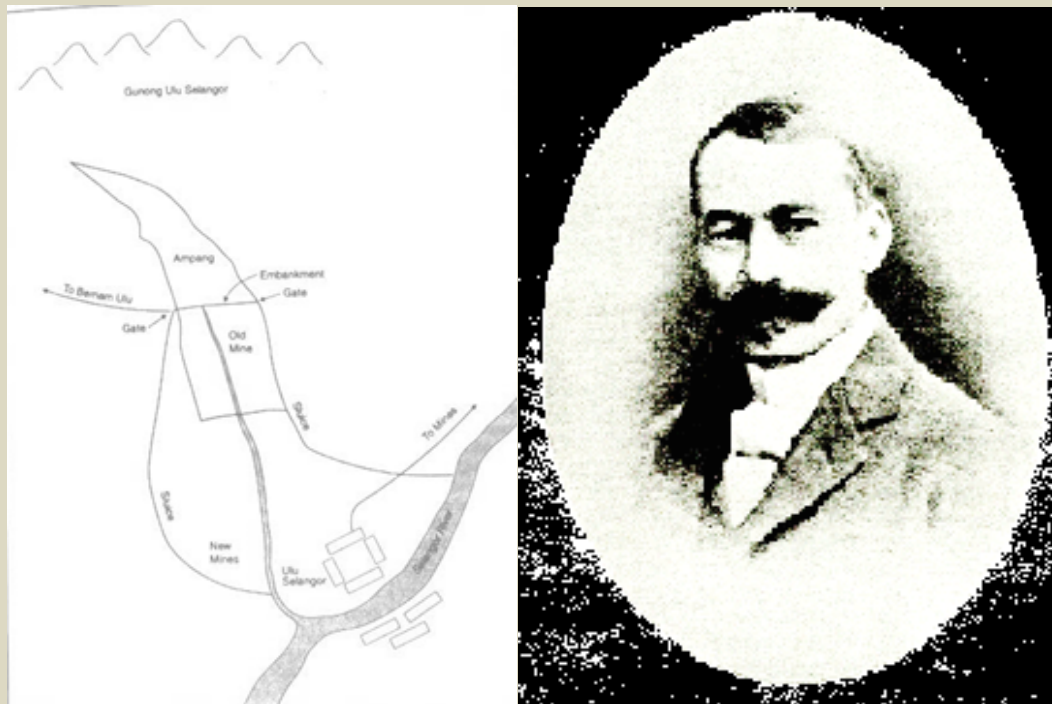


Treacher's Hill

Treacher's Hill also known widely as Bukit Kutu is one of the hill stations established by the British while they were here. Similar to the other hill stations Treacher's Hill offer a sanatorium especially for unhealthy Europeans officers so that they could be rested. Today however, the sanatorium no longer exist and all of the buildings ever built on this hill are gone leaving only the chimney of a bungalow which once had stood on this hill.



In Memories and Myths



The sketch on the left was drawn by Frank Swettenham (right) in 1875 to illustrate the location of the dam in relation to the location of Ulu Selangor (the mining village which was later renamed Kuala Kubu). According to Swettenham the dam formed a gigantic lake just above a huge mine that was 40 feet (12.19 metre) deep. He furthered that the dam was about 200 yards (182.88 metres) long and varying in width measuring about 100 to 200 yards (91.44 and 182.88 meters) along the length of the lake. He added that the village was approximately 1 1/2 miles (2.41 kilometres) down the dam head.

Looking back down its memory lane, it is implicit that Kuala Kubu was a very successful administrative and mining town. While the existence of Kuala Kubu is clear through archives and old photographs there is still some mystery shrouding the town.

Located at lowland, Kuala Kubu was always flooded, however the flood which had immersed Kuala Kubu completely on the 24th of October 1883 was atypical. That morning of the tragedy, it was told that Cecil Ranking, the first appointed British Collector and Magistrate to Kuala Kubu went to the dam above the village with his rifle, and not long after, shots were heard and water came ghastly down the broken dam. Kuala Kubu were completely submerged under water for days. Thirty three people perished in that tragedy including Cecil Ranking himself, and his aide Sudin. The tragedy in 1883 ruined most of the buildings and infrastructures in Kuala Kubu

Some believed that Cecil Ranking pursued a white crocodile that resided in the dam to kill it, with the intention of protecting the people of Kuala Kubu, from potential harm of the white crocodile. This could be due to its humongous size. Conversely he failed to imagine that it will end as a horrifying catastrophe for the villagers which he himself did not live to see.

Today the tragedy is conveyed as a folklore telling interested souls that Kuala Kubu were cursed by the white crocodile which were murdered by Cecil Ranking. The legend tells that a scared white crocodile has long been living in the gigantic dam supposedly been protecting the sanctity of the region and its surrounding inhabitants but when it was pursued and shot by Cecil Ranking on that very day, it had cast a curse to destroy him and the surrounding inhabitants for showing ingratitude towards its goodness.

Yet amidst the myth and legend, the British rebuilt the ruined town for it was apparent that Kuala Kubu regions offers the British great affluence because it was rich with high quality tin deposit. Therefore despite constant flooding Kuala Kubu flourished as a great mining town in Selangor, second only to Kuala Lumpur.





Al Hidayah Mosque, was built 1926 in Ampang Pecah. It is believed that, the mosque had survived the great flood in 1926 and is considered as one of the historical building from Kuala Kubu era.





Buried under Ground

Although some believed that the existing Ampang Pecah is indeed the site of Kuala Kubu due to the existence of the Al-Hidayah mosque, some believed that it is still a challenge in determining the precise location of Kuala Kubu. In the wake of increased interest in historical events, preceding the planning of Kuala Kubu Bharu and its construction around 1924 - 1930, some quarters is already saying that, all of Kuala Kubu is now buried twenty metres below ground due to repeated flooding since 1883 tragedy. Thus, Kuala Kubu's historical enthusiasts, suggest that a thorough historical research and archaeological excavation is done to uncover the past.

The Rise of Kuala Kubu Bharu

Ever since the tragedy of broken dam in 1883 the town of Kuala Kubu was constantly under the threat of flooding. After enduring regular flooding for forty years, the British realized that they could not hope too much on improving the situation for Kuala Kubu, thus in 1924, Charles C. Reade, the first Federated Malay States Town Planner was instructed to prepare a plan for the building of a new township to replace the function of Kuala Kubu as an administrative town for the mining settlements.

While the new plan were being prepared Kuala Kubu was again hit by a big flood in 1926 which had pushed many households to move to the neighboring settlements. Amid the grief-stricken incidents from flooding, especially in 1926 and finally in 1931 Kuala Kubu was abandoned and most of the population and businesses moved to the newly constructed township. Thus, this was the beginning of Kuala Kubu Bharu as the new administration centre under the British.

Submerged by devastating floods, often too many times, the British administrators had decided to raise their administration centre on a higher ground so that it will stay out of rising water every time it rain. In 1930 the British administration officially occupy the new town site which they named Kuala Kubu Bharu which literally means the new Kuala Kubu.

The new site which is about 3 kilometre north of Kuala Kubu is a more efficient site with natural drainage system made out of undulating grounds compared to the flat land in Kuala Kubu. Hence the new Kuala Kubu had physically risen from the threat of being flooded and could concentrated on rising economically.

The original layout plan of Kuala Kubu Bharu town centre, 1926.





Kuala Kubu Bharu

The Garden City of Malaya



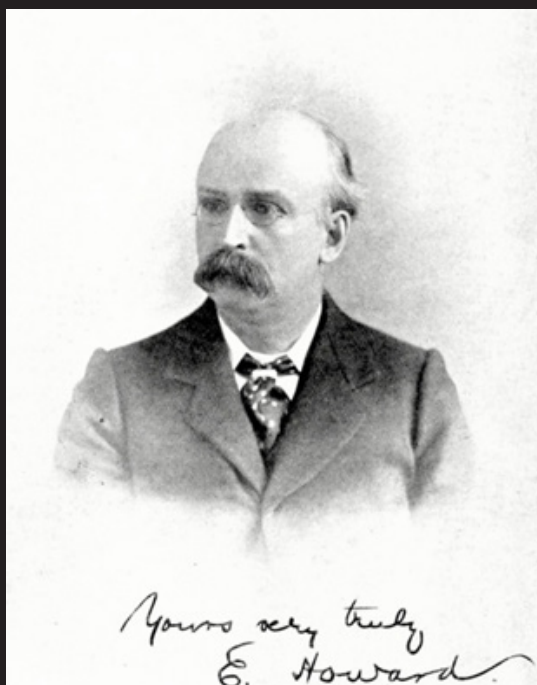
Charles Compton Reade

Town Planner, Federated Malay State

The person who was responsible for drafting the Kuala Kubu Baru plan was Charles Compton Reade. Being a journalist who had travelled the European countries during the Industrial Era, he had his eyes and heart settled on townscapes and the art of city living. His experiences and observations of slums' living in inner cities at that time led him to learn and embrace the Garden City concept.

Reade strongly believed that Garden City concept can be applied to improve city living and is the answer to a better city living. He also believe that the Garden City concept should be promoted, which he has done through series of public lecture, particularly through his lecture-tour of Australasia representing the British Garden Cities and Town Planning Association, an organization founded in 1899 by the founder of Garden City concept, Ebenezer Howard.

In 1920 Reade came to Kuala Lumpur accepting a post as the first Government Town Planner, for the Federated Malay State (FMS). He left the FMS with two priceless legacies: the Department of Town Planning and Kuala Kubu Baru. When he was tasked to plan the new Kuala Kubu Township in 1924 he diligently employed his enthusiasm for the Garden City ideas onto his town plan.



The Garden City Concept

The Garden City Concept introduced by Ebenezer Howard in 1902, modelled an ideal situation where city dwellers will be able to experience city living in a countryside atmosphere. In a Garden City, houses and modern infrastructures are intertwined with lush of greenery. Dwellers are offered with diverse opportunities to sustain their livelihood, thus creating layers of social order in the township. There are those who work in offices, in factories, and some works on farms. The Garden City is considered a perfect place to accommodate a mixture of communities and walks of life that will co-exist in harmony providing each other needs and making the Garden City self-sustaining.

The Garden City Concept is motivated by a sense of social obligations towards city dwellers. Howard was in the opinion that people should be given a third option in terms of pursuing their livelihood. People should not be limited to choosing a town where employment opportunities can be found but lacks the comfort of living in the countryside. Nevertheless people should not also be limited to choosing the countryside which lacks employment opportunities. A town according to Howard's Garden City concept, should provide people with a town and country living.

The Three Magnets illustrates three living environment options to the people. Each option is represented by a magnet with different type of power fields that will attract the people to choose it.

The first option is the Country magnet which emphasise on the goodness of the natural feature but lack societal and economic dynamics.

The second option is the Town magnet which emphasise on employment opportunities but lack the healthy living environment.

The third option is a mixture of Town and Country magnet which emphasise on the good societal and economic dynamics as well as the goodness of the natural feature.

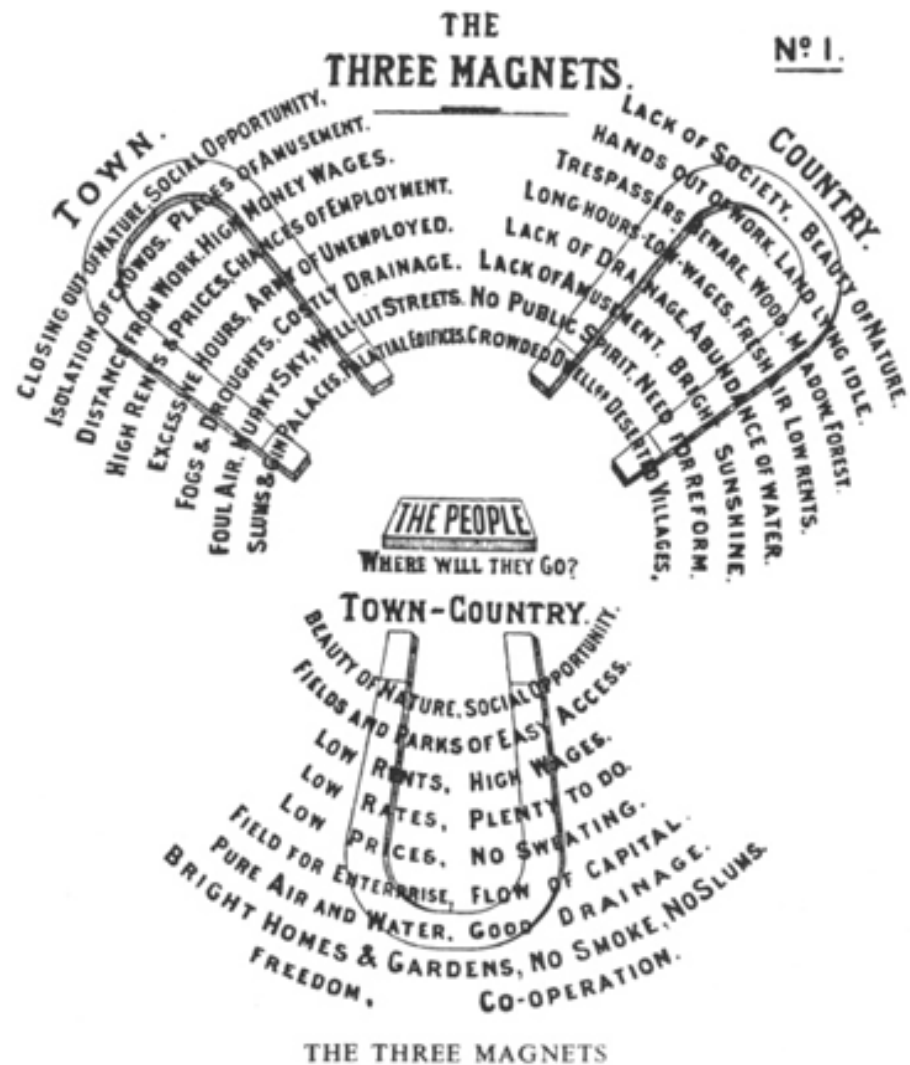


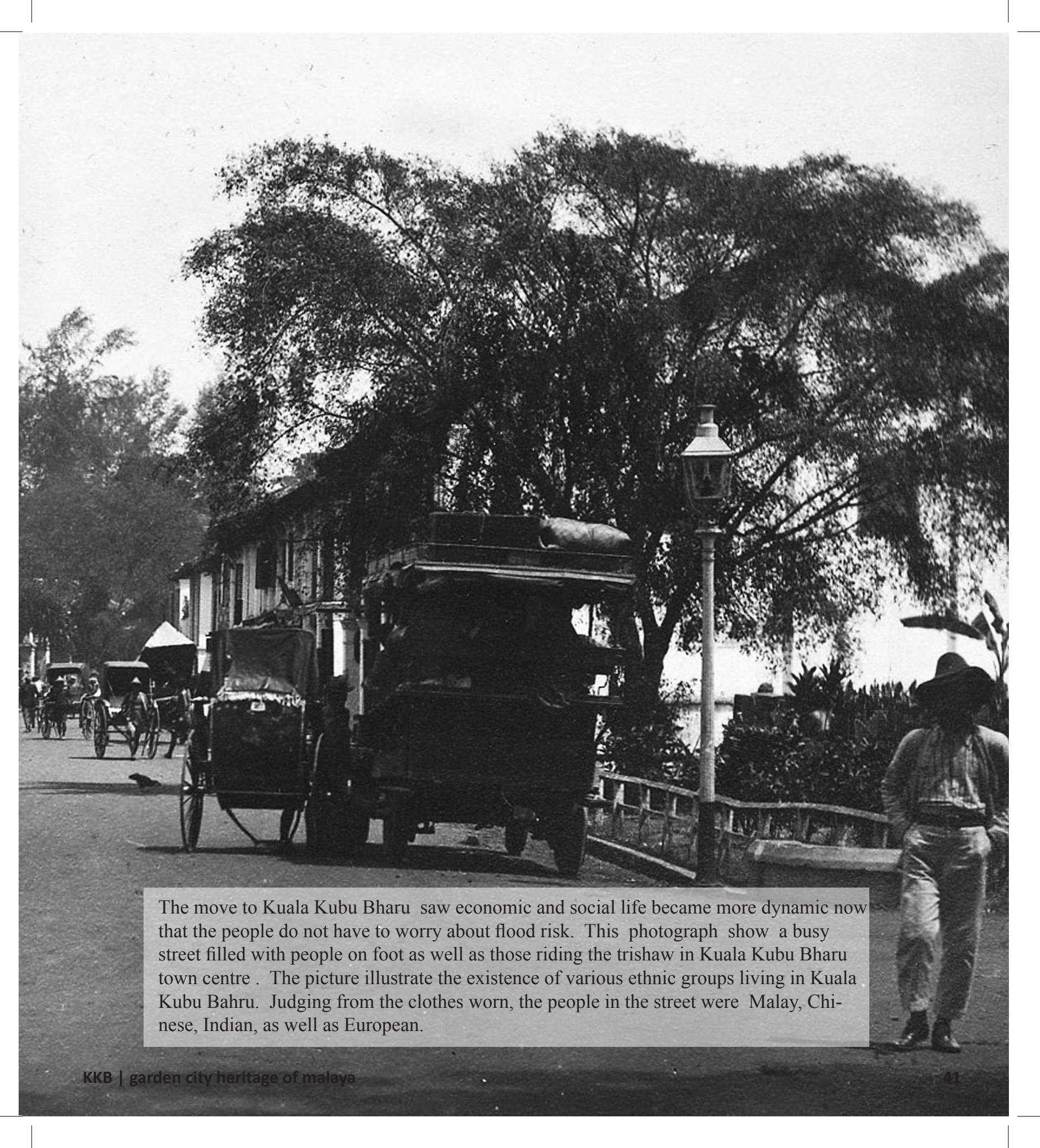


Diagram No. 2 illustrates the characteristics of the Garden City. The garden city is a self-sustaining organism, with the town centre using only one sixth of its entire designated area. The rest of the area would be use as agriculture ground to provide food security for the entire 32,000 population. At the same time the vast greenery surrounding the centre would supply clean environment for the people.



Diagram No. 3 illustrates the arrangement of land uses within the Garden City and showed how they are linked by systematic transportation system





The move to Kuala Kubu Bharu saw economic and social life become more dynamic now that the people do not have to worry about flood risk. This photograph shows a busy street filled with people on foot as well as those riding the trishaw in Kuala Kubu Bharu town centre. The picture illustrates the existence of various ethnic groups living in Kuala Kubu Bharu. Judging from the clothes worn, the people in the street were Malay, Chinese, Indian, as well as European.



Cinema 1948



Post Office 1948



Shop houses facing Jalan Abdul Hamid and Jalan Mat Kilau 1948



Police Station 1948



The Garden City Plan

As an ardent follower of the Garden City movement, Charles C. Reade design the new township by applying the garden city principles. Thus the major characteristics of the Garden City Concept such as wide public greenery, tree lined streets and open space, walkable neighbourhood and mixture of housing types are clearly seen.



The main entrance to Kuala Kubu Bharu town centre .

Illustration of Kuala Kubu Bharu Garden City Plan by Kamaluddin Shamsudin, published in the Town and Country Planning Journal the TownPlan. This illustration shows the town centre surrounded by park belts which contain public greenery and open space.



A photograph of a tree-lined street. Large, mature trees with dense green foliage line the left side of a paved road that curves into the distance. A blue trash bin is visible on the left side of the road. In the background, a building with a yellow roof and a palm tree are visible. The sky is bright and overcast.

The Park Belts, Tree Lined Streets and Public Green



Tree lined Jalan Bukit Kerajaan:.

The trees provide a cooling effect to the street network and provide a fresh look to the townscape



One of the outstanding garden city elements in Kuala Kubu Bharu town plan is obviously the provision of park belts, tree lined streets and large open space. These greenery enveloped the town centre as well as the houses built around it. The park belt was designed to separate the residential from the town centre in order to maintain the serenity of the whole township. This also provides a garden ambiance, to the overall townscape. The greenery was planned to envelope the town in order to provide fresh supply of air for the town residents. Apart from acting as a separator of land use the greenery were planned to maintain the sense of countryside within the township hence the motivation for people to live in the garden city.







The lush greenery creates a comfortable habitat for various kind of birds especially the pigeons





The Administrative Centre

In order to create the grandeur of the town hall illustrated in Howard's book, the administrative centre was located on top of a small hill overlooking the shop houses and social amenities down below. A central park is placed at the foot hill near the town entrance just as proposed by Howard's diagram. One will appreciate the view of the central park while looking up the hill. The administrative centre accommodates the district office, land office and the police station. Today the Government's Hill or Bukit Kerajaan accommodate a few more government offices : The District Council Office, Magistrate and Public Works Department. During those days, the high ground facilitated the British to provide surveillance round over people activities down below.

The land office building was one of the first government office built in Kuala Kubu Bharu. It was built in late 1920s with an art deco architectural style, which was a popular style in the 30s. The style emphasized geometric form and this is represented in the spectacular decoration on the walkway where black and white coloured tiles were laid to produce a high colour contrast effect on the walkway. Next to the building is the new District office built at the early of 2000. The building potray a modern architectural style putting in more modern building material to emphasize the time it is built.





Walkway and court yard decorated with spectacular tile pattern

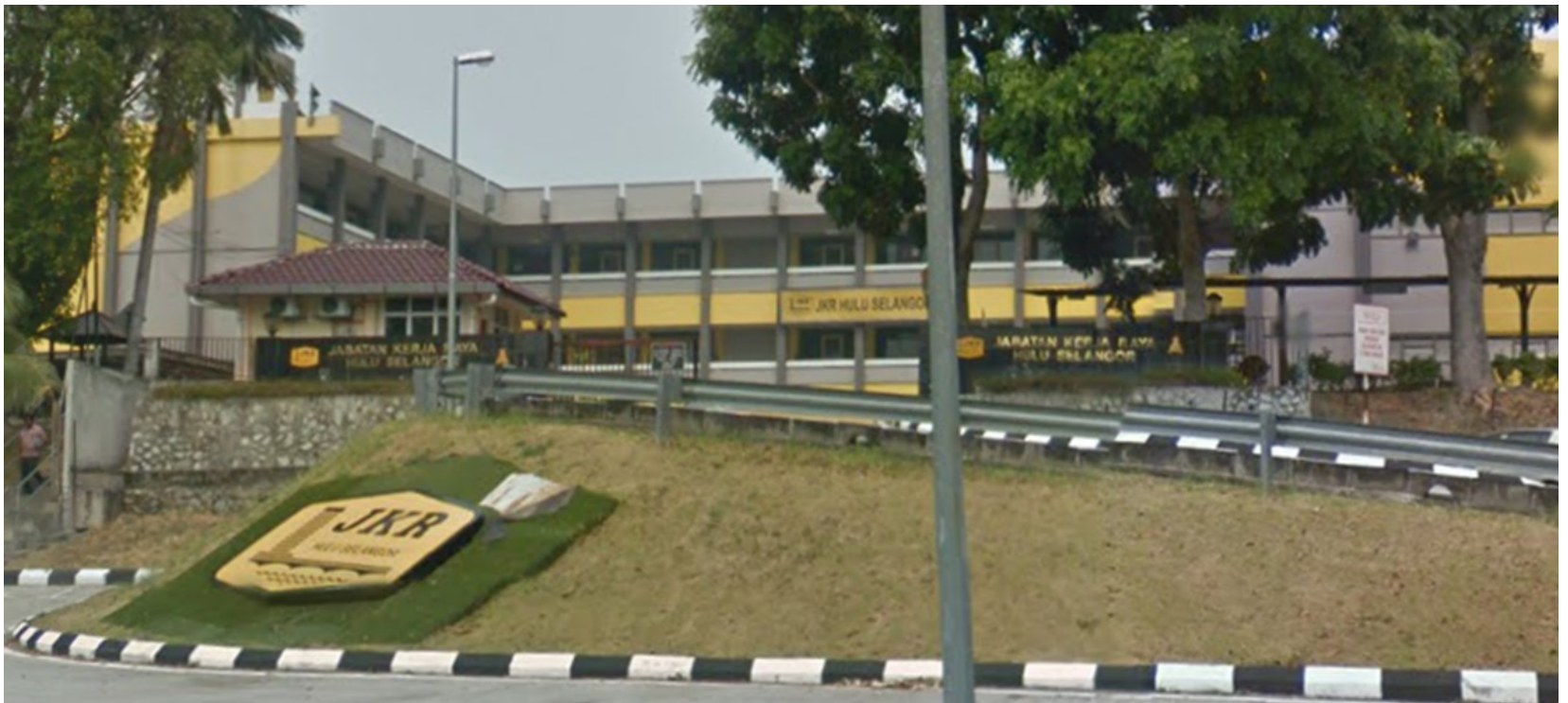


The Hulu Selangor District Council building is a new addition to the administrative centre. The District Council was established in 1977 by merging the areas of Rawang Town Board, Kuala Kubu Local Council and Kelumpang Local Council. In 2010, 13 more settlement areas were added into the administration of the District Council making its administration area approximately 27,000 acres.



Kuala Kubu Bharu Courts at Bukit Kerajaan

Public Works Department Kuala Kubu Bharu







This white and blue building is used as a police station. It was built in the mid 1920s. The building portrays neoclassical architectural style. The distinguishable element of neoclassical style on this building is the triangular pediment. The façade of the building is framed by neogreek columns which are decorated giving the building a European look.

The Town Centre

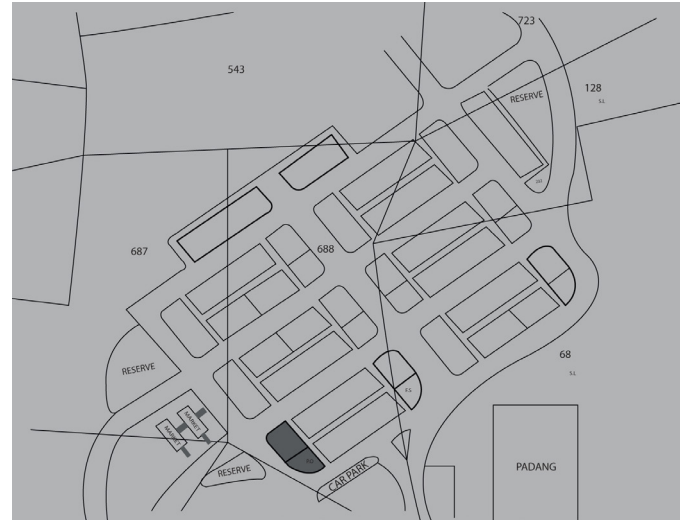




The townscape is a mirror of the functioning life of urban society because it provides the physical equipment within urban space to answer the varied needs of that society and its individuals: dwelling (shelter), rearing children, working, transport, the supply of goods, education, other social and cultural services, and recreation. As these needs change in time, so does the townscape, that is, the townscape is subject to historical development.

(M.R.G. Conzen)





The town centre is located behind Bukit Kerajaan making it invisible from the main road. Some people would go through the main street without noticing the town centre. Visitors in actual fact, have the options to enter the town centre via Jalan Merdeka which leads to the southeast entrance and onto Jalan Dato' Muda Jaafar in the town centre. Another access to the town centre from the main road is via Jalan Kubu which leads to the south entrance onto Jalan Dato' Tabal.

The layout of the town centre had remained in its original design. The lots for shop houses are laid in blocks facing the grid pattern streets whereby building for social amenities such as the post office, fire station and church were built as freestanding buildings on larger lots.



Buildings with Early Transitional Era Style make out the middle blocks at Jalan Muda Dato' Jaafar:



Buildings with Neoclassical Style make out the end blocks at Jalan Muda Dato' Jaafar / Jalan Kamaruddin



Buildings with Early Transitional Era Style make out the middle blocks at Jalan Mat Kilau



Buildings with Neoclassical Style make out the end blocks at Jalan Mat Kilau



Pre-war buildings Jalan Kamarudin



Jalan Muda Dato' Jaafar viewed north east from jalan Kamarudiin



Pre-war buildings Jalan Kamarudin

Visually the town center is divided into two timeframe. When visitors enters through the southeast entrance they are brought back into pre-war setting. This is because the three blocks which start from Jalan Abdul Hamid and ends at Jalan Kamarudin, consist of pre-war buildings with early transitional style. The other half of the town center, that is blocks bordered by Jalan Kamarudin and Jalan Rasathurai consist of mixture of building styles built, after the war. Thus if a visitors enters the town centre via the south entrance and takes right to Jalan Kamaruddin, the pre-war setting will not immediately be experienced and appreciated.

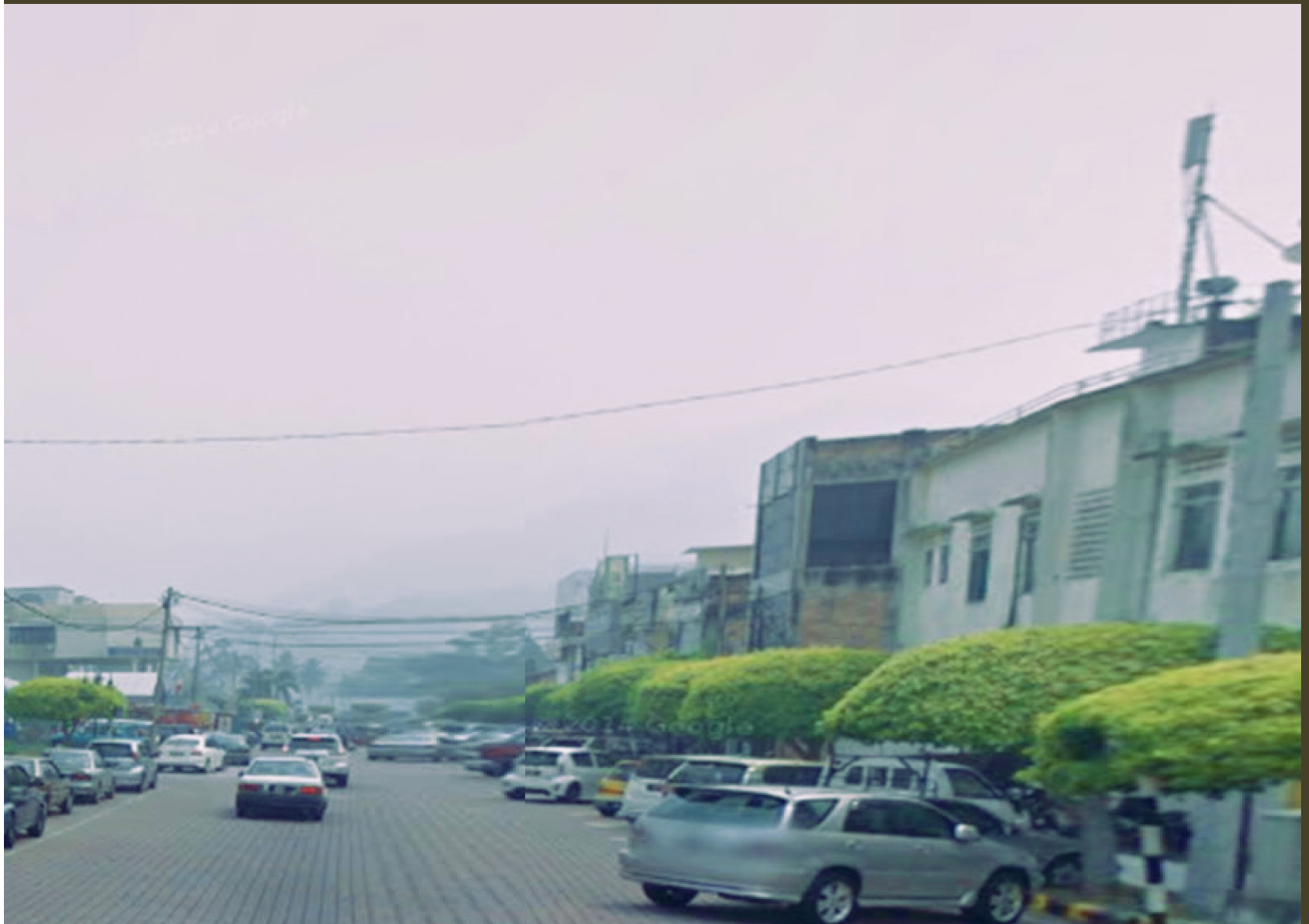


Façade of Pre War Buildings facing Jalan Mat Kilau showing Late Straits Eclectic Style, tripartite arrangement of three windows



Wooden door and window with decorated tile below windosill







The fire station built in the early 1930s



The Post Office, 1930s



St. Paul Catholic Church, 1930s



The Cinema or theatre was built in 1953

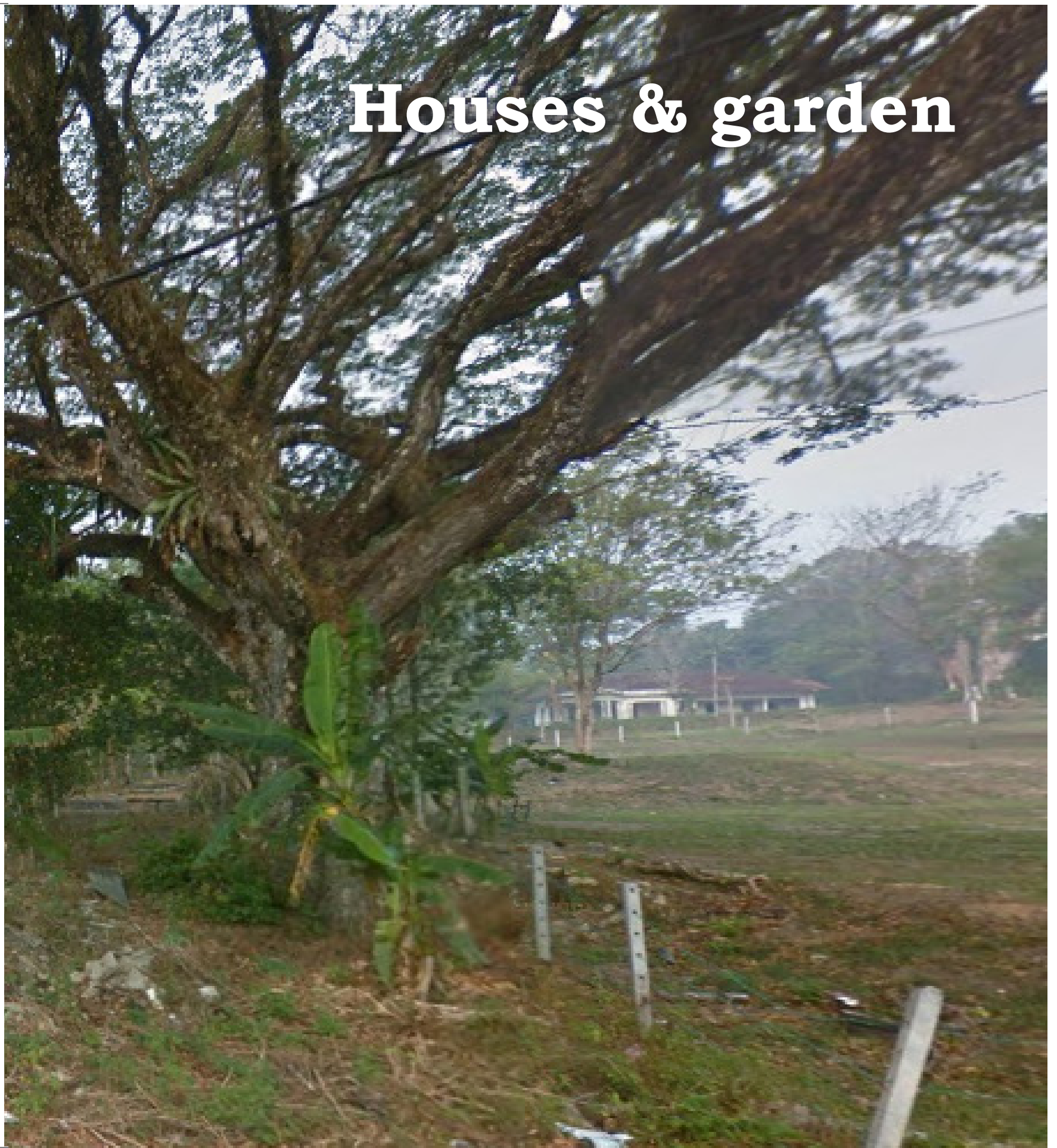


The Kuala Kubu Bharu Market

The fire station and the post office were built on sites designated for them in the original town layout. Both building still in the post office buildings still stand in good condition, the post office building is still used as a post office. However the fire station no longer serve as a fire station as a bigger station was built to serve the need of a bigger population. The Kuala Kubu Bharu market was built to replace the old market which was located at Jalan Abdul Hamid. The old market had long been demolished and the activities were moved to the new market building at Jalan Dato' Muda Jaafar.



Houses & garden





The Government Quarters, Jalan Syed Mashor



Moving out of the town centre through Jalan Abdul Hamid brings us through the park belt and lead us to a road named Jalan Syed Mashhor, a name in the honor of Syed Mashhor bin Syed Muhammad Ash Sahab who built the Kubu fort during the Selangor civil war. This road is lined with government quarters on one side and the opposite side is the park belt which follows the natural geographical contour of the township.

These quarters were lined apart from each other facing the street so as they overlooks the park belt. The park belt, protects the natural contour of the townscape and provides Kuala Kubu Bharu with undulating ground, at the sametime provides the area with natural drainage. The placement of these quarters in this way further enhances the sense of living in a garden for residents.







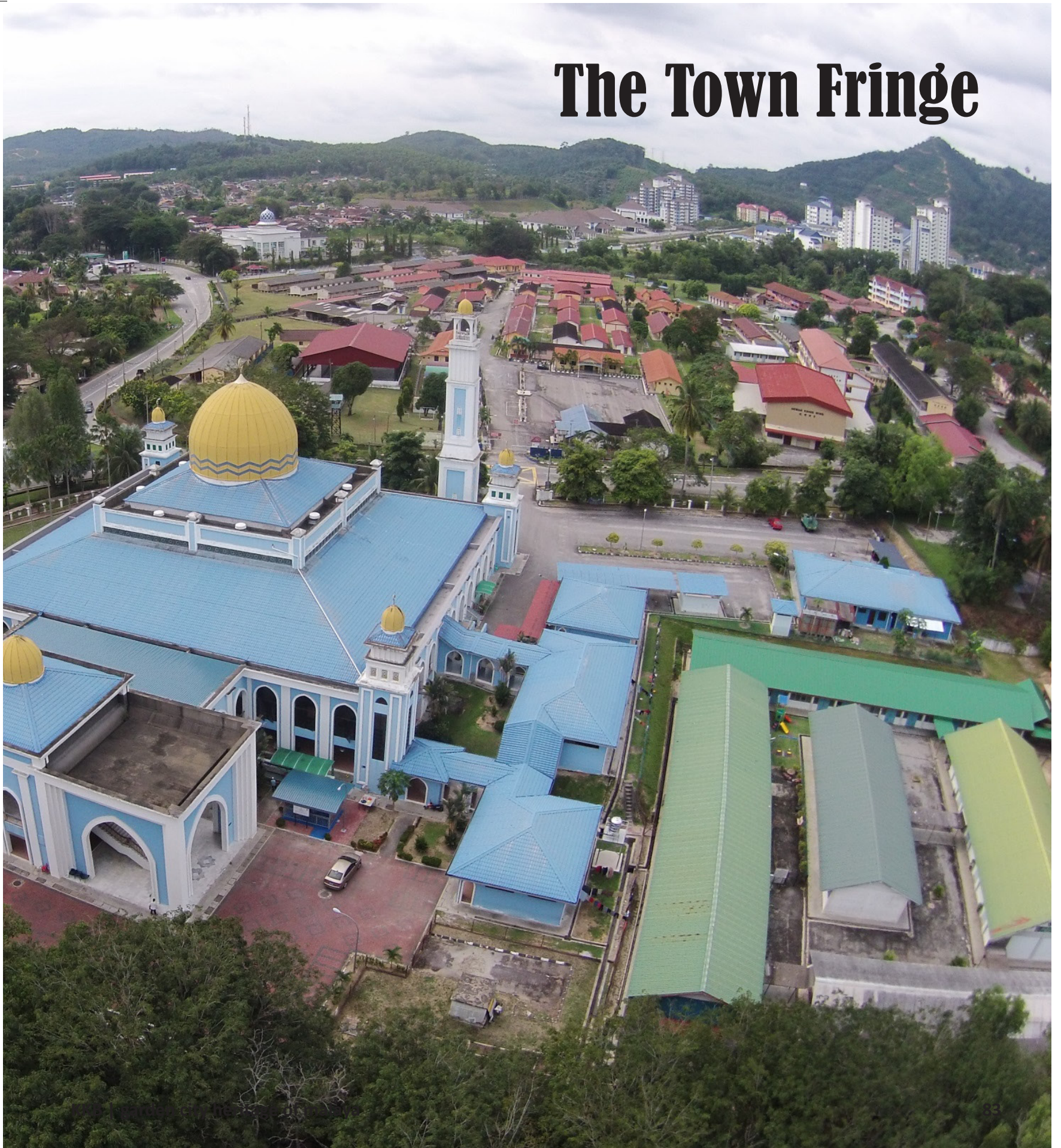




This 10 units quarters was built in 1932. The building was built using timber. It consist of 10 family unit housing that provides basic accommodations for lower level government bstaffs. The building is raised from the ground and is supported y concrete pillars. Each pair of units is accessible via a shared concrete stair way.



The Town Fringe







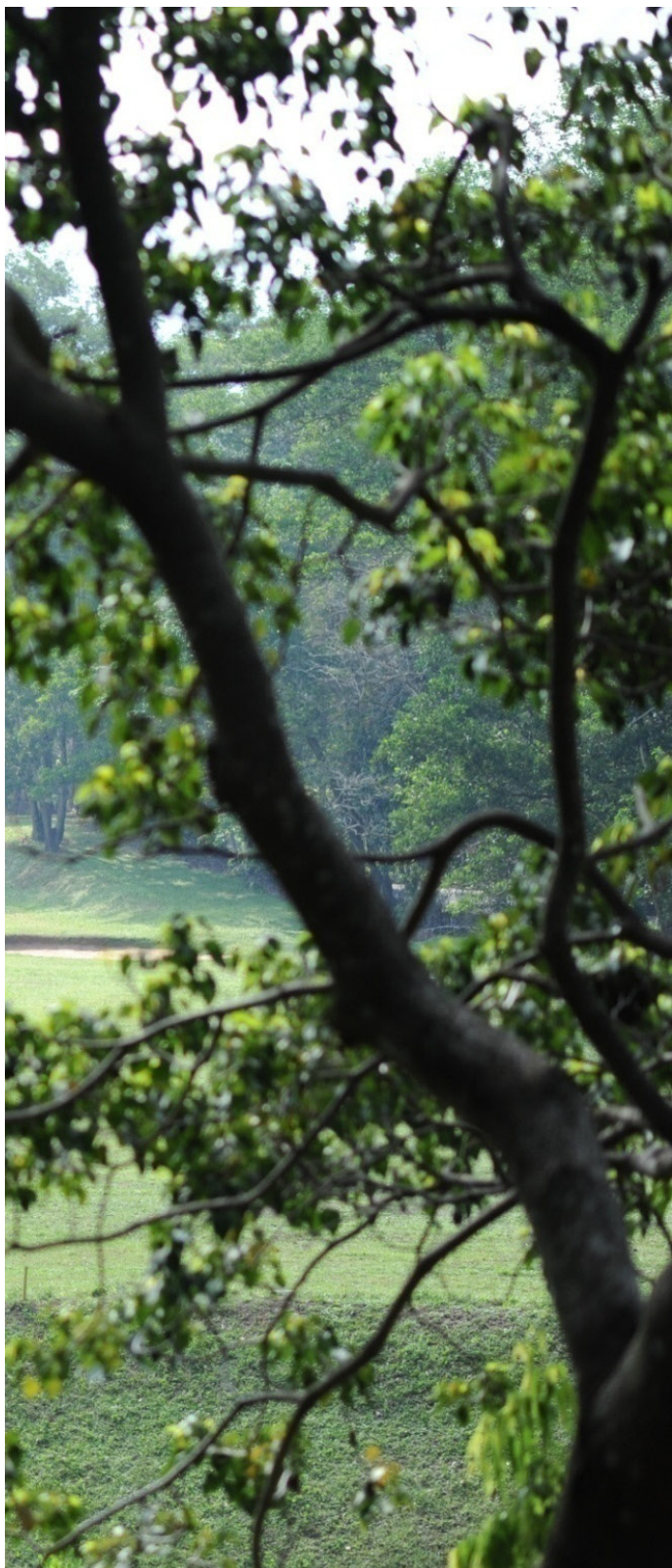


The area south west of the town centre lies Darul Quran an islamic educational institution and other institutions including Kuala Kubu Bharu MARA Junior Science College, the National Institute for Youth Skills, and a camp for the National Service Training Program. Apart from these institutions, Kuala Kubu Bharu is a host to many other educational and training institutions making Kuala Kubu Bharu's population young and vibrant..





The Kuala Kubu Bharu Golf and Country Club is an extension of greenery from the park belt as well as the tree lined road.



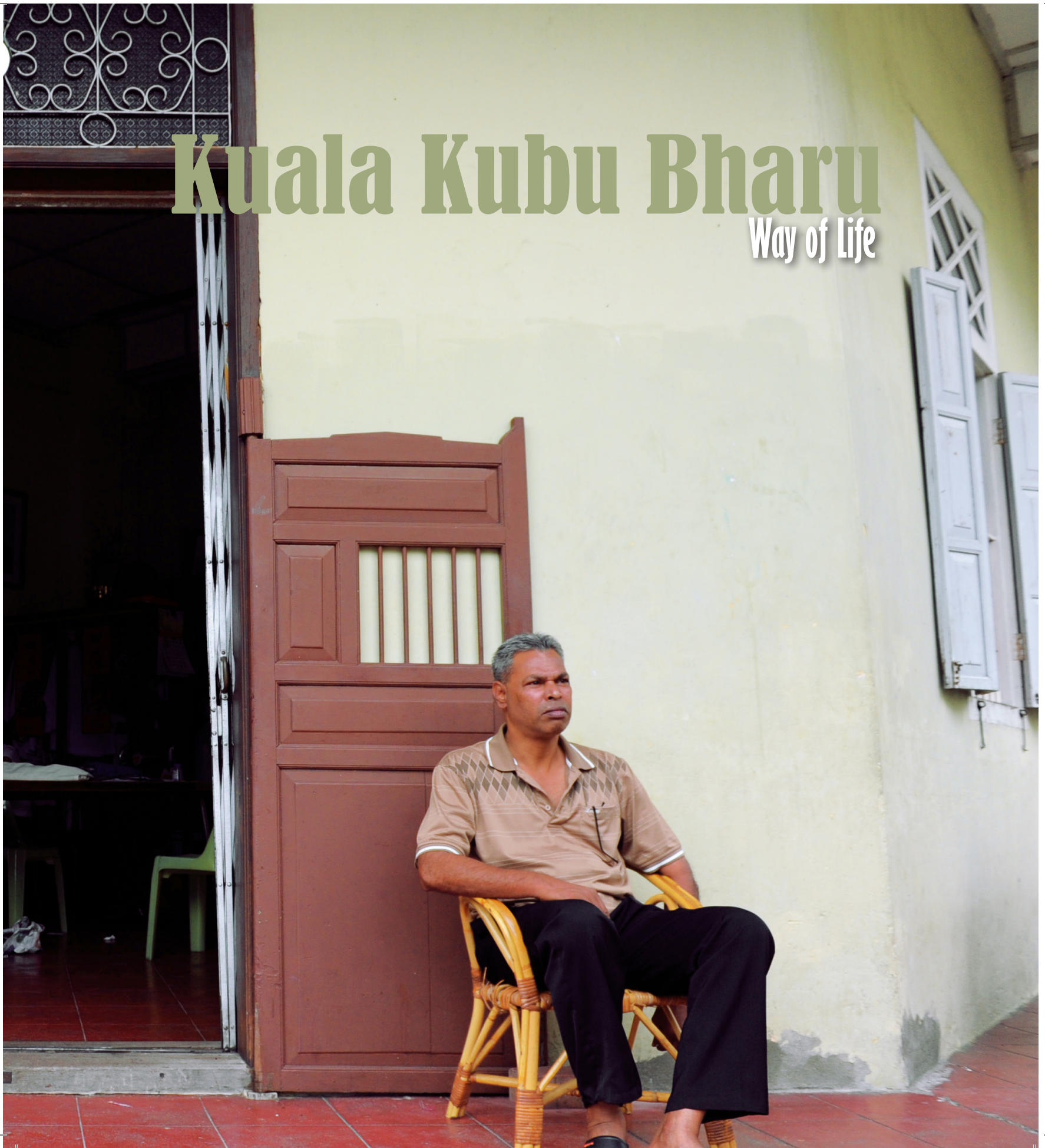






Kuala Kubu Bharu

Way of Life







Residents

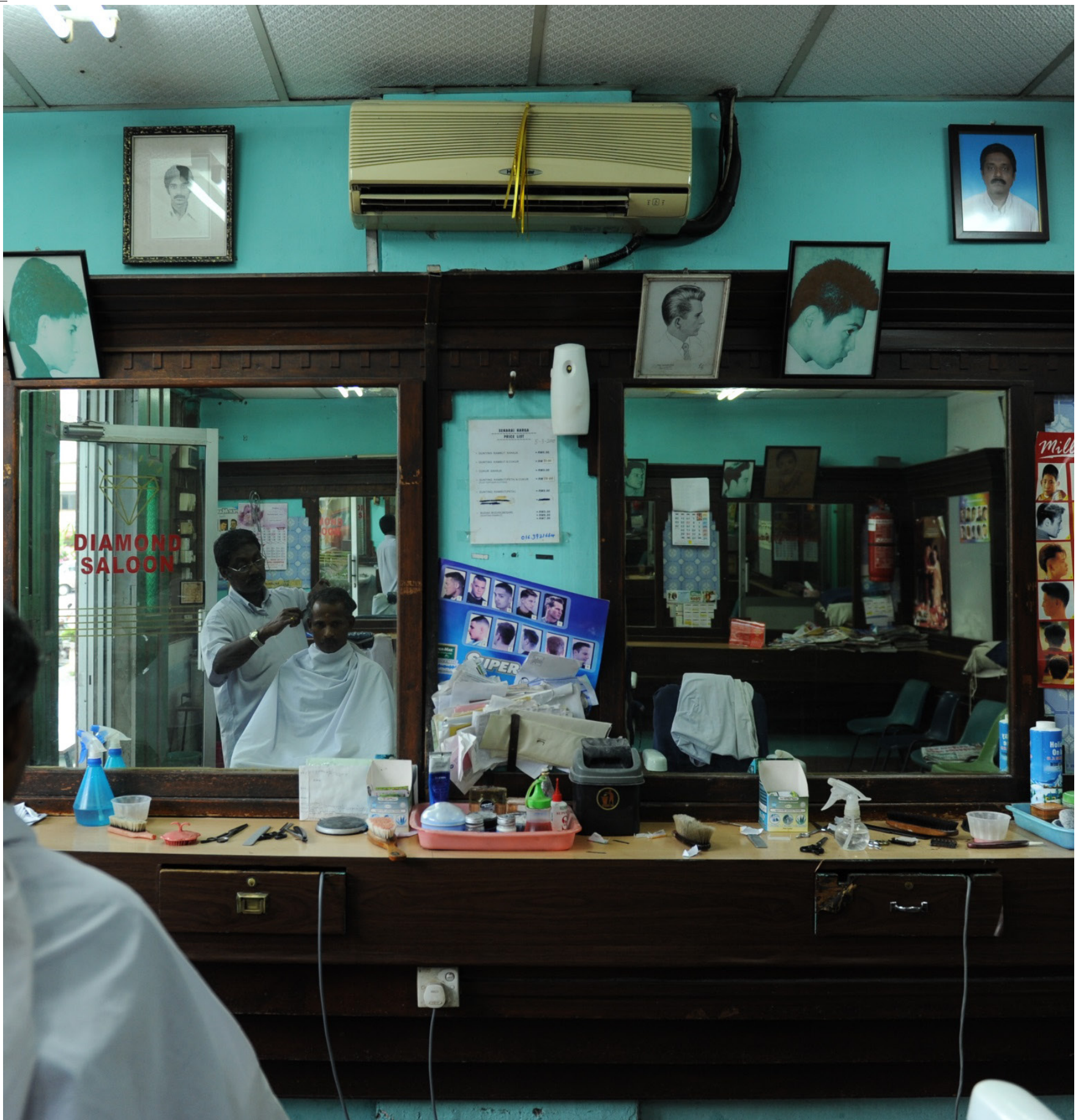














Satay (Above) and Nasi Lemak (Right)

Gastronomy Interest













A landscape photograph of Kuala Kubu Bharu. In the foreground, there is a field of tall, green grass. To the left, a railway track with overhead power lines runs diagonally across the frame. In the background, a hill covered in dense green forest rises. On the right side, a person is standing in the grass, looking towards a small, red, arched-roof building. The sky is overcast and grey.

Wandering Wonders in **Kuala Kubu Bharu**





Kuala Kubu Bharu

Outlook & Anticipation

The Likely Future?



Kuala Kubu Bharu History Gallery, Jalan Syed Mashyor, Kuala Kubu Bharu



Kuala Kubu Bharu Historical Events Exhibition at the Kuala Kubu's History Seminar held on the 12 November, 2014

What is the likely future for Kuala Kubu Bharu? What is the general attitude with regards to Kuala Kubu Bharu in the future? The fact is that Kuala Kubu Bharu presents different outlook for different people or different groups of people, making it difficult to predict its likely future. However what is great about Kuala Kubu Bharu is that it entices different groups of people with different interests. Thus, opens up various windows of opportunities for Kuala Kubu Bharu's future.

PESKUBU an association that is championing the history and heritage of Kuala Kubu Bharu, aspire that Kuala Kubu Bharu is listed in the list of UNESCO World Heritage City for its unique cultural history and surrounding natural environment. This desire has been expressed, in the Kuala Kubu's History Seminar held on the 12 November, 2014. The successful listing would open much opportunity for the restoration of Kuala Kubu Bharu Township. Thus, hopefully would enhance the physical environment of the township for the enjoyment of residents and visitors. It is a noble ambition and would be beneficial for the future of Kuala Kubu Bharu however, a lot of ground work and research still to be done in order to realise this ambition.

Being the first planned town in Malaysia (then the Federated Malay States), Kuala Kubu Bharu deserve to be celebrated. Its past should be the building blocks for its future. In Malaysia today there are many new towns which had sprung out of their original colonial towns, as did Kuala Kubu Bharu springing out off Kuala Kubu town some 90 years ago. This makes Kuala Kubu Bharu, the oldest among the new towns in Malaysia and there can never be a “new” Kuala Kubu Bharu, therefore Kuala Kubu Bharu can only be renewed to incorporate its past and present to remain in existence in the future. Consequently listing Kuala Kubu as one of UNESCO World Heritage City or at least as a national heritage would benefit the restoration of Kuala Kubu Bharu.

To the Malaysian Town Planners the existence of Kuala Kubu Bharu marks an important milestone in the history of Malaysian town planning. Kuala Kubu Bharu had always been celebrated not only as the first planned town but the first Garden City in Malaysia. The fact that Charles Compton Reade had been a significant and ardent advocator for the Garden City Concept, representing the Garden City Association in England then, and was the Planner who drafted Kuala Kubu Bharu town plan in 1926, the town of Kuala Kubu Bharu is indeed a priceless heritage of the past for the Town Planning community in Malaysia. The conservation of the township and incorporation of its function as the central focus with its spectacular natural surrounding would create a greater function for Kuala Kubu Bharu as a Garden City in the future. Thus efforts to maintain and restore this old township, will enhance understanding about town planning as well as the function of town among the population in Malaysia. In addition this will also offer Kuala Kubu Bharu its due acknowledgment as a garden city to be appreciated further by the public.



The future outlook for Kuala Kubu is already knocking at its door in forms of isolated events and activities by individuals, groups of individuals or organization. Remembering the core of Ebenezer Howard's idea, where it was said that a garden city offers both urban living as well as countryside living experience. Probably at the beginning of its existence the urban elements of Kuala Kubu Bharu were much valued; however today, lots of visitors, especially urbanites come to Kuala Kubu Bharu to experience and appreciate the countryside surroundings.

Truly the countryside atmosphere has played major role in enticing visitors, to Kuala Kubu Bharu. And because its location is just about an hour away from the City of Kuala Lumpur, it has become a beautiful and interesting nature playground for different groups of people. In addition Kuala Kubu Bharu is also just about an hour drive to one of the popular colonial hill stations; Bukit Fraser, In addition Kuala Kubu Bharu is also just about an hour drive to one of the popular colonial hill stations; Bukit Fraser, which double the excitement for Kuala Kubu Bharu visitors. Among them are paraglide pilots who seek recreational adventure while they are suspended mid-air. Paragliding is an excellent way to view the beautiful surroundings in Kuala Kubu Bharu. Paraglide pilots would enjoy their cruise at slow flying speed in the air and at the same time would enjoy the view below.



KKB | garden city heritage of malaya



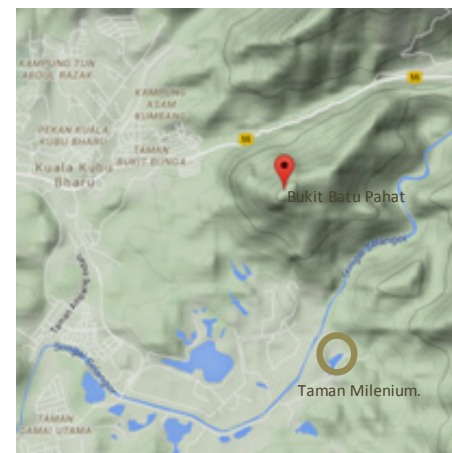




KKB | garden city heritage of malaya

Paragliding can be a recreational as well as a competitive adventure sport. Kuala Kubu Bharu today is fast becoming one of the interesting sites for Paragliders. Paragliding requires proper equipments such as paraglider wing or canopy, harness for body support, variometer for thermal searching, radios for communication and a global positioning system (GPS) for recording flight track. At the same time paragliding needs a launching area or launching pad for paragliders take off.

At Kuala Kubu Bharu paraglide pilots or paragliders take off from a launching pad established at Bukit Batu Pahat, located about 1,400 feet above sea level (ASL) and after 10 minutes flight would land at designated landing zone (LZ) at 120 feet ASL in Taman Milenium, an urban recreational and lake park, for the usage Kuala Kubu Bharu residents as well as visitors.











Kuala Kubu Bharu is also known for its accessibility to river activities, such as whitewater rafting, tube rafting or tubing, and dipping in waterfall pool. The Selangor River headwaters which is located about 5 minutes drive from Kuala Kubu Bharu town center offers whitewater rafting enthusiasts a vigorous water splash down the river rapids. River tubing activity is also an exciting way to appreciate the natural environment along Selangor River. When tubing, one is free floating on the river surface using a donut shape tube. River tubing can also be done on Chilling river apart from enjoying the spectacular Chilling Waterfalls and dipping into the waterfall pool.

Kuala Kubu Bharu has been the selected venue for various other recreational and adventurous events such as bird racing and cycling. Wings of KKB: Selangor Bird Watching is a yearly event since 2012 promoting awareness to preserve the environment through bird watching. The Wings of KKB event brings in different groups of individuals especially school children, university students and photographers into Kuala Kubu Bharu. It had been said that trees planted during the construction of the Garden City had matured and are providing suitable habitat for different types of bird species. In the Town itself it is expected to sight the Oriental Pied Hornbill and Coppersmith Barbet and some other species would be found as participants move around the town and town fringes.

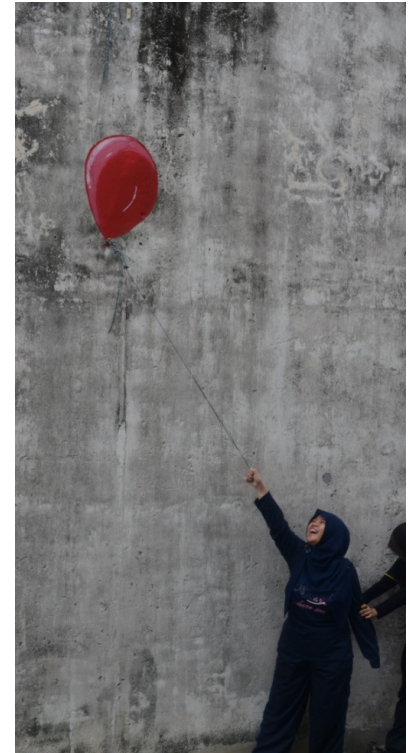




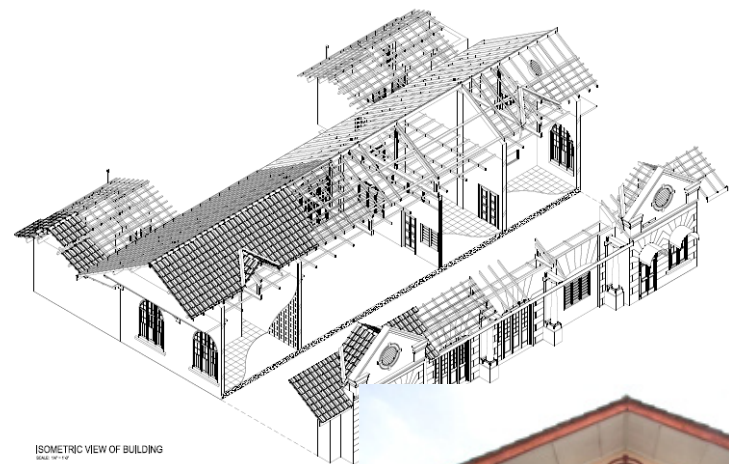
There have been many cycling events organized in Kuala Kubu Bharu mostly organized by private sectors of individuals. Leisure cycling activities are usually carried out within the town area. This is a good way to experience the garden city green environment. For those needing more challenge, the natural topography of between Kuala Kubu Bharu to Fraser's Hill is a perfect situation in fulfilling the urge. The uphill and downhill routes provide different level of endurance throughout their journey

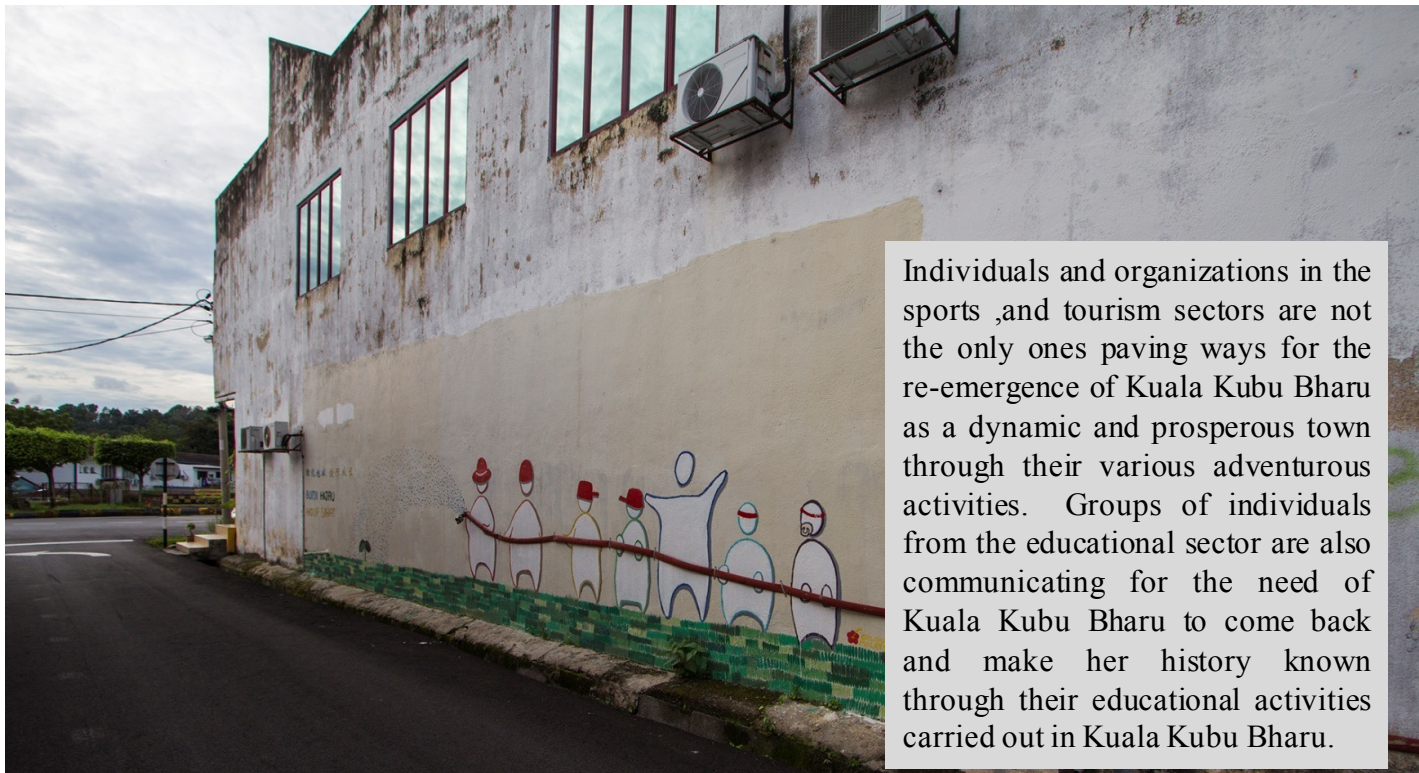


They came and left their mark and turned the town into playground



KKB is a play ground and learning ground





Individuals and organizations in the sports ,and tourism sectors are not the only ones paving ways for the re-emergence of Kuala Kubu Bharu as a dynamic and prosperous town through their various adventurous activities. Groups of individuals from the educational sector are also communicating for the need of Kuala Kubu Bharu to come back and make her history known through their educational activities carried out in Kuala Kubu Bharu.



With tremendous testimonies from different groups of people representing the public as well as institutions, what would be the anticipated respond from Kuala Kubu Bharu, in order to fulfil the enthusiasm and compassion towards its natural surroundings as well as the town area? Perhaps this is time for Kuala Kubu Bharu to answer the door and lead the isolated and seasonal “knockings” into a more synergistic and holistic discussions on how to incorporate all interests and ideas into the realization of a function and image for Kuala Kubu Bharu as the Garden City Heritage of Malaya.

As a garden city it is anticipated that Kuala Kubu Bharu responds for the enhancement of the interest in the area. This may be done by reinventing the content of the old town to provide more facilities for visitors as well as resident through placemaking and creation of that great good place..

Placemaking is about using local community assets and drawing ideas from community aspiration as well as potential, thus existing assets can be enhanced without having to redesign the space, using grand design and construct at a hefty cost. Access and linkages; comfort and safety; usage and activities; and sociability of a place are important considerations in placemaking not to mention the introduction of at least 10 things to do while in the place to be listed as a successful place.



9. Start with the petunias.

Simple, short-term actions such as planting flowers can be a way of testing ideas and encouraging people their ideas matter. These actions provide flexibility to expand the space by experimenting, evaluating and incorporating results into the next steps and longrange planning.– 9th Priciple of Placemmaking (Placemaking Chicago)

Place making can be used to improve all of the spaces that comprise the gathering places within a community—its streets, sidewalks, parks, buildings, and other public spaces—so they invite greater interaction between people and foster healthier, more social, and economically viable communities. – Placemaking Chicago





The New Wind

A great garden city should also be the home away from home for visitors this means that Kuala Kubu Bharu needs to be able to coax day visitors to spend the night in Kuala Kubu Bharu. In order to do that Kuala Kubu Bharu need to add a variety types of accommodation to cater for different types of visitors, into its range of facilities in the town centre. A great garden city should also be the home away from home for visitors this means that Kuala Kubu Bharu needs to be able to coax day visitors to spend the night in Kuala Kubu Bharu. In order to do that Kuala Kubu Bharu need to add a variety types of accommodation to cater for different types of visitors, into its range of facilities in the town centre. Accomodation that are suitable, for the garden city heritage of Malaya ranges from backpackers hostels, guesthouses, inn, to boutique hotels. In addition modern cafés will also be an attraction to visitors and be a good place for residents to hang out with friends and families.



**Location : Flying Rhino
Guesthouse & Ecotours, Lot 5, Jalan
Dato Tabal 44000 Kuala Kubu Bharu,
Selangor Darul Ehsan Malaysia**

The new places





Old Town New Faces

