

MALAY LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS AS DEPICTED IN THE OLD MALAY FILMS

ELEMEN LANSKAP MELAYU SEPERTI YANG DIGAMBARAKAN DALAM FILEM MELAYU LAMA

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Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to look at the art of landscape elements of the Malays in Malaysia. Entertainment on a person's perspective can give different views. Old Malay films depict the way of life of the Malays in the olden days. Malay films also have a high value of life and offer a lot of lessons to the Malay community as whole. The objective of the study is to know the Malay landscape elements highlighted by film production in Malaysia as well as to understand the lifestyles of the Malays in the past by local film. Research methods conducted by dividing the old Malay films into three categories. The first category is the Malay film published in the early 1956 to 1972. The second category is the old Malay film that portrays life in the palace in the olden days. The third is the modern Malay film depicting the old Malays lifestyles. Results from this research would be able to understand the role of landscape elements in the community in the past. Films today become a conduit of modern ideology and very effective in conveying an understanding of the culture and it is able to shape the culture of global society. Researchers are able to recognize Malay culture through film and emphasize the Malay landscape elements to the public. It is important for us to continue highlighting the heritage landscape elements of the Malay community to represent the image and identity of the Malay race in Malaysia.

Keywords: Malay landscape elements; Malay gardens; Malay films; Malays.

Abstrak

Tujuan kertas ini adalah untuk melihat seni elemen landskap orang Melayu di Malaysia. Hiburan pada perspektif seseorang boleh memberikan pandangan yang berbeza. Filem-filem Melayu klasik menggambarkan cara hidup orang Melayu di zaman dahulu. Filem-filem Melayu juga mempunyai nilai hidup yang tinggi dan menawarkan banyak pengajaran kepada masyarakat Melayu secara keseluruhan. Objektif kajian ini adalah untuk mengetahui elemen-elemen landskap Melayu yang diketengahkan oleh penerbit filem di Malaysia dan juga untuk memahami gaya hidup orang Melayu pada masa lalu melalui filem tempatan. Kaedah penyelidikan yang dijalankan adalah dengan membahagikan filem Melayu lama ke dalam tiga kategori. Kategori pertama adalah filem Melayu yang diterbitkan pada awal tahun 1956 hingga 1972. Kategori kedua adalah filem lama Melayu yang menggambarkan kehidupan di istana pada zaman dahulu. Kategori ketiga pula filem Melayu moden yang menggambarkan cara hidup Melayu lama. Melalui hasil kajian ini, peranan elemen lanskap dalam masyarakat pada masa lalu dapat difahami. Filem hari ini menjadi saluran ideologi moden dan sangat berkesan dalam menyampaikan pemahaman budaya serta mampu untuk membentuk budaya masyarakat global. Para penyelidik dapat mengenali budaya Melayu melalui filem dan menekankan elemen landskap Melayu kepada orang ramai. Adalah penting bagi kita untuk terus menonjolkan elemen landskap warisan masyarakat Melayu untuk mewakili imej dan identiti bangsa Melayu di Malaysia.

Kata kunci: *elemen landskap Melayu; Taman-taman Melayu; Filem Melayu; Melayu.*

Introduction

Malay movies especially old Malay movies have a lot of display; the traditional Malay park characters, the past cultural, environment and depict the way of life of the Malays in the olden days. It is very pity if we do not take the opportunity to explore the original or traditional character of the park over the Malay community and also the environment in which he lived. Thus the study of landscape elements that run through the exploration of Malay films, it is hoped that this research can facilitate all parties involved in the production of the visual landscape also to help in the process of making the Model of

Malay Garden Design Concept. Finally hoped that one result can be made and it is clarified as a method that can be used for the design Model of Malay Garden Design Concept. With this model will also be able to facilitate the designers especially landscape architect in this country to develop and design the garden with specific themes and concept.

Problem Statement

Difficulty in obtaining a true picture of Malay garden has made this research a little shaky, as evidence of the existence of such gardens are not in physical form but is only mentioned in oral form and in the oldest manuscripts of the Malay community. Researchers have found a mechanism where the picture seemed to complete a Malay garden is by studying of the old Malay movies. Through old movies, film director has reviewed the background and history of the community prior to the shooting. Additionally if taking references from the 1950s and below will be closer to the atmosphere of the 19th century, due to film director can get information from the Malays, who were aged 50 years and over to explain the situation and the environment in the century.

Research Objective

The objectives of the study are to know the Malay landscape elements highlighted by film director in Malaysia as well as to understand the lifestyles of the Malays in the past by local film. Specifically, the objectives of this study were to find out the list of landscape elements found in Malay films with the theme of the Malay community in the past and also to compare with previous research findings (information about the landscape elements in the old manuscript of Malay). Among the manuscripts that have been examined in past studies is *Sulalatus al-Salatin – Sejarah Melayu* (Malay Annals), *Bustan al-Salatin – Taman Raja-raja* (The Garden of Kings), *Hikayat Hang Tuah*, *Hikayat Merong Mahawangsa*, *Hikayat Inderaputera*, *Hikayat Abdullah* and *Warisan Perubatan Melayu* (Traditional Malay Medicine).

Scope of Study

Eleven Malaysian-made films that were taken from the 3 categories mentioned in the earlier study method. The films that will be a source of study, it should be the film produced by local production (although the earlier films produced in Singapore were accounted for at that time it was still in the Federation of Malaya), the film must be based on the theme of the past Malay society, and films about the history of the Malay community.

Research Methodology

Research methods conducted by dividing the old Malay films into three categories. The first category is the Malay film published in the early 1956 to 1972. The second category is the old Malay film that portrays life in the palace in the olden days. The third is the modern Malay film depicting the old Malays lifestyles. Results from this research would be able to understand the role of landscape elements in the community in the past.

Literature Review

Mohd. Ghazali Abdullah (2008) said that our film is still our faces. It is still the continuation of the Malays cultural roots despite the impression given in the selected films are still hovering in the traditional concept, that even if what is displayed is not at the moment, still in the past. Reviewed films show that the question of belief systems, philosophies and principles of a director, who still continue premise based on myth, history and the legends in the Malay community. According to M. Amin (1998), *"Studio Jalan Ampas seems to be a "Hollywood" in the Asian region, where it became the village of artists from various stages of the film. Malay film industry grew and became known in the region Malay films are not only popular among the locals, but foreign film producers as well as from Indonesia, buy the Malay films to be screened in their country."* Referring to Mana Sikana (1996), to raise the values of the aristocratic beauty, pictorial curtains were used. Generally in each of the show, there are six basic curtains aside which are curtain in the palace views, curtain scenery on the road, curtain scenery in the forest, curtain in a garden view, the curtain in the room views of the poor and lastly the curtain inland scenery, usually field

views. The Malays community living environment that so closely with the environment has enabled them to make appropriate representations to build a soft utterance but very meaningful. Their ability to associate with the context has enabled them to understand clearly on such information will be presented (Mohd. Aris 2012) . Table 1 shows the plants listed based on their aesthetic value from the Malays old manuscripts discovered by researchers when doing research on the old manuscripts of the Malay community. From this information it can be concluded that plants are commonly found today is already used by our ancestors since ancient days. The climate and region in an area are also a reason in the selection of plants since time immemorial. While table 2 showing the hard landscape elements found in the old manuscripts that also have been studied by researchers in previous research. From the information obtained, the use of hard landscape elements in the garden of the old Malay society is based on the location of a village or residential placement. In addition, socioeconomic factors also play an important role in determining the types of hard landscape elements in the residential yard.

Finding

The information obtained by the researchers have been included in the table 3 to table 7. It is to simplify the process of analyzing the information. From the table 3, hard landscape elements such as guri, fences, pots and urns are most commonly appear in each film selected. It cannot be denied because of this day, these elements can still be found in the residential areas of traditional Malay society. However the use of fencing is seen as something less practiced in the villages but many described in the old Malay movies. Data on plants found in the old Malay movies were divided into 4 groups according to their use, namely: aesthetic values, herb and food plants, fruit tree, and big trees / hardwood trees. Table 4 are a list of the plants based on their aesthetic values from selected films. Through the table, it can be stated that plants such as *bunga mawar*, *andung merah*, *buluh gading*, *buluh perindu* and *bunga melur* are commonly found in the old Malay movies. The plants mentioned are also really common plants found by us on this day to decorate the house yard. *Kelapa* (coconut), *Pinang* (Areca nut) and *Sirih* (betel leaf) are the most widely traded plants in groups of plants categorized as herbs and plants for food. The irony of course coconuts and areca nut trees are the most common plants grown in the villages. In addition, this plant is also widely grown for

medicinal purposes as well as for the owner itself in their daily lives. Among the plants listed as an herb and food plants from all the films that have been selected are listed in Table 5. Table 6 shows the list of fruit trees mentioned in the Malay films that have been selected. Banana, papaya and pineapple is a fruit tree that often featured as movie props. Advantages of these trees are that they are easy to grow, not too big plant species and the important part are these plants become a staple food, dish or dessert of the Malays. The list of big trees or hardwood trees that is always highlighted in the selected Malay films are shown in Table 7. Almost all selected movies in this project study highlight the Nipah trees. The use of *Nipah* trees in the film is often to show shrubs and bushes. Additionally *Beringin* tree is also the tree that is often featured in many films selected. From the above information, researchers have found that filmmakers in the past and present is concerned with perfection backgrounds throughout their film production. This can be seen from the use of hard landscape elements and soft landscape elements, which closely resembles the elements that are used by the Malays in the present and also as what is found in the old manuscript of of the Malay community.

Analysis Of The Importance Of Landscape Elements In Malay Films Props Which Uses The Theme Of The Old Malay Community Environment

- i. It has proven filmmakers doing a bit of research for the movie prop. It will make filmmakers are always doing research to produce an excellent movie and high quality.
- ii. It will highlight the Malay privileges. It will be projected through acting and film themes also appear.
- iii. It can be a source of knowledge to today's society, the way of life as well as the Malay community environment in the past. When it was shown that people automatically will be exposed to the culture of the Malays and this can increase the knowledge of the audience and the community.
- iv. Inspire filmmakers, and students in the future will produce better quality films. An interesting movie, and quality can be produced by the filmmakers, and it will be a reference to a local filmmaker and students who are studying

- v. Introducing the Malay culture and civilization to the world. With this culture, and civilization of the Malaysian Malay community can be highlighted to the world, when the screenings are not just done in the country but outside the country (by reservation and even film competition).
- vi. Avoid controversy because of a cultural connection is very sensitive to misinterpretation. With this encourages filmmakers to get opinions and advice from academics and historians, about the culture of the Malay community in Malaysia.

The Importance Of This Research In The Field Of Landscape Architecture In Malaysia

- i. Filmmakers in the past (between 1956-1972) are still able to clearly tell the Malay community living environment 50 years back. This is because they are still able to find the Malay community aged 50 years and above, to know the way of life and the environment in the past.
- ii. Lifestyle and environmental changes are not too rapidly in the years before 1970, it has created an environment in the years before it can be used as a measure of the living environment of the Malay community in the past.
- iii. The Malay community in Malaysia even once said to be very civilized (if referring to the glorious history of Malacca), but the remains of the historical sources and monuments are very few, if compared to the Malay community in Indonesia. Thus, the importance of this study to reflect the lifestyle of the Malay community at one time.
- iv. This study is important because it is part of the information that can be used as a guide in formulating the Model of Malay Garden Design Concept. The formation of the Model of Malay Garden Design Concept is very important for the Malay community in Malaysia because it is a point of pride and a symbol of the civilization of the nation which has enjoyed since time immemorial. How could a civilized nation in the

world does not have the ability to produce a beautiful and peaceful environment.

- v. If comparison is made between the information found in this study and the information derived from past research studies (landscape elements mentioned in the old manuscripts of the Malay community), has found that there are some similarities as well as types of plants and equipment around who want to be featured as a way of life of the Malay community in the past.

Conclusion

A known fact the spirit of the Malays is displayed in each column Malay movie that had long existed. The difference lies in the characterization of the adoption of this absolute or not. To find the answer on the question of Malay spirit in the form of a film, this depends on the requirements of a film director. The ideology of a film actually subtly influenced by the perception of the directors of the environment, or an issue to be peeled. The film is actually not the private property of a director to discuss personal matters, but it is an important medium to convey propaganda and ideology in subtle approach.

Life's journey landscape architecture profession Malay community in Malaysia is still far away. Lots of things to think about and designed, making it a good landscape design concept. Malay is very much the philosophy that can be used in every element of landscape design, but the main problem is not the philosophy of the Malays and the elements. The main problem of the Malays is too humble and not even know that there is potential. As we know, this study is to complete the research to produce the Model of Malay Garden Design Concept, three other major studies have been conducted that listing soft landscaping, hard landscaping listing and promote Malay landscape become one of the main tourism products in Malaysia. By the end of the listing of research on landscape elements in Malay films will make the end of the study and its findings strengthened.

Appendices

TABLE 1
Among the Plants Listed Based on Their Aesthetic Value From the Malays Old Manuscripts

Plants Species		Manuscripts					
		Bustan al-Salatin (The Garden of Kings)	Hikayat Abdullah	Hikayat Hang Tuah	Hikayat Inderaputera	Hikayat Merong Mahawangsa Sulalatus al-Salatin	Warisan Perubatan Melayu (Traditional Malay Medicine)
No.	Local Name (as it appears in the manuscript)	Botanical Name					
1.	Air mawar merah / bunga air mawar merah	<i>Rosa spp.</i>	x		x		
2.	Air mawar putih / bunga air mawar putih	<i>Rosa spp.</i>	x		x		
3.	Air mawar ungu / bunga air mawar ungu	<i>Rosa spp.</i>	x		x		
4.	Anggerik /Angrek	<i>Orchid</i>				x	x
5.	Bulangan	<i>Gmelina asiatica</i>		x			x
6.	Buluh / bunga buluh gading / rebung	<i>Bambusa vulgaris</i>		x	x	x	
7.	Buluh perindu	<i>Bambusa magica</i>				x	x
8.	Bunga anggerik bulan	<i>Phalaenopsis amabilis</i>	x		x		
9.	Bunga asad	-	x		x		
10.	Bunga cempaka	<i>Michelia champaca</i>	x		x		
11.	Bunga cina	<i>Gardenia augusta</i>	x		x		x
12.	Bunga gandasuli / gandasuli	<i>Hedychium coronarium</i>	x		x		x
13.	Bunga jeram tangisan naga	-	x		x		
14.	Bunga kemuning	<i>Murraya paniculata</i>	x		x		
15.	Bunga metia tabor / bunga mutia tabor	-	x		x		
16.	Bunga pancawarna	<i>Hydrangea macrophylla</i>	x		x		
17.	Bunga pekan	<i>Jasminum curtisii</i>			x	x	
18.	Bunga perakula / bunga perkula	-	x		x		
19.	Bunga raya merah	<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i>	x		x		
20.	Bunga seganda / bunga sekanda	-	x		x	x	
21.	Bunga sena	<i>Cassia angustifolia</i>	x		x		
22.	Bunga seroja / bunga teratai / teratai	<i>Nelumbo nucifera</i>	x			x	x
23.	Bunga serunai	<i>Wedelia biflora</i>	x		x		
24.	Bunga tanjung biru	-	x		x		
25.	Bunga tanjung merah	-	x		x		
26.	Bunga tanjung putih	<i>Mimusops elengi</i>	x		x		
27.	Bunga telang biru	<i>Clitoria ternatea</i>	x		x		
28.	Bunga telang putih	<i>Clitoria spp.</i>	x		x		

29.	Bunga telepok / bunga telipuk / telepok	<i>Nymphaea spp.</i>	x	x	x
30.	Cempaka hijau	<i>Michelia spp.</i>		x	
31.	Melur / bunga melur	<i>Jasminum sambac</i>		x	x
32.	Tanjung / bunga tanjung	<i>Mimusops elengi</i>		x	x

(Source: Ahmad Zamil Zakaria, *et al.* (2012). Plants Present In The Ancient Malay Garden According To Old Manuscripts And Their Effects On The Formation Of A Malay Garden Design Model In Malaysia, Simpora9, Universiti Teknologi MARA (Perak)

TABLE 2
List of Landscape Furniture Recorded in the Old Manuscripts

Types of Landscape Furniture (as it appears in the manuscript)																
	Bangsai / Sulap	Gerbang	Guri	Jamban / Tandas	Janjung andang / kandil	Kepok padi / Jelapang	Kolam	Pagar	Pangkin	Pasu	Pelantar	Perigi	Reban	Tempayan	Titi	Wakaf
Bustan al-Salatin (The Garden of Kings)	x			x	x	x			x						x	x
Hikayat Abdullah.	x			x	x	x	x		x		x		x	x		
Hikayat Hang Tuah	x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x			x			
Hikayat Inderaputera		x		x		x	x								x	
Hikayat Merong Mahawangsa	x	x	x	x	x	x								x		
Sulalatus al-Salatin (Malay Annals)	x	x					x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	

(Source: Ahmad Zamil Zakaria, *et al.* (2012). Landscape Furniture Present In The Ancient Malay Garden According To Old Manuscripts And Their Effects On The Formation Of Malay Garden Design Concept Model In Malaysia, PSU - USM International Conference on Art and Sciences.)

TABLE 3

Among the Plants Listed Based on Their Aesthetic Values from the all Selected Films

No.	Local Name	Botanical Name	Malay film									
			Hang Tuah (1956)	Pendekar Bujang Lapok (1959)	Batu Belah Batu Bertangkup	Nium Pak Belalang (1959)	Bawang Putih Bawang Merah	Seniman Bujang Lapok (1961)	Ahmad Albab (1968)	Laksamana Do Re Mi (1972)	Puteri Gunung Ledang (2004)	Maafika (2010)
1.	Bunga air mawar	<i>Rosa spp.</i>	x	x							x	x
2.	Andung merah	<i>Cordyline fruticosa spp.</i>	x	x	x	x					x	
3.	Anggerik	<i>Orchid</i>	x			x	x					
4.	African daisy	<i>Gerbera jamesonii</i>									x	
5.	Ati-ati	<i>Coleus blumei</i>		x								
6.	Boston fern	<i>Nephrolepis exaltata</i>									x	
7.	Buluh / bunga buluh gading / rebung	<i>Bambusa vulgaris</i>	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x
8.	Buluh perindu	<i>Bambusa magica</i>	x	x	x		x	x	x			
9.	Bunga cempaka	<i>Michelia champaca</i>									x	
10.	Bunga china	<i>Gardenia augusta</i>									x	
11.	Bunga kemuning	<i>Murraya paniculata</i>		x								
12.	Bunga kenanga	<i>Cananga odorata</i>		x						x	x	
13.	Bunga kertas	<i>Bougainvillea spp.</i>		x								
14.	Bunga raya merah	<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i>	x									
15.	Bunga raya putih	<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis alba</i>			x							
16.	Bunga seroja / bunga teratai / teratai	<i>Nelumbo nucifera</i>								x	x	
17.	Bunga tahi ayam	<i>Mari gold spp.</i>									x	
18.	Bunga tanjung putih	<i>Mimusops elengi</i>		x								
19.	Bunga telepok / bunga telipuk / telepok	<i>Nymphaea spp.</i>			x							
20.	Joey palm	<i>Johannesteijsmannia altifrons</i>									x	
21.	Keladi gajah	<i>Alocasia macrorrhizos</i>	x								x	
22.	Kemunting china	<i>Catharanthus cultivar</i>								x	x	
23.	Kemboja putih	<i>Plumeria obtusa</i>								x		

24.	Licuala / Palma kipas	<i>Licuala grandis</i>						x
25.	Lidah jin	<i>Sansevieria trifasciata</i>						x
26.	Melur / bunga melur / melati	<i>Jasminum sambac</i>	x	x			x	x
27.	Manila palm	<i>Veitchia merrillii</i>				x		
28.	Palma di raja / Royal palm	<i>Roystonea regia</i>				x		
29.	Palma kuning	<i>Dypsis lutescens</i>	x			x		
30.	Palma merah	<i>Cyrtostachys renda</i>		x				
31.	Petunia	<i>Petunia hybrida</i>						x
32.	Pisang kipas	<i>Ravenala madagascariensis</i>				x		
33.	Puding	<i>Codiaeum variegatum</i>		x			x	
34.	Rhapis	<i>Rhapis excelsa</i>	x	x				

(Source: Researchers Observation, 2012)

TABLE 4

Among the Plants Listed as a Herb and Food Plants from the all Selected Films

		Malay film										
Plants Species		Hang Tuah (1956)	Pendekar Bimbang Larok (1959)	Batu Belah Batu Bertangkup (1959)	Nujum Pak Belalang (1959)	Bawang Putih Bawang Merah (1959)	Seniman Bujang Lapok (1961)	Ahmad Albab (1968)	Laksamana Do Re Mi (1972)	Puteri Gunung Ledang (2004)	Magika (2010)	Hikayat Merong Mahawangsa (2011)
No.	Local Name	Botanical Name										
1.	Bunga selasih	<i>Ocimum basilicum</i> x										
2.	Bayam	<i>Amaranthus spp.</i>										
3.	Bendi	<i>Abelmoschus esculentus</i>										
4.	Bawang merah	<i>Allium cepa var. aggregatum.</i>										
5.	Bawang putih	<i>Allium sativum</i>										
6.	Cabai / lada / cili	<i>Capsicum annuum</i> x										
7.	Kacang panjang	<i>Vigna unguiculata sesquipedalis</i>										
8.	Kaduk	<i>Piper sarmentosum</i> x										

12.	Kemendikai / tembikai	<i>Citrullus spp.</i>								x	
13.	Langsat	<i>Lansium domesticum</i>									x
14.	Rambutan	<i>Nephelium lappaceum</i>				x					

(Source: Researchers Observation, 2012)

TABLE 6

Among the Plants Listed as a Big Trees / Hardwood Trees from the all Selected Films

Plants Species			Malay film												
			Hang Tuah (1956)	Pendekar Bujang Lapok (1959)	Batu Belah Batu Bertangkup	Nujum Pak Belalang (1959)	Bawang Putih Bawang Merah	Seniman Bujang Lapok (1961)	Ahmad Albab (1968)	Laksamana Do Re Mi (1972)	Puteri Gunung Ledang (2004)	Magika (2010)	Hikayat Merong Mahawangsa (2011)		
No.	Local Name	Botanical Name													
1.	Akasia	<i>Acacia spp.</i>													x
2.	Araukaria	<i>Araucaria excelsa</i>													x
3.	Bakau	<i>Rhizophora spp.</i>													x
4.	Bodi / pohon beringin / beringin	<i>Ficus benjamina</i>					x	x							x
5.	Getah	<i>Hevea brasiliensis</i>													x
6.	Hujan-hujan	<i>Samanea saman</i>													x
7.	Ipoh	<i>Antiaris toxicaria</i> <i>Lesch</i>					x								
8.	Nipah	<i>Nypa fruticans</i>	x	x	x	x	x		x				x	x	x
9.	Pokok ru	<i>Casuarina spp.</i>													x

(Source: Researchers Observation, 2012)

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