INADEQUATE CONSERVATION OF TRADITIONAL SHOPHOUSES ON JALAN TUN H. S. LEE

ABSTRACT

Jalan Tun H.S. Lee is one of the city's well-known streets in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, which symbolises both historical and cultural events that happened before and after World War II, as well as colonisation throughout Malayan history. Sadly, the majority of **Architectural heritage** and identity are slowly fading away due to non-proper renovation and restoration of the buildings. The goal of studying on the relationship between architecture, place identity and the decaying of heritage building is such that we can research and convey the information of potency and potential solutions on solving this various uncontrolled and unchecked development of old shop houses in Jalan Tun H.S. Lee. This study emphasises the factors and consequences of renovating and improving old shophouses through a more proper and correct ways. To convey better understanding towards the situation, case studies, academic research, virtual and physical site were done to have a richer and clearer information and observation by identifying tangible aspects in the old buildings and shop houses. Case study and academic research have been retrieved from the internet and site visits were done physically and using Google Earth. To prolong the buildings' lifespan for generations and retain the original form, a high budget conservation and restoration will be done which shows that cost factor is the biggest concern. Hence, cooperation with experts and organisations which are keen on protecting the heritage buildings must be done. A clear guidance will be shown, but at the same time citizens must be enhanced with awareness and proper way of conservation. When engagement between experts, organisations and all citizens are taken in action through workshops, talkshows, organised festivals etc, more old shophouses in historical locations such as Jalan H.S. Lee could have been protected. In summation, this research concludes that implementations of renovating and conserving old shophouses is fundamental but it's not few people's duty only, is all of us including the future generations.

METHODOLOGY



Site visits were conducted to assess the conditions of the shophouses and identify the construction methods seen on site.



Studying from other preserved historical buildings provides a better understanding used on the preservation methods.



Explore more on history, background, urban planning, problem statement and **ACADEMIC** useful solutions through Internet

Q1: What can we do to educate the building owner community about the importance of conserving their shophouses?

To combat the lack of awareness on the need for conservation among the building owner community, we could organize workshops or talk shows to educate the community on conservation of their buildings, George Town World Heritage Incorporated has organised the activities annually. Research done in Kotagede (Heritage Area of the Mataram Kingdom), Yogyakarta, Indonesia has shown that building owners that are better educated on the importance of conservation tend to put more effort in the preservation of their buildings by analysing awareness of owners in the area. When the owners are aware of the benefit such as **reducing the amount of waste generated**, which is better for the environment in the long term. At the same time, certain people are unwilling to involve, hence owners who are willing to **create** a better urban plan which balance the renovated and unrevonated buildings.

Examples of conservation through workshops:



PAPER CONSERVATION

and handling of textile artefacts



TEXTILE CONSERVATION

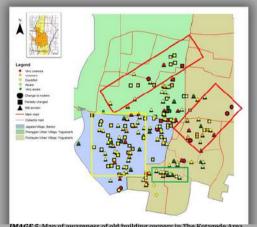
George Town World Heritage Incorporated is one of the best example on conservation historical building. They play a vital role in constituting a city's history and put much effort on it. To restore and conserve old or damaged documents, such as historic building plans and maps to original form, many paper conservation experts have joined the organisation. Not only that, they

conduct paper conservation workshops to other state government agencies to provide the proper

methods of conservation, handling and storage of the documents Textile Conservation Capacity Training also be conducted for the Local Community programme by the association to teach knowledge, skills and techniques on the conservation, preservation

Case Study: Kotagede, Yogyakarta, Indonesia





After the disaster, a full analysis about awareness of old building owners had been taken and recreate a better urban plan which can balance the interest and awareness of all

Reconstruction of heritage buildings has been Conservation, Department of Architecture and Planning Gadjah Mada University, and Jogja

Is there a way to develop a sense of belonging for the community and help them establish a sense of place identity with the buildings?

We take a look at the **festival crepissage de la grand mosquée in Mali**, during the annual festival the whole community comes together to replaster the mudbrick walls of the Great Mosque of Djenné. When one puts their blood, sweat and tears into making or doing something they tend to cherish what every that they made. By organizing a simmilar annual festival at Jalan Tun H S Lee, we could get the community involved in simple conservation works such as the repainting of buildings or simply clearing overgrown plants. Getting the community involve can also help them to feel a sense of belonging, as they will be proud of the work they have done, making the area feel more like it is theirs, and not just rows of buildings. The festival has potential to even become a tourist attraction where tourist could be involved in the conservation works.

Case Study: Great Mosque of Djenné, Mali



The Great Mosque of Djenné is located in the arid hinterland of the scorching Sahara

The walls of the mosque are reconstructed with mud each April in an epic one-day event called the Crépissage (Plastering). The entire community contributes to the effort,

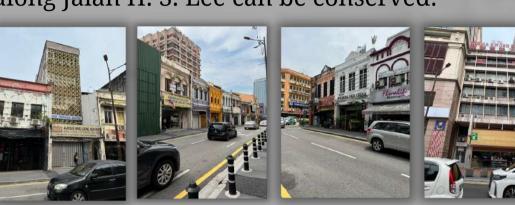
Men: Prepare construction material such as banco, a mix of fine clay from the nearby rivers, rice bran, shea butter, baobao powdered water, plaster the building

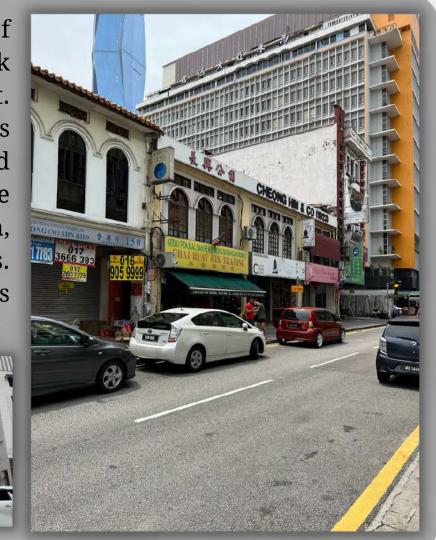
CONCLUSION:

To conclude, the conservation of shophouses on Jalan Tun Hs Lee is justifiably applied. With proper resources, conservation can be done correctly with the help of building specialists and funding organizations to retain the historical value of the buildings. A better way of educating the community through talkshow and workshops also increases general awareness and annual festivals which includes the community can develop a better sense of belonging. All the solutions above have been tried and tested in other countries. As a result, this has will save the shophouses from modernity while preserving their historical essences. Hence, accordingly applying different methods for the conservation of the shophouses.

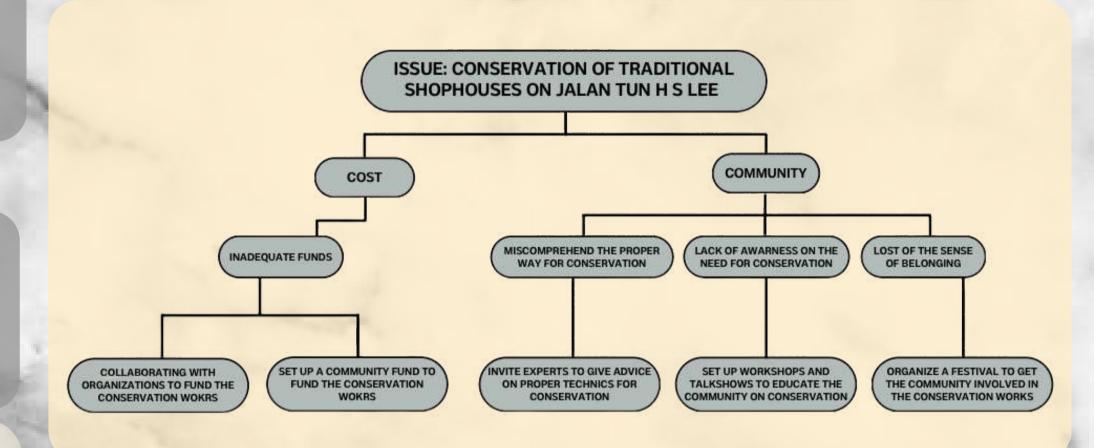
INTRODUCTION

Jalan Tun H. S. Lee is located in the heart of Kuala Lumpur city. It has a history as far back as the 1950s when it was known as High Street. But the street is now a far stretch from its heyday, the majority of the street is abandoned and are falling apart. Even buildings that are still occupied are in a dilapidated condition, with only the lower floors still safe to access. This research focuses on how the shophouses along Jalan H. S. Lee can be conserved.





CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK



How can we conserve the shophouses without losing their historical authenticity?

Buildings such as the Suffolk House in Penang or Angkor Wat in Siem Reap, Cambodia, are proof that it is possible. When conservation work are being planned, we can invite and cooperate with specialist from associations such as UNESCO or PAM, with the guidance of the professionals the shophouses can be properly conserved and their historical authenticity can be preserved. Case Study 1: Suffolk House, Ayer Itam, Penang, Malaysia

Conservation methods:

1.Removal of dirt, fungal and harmful growth on wall and column

2. Fixing waterproofing membrane to the roof 3. Remove and replace the badly decayed timber floor or laying new clay tiles

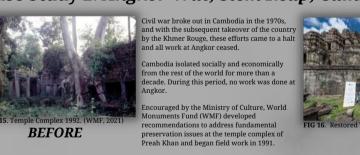
4.**Re-plastering and painting** the wall with lime 5.Recontrust the collapse and damage column to

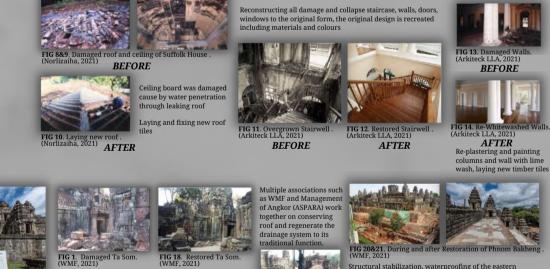
the **original form** 6.**Remove and re-pointing loose mortar** on the

exposed bricks 7. Restoring any decayed door, window and fanlights

8.Laying and fixing new marble floor

9. Waterproofing the foundation with PVC membrane Case Study 2: Angkor Wat, Siem Reap, Cambodia





odist Boy's School, till it was left ruined for decades and with a

were ascertainable in year 2000. The restoration Suffolk House was carr

How can the lack of funds that are needed to properly conserve the shophouses be addressed?

Because of the lack of funding, many owners are unable to properly conserve their buildings, but that doesn't have to be the case. There are actually organizations such as the World Monument Fund or something closer to home the Badan Warisan Malaysia, that could help fund the conservations of the shophouses. Building owners could also look to government agencies such as Jabatan Warisan Malaysia. Community members could also band together to set up a community fund to pay for the conservation works that may be needed.

Examples of organizations that are willing to help on conservation:















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