

Sustainability | Individual communication

IC - (20824) - ATTITUDES TOWARD HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF MALAYSIAN AND JAPANESE CITIZENS ON SHOPHOUSE IN IPOH, MALAYSIA

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Background and objectives

Shophouses are vernacular architectural buildings that are commonly seen in Southeast Asia. Due to the early history of Ipoh, as a settlement was all down to its mining industry, stylistic facades which have hybrid characteristics incorporating architectural vocabulary from the West, Chinese, and Malay were formed into shophouses in Ipoh, , and it takes an essential role in representing Malaysian's wealthiest assets, cultural diversity.

This study intends to review Malaysian residents' perception and Japanese perception of shophouses in Ipoh for proposing references to help conserve and develop the future of the shophouses in Malaysia.

Process and methods (for empirical research)

In this study, photo-based methods were used in an online questionnaire. This method is considered the best method to enhance the status and acceptability of the broader research community during the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, a comparative analysis was conducted to explore the similarities and differences in residents' perceptions of historic architecture in Ipoh.

Main results (or main arguments in the case of critical reviews)

The research findings show that shophouses in Ipoh possess many historically significant features, which enables the local communities to recognize shophouses as Malaysian historical buildings. The Japanese only recognized Malaysian buildings with those unfamiliar architectural styles.

Besides, this study also indicates both Malaysian and Japanese's will to protect shophouses in Ipoh. However, Malaysian residents think that shophouses create a nostalgic atmosphere which is essential to towns and cities in Malaysia. On the other hand, exotic architecture style led to Japanese decisions primarily based on buildings' functionality and their fondness for them.

Implications for research and practice/policy | Importance and originality of the contribution

Unlike Japan which has carried out a heritage protection system for more than 150 years, the awareness of conserving heritage buildings in Malaysia is slowly increasing, though relatively slowly. Extra efforts on conserving these buildings can bring immense benefits to the country, especially for future generations. Thus, this study clarified the relationship between the psychological impact and conservation value of shophouses in Ipoh.

Palavras-chave : shophouse, impression, conservation value