

Asst Prof Dr Norzalifa Zainal Abidin

Kulliyah of Architecture and Environmental Design



Academic/Professional Qualification

PhD built environment (Interior design)(Uitm), M.Phil.in Built Environment (Uitm.),
B.(Hons)Arch, PD Diploma Architecture (University of Central England in Birmingham, UK)

Expertise

Architecture and Interior design in Built Environment

Research Interest

Islamic Built Environment, Islamic and South East Asia Arts and Architecture, Heritage Built environment, Green and sustainable, Mosque Design, interior architecture and design, Entrepreneurship

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Profile

Asst Prof Dr Norzalifa Zainal Abidin is born in Penang but mostly lived in Kedah before joining MRSM Seremban boarding school in 1984-1985 and undergone A level at Seremban in 1996-1987. She continued her first year in Architecture under Northern Consortium United Kingdom (NCUK) programme then pursued her studies and graduated for her part 1 and 2 RIBA from the School of Architecture, University of Central England in Birmingham , United Kingdom in 1994. She continued practicing architecture in the United Kingdom and Malaysia till 1998.

In 1998, she joined International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) as an academician and researcher in the Kulliyah of Architecture and Environmental Design (KAED). She then further her studies in Master in Built Environment and Doctorate Degree in Built Environment specializing in the Islamic Arts and traditional mosques and graduated in 2012 from the Faculty of Architecture, Planning and Survey, Universiti Teknologi Mara, Malaysia. Now she is an active academic member in IIUM teaching interior design and her recent architectural and interior design work is the Masjid Ara Damansara in Ara Damansara District , Selangor. This mosque received a GBI gold certification for its green and sustainable design approach.

She is also currently and actively involved in the community engagement works in helping the Orang Asli in Gombak, Selangor, Malaysia. She was also the coordinator of Heritage Studies for her Department of Applied Arts and Design, KAED between 2011 -2012 and also involving as part of the coordinating team members whereby the academic and research works involved visits and studies of arts and architectural works in Malaysia and other parts of the world ie, Turkey, China, Korea and Cambodia.

Her focus of interest will be on the Islamic Architecture and Heritage, Islamic arts and Nusantara arts, masjid or mosque designs be it traditional or modern designs. Her keen interest is also in charity works whereby she was the Assistant Secretary with Insaf Malaysia (an NGO) helping the needy and now actively involved as the project coordinator for the Projek Warisan Hidup Orang Asli in Gombak under Yayasan Warisan Negara. She is also actively in two non governmental organizations which related to the preservation of environment which are PEKA Malaysia (Pertubuhan Pelindung Khazanah Alam Sekitar Malaysia) as Vice chairman and the PROTEM Secretary General for GERAK (Pertubuhan Gerakan Alam

Sekitar Rakyat Malaysia.). Her portfolio is more towards education and advocating research towards the awareness of the heritage of our environment.

She has published a few books and book chapters which amongst other as listed. For example, one chapter was in the book titled “ Aesthetics in Built Environment , reconciling Culture, Sustainability and Ecology” 2015. Others are related to her visit to Turkey which is “Architecture as a reflection of social structure: A Reminiscence of the Sulaymaniye Complex in Istanbul” 2010 and Islamic Arts and the traditional Melaka mosques. Another example of book chapter in the book titled “ Dimensions of Masjid Architecture, Perspectives and Writings on Theory and Design” 2016.

Her research are mainly focusing on related issues such as “Eco public Art in pursuit of a sustainable green city and public space”, “ The Innovative approach and values of the application of Islamic Art decoration in Green Mosques: a Reflect to its True Function”, and “the Cultural Heritage of Orang Asli in Peninsular Malaysia to promote support for Educational, Social and Economic Needs by the Community – A case study in Kg Orang Asli (the aborigines) in Batu 12 Bukit Kala, Gombak, Selangor , Malaysia.”

She has also under done some additional training such as completed and graduated in Post graduate Diploma in Islamic studies (CERDAS) in Kulliyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human sciences (KIRKHS, IIUM) in 2016 and also became a Professional Entrepreneur Educator trained under the Ministry of Higher Education in 2016.