Putrajaya, Malaysia Planned City

Cultural aspects of Migration, Urbanity and Gender

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Putrajaya

Putrajaya, the federal administrative center of Malaysia, is a planned city, established in 1995.

The seat of government was shifted in 1999 from Kuala Lumpur (the federal and financial capital of Malaysia) to Putrajaya; In 2001 Putrajaya became Malaysia's third Federal Territory after Kuala Lumpur and Labuan.

Putrajaya (Intelligent, Garden City)

Garden city

The city is being developed based on the theme of city in Garden. Therefore, of the city's total landscape, about 38% is being developed into parks, lakes and wetlands while remaining is reserved for government offices, commercial and residential areas, as well as public utilities and amenities.

Intelligent city

Being located with the Multimedia Super corridor, and in line with the Government's e-Government initiative, Putrajaya is also developed as an intelligent city. Multimedia technologies will be in place to facilitate communication and interaction between government offices, between government and the business community, as well as between the government as local population and general public.

Background and location

In August 1996, the Malaysian Prime Minister **Mahathir Mohammad** announced that a 50 KM strp of land stretching southwards from Kuala Lumpur(KL) would be developed as the Multimedia Super Corridor(MSC). This 15 KM wide high-technology zone now extends as far as KL International Airport(KLIA) in between
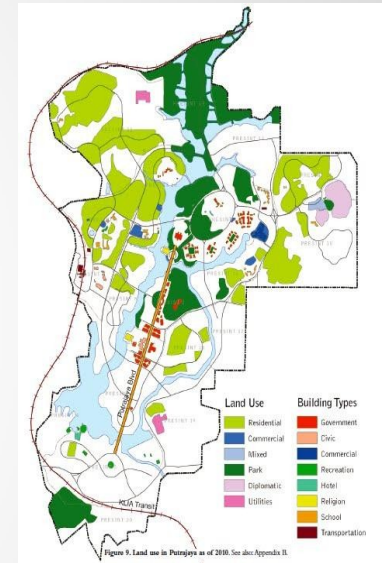

two new cities: **Putrajaya**, the new electronic Federal Government Administrative center; and **Cyberjaya**, an "intelligent city" in the area which was formerly called **Perang Besar** and used to be palm and rub plantations.

Putrajaya is being built by Putrajaya Holdings Sdn Bhd- a company that is 40% owned by the **government's investment arm**, 40%owned by the **national oil company**, and 20% owned by a government trustee body- in partnership with five leading malaysian developers.

The Putrajaya Master Plan

Main features of the Putrajaya Master Plan :

-**A**lmost 40 % of the city area designated as open space

-**I**ncludes 400 hectares of a man-made lake and 200 hectares of wetlands, created to bring in nature and biodiversity into the city fabric

-**R**oad and transportation network are planned

based on a policy of modal split of 70:30 between public transport: private transport usage. A rail base transport system is also planned for and to be supported by park and ride facilities at the peripheral area.

-**C**ity divided into 20 precincts; with main employment and commercial precincts (CBD area), located at the 'core island'

-**R**esidential precincts at the peripheral are planned on a neighbourhood planning concept.

Figure 9. Land use in Putrajaya as of 2010. See also Appendix II.
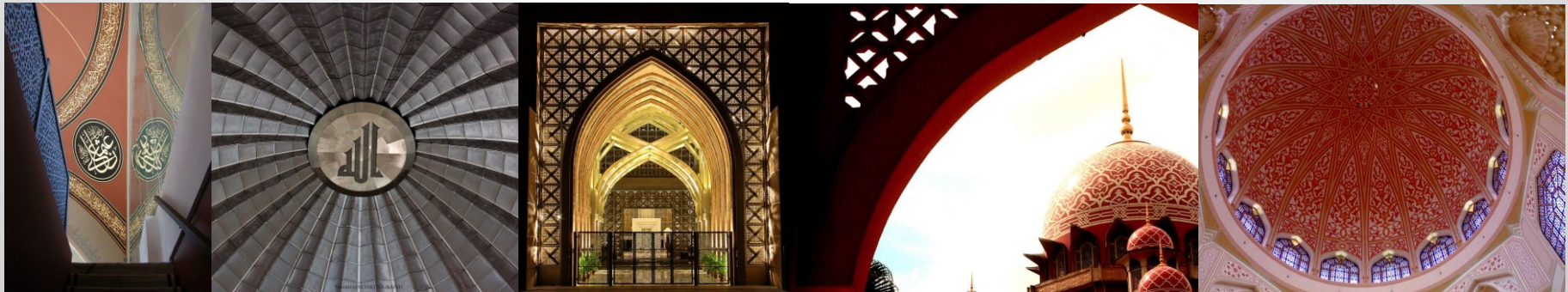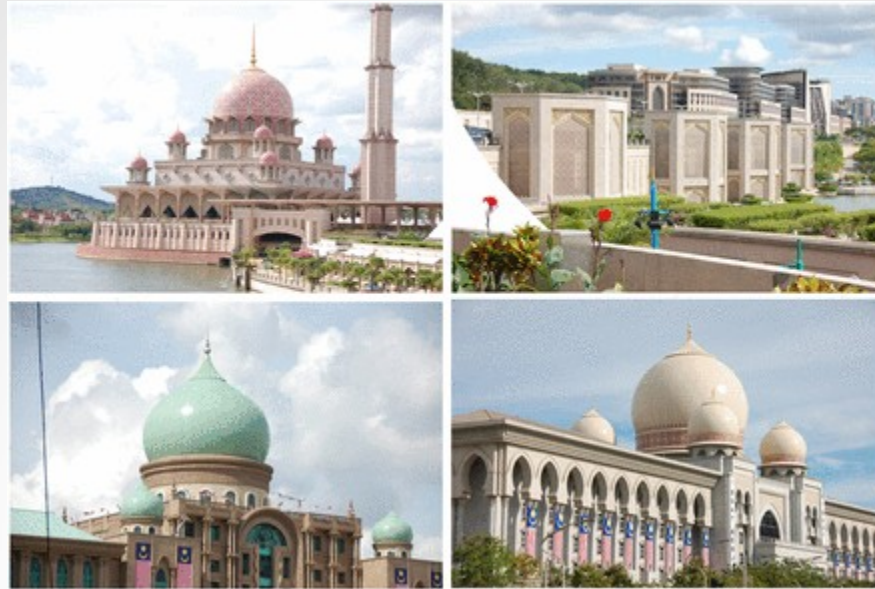
Fabulous Architecture
Pinnacle of the new fantasy Middle Eastern expression and the absence of vernacular art

As the new capital city, Putrajaya is the pinnacle of the new fantasy **Middle Eastern expression of Islam** (as the pure and authentic Islam) with Malay identity.

Putrajaya currently has no religious structure other than mosques, a striking contrast from Kuala Lumpur which has Chinese and Hindu temples and churches. After more than a decade from the establishment of the utopian city, planners in Putrajaya are currently discussing the possible creation of distinct neighborhood for various cultural groups-namely a Chinatown and Little India.

The complete absence of vernacula Muslim architecture can be seen in some of the most prominent landmarks of the city:

Putra Mosque is the most visible and iconic landmark in the city and a prime example of 'high Islamic' fusion architecture that Malaysian state has adopted;

Putra Bridge, an Imitation of Isfahan's famous Khaju Bridge;

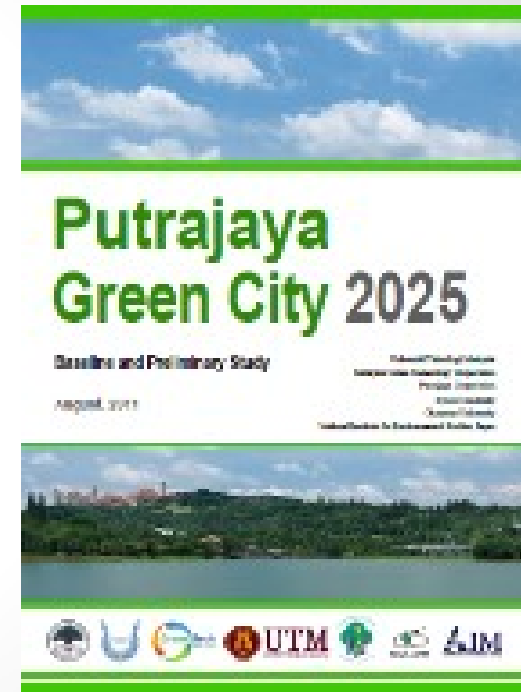**Perdana Putra**, the prime minister's office;

and the **Komplex Kehakiman** or Palace of Justice influenced by Moorish architecture.

'PGC2025' Future Plan
Putrajaya Green city 2025

At the Copenhagen COP15, Malaysia has made a conditional commitment of a reduction of carbon emission intensity of Malaysian GDP, of up to 40% by 2020 from a 2005 baseline.

In tabling the 2010 Malaysian Budget, the Prime Minister announced to "develop Putrajaya and Cyberjaya as pioneer township in Green Technology as a showcase for the development of other townships"

Future Plan's targets

PGC2025 is a collaborative study between:

Putrajaya Corporation;

University Technology of Malaysia;

Kyoto University ;

Okayama University;

National Institute of Environmental Studies

Malaysia Green Technology Corporation

Three main components & quantitative environmental targets in PGC2025:

- Low Carbon Putrajaya (reduce GHG emission intensity by 60%).
- Cooler Putrajaya (reduce peak temperature by 2 degree Celsius).
- 3R Putrajaya (reduce final disposal of solid waste &

 GHG emission per waste generation by 5).

Putrajaya's Utopia
and the myth of national benefit for all Malaysians!

According to National Census, Department of Statistics malaysia, in 2010, 97.4% of the Putrajaya's population are Muslim, 1% Hindu, 0.9% Christian, 0.4% Buddhist, and 0.3% other or non-religious.

Putrajaya, "Multimedia Utopia", and "the dark side of the chip"

The myth of national benefit for all Malaysians and the process of exclusion:

-The rule of joining the realm

The right to inclusion in the ordered high-tech urbanity is depend upon the possession and demonstration of appropriate skills and knowledge for meaningful participation in the global information society and economy. therefore, the ones who can not or refuse to realize themselves in an appropriate way for high-tech times is excluded *(Bunnell, 2001)*.

Putrajaya, "Multimedia Utopia", and "the dark side of the chip"

-Life costs

As "low-cost" does not fit the "world-class" utopian city, the major life costs such as accommodation in Putrajaya is well beyond what many former residents of the area can afford, for instance.

The discriminative context of ethnic politics in malaysia also facilitate and reproduces inequalities and exclusion.

*(The Indian plantation workers who were the residences of the former **Perang Besar** due to the weakness of their representative party in the ruling coalition could not even enjoy the least facilities such as purchasing "low-cost" units (Bunnell, 2001).)*

Putrajaya, "Multimedia Utopia", and "the dark side of the chip"

-Malay/Muslim Authority

Putrajaya with its strongly Islamic Urban design references- has been cast by some as a project for specifically Malay-Muslim integration into information economy and society and exclusion of non-Muslims.

The dramatic shift towards middle eastern Islamic architecture in Putrajaya's design represents fundamental shift in identity politics and a calculated ascendency of Malay/Islam over both colonialism and chinese (Moser, 2012).

The fantasy middle eastern design of secular national buildings reinforces existing social hierarchies in the multi-ethnic multicultural Malaysian society and legitimise the ideological and discriminating agenda of the state (Moser, 2012).