SENSORY ENVIRONMENTS IN NASI LEMAK LIVING GALLERY & LEARNING SPACE, THAT ENHANCE FOOD LEARNING

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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my beloved parents, siblings, and friends

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"The hard-worker also needs kindness, support, knowing every victory is

nourishing."

ABSTRACT

People are becoming more conscious of the necessity of recovering food knowledge. Yet, there are only a few building types available to host such an event. Currently, food exhibit spaces only exist in the form of a food factory and a food museum. There is a need for research on building living gallery and exhibit spaces, particularly ones that promote sensory experience, in order to capture the appropriate mood when learning about food. This research began by trying to understand sensory design in enhancing users in food and cultural appreciation. Then, the researcher started to identify design principles in living gallery and exhibit spaces in relation with Nasi Lemak. Through case study analysis, the researcher finds that many buildings are constructed nowadays with 'sensory and ambient' factors in mind - the Cite Du Vin, Wine Museum in Bordeaux, France, and the Hiroshi Senju Museum in Nagano, Japan, being just two examples. The research findings outline the design approach and strategies used in creating sensory experiences in food exhibit spaces. For example, the idea of food learning through living gallery, with a food sense environment. Along with this, the building design was planned to include interactive exhibition spaces that contain knowledge of Nasi Lemak that will enhance the sensory experience. This led to the natural conclusion that the relationship between the senses and the building design itself can be an approach that contributes greatly to setting up a functioning Living Gallery and Exhibition building. Finally, the project itself may contribute greatly towards helping improve the food learning experience of both locals and tourists in Kampong Bharu.

ABSTRAK

Orang ramai semakin sedar tentang keperluan untuk memulihkan pengetahuan tentang makanan. Namun, hanya terdapat beberapa jenis bangunan yang tersedia untuk menganjurkan acara sedemikian. Pada masa ini, ruang pameran makanan hanya wujud dalam bentuk kilang makanan dan muzium makanan. Terdapat keperluan untuk penyelidikan tentang membina 'living' galeri dan ruang pameran, terutamanya yang menggalakkan pengalaman deria, untuk menangkap mood yang sesuai apabila belajar tentang makanan. Penyelidikan ini bermula dengan cuba memahami reka bentuk deria dalam meningkatkan pengguna dalam apresiasi makanan dan budaya. Kemudian, pengkaji mula mengenal pasti prinsip reka bentuk dalam 'living' galeri dan ruang pameran yang berkaitan dengan Nasi Lemak. Melalui analisis kajian kes, penyelidik mendapati bahawa banyak bangunan dibina pada masa kini dengan mengambil kira faktor 'deria dan ambien' - Cite Du Vin, Muzium Wain di Bordeaux, Perancis dan Muzium Hiroshi Senju di Nagano, Jepun, sebagai hanya dua contoh. Penemuan penyelidikan menggariskan pendekatan reka bentuk dan strategi yang digunakan dalam mencipta pengalaman deria dalam ruang pameran makanan. Sebagai contoh, idea pembelajaran makanan melalui 'living' galeri, dengan persekitaran deria makanan. Seiring dengan itu, reka bentuk bangunan dirancang untuk memasukkan ruang pameran interaktif yang mengandungi pengetahuan tentang Nasi Lemak yang akan meningkatkan pengalaman deria. Ini membawa kepada kesimpulan semula jadi bahawa hubungan antara deria dan reka bentuk bangunan itu sendiri boleh menjadi pendekatan yang menyumbang besar untuk menubuhkan bangunan 'living' galeri dan pameran. Akhir sekali, projek ini mungkin menyumbang banyak ke arah membantu meningkatkan pengalaman pembelajaran makanan kedua-dua penduduk tempatan dan pelancong di Kampong Bharu.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

DYMM	-	Duli Yang Maha Mulia
KBCORP	-	The Kampong Bharu Development Corporation
PKNS	-	Perbadanan Kemajuan Negeri Selangor
EPU	-	The Economic Planning Uni
PIKB	-	Pelan Induk Kampung Baru
VGA	-	Visibility Graph Analysis

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Food knowledge

Food, like architecture, reflects a community's culture. A book, Food and Culture: A Reader, suggests that food embodies everything significant to individuals, indicating the social variations and social relationships of groups of people that vary from table to table (Counihan & Van Esterik, 1997). Diverse countries have different cultures, and this is reflected in the food they eat. Ramen, for example, is representative of Japanese cuisine; Kimchi is of Korean origin, Babi Guling has its roots in Balinese cooking and Nasi Briyani emerged from the kitchens of India before spreading worldwide.

There are also similar foods representing different cultures, but there is a variation in the manner in which the meal is cooked or seasoned. Take, for example, the well-known Malaysian dish Nasi Lemak. The traditional Malaysian version includes sambal, ikan bilis (anchovies), peanuts and boiled egg. However, the Malaysian Chinese version includes non-halal side dishes. Curry with pork and wild boar, sambal and rendang are just a few examples. For the Indian version, it is frequently eaten with accompaniments such as chicken curry, fish curry or lamb curry. In keeping with Hindu belief, beef is not served in their version of Nasi Lemak (Wikipedia, 2021). Having similar meals representing diverse regions implies that these different regions share certain cultural and contextual commonalities.

1.2 Beginning of food knowledge

Food cultures have been documented in the form of paintings since ancient times. These paintings have become the food knowledge for present-day historians to learn about that era's culture (Rios, 2014). Food art in the form of paintings not only

depicts food cultures, but also societal cultures. It also represents the community's social standing and serves as the primary industry on which the community depends for economic support. The food exhibition begins here, where all the paintings on food are being displayed, in order to give people a greater understanding of ancient food cultures and the changes in food over time.

1.3 About Kampong Bharu

Kampong Bharu is in Kuala Lumpur. It is a Malay enclave, or neighbourhood, that is known for retaining its cultural history while at the same time making available a range of eating options. Its fame lies in the fact that even in the midst of a busy metropolitan city-setting featuring tall, modern-day skyscrapers, a simple village can exist, that is fashioned on its Malay roots. In the early 1900s, the Sultan of Selangor, DYMM Sultan Abdul Samad, established Kampong Bharu as a designated territory for Malays who matched the Sultan of Selangor's conditions (Ujang & Aziz, 2016) . The Kampong Bharu Development Corporation (KBCORP) now administers Kampong Bharu. The scope of its administration includes both the region that falls under the agricultural settlement agreement as well as the region outside the area. There are 6,971 registered landowners in Kampong Bharu – and this includes 1,353 lots situated on an area that is roughly 300 acres, or to put it in another more relatable way for today, around 13 million square feet (Hashim, Aziz, & Razy, 2017).

Encompassing to 219.91 acres of land or roughly 879 lots, the agricultural settlement area comprises seven villages featuring residents from varied backgrounds. The seven villages are Kampung Atas A and B, Kampung Masjid, Kampung Hujung Pasir, Kampung Periok, Kampung Paya and Kampung Pindah. The region outside this, which also falls under the administration of the corporation, encompasses around 80 acres, or a total of 474 lots. The four settlements in this region include Kampung Raja Bot, Perbadanan Kemajuan Negeri Selangor Flat, the weekly market, Pasar Minggu, and Kampong Bharu Flat (Abd Aziz, Juliana, & Teng). The Economic Planning Unit (EPU), formerly known as the Kajian Pelan Induk Kampung Baru (PIKB), was established in 2002. PIKB's main goal is to help integrate Kampong Bharu into the state's system that will enable it to grow further not just physically but economically,

politically and socially as well (Hanipah & Foo, 2020). As a result of the growth that has taken place in the surrounding area, Kampong Bharu is now experiencing ongoing urbanisation. Several retail operations that fall under the umbrella of small and medium industries and which normally co-exist to meet the demands of economic and industrial functioning in metropolitan neighbourhoods, can now also been found in Kampong Bharu (Hanipah & Foo, 2020).

1.4 Food Culture Heritage in Kampong Bharu

According to Abd Aziz, Juliana, & Teng (2021), the cultural heritage of food in Kampong Bharu can be categorised under three headings.

a) Food in Kampong Bharu

Quite naturally, Malay cuisine predominates here. This includes nasi lemak, bubur lambuk and roti canai accompanied by dishes of curried feet of chicken. Traditional items – kueh – which include curry puff and fried bananas (pisang goreng) are also sold by food vendors (Abd Aziz et al., 2021).

Quoting from local food providers, he/she said

"...Our signature dish is nasi lemak, which is made by steaming the rice. This distinguishes our nasi lemak from others, since we feel the rice is significantly fluffier. In addition to the sambal anchovies that go nicely with the rice, this is our signature dish...."

(Local food producer 1)

"...My specialty recipe includes not only roti canai but also chicken feet curry, a side dish that complements the taste of the roti canai provided here. The chicken feet themselves, curry powder, coconut milk, dried chilli paste, green chilli, and other ingredients are the key ingredients of our chicken feet curry..."

(Local food producer 2)

Popular dishes in Kampong Bharu include nasi lemak, roti canai, bubur lambuk and satay. Most local food producers choose to prepare their cuisine in a hereditary or traditional manner to preserve the texture and flavour (Abd Aziz et al., 2021).

b) Standard food preparation in Kampong Bharu

These days the cultural heritage here – this includes the culture of eating preferences – reveals a growing difference from the Kampong Bharu of former times. In olden days, food vendors preferred delivering food directly to the public, as opposed to the current situation in Kampong Bharu, where people must go to the vendors to buy food. Food vendors have also started making use of advanced technology available today by using delivery services. 'GrabFood' or 'Foodpanda' are just two of those used to deliver food to customers (Abd Aziz et al., 2021).

Having said that, it is also natural that local vendors – a lot of them – will continue to employ techniques that are hereditary and passed down from elders, to preserve the traditional methods of cooking. For instance, implements made of wood – such as the barrels for preparing nasi lemak – will still be used. This is so that the traditional food flavours and quality are both guaranteed and preserved. When it comes to producing a trademark dish, the most crucial elements are: method, talent and time (Abd Aziz et al., 2021).

1.5 Problem Statement

The interaction between humans and food used to be close prior to the industrial revolution, when people were aware of food-related difficulties and knowledge, but not subsequently. People knew where their food came from before modern technology because there was no refrigerator or equipment to process food. Everything was fresh from the farmer or butcher.

Because of the creation of industrialised agriculture, humans gradually lost basic knowledge of planting, harvesting and cooking, and they forgot that their food still relies on the earth for sustainability. Less understanding of food knowledge has exacerbated the detrimental influence on human health, food cultures and building care. As a result, it is vital to bring back food knowledge through food to repair the relationship between food and humans.

1.6 Research Aim & Objectives

This research aims to build a significant building for local tourists and foreign tourists as well as Kampong Bharu community in response to lack of exposure to food culture learning facilities and lack of a food image in Kampong Bharu. In other words, as a medium for the community to engage and socialise. Henceforth, this research will highlight the following objectives:

c) To understand sensory design in enhancing users in food and cultural appreciation.

d) To understand the design principles/strategies in creating spatial experiences for Nasi Lemak learning spaces.

e) To educate the public and tourists on the importance of food learning, in this case Nasi Lemak in Kampong Bharu.

1.7 Research Questions

This research is founded on the following questions:

a) How does food sensory design enhance food and cultural appreciation among users?

b) What are the design principles/ strategies that link Nasi Lemak learning spaces with its context?

c) How is the best way to share food learning knowledge especially Nasi Lemak knowledge to public and tourist?

5

1.8 Research Methodology

In general, the basic research structure will be divided into four stages: identifying the research problem, data collecting, data analysis and finally, conclusion. The primary data will be taken from current literature reviews, journal articles, books or reading material and internet-based publications, and the primary data will be backed up by secondary data from questionnaires and case studies.

Space Syntax will aid the research, which may be customised to stimulate and investigate whether the spatial configuration has a good relation over the concept of genotype of Malay Traditional houses. Furthermore, axial analysis and visibility graph analysis (VGA) will be used to better understand the current configuration in the Kampong Bharu area, as well as the feasibility of potential spatial suggestions.

1.9 Thesis Framework

Figure 2 shows the framework of the thesis, which progresses from objectives to data collection, data analysis and finally expected outcomes.

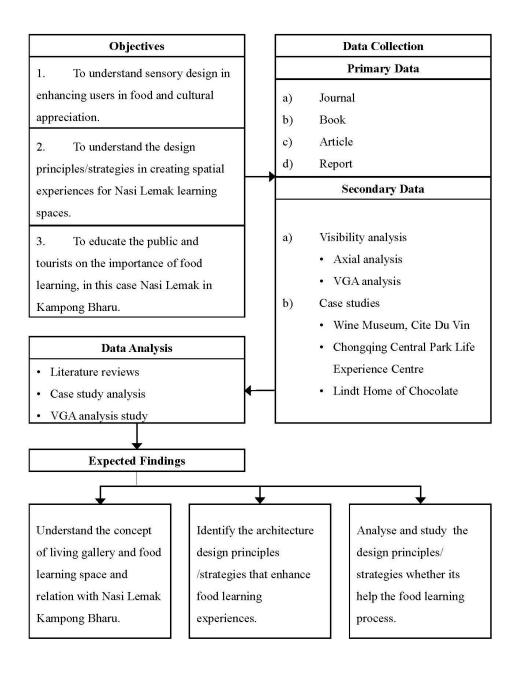


Figure 1.1: Thesis Framework

1.10 Significance of Research

This thesis will serve as a design guideline for architects, planners and local authority, establishing a standard and framework for constructing food living gallery or food learning spaces that provide a sensory experience with the goal of educating and raising public awareness about the importance of food culture, for example, Nasi Lemak. The research's findings contribute to a better understanding of the spatial experience, which enhances the senses in living gallery and exhibitions of all types. The study further expands on the concept of a perceptual system in an architectural setting, utilising a combination of senses to perceive space and capture the mood of users in food learning spaces and use visibility analysis to simulate and examine the overall spatial configuration of the spaces.

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