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The Flexibility of Communal Mosque in Malaysia

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Abstract

“Since the primary assignment of man on earth is to worship Allah, the whole of the earth has been declared a mosque for the Muslims (Bukhari, 7: 1). This implies that worshipping of Allah especially salat can take place anywhere except in seven places: dunghills, slaughterhouses, graveyards, middle of the road, bathhouses, watering places where the camels drink and rest, and on the roof of the house of Allah [the Ka’bah in Makkah. Any place where one prostrates oneself could therefore be regarded a mosque or masjid.

(Ibn Majah)

Most of the mosque in Malaysia have their own design in order to express better appearance imposing its aesthetically pleasing as well as a symbol of power, splendor and to show the advancement of the country. However it was seen as a dilapidation in cost consumption in terms of building materials and mechanical system applied for the building. Islam never teaches its followers wasting money on constructing a mosque. Therefore, the study of flexibility Communal Mosque in Malaysia is seen to be enlightened on the true function of the mosque as claimed in Islam. References on construction of the previous mosque will be important references for today mosque. Functional and spiritual aspects, which should dominates the design of the mosque is not taken into consideration without thinking of the impacts that would occur if these aspects are ignored. In this research, issues to discuss are privacy, brotherhood, function, safety and design of the mosque. Methodology of the study is a literature review. The result from the study is expected to make a reassessment of the function and importance of the elements in the design of the mosque in order to develop a real character of new Muslim generation in this modern world.

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Key-word: - mosque design, function of the mosque, Muslim and Islamic history

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1. Introduction

A place where Muslim performs their prayers is known as a mosque “Masjid”. Masjid is an Arabic word referring to a place of worship. Mosques are focal characteristic of Islam life. The ideas of worship in the normal usage of the English language usually connote and act specifically set in the religious and ritualistic context. In Islam, the word worship is the only closet word which is used to translate the concept of *Ibadah* (Tajuddin, 2008). The main of this purpose to present an alternative to the design approach the communal mosque design with particular reference to the context vicinity of Malaysia. The gist of the message is that we can learn much from Hadith Al Quran that understand the idea of Mosque and seems was a place where the Muslims gather to interact and many responsibilities for the benefit of Islam.

The most consistent expounds briefly about the role of the interpretation Mosque from perspective currently Malaysian architectural design and comparison than the mosque approaches more as a community development complex. The focus of this study examines the problem of mosque highlighted are those which pertain to the idea of architecture, Islamic architecture, and relevance of the body of knowledge knows as Hadith Al Quran with concerning the function of the mosques. The structure of strategy for developing and important lesson of mosque needed to all of these seem indicate that idea of sanctity in religious structures is not one in which only a particular ritual is intended. Mosque is inadequacy in their role through community who wonder between tradition and modernity, as contemporary society with knowledge of the complexity of understanding the needs of the binding fraternity among Muslims.

2. The Role of The Mosque

Building a mosque is a good indeed in Islam as it has been reported on the authority of Uthman ibn ‘Affan that the Prophet Muhammad (pubh) said:

“He who builds a mosque for the sake of Allah, seeking the pleasure of Allah, will be rewarded by Allah with a dwelling in Heaven.”

When Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) migrated from Makkah to Madinah, the first action he took was to build a mosque as soon as he established the Islamic State in Madinah now was called the Prophet’s mosque. This was to emphasize the great importance of mosque in the shaping of the Islamic society. During Prophet Muhammad time, mosque was built with more importance placed on the role within community. Therefore, the first mosque was built with very modest and less importance was placed on the beautifying of the mosque. Although the mosque was very basic in physically but it plays vital part in Muslim life as it had a number of uses in Prophet Muhammad’s time.

1. The headquarters of the state.
The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) used to discuss the state’s affairs in mosque. The Khaleefah were free to address and debate his policies and subject directly in mosque.
2. The judiciary court
The mosque used to be a place where judges settled disputes and look into complaints.
3. The center for learning and teaching
The Masjid is the place where Muslims learned about the Islam including believe (*aqidah*), worship (*ibadah*) as well as political, economic, social, judiciary and others.
4. The place for the needy, home for the poor and travelers

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) reserved a corner of the Masjid as a shelter for the needy, poor and travelers as reported by Imam Bukhari. Imam Bukhari also reported in his Shahih that the people who lived in the Masjid, they had to eat there as well.

5. The place for worship and prayer

Muslims perform five prescribed prayers in Masjid which are held in congregation. This is encouraged in Islam because people meet in Masjid united by the love of Allah.

There were many other roles of Masjid during the life of Prophet Muhammad's time. Therefore it shows that the Masjid had a strong and effective role in developing the Muslim life. These were eventually formed a strong Islamic society which led them to become a good leader.

3. Problems of the Mosque Nowadays

The mosque is a place where delivery executed *ad-din*. The function is attracting those who always want to remember Allah swt. The hadiths contain many references to the use and functions of the mosque during Prophet's (peace be upon you) time. There are many references by functional about the social conditions the mosque, was used as a gathering place for community even non-muslim. The Prophet's (peace be upon you), had engaged in many types in the manner as social, political, education and religion center such as debates, discussions, and preaching at the Holy Mosque. At that time, the mosque known as a place for paying taxes as the *Baitulmal* to help those who need even non-Muslims. The mosque also as a hospital to treat those injured during of war and people's death will be brought to the mosque to bathed and prayed. At that time, many of their mosques as a reference, and the focus of protection all in parts of the region. But in Malaysia nowadays, the mosque only be a place of prayer and just a gathering place where celebration such as festivals, weddings have or practice community services. People come to the mosque on selected days only. One of the challenges when this mosque, is through the development of technology in terms of visual effects planned to allocate part of TV broadcasting to religious speeches, religion programme but it surely can make recommendations regarding religious broadcasting hours of audio-visual media facilitate the people's participation in the religious programs of the mosque.

Architecture is a result of the progress of a society in its natural states. Characteristic are the result of the influence of daily life, belief, culture, history, environment and technical abilities. A second challenge is now too mosque according to the modernization and influenced by west architectural concept, byzantine or the Middle East but adapted to Islamic architecture. The entire life of a Muslim is supposed to be implemented in a climate that is formed by the influence of mosques. Build the biggest, prettiest and the dome, minarets and an excessive ornamentation is like to be built as a symbol of the greatness of Islam. This magnificent building is very beautiful to see, but in the empty without the soul who enliven longer the actual function of the mosque.

Islam has never taught excessive things in the context of vanity. The original concept of the mosque at the time of the messenger just walls and roof of palm trees leaves from the same tree, no carving or decoration to attract tourists. This is the wisdom of the mosque which was built on the foundation of faith and in the interests of consumers. The site of mosque was built away from residential areas and complex as isolated from the public should be considered. This factor is seen as giving periodic isolation of local communities aiming to look luxurious and majestic is why the potential of using the mosque no longer completely reached. The mosque and Islamic centre should be established in which Muslims would do their daily life.

4. The Lesson of the Mosque

Mosques as roles towards strengthening the unity of the local community against the odds revival of Islam. It became the centre of Islamic grandeur for being the first institutions founded by the Prophet (peace be upon you)

when he migrated to Medina. Since then, the mosque is a place of development of Islamic thoughts and also the public administration. Basically, the mosque is not a place of worship and recites Qur'an only but it is community centre in the educational, social, welfare and the interests and meeting point for Muslims. Growth in waqf properties which reinforces the mosque as a missionary with the development of knowledge and science Islamic. Verses Al Quran statement of 15 times the Al-Haram (Holy Mosque), referring to its construction, strategic places, function and manners while in the mosque. It shows the Al-Haram (Holy mosque) as well as the *qiblat* for Muslims is the best and be an example to the mosque around the world in the unity of Islamic ummah. It should also reflect the mosque as a harmony and unification of community the proliferation.

In Malaysia have a lack of awareness, especially the youth who are less interested in to visit mosque. So, it is necessary to attract the youth to create an extensive approach and scope to realize the real role of the mosque. In addition, it is necessary to dispel the perception that the mosque for religious for particular group only and the mosque can be a haven for those who need help, whether Muslim or non-Muslim, and travellers. Thus, the administration of mosques in *the Islamic da'wah* voice the issue of necessary is expanded in an effort the mosque.

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