

**REGENERATION OF CHINESE 'WATER VILLAGES' IN GEORGETOWN;  
A TRANSIENT CULTURAL PROGRAM FOR THE CLAN JETTIES**

Foo E Leen

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**Department of Architecture**  
Faculty of Built Environment  
Universiti Teknologi Malaysia  
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## -ABSTRACT -

The study revolves around understanding the significance and values of communal sites that had contributed greatly to the Georgetown's progress. Today, many of these communal sites are either in the process of disappearing or have vanished. Even for communities like the Clan Jetties in Weld Quay that have physically survived the threat of urbanization, their social-cultural mechanisms face threats. This thesis acknowledges the change and transition that time brings but attempts also to carry forward the rich cultural heritage of these diverse historic communal sites in a manner that can record and commemorate the living memories, identities and contributions. The question is how to preserve not in a static exhibitionist manner for the tourist gaze, but more importantly, reclaimed in a manner that not just enliven but also enhance their social histories so that their lived experiences and roles in building early Penang into a truly multi-ethnic global city can be recovered.

Using the Clan Jetties in Weld Quay as the reference case, this study aims to initiate a discourse on ways to preserve the rich heritage of these diverse cultural communities and communal sites. The first part of this outlines the development of a communal site by '*sinkeh*' (literally new guests, meaning foreign immigrants) who were bonded by a common lineage and clan history. It may not be possible or even desirable to preserve or regenerate all these communal sites in their original form (or *locale*). However, it is important to recover and reclaim their legacies and place in the history of Penang. The second section addresses the proposal of regeneration and commemoration of the community through phases of change in transition with time. It is to ensure prolong survival, celebrate their diversity, and also restore memories of their social histories and communal bonds.

## -ABSTRAK-

Kajian ini merupakan satu pendedahan terhadap peranan tapak-tapak komuniti yang menjadi penyumbang kepada perkembangan Georgetown. Pada masa ini, kebanyakan masyarakat tradisi menghadapi ancaman pembangunan dan banyak yang telah lupuh ditelan masa. Walaupun komuniti yang telah lama bertapak seperti di 'Clan Jetties' di Weld Quay masih mampu mengekalkan tempat mereka dari segi fizikal, social dan tradisi mereka turut diancam urbanisasi. Tesis ini mengemukakan persoalan terhadap cara-cara tradisi yang unik boleh dikekalkan dan dilindungi tanpa menjadikannya satu galeri yang hanya dijadikan tatapan pengunjung. Apa yang penting ialah untuk mengembalikan sejarah dan pengalaman tapak-tapak bersejarah ini dalam pembentukan bandar.

Dengan menggunakan Clan Jetties di Weld Quay sebagai kes, tesis ini menjurus kepada satu pembentukan idea terhadap pengekalan dan peringatan warisi komuniti yang mempunyai ciri-ciri yang tersendiri ini. Bahagian pertama akan dikaji pembentukan komuniti ini dari asalnya, di mana 'sinkeh' ataupun orang baru mendarat di sini sehingga pembentukan 'clan' yang berkongsi latarbelakang yang sama. Adalah difahami bahawa pembaharuan ataupun pengekalan tidak bertujuan untuk mengembalikan keadaan asal, tetapi apa yang lebih penting ialah kesedaran terhadap elemen komuniti yang sangat penting sejajar dengan perkembangan masa. Melalui kesedaran dan pembentukan program yang sesuai, masa depan komuniti-komuniti tradisi lebih terjamin mengikut peredaran zaman.