

**PUSAT SUMBER
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REVISITING ROBUSTNESS: ASSESSING URBAN VITALITY OF JOHOR BAHRU CITY CENTRE

TEH BOR TSONG

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Universiti Teknologi Malaysia

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ABSTRAK

Pusat Bandar Johor Bahru merupakan ibu negeri bagi Negeri Johor dan pusat metropolitan Iskandar Malaysia yang lebih dikenali sebagai pusat ekonomi utama dan sosio-ekonomi di wilayah tersebut. Akan tetapi, sejak kebelakangan ini fungsi dan vitaliti yang telah lama wujud di pusat bandar semakin luntur. Punca yang mungkin mempengaruhi kehilangan vitaliti pusat bandar semasa adalah disebabkan oleh kekurangan variasi guna tanah dan aktiviti-aktiviti; merupakan isu '*robustness*' di ruang bandar Johor Bahru. Justeru, kajian ini akan mengenalpasti isu '*robustness*' di ruang bandar Johor Bahru serta mengkaji tentang konsep reka bentuk fizikal '*robustness*' dalam pembaharuan pusat bandar Johor Bahru ke arah persekitaran yang lebih '*liveable*' dan mampan. Dengan persoalan apakah isu '*robustness*' di pusat bandar Johor Bahru? Dan apakah rupa bentuk fizikal bandar yang mampu meningkatkan kualiti '*robustness*'. Semasa konsep '*robustness*' ini diperkenalkan pada tahun 1985, kajian terhadap konsep ini adalah masih kurang. Justeru, kajian ini akan menggunakan kaedah kualitatif dalam mengkaji konsep, kualiti, ciri-ciri serta elemen reka bentuk '*robustness*' bagi pembaharuan pusat bandar. Kajian ini menumpukan kepada kajian literatur dalam aspek '*responsive environment*', ruang bandar, pembangunan pusat bandar, pembaharuan bandar, serta reka bentuk bandar untuk mengenal pasti, memahami dan mengintegrasikan konsep, kualiti dan ciri-ciri '*robustness*' untuk pembaharuan bandar. Hasil daripada penemuan kajian ini, '*robustness*' adalah sama maksud dengan kualiti adaptasi dan fleksibiliti yang mempunyai keupayaan untuk menampung pelbagai kegunaan. Ruang bandar yang mempunyai kualiti tersebut adalah '*active edges*', '*multi-use buildings*', dan '*multi-functional spaces*'. Untuk mencapai kualiti '*robustness*', reka bentuk fizikal adalah diperlukan; '*space edges*', bangunan dan ruang luaran. Akan tetapi, kualiti ini hanya boleh dikecapi setelah perhubungan, kepelbagaian, dan '*legibility*' dicapai. Untuk membentuk persekitaran ini, kualiti '*robustness*' perlu diwujudkan bersama dengan kualiti ruang bandar yang lain seperti selamat, selesa, '*inclusive*', menarik, tahan lama dan pengurusan yang baik. Dengan ini, aplikasi '*robustness*' dalam pembaharuan bandar ini mampu meningkatkan tahap '*liveability*' dan kemampanan. Berdasarkan pemahaman di atas, suatu rangka kerja telah diformulasikan bagi menilai ruang bandar di Johor Bahru. Hasilnya, ruang bandar di Johor Bahru adalah tidak jelas, kekurangan kepelbagaian aktiviti manusia serta kemudahan, ruang pejalan kaki yang tidak selesa, dan '*inactive frontage*'. Oleh itu, pihak berkuasa tempatan dan wilayah boleh merujuk kepada reka bentuk fizikal '*robustness*' dalam kajian ini bagi menyediakan cadangan mereka.

ABSTRACT

Johor Bahru city centre, the capital of the Johor State and heart of Iskandar Malaysia is a significant social-cultural and economic entity of the region, has apparently lost its functional significance and vitality. One can trace that a main reason related to the lack of urban vitality maybe due to a lack in diversity of land uses and activities in the city centre, which is an issue of robustness missing in the public realm. Therefore, this research is to examine the robustness in the public realm and explores on how robust places can be designed for revitalising Johor Bahru city centre into a more livable and sustainable city centre. In other words: What is the missing of robustness in Johor Bahru city centre? And what are the physical attributes of urban form that is capable of promoting robustness? As the topic of robustness in public realm topic are not been much research into since 1985 where it was first introduced. This research adopted the qualitative method of inquiry into the concept, quality, characteristics and design elements of robustness for city centre regeneration and setting up the framework for robustness evaluation in Johor Bahru city centre. This has been accomplished largely through literature review and content analysis of current texts related to responsive environments, public space public life, city centre development, urban regeneration, and sustainable urban design to identify, understand and synthesise the concept, quality and characteristic of robustness to city centre regeneration. In the process, it is found that; robustness is similar to the quality of adaptability and flexibility which accommodate the changing for great diversity of users. Places with such quality are often characterised by active edges, multi-use buildings and multi-functional spaces. To attain above, it can be achieve on the physical design of space edges, individual buildings and outdoor spaces. Yet, robustness would only apply when connectivity, variety and legibility achieved. And to shape robust environment, it works together with other good qualities of public realm; safe, comfort, inclusive, attractive, durable and good management. Therefore, application of robustness in urban regeneration promotes liveability and sustainability. From the above understanding, frameworks for robustness evaluation have been formulated, which in turn for identifying robustness missing in Johor Bahru city centre. It is concluded that public spaces of Johor Bahru in general are; much leftover and undefined, lack of diverse human activities, with discomfort sidewalk, inactive frontages and inadequate of public amenities. In this context, Johor Bahru City Council and Iskandar Regional Development Authority can refer to the physical design of robustness in this research that provides recommendations to address the issues above.