

PROPOSED LANDSCAPE REDEVELOPMENT FOR SAFARI RESORT

PERAK RIVER, KUALA KANGSAR, PERAK.

For

DESIGN THESIS (ALA 4200)

Prepared By:

MOHD. REZA MOHD. AFLA (9837739)

DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

KULLIYAH OF ARCHITECTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

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This is to clarify that the thesis has been read and verified by:

- i. Encik Mohd. Ramzi Bin Mohd. Hussain (Studio Master)
- ii. Puan Amira Bt. Mohyuddin (Studio Master)
- iii. Encik Ruzaimi Bin Mat Rani (Supervisor)

This thesis is submitted in partial fulfilment of the Bachelor (Hons.) Landscape Architecture, Kulliyah of Architecture and Environmental Design, International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM).

I declare that this thesis is my original work and any reference from other writer has been acknowledged in this research.

.....
(Supervisor)

.....
(Coordinator / Studio Master)

.....
Mohd. Reza Bin Mohd. Afla
(9837739)

29th September 2003

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT***In the name of Allah the most gracious and most merciful***

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May Allah repay all your deeds, thank you very much.

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ABSTRACT

This design thesis is about redevelopment of resort which is located nearby the Perak River in historical town of Kuala Kangsar. The main reason for this redevelopment is because the site does possess a lot of potential which can be turn out into as a unique feature of the resort. Beside that in the coming future this resort will have another additional block of large hostel since they have received so many visitors in the last few years especially during the holiday season. The kind of redevelopment that will be taking place in the Safari Resort will taking a good consideration on the aspect of local culture of Kuala Kangsar as a Royal Town. The Perak River is also such a momentous part of this resort because it has been there for so many decades and able to stand the test of time. The Perak River has played a really great role and function in the daily life of local people since the early existence of this town. It also involved in shaping and changes the historical course of the Kuala Kangsar. Hopefully in the end, this resort will manage to cater the needs of all visitors from different places and background with certain type of atmosphere and experience.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

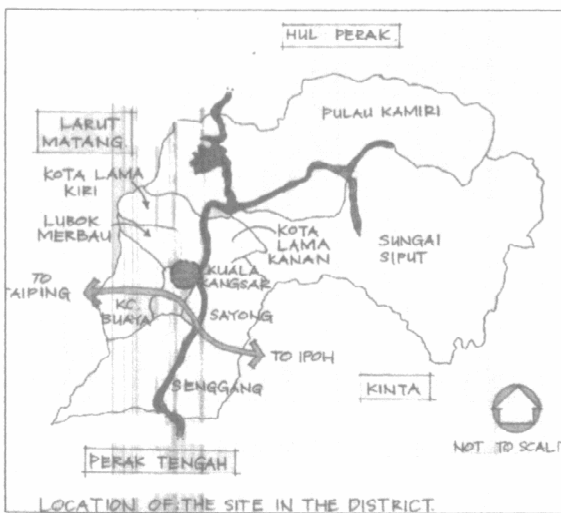
1.1 SITE LOCATION



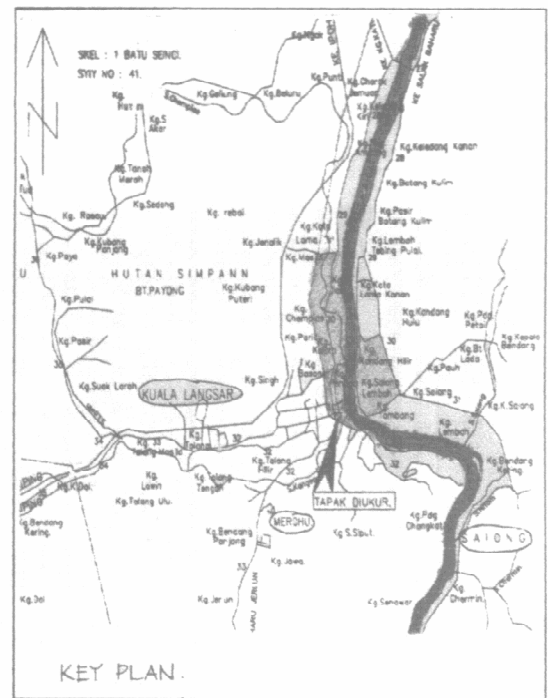
Map 1.0 Map of Malaysia



Map 1.1 Map of Perak



Map 1.2 Map of Kuala Kangsar



Map 1.3 Key Plan of Kuala Kangsar

Kuala Kangsar is a small charming town located just 50 kilometres to the north of Ipoh, the state capital of Perak. There are many historical sights to visit in Kuala Kangsar such as Iskandariah Palace, Istana Kenangan, Istana Hulu, the oldest rubber tree in Malaya, the prestigious Malay College, the Royal Museum, Ubudiah Mosque, the Keris Memorial, and Pavilion Tower Square.

There is also labu sayong earthenware jug making and the Perak River safari, where the activity of canoeing was being held occasionally.

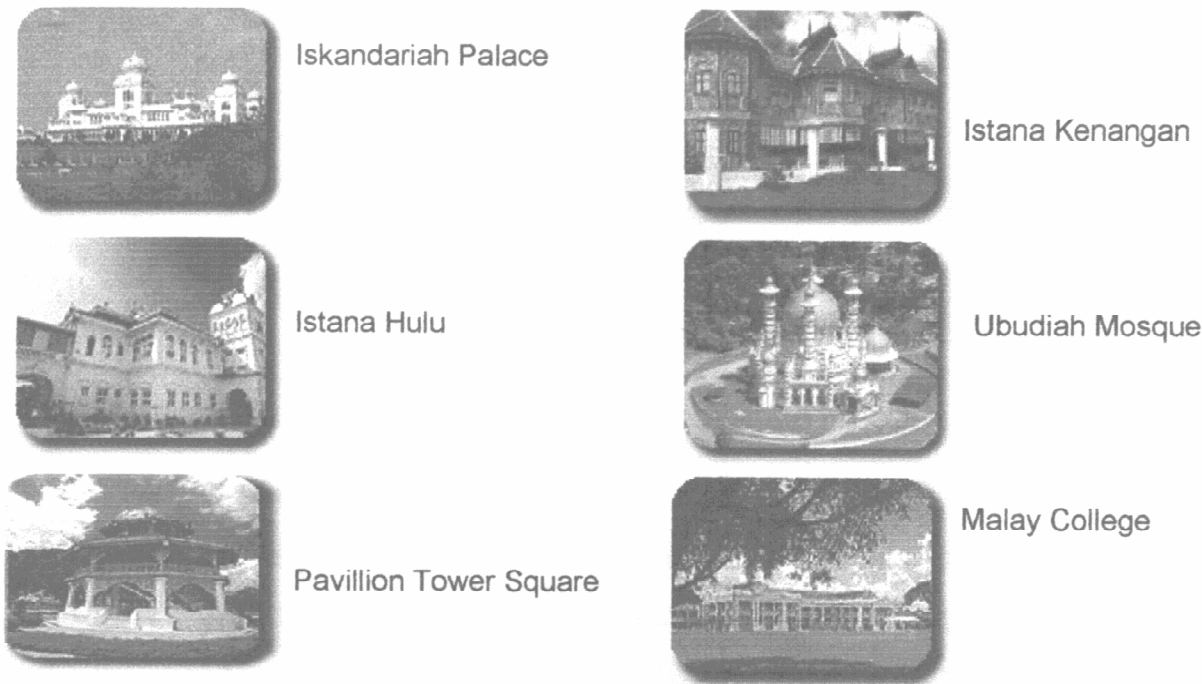


Figure 1.0 Some of the interesting place that can be found in Kuala Kangsar.

1.2 THE SITE

Safari resort is a riverfront located close to the river of Perak. This resort was set in a serene and very peaceful environment but there is nothing much can be offered around the resort itself.

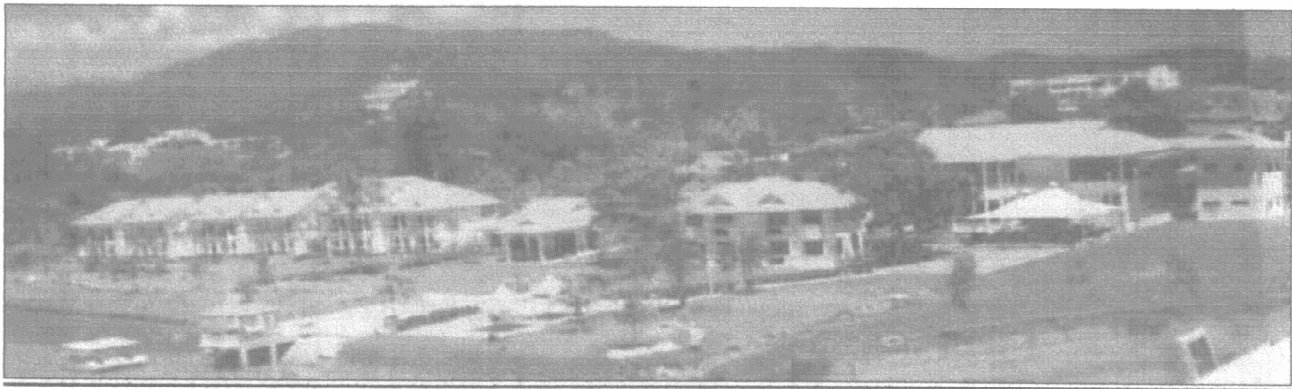


Figure 1.1 Aerial view of Safari Resort from Sultan Abdul Jalil Bridge.

The Safari Resort Perak River was officially opened in April 2000 and since that it has been put under the management of Kuala Kangsar District Council (MDKK). The resort business hour is open for 24 hours. The area cover is approximately 5.01 acres (2.0275 hectares). There are nine workers for the house keeping works and five workers to do job on the landscape maintenance.

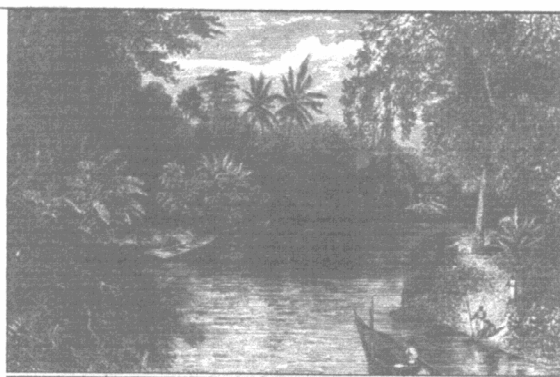


Figure 1.2 Drawing of a stream in Perak -1836.

1.2.1 Safari Perak River

The name of "Safari" is associated with the activity of canoeing that take place along the Perak River. This activity is held occasionally and the objective is to offer people with the great experience by cruising along the River Perak and in the same time they will also have an opportunity to learn more about river ecology and living lifestyle of river farers.

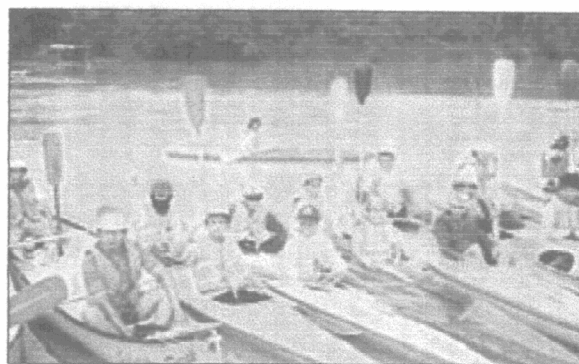


Figure 1.3 Cruising along the Perak River through the activity of canoeing.

In the coming future this name will be left out completely by the resort, this is due there are only slight respond and participation from the visitors on any water activities that has been programme by the resort management.

The activity of canoeing is still been carry on until this day especially during the celebration of Sultan Perak birthday. Commonly there are also racing competition being held between schools or government sectors around Kuala Kangsar, this is one of the ways on how the local people show their admiration and appreciation to the River of Perak.

CHAPTER 2: BRIEF

2.1 PROJECT BRIEF

The project is about redesign the landscape for the safari resort where it will be able to offer the visitors with a wide range of leisure facilities and recreational activities. The design should be able to reminiscent and capture the essence of local culture and local heritage.

2.2 GOAL

Redesign a resort with definite image by setting out appropriate landscape elements and at the same time providing space for visitors' enjoyment in order to create a lively atmosphere.

2.3 OBJECTIVES

- To introduce the resort with tropical plantings and unique amenities for the hotels' visitors and users.
- To improve the physical fabric of resort in term of its visual quality.
- To highlight the rich historical and varied cultural heritage, (this can be achieved when the design combines between local materials and local traditional details, with native plant materials).
- To introduce the resort with attractive landscape elements (e.g. fountains, pond filled with fish, swimming pools, slippery slides, water falls, water cascades, poolside restaurant and landscape lighting).

2.4 ISSUES

- The Safari Resort is lack in term of creating leisure environment.
- The resort design fails to captures the essence of local history and local culture.

2.5 BACKGROUND OF THE SITE

2.5.1 Kuala Kangsar Planning Draft Structure

2.5.1.1 Vision of Development

The development of Kuala Kangsar will be done accordingly to the vision that has already been set up and it will become as main guide until the year of 2020. The vision is *to develop Kuala Kangsar region as a new area for development for sector of institutional, tourism and industrialization and maintain its image as a Royal District and Knowledge.*

2.5.1.2 Economic Source

There are two main economic source for the town of Kuala Kangsar which are tourism and historical. These two aspects are having a correlated.

(a) Tourism

Tourism is one of the important economic sources for State of Perak. It is consider being potentially to be developed upon in local and international level. Even though Kuala Kangsar is having a variety source of tourism that is highly potential but it can not give a full contribution to the economic development of its district. This is because of:-

- i) Tourism and its source have only been done as an 'ad-hoc' activity, beside it is lack in term of publicity and always been left out from the tourist package destination that is normally set up by the travelling agency.
- ii) Most of the tourism spot is not reachable by any mean of transportation and it does not having a good facilities which really minimum and limited.
- iii) There is a few number of facilities for the accommodation that is available around and thus it will affect the duration time of the vacation in here which is also will directly limit the sum of expenditure spend by the tourists in this district.

(b) Historical and Cultural

Among of the great tourism sources are relying on the historical and cultural aspect of Kuala Kangsar. Kuala Kangsar is well known as Royal Town where it is the official resident for Sultan of Perak and this unique town restore so many remnants of the past and historical building like Ubudiah Mosque, Royal Museum, Iskandariah Palace and Malay College Kuala Kangsar which can be explore and discover by the tourist.

Traditional product from hand-made activity such as famous Sayong clay pot can be develop alongside other traditional product as well to be trade in the local and international market.

(c) Eco-Tourism

Perak government has purposely introduced a project named SUPERI (Sungai Perak Indah) in order to boost the tourism industry in Kuala Kangsar alone. Under this project activity of preservation and beautification along side the Perak River has been completed to encourage the eco-tourism activity. The Safari Sungai Perak will take place from Intan Suraya Camp, Sauk to the Historical Complex at Pasir Salak in Kampong Gajah.

(d) Agro Tourism

Since Kuala Kangsar has been bestowed with fertile soil especially along the river side, this opportunity can be used as a chance to develop on the agro-tourism sector. The river side is suitable to be planted with local fruit trees such as mangostene and durian.

2.5.1.3 Socio-Economy

(a) Citizen

In general the district of Kuala Kangsar is facing with the problem of people migrating to the other place. The number of citizen has been drastically decrease about 11,056 between 1980 to 1991 and the main factor for this to be happened is because there is less working opportunity in Kuala Kangsar alone compare to other places like in Selangor and Penang. This migration especially by the working class people in a long period of time will give a certain effect to the number of overall citizen of Kuala Kangsar.

(b) Town Centre (Image and function of the Town Centre)

The development of town centre will be done base upon the apparent image and function of the town itself. According to Structure Planning of Kuala Kangsar under sub-topic 4.2.3.2., page number 4-14;

GT7 Town Centre of Kuala Kangsar will be developed base on the image of local historical and cultural.

This is to ensure that there will be varieties in the development aspect of the town centre and thus capable to become as tourist attraction. The image of Kuala Kangsar as a Royal District needs to be stress out by exploiting aggressively and properly the interesting places; historical building and royal ceremony that is related with Kingdom of Sultan Perak to be turn out as a tourist main attraction.

(c) Tourist Accommodation

The development concept on integrated holiday destination will provide more activities and many tourist facilities for the different class of people. According to Structure Planning of Kuala Kangsar under sub-topic 4.3.2.5., page number 4-29;

PL5 Every tourist destination will be provided with the accommodation facilities.

Step that is suggested are:-

- i) All developer is encouraged to build on the holiday complex that incorporated with accommodation and recreational facilities.

- ii) Accommodation facilities for different class of people will be provided according to their income.
- iii) Annual programme such as recreational activities, sports, and cultural festival will be conduct at tourist main destination during the holiday season to prolong their period of stay in.

2.6 THE USERS

Occasionally this resort serves the parents who in need of place to stay and spend the school holiday together along side their children. They are coming from a very far away just to visit their children who are studying in Kuala Kangsar like Malay College Kuala Kangsar (MCKK) or nearby district like Sekolah Menengah Teknik at Padang Rengas, MRSM Chenderoh and MRSM Grik.

This resort is also constantly being used by the outsider from government department, school or individual to conduct on function like meeting, seminar talk, training course on nursing or cooking, motivation programme for student and even a wedding ceremony. The tourists from other countries such as Britain and Australia would normally like to have boat ride along the Perak River.

2.7 THE CLIENT

The resort administration really wanted to promote this place to the people and previously they have put many efforts on promoting by urging abroad and local tourist agency to set the Safari Resort as one of the interesting place to be visited in their travelling package. Once the film crew of 'Lang Buana' has made a film shot in here and in return, as the sign of gratefulness they are agree to promote this place by mentioning Safari Resort as one of the filming location.

Beside that, the resort is also intended to improve the resort exterior appearance by setting up to have a riverfront structure so that visitor will be able to gazing upon the Perak River more dramatically especially during nigh time.

CHAPTER 3: SITE INVENTORY/ANALYSIS/ SYNTHESIS



3.1 INTRODUCTION

In order to get a full understanding about the natural character of the Safari Resort, the site analysis which has already been conducted will covers eleven features of the site.

1. Site context
2. Circulation
3. Space Zoning
4. Landform & Topography
5. Hydrology
6. Microclimate
7. Solid & Void
8. Views & Sensory
9. Vegetation
10. Facilities
11. Human & Cultural

Study from this entire feature will help to ease up during the design process phase. Other than that it will also give a room to the designer to come out with a better result on the project design.

3.2 SITE CONTEXT

3.2.1 Inventory on the Site Context

Basically there are green areas (riverine species) on the other side of the river which become as a natural back drop to the resort environment while Sultan Abdul Jalil Bridge is consider to be as the important link between town of Kuala Kangsar and Sayong. The appearance of the bridge can obviously be seen from any angle of this resort. Even though there is a public soccer field and town park on the southern part of this resort but there are no certain link and access provided from this resort.

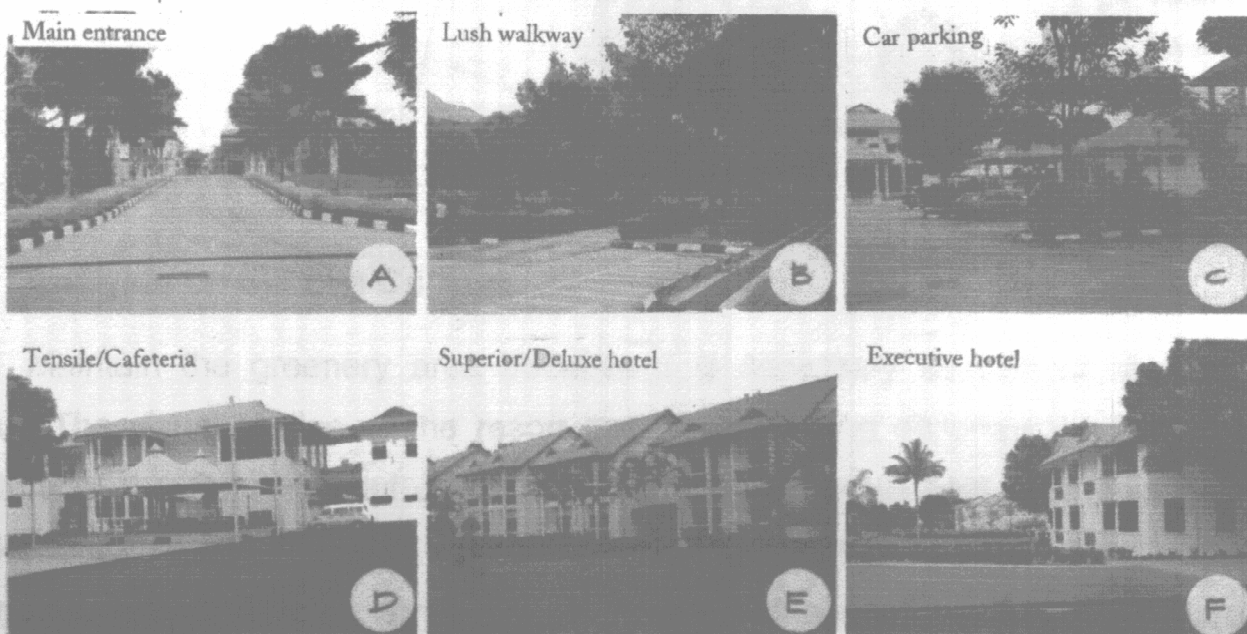
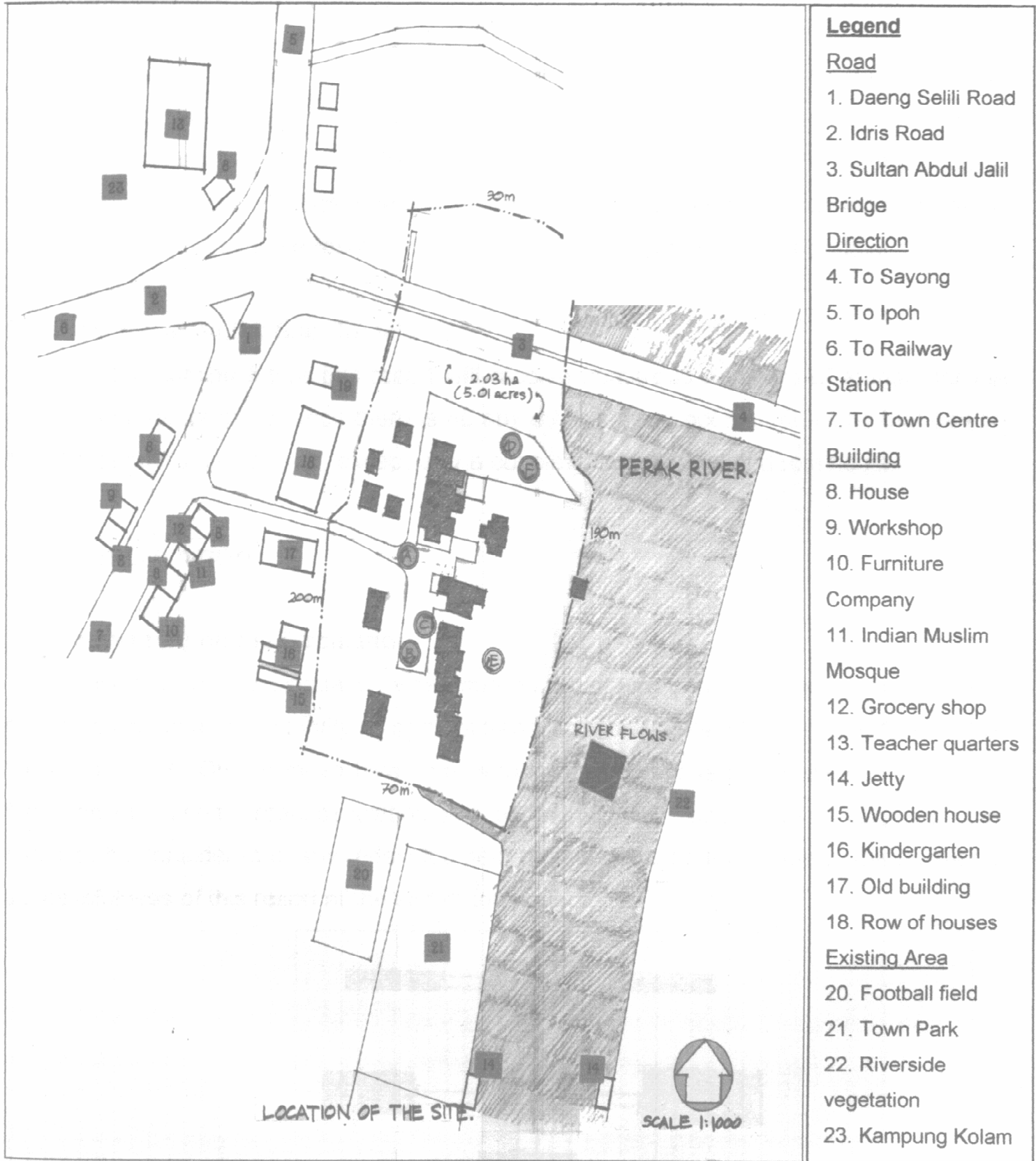


Figure 3.0 Different views on Safari Resort Perak River.



Map 3.0 Site Location

3.2.2 Analysis on the Site Context

Maintain the greenery area because it is necessary as part of resort's natural setting. The visual skyline of the resort has already being disturbed by the dominance structure of the Sultan Abdul Jalil Bridge, as for the soccer field and town park; there should be somehow an access from the resort as a shortcut for the resort's visitors. The distance to this both places is not that far away, each journey is taken about three to five minutes respectively and it is a very logic short walk after all.

3.2.3 Synthesis on the Site Context

As the end result, the green area needs to be preserved while the bridge should have been somehow being incorporated during the design process. One of the solutions is by creating a visual link between the resort and the bridge itself. In the case of proposing an access to the outside place, resort management need to take control on every entrance as measure of safety to the resort's visitors from the stranger or outsider people.

3.2.4 Potential on the Site Context

In the coming future this resort will receive numerous numbers of tourists for the accommodation purpose since there is no any other staying accommodations that can be found around Kuala Kangsar, except only a couple of small motel and rest house.

3.3 CIRCULATION

3.3.1 Inventory on the Circulation

Inventory on the circulation was done on the macro and micro level. The objective on the macro level is to identify all sorts of transportation facilities that being offered within the town centre. On the micro level, the circulation encompass of two elements which is focus on the resort's road circulation and pedestrian way. Circulation is very important factor to be considered in any redevelopment project because it will help to determine the successfulness of this resort at the end of the project.

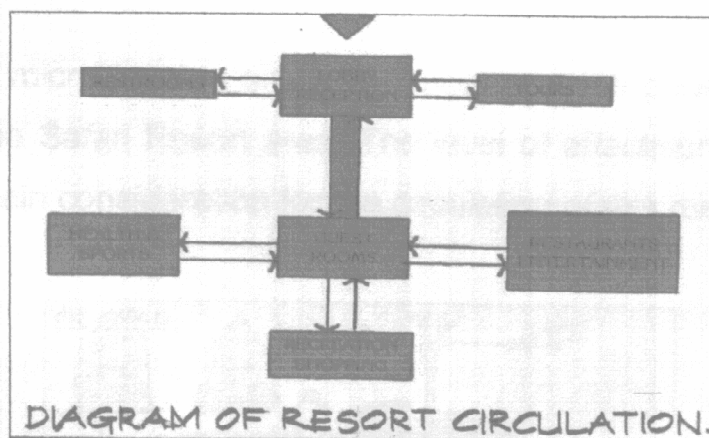


Figure 3.1 Diagram on resort circulation

3.3.2 Macro Level

Observation on the macro level is to make sure that the town is having a good accessibility by any mean of transportation. Obviously this site is link by the North-South Highway and beside that Kuala Kangsar is also provided with a railway station, a bus station, and a taxi stand (Please refer to map 3.1 on page 15).