

**PROPOSED LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT FOR ARMANEE CONDOMINIUM,
DAMANSARA DAMAI, PETALING JAYA, SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN**

By:

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**This thesis is submitted in partial fulfillment of the Bachelor of Landscape
Architecture**

**DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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FOR ARMANE CONDOMINIUM
DAMANSARA DAMAI RETAINING WALL
RELANDSCAPED FOR DARUL HUSNA

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TESTIMONIAL

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

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This thesis is submitted in partial fulfillment of the Bachelor (Hons) Landscape Architecture, KAED, 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.

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19th September 2003

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ABSTRACT

"Condominiums" are actually not a new concept of living in Malaysia. Since last few years, Malaysia has gone through rapid development. As a developing country, modernization and urbanization have affected Malaysian lifestyle. The changes of lifestyles also increased the demand for condominiums. The context of this thesis is actually concerns about the landscape area, as a meeting place for the residents, in relation to enhance the interaction between residents with nature (human-plant relationship) and with other people (community socializing). The main issue is that most of the residents at condominiums work in urban center. Their works become less connected with nature and they did not have much time to interact with other residents. Therefore, this thesis is meant to explore and design a concept of 'home environment'. In addition, it is to make sure the concept of 'HOME' can be used in order to relax people's mind, body and emotions especially after work. Last but not least, this thesis will also to design the 'outdoor living space', as another place where people can gather, relax and interact each other.

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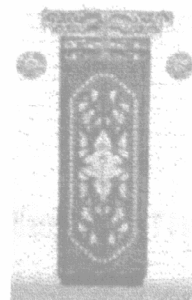
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CHAPTER I.
INTRODUCTION



ARMANEE

1.1. INTRODUCTION

"The site surrounding a residence is a most important environment. It serves numerous utilitarian, aesthetic and psychological functions for the residents as well as for visitors, neighbours, and passersby. As a setting for the house, the residential site is the context or surroundings within which one views the architecture of the house. As the location for outdoor living, the residential site can be thought of as an exterior extensions of the functions which occur inside the home" (Booth, N.K. and Hiss, J.E., 1999).

In addition, residential areas should be a place, which can be a refuge from the routine and pressure of daily events. As today, there are many people living in cities or towns, in which they work in the urban areas and facing many stresses every day.

As what we can see nowadays, condominium living is a recent phenomenon and increasingly developed in Malaysia because of some factors such as excellent security, enough facilities, privacy and high-quality environment. The rapid development in many sectors in Malaysia also affected Malaysian lifestyle. As a developing country, modernization and rapid development had changed the lifestyles as well as increased the demand for condominium.

But, in condominiums, the landscape areas are quite limited. The residents also lives in their own house unit among many others dwelling units. They share common facilities but sometimes they still did not have much time

to interact with the other residents in the same community. Therefore, this chapter is to discuss on the problem statement (issues), as well as to present the goal and objectives of the design.

1.2. GOAL

Designing landscape for Armanee Condominium, which promote total sense of 'healthy living environment', as well as encourages interaction with nature.

1.3. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this study are as follows:

- i. To introduce **nature** as main landscape elements.
- ii. To design a **community spaces** for the purpose of **socialization**.
- iii. To incorporate landscape and architectural spaces in order to promote "home" concept, and
- iv. To study residents **needs and demands** of the current situation.

1.4. PROBLEMS STATEMENT/ ISSUES

In condominiums, ones lives in a unit among many others dwelling units, sharing common facilities like game courts, swimming pool, playground and other facilities. There are also not much landscape area to be explored and enjoyed by the residents. Therefore, the purpose of this project is to explore yet to response to the issues in condominium living, which are:

- a. Most residents work in urban centre.
- b. Less interactions with nature and other residents.

As the residents of the condomoniums are more urbanized, and as work become less connected with nature and land, many more people are seeking to regain a connection with nature. The reasons are many; especially to release themselves from the stresses of the city life and heavy workload. Therefore, these urban people need to do something, which will help them to escape from the city, to be close to nature and to relax and enjoy themselves.

For that reason, "home" has to foster "well-being", which is the happiness, comfort, security, safety, health, welfare, etc. to reduce their stresses. The concept of "HOME" itself actually covered both; indoor and outdoor spaces. For indoor, people may have their own choice and interest to relax themselves. But, for the outdoor spaces, the landscape need to play the role as a 'MEETING PLACE', in which it can encourage interactions with nature as well as interactions with other residents.

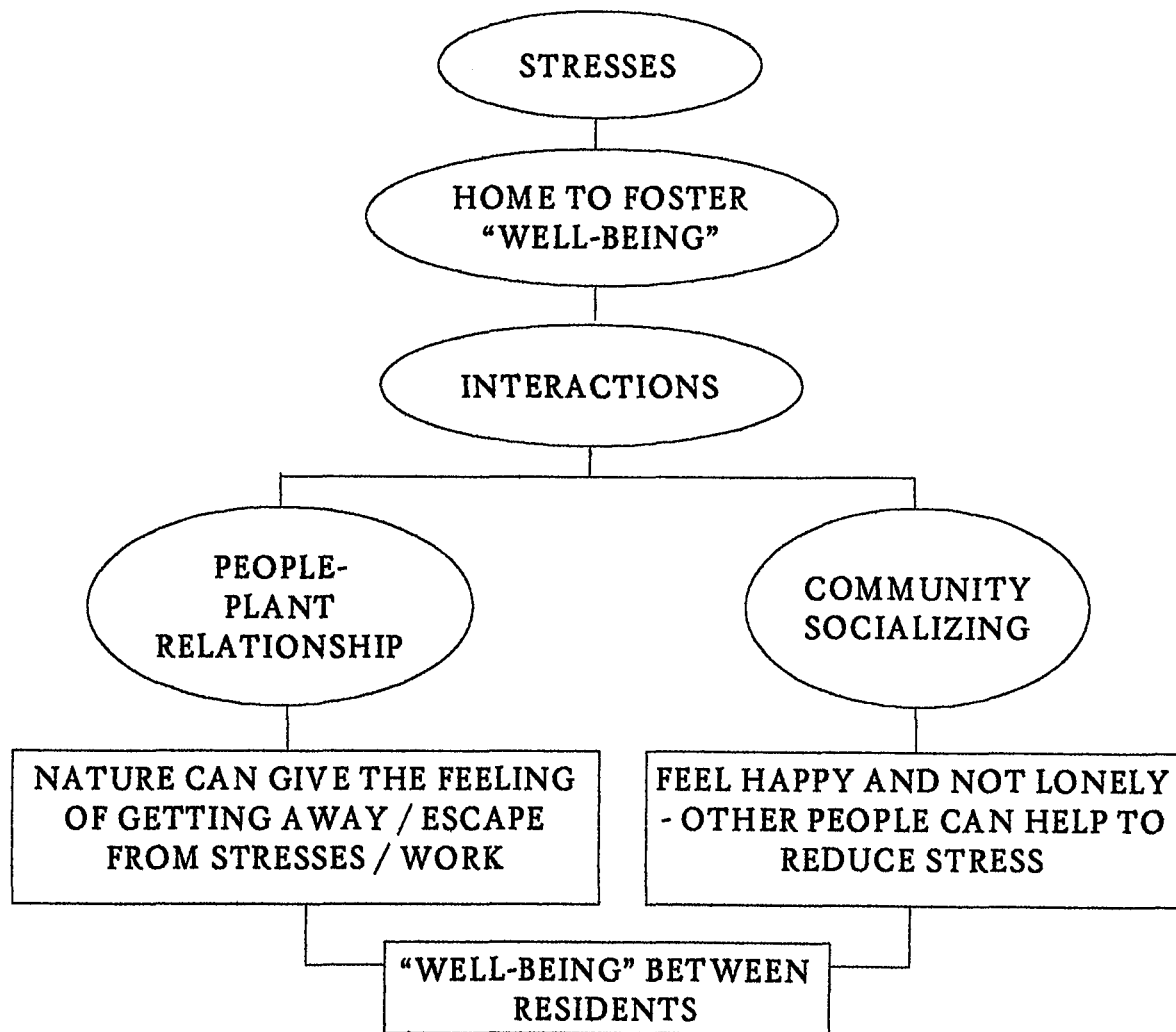
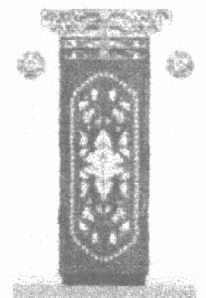


Figure 1.1: Problems statement

CHAPTER 2:
LITERATURE REVIEW



ARMANI

2.1. INTRODUCTION

Malaysia can be considered as one of Asia's leading country, with variety numbers of cultures, the rapid growth of its cities and town, and the development of its community. This comes with the new ideas of promoting and improving the standard of living for community comfort. One of the popular demands on housing is condominium living.

As what we can see nowadays, trend of condominium development are increasingly popular in Malaysia. Due to the modernization of lifestyle, economic and current development, condominium livings are now can be seen as a recent phenomenon in Malaysia.

Demands on condominium are actually increased due to the needs and desires to have a comfortable, privacy, safe and good environment in residential areas. The demands for condominium are also increased due to the location and situation of the area, especially at the urban areas. Other than that, the needs towards 'simple but complete' lifestyle are also one of the factors for the urban people to live in condominium.

2.2. HISTORY OF CONDOMINIUM DEVELOPMENT

"Condominiums" are actually not a new concept. The form of ownership that is utilized for the condominiums was used by the Roman as early as the 6th century B.C. in Europe, the concept has been available for many centuries. The concept has existed in South American countries for at least two centuries. This concept were then spread to France (early 15th century), before broaden out to Spain, Germany, Italy, Belgium and other Southern American before the Industrial Revolution (Hubin, 1976).

In Malaysia, the concept of condominium has been introduced by 1970's. The first condominium's project is Desa Kudalari in Kuala Lumpur. Than it becomes more popular and developed increasingly around Kuala Lumpur area. Nowadays, condominium development becomes one of the main issues in land and property development industries.

2.3. DEFINITION AND TYPES OF CONDOMINIUM

Condominium, as in the Oxford dictionary, means a block of flats, each of which is owned by the person who lives in it. Condominium is an English words, which comes from the combination of Latin words, 'con' and 'dominion'. In Latin, the word "**Dominion**" means territory or authority to control, and "**con**" means one or more than one person. In the other hands, condominium is apparently a control or sharing estate custody that has been shared by more than one person. It is a way or method or sharing property in one estate property. Condominium is actually one of the luxury residential areas, which

was provided with many facilities for the convenience of the residents, such as swimming pool, tennis court, playground, safety and other aspects.

The concept of condominium has been used for luxurious and high-rise development. After few years, the concept of condominium then was used widely for recreational and commercial complex development. Generally, there are three major categories for the condominium concept implementation, which are:

a. Condominium Housing

Condominium housing is the most popular concept. Usually, condominium housing are located in the urban areas, but it is also can be found in suburban areas. The price and status of the condominium will be influenced by some factors such as the location, architectural aspects, recreational facilities and other factors.

b. Resort Condominium

The development of resort condominium are actually means and has been introduces for the purpose of recreations. Normally, it is located near to the seashore, natural or artificial lake, at an island or any other area for tourism purposes.

c. Complex Condominium

This types of condominium has been introduced for the commercial offices and business center.

2.4. THE NEEDS OF LANDSCAPE AREA FOR CONDOMINIUMS

Nature is an agent of healing. It helps restore a sense of well-being, reduces stress, fosters dignity, and offers a sense of hope and promise by virtue of its power to produce memorable experiences, powerful and positive feelings, and a sense of connectedness to the world around us (Kamp, D. , 1996). But then, in condominium areas, the spaces for landscape are quite limited. Therefore, not many activities can be done outside.

As in condominiums, most of the residents work at the urban areas. Therefore, they did not have much time to interact with 'nature' and other residents. Everyday, they are facing much situation, which bring stresses, such as heavy workload at office, traffic jammed, noise and air pollution at urban center and some other situations.

As those people did not have much time to go out for holidays, their stresses should be able to be released while they are at home. For that reason, they need to have a good environment at home (inside and outside home area), in order to release or reduce their stresses. The arrangement of furniture and the interior colours inside the house, as well as good composition of landscape outside the home also can affects people mood. As Kamp, D. (1996) wrote; gardens encourage such discovery by helping to restore a sense of self, reconnecting with life's processes through the thread of care that brings about growth.

Nature can give big impacts towards our feelings. Nature also can attract and fascinates us. It offers never-ending and ever changing variety and complexity of growth, colours and many other factors. For condominium spaces, the landscape especially plants should be able to posses interactive qualities with people. According to Haas, K.L. and McCartney, R. (1996), there are three (3) primary interactive qualities stimulate of plants that inspire involvement of people can be categorized as:

a) Sensory

Plants that can help to stimulate one or more of the five senses are the plants with the sensory qualities. Normally, the quality of sight can be achieved by the colours of the flowers, especially flowers with bold and hot colours. This is because; it can draw people's attention and catching people's eyes more.

The quality of smell can be achieved by the addition of fragrance plants. Fragrance plants can stimulate people's mind in a unique way. It can activate people's memories towards some particular people, events, places or feelings.

Plants also can create the other qualities, which are touch, taste and sound. All of those sensory qualities that created by the plants is actually can help to reduce people's stresses. This is because, people will feel that they are more closed to nature. At the same

time they will unfortunately forget about their stresses for a while, or may be forget it all.

b) Functional

Plants with functional qualities are generally the plants, which have multiple uses. For example, herbal plants that can help in rehabilitation activities and plants that can be used for cooking exercises.

c) Responsive relationship

The relationship between people and plants will be interactive if there is an interaction between them. Plants also can grow quickly if they are given a good care by people. People also can improve their own self-esteem and confidence, by interacting with plants.

Actually, the right selection of and arrangement of landscape and its components can help to increase the appearance of the condominium status itself. But basically, the most essential part is creating the opportunities, which is the opportunities for each individual to make their own relationship with their surrounding. They can choose their own way and on their own methods, according to their own interest and needs.

Those opportunities are actually to make sure that they can reduce their stresses by their own. They also can create their own way for social