

GERBANG KOLEK: FASHIONING AN ICONIC UMK GATEWAY

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Highlights: Gateways identify entrance points to the key destinations as well as its area which provide a unique sense of identity, transition, and anticipation. Gateways may have a variety of configurations and scales. From regional to community to the neighborhood scale, gateways can be created through a variety of styles, including architectural, monumental, or landscape. This study aims to propose an Iconic gateway for Universiti Malaysia Kelantan that represents the heritage element significantly of Kelantan cultural heritage. The architectural design concept which is developed and applied into the design inspired by 'Perahu Kolek'. The innovation of Gerbang Kolek has potential to be a landmark as well as an iconic monument in Bachok.

Key words: *heritage, GERBANG KOLEK, Perahu Kolek, iconic, gateway, landmark*

Introduction

The name of GERBANG KOLEK is inspired by a small wooden boat which is called Perahu Kolek. Perahu Kolek is a traditional fishing boat used on the eastern coast of peninsular Malaysia, including Kelantan. The perahu is also known as a boat. The Malay community used it during the Holocene period when the rise of the sea level altered the Malay world and became islands and a peninsula. The perahu became a necessity, not only as a navigational vessel but served as a shelter during the journey. Thus, this conceptual idea is translated into the gateway as the 'perahu' itself is oftentimes used as a navigator and bridge for communities to engage and interact. This project is a design proposal for UMK to improvise and create a more effective and culturally inspired design integration into the University's vicinity. It is situated at the back entrance of the current UMK Gateway, in which UMK is the main potential client for this project. The general outlook and appearance of the design are inspired heavily by the 'Perahu Kolek' as it is one of the preserved and conserved heritage and traditional elements of the state of Kelantan. The design approach for this concept is to generally create a landmark and iconic structure that could best represent the University and the state of Kelantan itself. It is a representation symbolically of the journey of a student as well as a navigating medium through which the community is bridged to the University.

Design Development

'Gerbang Kolek' proposal offers a huge anthropomorphic sculptural volume with its head sitting on the edge of the entrance plaza and its body set back by the side. The design transforms a high elongated shape, as the monument, into the curvature and slanting shape of the functional part. The 'perahu' translation creates ample space between the curved spaces, and this space shapes the axis of movement under a huge vault. Taking account of the vacant surroundings and lack of horizon of the site, this design projects a contrast and vertically expansive landmark that is very iconic in its surrounding context. The monumental gate looks simple from the front and complex when viewed from the side. It induces tension inside, which helps the entrance be more inviting than the typical gateway designs usually used in University entrances. It has a slight angle to the ground to frame the sky and to create a better viewing angle. Dynamism and the sense of movement in the element are related to the activities of the entrance gateway motion. The design strategy was based on the use of dynamic forms such as organic design elements and families of curved forms that resemble the structure of the 'perahu Kolek' and the student's journey that is hypothetically being represented by the journey embarked by the 'perahu' itself.

This project aims:

1. To bridge the local community with the University;
2. To provide a significant landmark and iconic structure within the vicinity of the University
3. To provide easier access for the locals to access the University
4. To provide better safety measures as the current gateway is usually not in use and lacks proper maintenance.

The idea was started by brainstorming the most suitable heritage element of Kelantan that can be developed as an iconic gateway. The ideation was then improvised using sketches and 3D modelling to grasp the virtual views of the specific location of the proposed UMK Gateway. Finally, the design was finalised and named Gerbang Kolek.



Figure 1: Perahu Kolek as the inspired Kelantan heritage element for the UMK Gateway

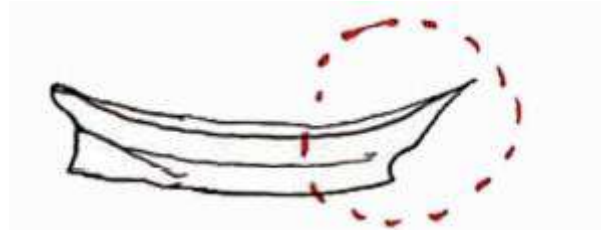


Figure 2: The selection of Perahu Kolek element for the Gerbang Kolek design development

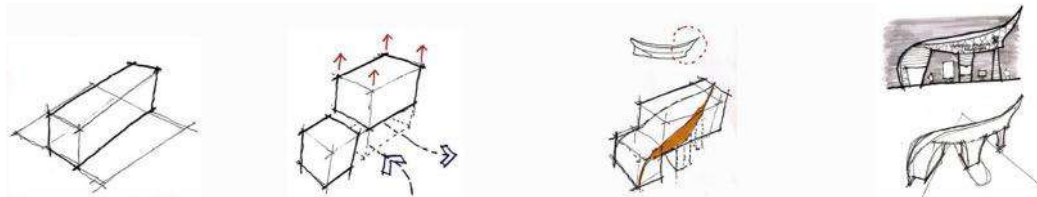


Figure 3: The design development for Gerbang Kolek

Background Of Innovation

This project was initiated to design an iconic gateway for UMK by enhancing the heritage characters to the design. The design incorporates the inspiration of Perahu Kolek with the integration of modern materials. Therefore, Gerbang Kolek became a significant monument that represents the local heritage adaptation of appreciation. The gateway focuses both on vehicular and pedestrian users. With the convenient pedestrian walkways, Gerbang Kolek also provides a conducive waiting area for visitors. The consideration of site opportunities and constraints contributes the various design solutions; for example, using shading devices to help the issue of excessive sunlight to reduce the high solar radiation intensity causing glare or overheating. At the same time, it serves as a comfortable refuge for the occupants near the gateway as a shelter and communal area for the students, staff and nearby community of the University.

Advantages Of Innovation

The idea of designing the UMK Gateway is based on several possibilities, such as the purpose of the selected entrance for this UMK Gateway usually used by the staff, students and visitors as the secondary access towards UMK. Therefore, it can be an iconic monument that represents UMK and the heritage of Kelantan as well. the design of Gerbang Kolek provides several advantages, namely:

1. Serves as a landmark for the local site context.
2. Serves as an iconic monument for UMK.
3. Represents the Kelantan heritage.
4. Represent a move in line with the future with its overall modern design overlook and material usage.
5. Provides a convenient pedestrian area.
6. Provides a shaded area from undesirable hot and rainy weather.
7. Provides a shaded area for vehicles, specifically motorcycles.
8. Provides a better security outlook around the site.