

'Bergendang'

and Its Spatial Use in

Traditional Sarawak Malay House

Bergendang is a traditional entertainment which was often held during social gatherings at home. Much has been written about the uniqueness of bergendang to the Sarawak Malay, but none discussed how the spaces inside the house accommodate bergendang's spatial use.

Yon Syafni will highlight the spatial usage of bergendang culture within the houses of the Sarawak Malay living in the riverine settlement of Sarawak River in Kuching prior to the 1960s. She will also share how sociocultural activities could be one of the reasons for the diversity in house form, especially in the roof height variation, which is a striking attribute of Sarawak Malay houses.



Yon Syafni is an architect by training. She graduated from The University of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia with a Master of Architecture, prior to joining IDC Architects in 2014. She is now a lecturer at the Faculty of Built Environment, UNIMAS.

Her father is a Sarawak Malay and her mother, a Selangor Malay. Growing up, she realizes distinct differences in the traditional house architecture of both Malay groups- yet, so little has been studied on the uniqueness of Sarawak Malay houses. This has since become her ongoing quest, and later, obsession.

She is currently pursuing her Doctor of Philosophy degree specializing in Vernacular Architecture, while being an SHS Executive Committee Member, Amanah Khairat Yayasan Bangsa Melayu Sarawak (AKYBMS) volunteer, and a mother to five children (with two sets of twins!).



15th April 2023, Saturday, 10am (UTC +8)
Main Auditorium, Borneo Cultures Museum
Free Admission

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