

ARCHITECTURE MALAYSIA

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**PAM AWARDS 2008**

PAM Awards for Colour on Building 5



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# Masjid Wan Alwi

**Architect** Design Network Architects Sdn Bhd

**Builder** Pembinaan Kuantiti Sdn Bhd

**Client** Ibraco Properties Sdn Bhd

## Project Description

This is a local mosque located in the heart of suburban Kuching. The land and the mosque is a donation in the form of a 'wakat' from the family that developed the suburb to the local Muslim community.

The 3-acre site is approached via a street lined with trees. The site shares one boundary with Sungai Tabuan. An existing surau lies on the south end of the site that is populated with mature trees.

As the Malay population migrates to the cities, many aspects of their traditional lifestyle is lost simply because there are no venues available for this type of communal interaction and activity. Therefore, it is appropriate for the mosque complex to have a hybrid of spaces designed to recapture this lifestyle found in the kampong and integrate this into the local urban fabric.

The solution is a programme where a mosque complex has a strong relationship to the urban surroundings with forecourts that serve dual purposes; one of which is to link the urban fabric, allowing people to use it for communal purposes and the other as a preparatory space before entering the realm of prayer.

There are four main site forces, which drove the initial formation of spaces and their relationships:

- The orientation of the building towards Mecca
- The relationship of the building with nature in the form of the trees in the court
- The relationship of the building with the river
- The street as the main means of access

The architecture of the mosque is predominantly adapted from local built forms. There are examples of earlier local mosques, which are built along these lines:

- The need to respond to a tropical climate using elements such as the steeply pitched roofs; deep shady overhangs and semi permeable walls.
- The construction is carried out by house builders or 'tukang' thus resulting in simple forms of construction put together with care and thought.

## Jury's Citation

*A commendable effort in reinterpreting a building of traditional typology yet maintaining the functional and cultural context.*



