

# The Uniqueness Of The Architectural Values Of Chinese Peranakan Traditional Houses In Kampung Tirok, Terengganu

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**Abstract:** *The Kampung Tirok, Terengganu Chinese Peranakan community architectural heritage displays a unique genre that conjoined to traditional Chinese Fujian with traditional Malay from Terengganu. Significantly, unlike in Penang and Malacca where the culture-bending Chinese Peranakan shophouses and other colonial elements took centre stage, Kampung Tirok traditional houses have allowed their architectural expressions to be enriched, even ruled, by the place and time in which they developed. These structures had modest space organization, simple ornament, local materials, and elements that facilitated ventilation and acclimatization. This research explores the specific architectural features that provides a tropical sustainable Chinese Peranakan house the sensitiveness to the social-cultural identity and the support for their historical development in the Kampung Tirok area. From a qualitative case study perspective, the study consisted of interviews with homeowners, architects and historians; a focus group survey with 30 local residents. The present study applies simple descriptive and thematic analyses to investigate key architectural characteristics and their role in cultural heritage and environmental sustainability. It is part of larger study which demonstrated these vernacular houses are cultural identity markers and also show the adaptability of these types on the tropical climate of Terengganu. Their arrangement fosters a mix of privacy and sociability and simple blend decorative elements co-mingle with Chinese and Malay symbols and motifs. This paper contributes to the discourse of heritage conservation by highlighting the importance of safeguarding the Chinese Peranakan architectural identity in Kampung Tirok. An interest in these unique architectural features might lead to new understandings of policy, architects and conservationists that can enhance the sustainability of positive preservation decisions. In addition, this rethinking also reinforces the development of the traditional thinking in the current architectural practices, it deduces the attention to the cultural context and heritage as keys for the future of architectural trends.*

**Keywords:** Chinese Peranakan Architecture, Traditional Houses, Construction Techniques, Kampung Tirok Terengganu, Malaysia

## 1. Introduction

Another characteristic of the Chinese Peranakan traditional houses in Kampung Tirok Terengganu is its architectural fusion of traditional Chinese Fujian and traditional Malay Terengganu, with its layout and design subjected to the influence. However, these heritage buildings have to cope up with a number of issues that are putting the heritage preservation in danger. One of the prevalent concerns which was raised, was that there was no formal research

conducted and very little academic research that characterizes architectural features of these houses which is why the history and design value is decreasing. With the growth in urbanization and modernization, there has also been rush to redevelop, and many old houses have been redesigned or destroyed for new buildings. Combine that with a sense of neglect and decline, in which existing buildings are let to fall into disrepair because there is too little financial funding or skilled craftsmen left to maintain the wood carvings and construction joinery systems that became increasingly elaborate down the centuries. These architectural treasures are also of little consequence to local communities and policymakers, or the result would be better conservation. Hence the purposes of this research are to provide a comprehensive study on the architectural characteristics of the Chinese Peranakan traditional houses in Kampung Tirok which are renowned with its beautiful spatial arrangement, simple decorative element and approach. It will also investigate the environmental and socio-cultural factors which have influenced their evolution, with emphasis on the manner in which vernacular architecture has adapted to the requirements of the tropical climate and facilitated social interaction. Last but not least, research pursues strategies of heritage conservation and sustainable adaptation, to be followed in the preservation, renovation, and adaption of these historical types to today's demand in buildings while respecting the integrity of architecture. Achieving these goals can greatly contribute to the sensitivity, recording and conservation of this special architecture.

## **2. Literature Review**

### **2.1 Architectural Identity of Traditional Houses**

Traditional houses are naturally result of the interaction between the architectural tradition and the native's tradition (Gangwar & Kaur, 2020). These homes are made of a certain identity rather than having come functionally and esthetically from cultures (Gangwar & Kaur, 2020). Traditional influence is observed in building massing, and ornamentation, and adaptation to the surrounding climate (Nguyen, 2013). The motifs decor is using the known cultural symbols. The placement of these structures also demonstrates this balance between open communal space for socialization and enclosed space for social customs (Ridzqo & Defaix, 2019).

### **2.2 Construction Materials and Techniques**

Traditional buildings construction are heavily based on local materials of surrounding environment emphasizing the sense of environmental protection and cultural connections (Afifi & Ismail, 2020). Wood, especially hardwoods, is the most common building material and is valued for its durability and resistance to tropical humidity despite it being relatively sturdy to work with. These houses feature have a feel with its construction joinery systems (*tanggam*) (Nguyen, 2013). Surrounding construction materials also make roofs good noise insulators, which is extra nice given the heat (Oo et al., 2003). By use of natural resources these houses reach sustainability through their functioning with the environment, as well as through an aesthetic strongly related to cultural traditions (Oo et al., 2003).

### **2.3 Socio-Cultural and Historical Significance**

Traditional houses not only address the environmental and functional requirement of the area in which they are found but also embody the continuity of the identity and the historical background of the community they originate from (Nguyen, 2013). These dwellings serve as historic relics of the past at the dawn of in the culture (Gangwar & Kaur, 2020). These three factors represent the combination of culture with the sum total of life of the entire society (Nguyen, 2013). These styles and more have been influenced over time by trade, colonial expansion and fluctuating economic fortunes. The homes, are in fact cultural markers that keep

alive old ways of making, living, worshipping and governing within their walls. They're not just beautiful, they serve as a living history for what has come before while remaining at the heart of the changing community (Nguyen, 2013).

## **2.4 Heritage Conservation and Sustainable Architecture**

Traditional houses are significant in regional culture as well as in the historical continuity (Shabani et al., 2020). However, the high speed of urbanization, lack of undeveloped space as well as expansion of these core centers are damaging those buildings, and there is a pressing demand for their renovation (Rani et al., 2018). Preserving these homes as cultural artifacts necessitates a multifaceted approach that includes documentation but also renovation solutions. Another significant consideration would be how to consider these heritage buildings in the planning of new modern urban planning in order to achieve architectural values of the heritage building for urban planning of the future (Gu & Meng, 2021). Additionally, the green principles incorporated in these homes such as natural ventilation, lighting and use of ecological materials might even lend a helping hand to the future sustainable architecture models (Mohammadi et al., 2017). Lobbying for conservation regulations, for public education efforts and for financial funding assistance to heritage homeowners can preserve the architectural heritage of place for the long term (Mansor et al., 2018).

## **3. Methodology**

This research on the other hand use qualitative case study method to investigate the actual value of the design features, cultural value and the sustainability factors of the Chinese Peranakan traditional house that still dominant in Kampung Tirok, Terengganu.

Data information is gathered by means of in-depth interviews with three categories of informants namely homeowners, where first-hand and personal accounts of experiences, challenges encountered when maintaining the house and how the house adapted over time are sought, architects, who evaluate the architectural features in terms of the construct and aesthetics; and historians; who give the background of the cultural and historical trajectory of the transformation of Chinese Peranakan architecture in Terengganu. A focus group survey of 30 local residents is also held to gather community perceptions on the historical value, conservation difficulties and future of these historic houses.

Two main analytical visualizations were used, on the one hand, a simple descriptive analysis to recognize common signifiabile architectural aspects such as those concerning spatial order, image, material and iconographic language as well as on the other hand, a thematic analysis to organize emerging themes around issues of sustainability, cultural identity and spatial flexibility. This transdisciplinary perspective encourages a holistic understanding of how these indigenous houses have interacted with their natural and settlement contexts and offers insights for their conservation and harmonious integration into contemporary architecture.

## **4. Results**

### **4.1 Architectural Features**

The architectural elements results of the Chinese Peranakan traditional houses at Kampung Tirok, Terengganu can be observed as an integration between the traditional Chinese Fujian building elements combined with the traditional Malay Terengganu architectural motives, symbolizing the community for its hybrid cultural identity living here. Spatial the houses are directed at the spatial formation a communal living style and privatized living style with the

open space (open yard and open verandah), open-planned of *rumah ibu* (main house) are made up of interconnecting room sibilated by the structuring of rooms around a central hall, serving the nucleus of the family bedroom, worshiping area and the *ruang dapur* (kitchen). The ornamentation is plain carved in wood doors and windows (geometric patterns). The roof arrangement with *tunjuk langit* (roof finals) while the houses adjoined with *Chunlian* (Chinese spring couplets) at least auspicious and lucky exclusively also to defend. Construction techniques rely on timber joinery system *tanggam*, allowing ease of construction. Raised timber floors, steep gable roofs and wide verandas are both functional and aesthetic, designed to resist flooding but while still allowing natural air to flow through the building. These findings also shed light on the unique workmanship and design ideologies found in the architectural legacy of the Chinese Peranakan community of Kampung Tirol. Table 1, shows the architectural features Chinese Peranakan traditional houses held in Kampung Tirol, Terengganu, complemented with descriptions and benefits.

**Table 1: Summary of Architectural Aspects with Benefits**

No.	Aspects	Description	Benefits	Respondent feedback
1.	Hybrid cultural configuration	A fusion of traditional Chinese Fujian architectural influences and traditional Malay Terengganu architectural forms, reflecting the hybrid culture of the community.	Preserves cultural heritage and identity while integrating practical elements from both traditions.	30 (100%) respondents agreed that the hybrid architectural style is unique and should be preserved.
2.	Spatial configuration	Designed for both communal and private living; includes open yard, <i>serambi</i> (open verandah), open-plan <i>rumah ibu</i> (main house) with interconnecting rooms, a central hall, worshiping area, and a separate <i>ruang dapur</i> (kitchen).	Enhances both social interaction and privacy, ensuring functionality for multi-generational households.	28 (93.33%) respondents appreciated the balance between communal and private spaces.
3.	Decorative elements	Simple carved decorations on timber doors and windows with geometric patterns. Roof finals ( <i>tunjuk langit</i> ) are distinctive, and <i>Chunlian</i> (Chinese spring couplets) are added for protection and good fortune.	Adds aesthetic value and cultural symbolism while also serving protective and spiritual functions.	29 (96.67%) respondents found the decorative elements to be an important part of cultural identity.
4.	Construction techniques	Traditional wood joinery techniques <i>tanggam</i> minimize the use of nails, ensuring flexibility and durability. Raised timber floors above ground, steep gable	Increases the structural integrity and longevity of the house while maintaining traditional craftsmanship.	30 (100%) respondents believed traditional construction techniques contribute to the durability of the houses.

		roofs, and long verandas provide both structural strength and aesthetic appeal.		
5.	Sustainability features	Elevated floors help with flood resistance, long verandas and open spaces allow air circulation, and natural materials enhance longevity and adaptability to the environment.	Improves climate adaptability, reduces reliance on artificial cooling, and ensures durability in a tropical setting.	30 (100%) respondents acknowledged the sustainability features as effective in adapting to climate conditions.

## 4.2 Sustainability Strategies

The results of these Chinese Peranakan traditional houses in Kampung Tirok Terengganu are not only environmentally friendly, but they are also naturally cool due to a passive cooling system that minimizes the need for artificial ventilation. The houses were built with air pathways for natural ventilation like large size windows, open courtyards and raised floors to provide steady airflow and a balanced heat distribution. The shade of reused palm frond roofs (now replaced with zinc and cement board tiles) reflected inside the house keeps it cool. Indigenous material such as timber wood (*Cengal*, *Merbau* and *Meranti*) was used to reinforce structures to promote the strength and integrity of the houses while minimizing its effect on the environment. Shady porches and large overhangs are also incorporated for taking advantage of shade with minimal direct sun at the warmest hours of the year. In doing so sustainable design emphasizes the need to remind the new generations just how traditional building methods align directly with modern environmental beliefs. Table 2, shows the environmental aspects of Chinese Peranakan traditional houses in Kampung Tirok and descriptions with the respect to the benefits.

**Table 2: Summary of Sustainability Aspects**

No.	Aspects	Description	Benefits	Respondent feedback
1.	Passive cooling systems	Minimizes reliance on artificial ventilation through design features that enhance airflow and natural cooling.	Reduces energy consumption and promotes sustainable living by utilizing natural cooling strategies.	30 (100%) respondents agreed that passive cooling systems effectively reduce the need for artificial ventilation.
2.	Natural ventilation pathways	Large windows, open courtyards, and elevated flooring facilitate continuous airflow and effective heat dissipation.	Improves indoor air quality and comfort, reducing the need for mechanical ventilation systems.	28 (93.33%) respondents acknowledged the benefits of natural ventilation pathways for maintaining indoor comfort.
3.	Roof insulation	Traditional thatched palm leaf roofs have been replaced with zinc and cement board tiles, improving durability while maintaining insulation against heat.	Enhances thermal insulation, lowering indoor temperatures and ensuring long-term resilience to climate conditions.	29 (96.67%) respondents believed that roof insulation improvements contribute to temperature regulation.
4.	Use of locally sourced materials	Hardwood materials such as <i>Cengal</i> , <i>Merbau</i> , and <i>Meranti</i>	Supports environmental conservation by using renewable and locally	30 (100%) respondents supported the use of locally sourced

		enhance structural durability while reducing environmental impact.	available materials, reducing carbon footprint.	materials for sustainability and durability.
5.	Shading and sunlight control	Verandas and overhangs are strategically placed to provide shade, reducing direct sunlight penetration and maintaining indoor comfort.	Prevents overheating, contributes to energy efficiency, and improves the overall livability of the house.	30 (100%) respondents recognized the effectiveness of verandas and shading in minimizing heat exposure.

### 4.3 Cultural Reflections

The results of ornamentation and spatial organization of these houses are an amalgamation of elements of traditional Chinese Fujian and traditional Malay Terengganu cultures. The clustering of these houses are of a traditional Chinese style yard house concept of houses that are commonly known as kampung house in Malay, and has an open space model that served both as area dedicated for family and social activities. To develop an architectonic idiom of rich visual density and cultural layering by a symbolic use of calligraphic writing. Inside the house, alters where families worship their ancestors demonstrate a dedication to religious practices, while the separation of space into male area (the open veranda) and female area (the kitchen) spaces indicates the influence of the Malay traditions placing an importance on privacy. And they are the evidence of the philosophy of being adaptable originated from traditions of cultivating a diverse taste on Chinese families among local communities, to the articulations and combinations of social exposure on both stakeholders, and to the environmental response in a poly-ethnic society context such as Chinese Peranakan architecture. Table 3, shows the cultural integration elements of Chinese Peranakan traditional houses in Kampung Tirok with the descriptions and benefits.

**Table 3: Summary of Cultural Integration Aspects**

No.	Aspects	Description	Benefits	Respondent feedback
1.	Integration of traditional Chinese Fujian and traditional Malay Terengganu influences	A blend of traditional Chinese Fujian and traditional Malay Terengganu architectural elements, reflecting cultural hybridity in design.	Preserves the unique identity of the Chinese Peranakan community while adapting to the local environment.	30 (100%) respondents agreed that the integration of Chinese and Malay influences creates a unique architectural identity.
2.	Spatial organization	Layout follows the traditional Chinese open yard concept, adapted to the Malay kampung house style, promoting communal living and social interactions.	Enhances social interaction and fosters strong family bonds while maintaining cultural traditions.	29 (96.67%) respondents appreciated the role of open spaces in fostering social interaction.
3.	Symbolic ornamentation	Use of simple calligraphic inscriptions and modest carvings to create a visually and culturally layered architectural expression.	Adds aesthetic and symbolic value to the home, reinforcing cultural heritage and artistic craftsmanship.	28 (93.33%) respondents found symbolic ornamentation to be a vital element of cultural expression.

4.	Ancestral and spiritual elements	Placement of ancestral altars within the home as a sign of reverence, reinforcing spiritual beliefs and family traditions.	Strengthens the spiritual and familial connections within the household, preserving ancestral traditions.	30 (100%) respondents acknowledged the significance of ancestral altars in maintaining spiritual traditions.
5.	Gender-based space segmentation	Male-dominated spaces (open veranda) and female spaces (kitchen) are segmented to maintain privacy and adhere to cultural norms.	Ensures privacy and maintains social etiquette while respecting traditional gender roles in household activities.	30 (100%) respondents recognized the importance of gender-based space segmentation in upholding cultural norms.

#### 4.4 Community Perceptions

Result from the focus group interview indicated that the local residents have a strong feeling of affinity towards the traditional Chinese Peranakan houses in Kampung Tirok, Terengganu as they consider it as a part of their identity. The majority of respondents acknowledged the historical and aesthetic value of the buildings, stating that they had a uniqueness and variety that was distinct from the larger and more prevalent Peranakan shophouses found in Penang and Malacca. Yet, concerns were raised over present conservation challenges such as maintenance investment, craftsman skills scarcity and pressures from urbanization, presented as major threats. Some of the respondents appeared engaged by the subject of adaptive reuse approaches and the feasibility of these heritage homes as cultural centers and gallery or local education spaces to maintain them. The results suggest the need for greater awareness, supportive policies, and financial incentives to preserve these architectural jewels for generations. Table 4, shows the community perceptions of Chinese Peranakan traditional houses in Kampung Tirok in terms of description and the benefits.

**Table 4: Summary of Community Perceptions**

No.	Aspects	Description	Benefits	Respondent feedback
1.	Cultural identity and attachment	Local residents view these houses as integral to their cultural identity, emphasizing their sentimental and heritage value.	Strengthens community pride and cultural continuity, preserving intangible heritage.	30 (100%) respondents agreed that these houses are an essential part of their cultural identity.
2.	Historical and aesthetic value	The uniqueness of Kampung Tirok Chinese Peranakan houses is recognized, particularly in contrast to Peranakan shophouses in Penang and Malacca.	Encourages appreciation of unique architectural heritage, boosting tourism and local economy.	29 (96.67%) respondents acknowledged the historical and aesthetic value of these homes.
3.	Preservation challenges	Challenges include high maintenance costs, lack of skilled craftsmen for restoration, and the impact of urbanization.	Identifies critical threats to heritage conservation, leading to better-informed restoration strategies.	28 (93.33%) respondents expressed concerns over the challenges of preservation, including maintenance and urbanization.
4.	Adaptive reuse strategies	Residents suggest repurposing these homes into cultural centres, gallery, or	Provides alternative solutions for preserving heritage while allowing	30 (100%) respondents supported adaptive reuse strategies for heritage conservation.

		educational spaces to ensure long-term sustainability.	functional adaptation for modern use.	
5.	Need for policy support and incentives	The findings highlight the need for government policies, financial incentives, and awareness campaigns to promote conservation efforts.	Encourages proactive heritage policies, financial aid, and public-private collaborations to sustain preservation efforts.	30 (100%) respondents emphasized the importance of policy support and financial incentives for preservation efforts.

## 5. Discussion and Conclusion

### 5.1 Cultural and Environmental Adaptation

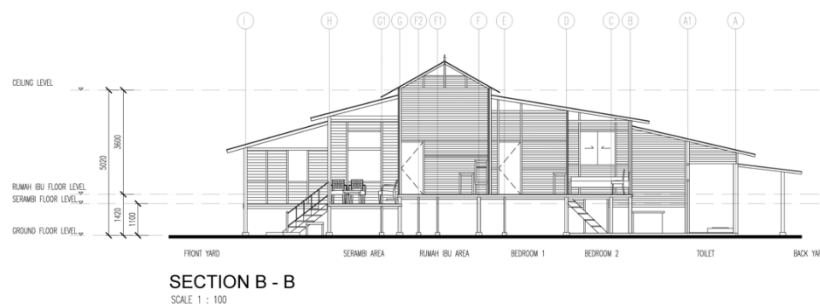
The findings at Kampung Tirok, Terengganu Chinese Peranakan architecture traditional houses reflects the integration of the cultural and environmental needs of the community, drawing upon traditional Chinese Fujian and traditional Malay Terengganu styles. The spatial disposition of the open yards houses, open verandah, the main house, the kitchen, the interconnected rooms and the raised timber floor, all are linked with the values of social living appreciated by the two cultures. Available modest decorative motifs such as small Chinese calligraphy and Malay carved geometric forms became more and more a hybrid representation. But beyond, the architecture of these homes is testament to profound insights into the climatic character of the place, and passive colligating open verandas, elevated floors and deep eaves, which are the architectural means to provide thermal comfort in the tropics. This architectural matrimony proves that indigenous wisdom and cultural pride can be intertwined to create practical, eco-sensitive homes while simultaneously tapping in to today's contemporary mindset. Figure 1, shows The Chinese Peranakan traditional houses at Kampung Tirok. Figure 2, shows the elements of the Chinese Peranakan traditional houses in details. Figure 3, shows the measured drawings section of the Chinese peranakan traditional houses.



**Figure 1: Architectural Insights Perspective of the Chinese Peranakan Traditional Houses Exterior View.**  
Source: Author



**Figure 2: Architectural Insights View Interior of The Chinese Peranakan Traditional Houses.**  
Left: *Ruang Dapur* (Kitchen Area). Right: *Rumah Ibu* (Main House Area).  
Source: Author



**Figure 3: Architectural Insights View Measured Drawings Sections of the Chinese Peranakan Traditional Houses.**  
Source: Author

## 5.2 The Relevance of Traditional Architecture in Sustainable Design

In terms of sustainability compliant design findings, Chinese Peranakan traditional houses in Kampung Tirok have significant architectural principles. They are made using locally sourced hardwood (*Cengal*, *Merbau*, and *Meranti*) from the surrounding area and are hardwearing and environmentally friendly. The use of natural cooling means, such as cross-ventilation, raised floors and deep overhangs, reduces the need for mechanical air conditioning and more energy efficient designs. In addition, designing multi-use spaces within the built environment has implications for family constructs and social requirements. These design stimuli can offer valuable lessons and guidance to contemporary architectural practice especially in the ideas of sustainability in urban contexts, and may be relevant for the urban developments in other developing places facing similar climatic and urbanization challenges. This is how modern architects draw inspiration from these traditional architectural techniques by adopting and repurposing them for a more environmental building and maintaining the eco-friendly values

of the place, by not only setting them within the historical context of this place and respecting its culture, but also employing these classical elements to maintain the sustainability of this unique place. Figure 4, shows an illustration contemporary house design with traditional timber architecture that features *tanggam* joinery and sustainable openings for airflow and light.



**Figure 4: Renderings Of a Modern House Design Using Traditional Timber Architecture Which Includes *Tanggam* Joinery and Sustainable Openings for Both Light and Air.**  
Source: Author

### 5.3 Challenges in Preservation and Sustainable Conservation Strategies

The findings of Chinese Peranakan's traditional houses in Kampung Tirok are threatened today by urbanization, the craft of construction and the expensive maintenance of such a house, even if the take of one of them on the surroundings is visually and culturally obvious. The rush to modernization has also prevented the preservation of some heritage homes by way of tearing them down or making large renovations and the absence of native artisans who possess wood joinery and reconstruction knowledge has been a big factor why many traditional structures have had difficulties in maintaining its authenticity. The cost also deters homeowners from making the appropriate restoration. None of these houses are currently open to the public, but there is need of sustainable conservation strategies that can provide a way forward to leaving this beautiful heritage homes to come for others to also admire. Adaptive reuse opportunities, including transforming these houses into cultural centers, heritage-focused accommodation or community venues, may also provide an economic incentive for keeping them relevant in the 21st century. Government policies and financial incentives such as tax relief, grants, and heritage listing can help preservation efforts. Aside from advising local projects in preservation techniques, such community-level awareness efforts contribute to greater local appreciation and ownership of the architectural treasures in their respective localities.

### 5.5 Conclusion

This study finds that the authenticity of the Kampung Tirok Chinese Peranakan traditional houses architecture has values beyond a place to live, beyond just a building that has value as socio-cultural and sustainability design application. In the study, the spatial differentiation, ornamentation, and material use are all examined of these elements in order to further understand how traditional design elements have been changed to suit the alike, yet different, features of local environmental and cultural conditions. But the results of the study show that these are not merely architectural relics of a past architectural era, they are an example of living history of architecture, and this can be useful for future conservation and urban planning. The

conservation of these structures is important in the conservation of the history of the people, developing and maintaining a cultural identity and also to ensure sustainable architectural activities. This serves to underline the significance of preserving Chinese Peranakan architecture and the need to take a conservation approach to setting such homes in their cultural heritage context and meeting contemporary urban demands.

## **6. Research Contribution**

The contributions of the research are wide-reaching, both in community, academia, policy, and architecture. Academically, it contributes to the knowledge about the awareness on the marginalized traditional architectural heritage of the Chinese Peranakan in Kampung Tirok Terengganu which there is a lack of attempt has been done to understand the distinct understanding of the influence of both traditional Chinese Fujian and traditional Malay Terengganu; including spatial organization, building technology and ornamentation. There are some instructive lessons that architects can draw from this research regarding the integration of traditional architectural localism and contemporary sustainable architecture such as passive cooling systems, locally-authored building materials, modular space typology. These principles further give the practitioners, architects and designers of the indigenous, a deeper insight into the local techniques based on contemporary view to the environmental considerations. It also offers policy recommendations for achieving conservation and adaptive reuse, which can be adopted and adapted in the policy spheres of another parties involved in these activities, such as legislators, heritage bodies and urban planning institutions. And saving these dwellings, but also keeping them involved in their contemporary urban surrounds, may take some creative strategies, such as economic incentives, government grants and adaptive re-uses plans. Lastly, this study brings life to the awareness of the local community with respect to the necessity in conserving Chinese Peranakan heritage. The research aims to create an understanding of, and a respect for, the cultural and historical significance of these homes among existing communities, encouraging a feeling of greater responsibility towards the future safeguarding of these architectural treasures, local heritage and history.

## **7. Practical Contributions**

The practical implications of this study can benefit different users including architects, urban planners, conservationists and local communities. The study serves as a reference work to shape conservation effort and restoration project planning, ensuring precise architectural particulars and sustainable conservation measures upon which to guide Kampung Tirok, Chinese Peranakan traditional houses. This confirms the basic references to adaptive reuse in the fields of urban planning and heritage tourism which imply that a similar culture tradition houses can be converted in a cultural center, gallery, or educational space conditioned of course by their economic, sustainability and historical value. For building designers, this study presents time tested ecological interior architectural design strategies such as passive cooling, raised flooring, and natural ventilation that are uniform with the trending of modern green building systems. It also recommends that policy makers should look into incentives for the retention of heritage homes, such as zoning and community or owner-led preservation programs. Finally, it also raises public awareness and support that work to protect and to promote a sense of ownership and a recognition of the pride of built heritage.

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