

Preface

This book is a compilation of research works by my student Seyed Mohammad Mousavi, conducted during his study of Masters in Urban design in Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM). Built Environment is one big consumer of energy and environmental sustainability is one of its biggest concerns. Housing, being the biggest bulk of built environment, demands significant attention. In tropical countries, the concerns are even more as people need to protect spaces from excessive sunlight and heat. There are different methods to achieve environmental sustainability through active and passive design elements, and they can be implemented through user-controlled or designer-controlled phases. However, if sustainability needs to be achieved in bigger scale, the bigger group of people's affordability needs to be considered. The middle income group is invariably the biggest group, and their affordability is being more and more sympathized these days. This book tried to shift the attention a little bit to the issue of affordability which has the power to diminish all the good works done regarding sustainability. It selected the hot-humid context of Malaysia and checked the affordability of the middle income group of people, who are the majority of consumers in the housing market.