















into another room may have also compromised the advantage of utilising it as a heat buffer. Nonetheless, despite the results from the internal temperature and relative humidity recordings showing that most of the conditions were outside the prescribed thermal comfort range, occupants still managed to feel comfortable with the minimal help of fans/air-conditioning units as a result of using existing passive controls.

With self-building skills becoming less popular in Kampong Ayer, the locals are seeking expertise elsewhere. Not only is this more expensive, but it also means that the 'sense of community' that is tied to self-help/self-build is disappearing. This can have a dramatic effect on the sustainability of the water village, as a huge part of their resilience in the past centuries has been through community cooperation. As most of the houses in Kampong Ayer today are originally self-built, its design intent stems from the house owners own desires and necessities. The contents of the houses and the modifications made to the houses over time are clear indications of the constantly changing life stages of each family. The flexibility of the houses in allowing the house extensions and renovations to suit the families' changing structure has allowed them to remain comfortable in the same houses for many generations (Friedman, 2011).

As has been suggested in numerous other studies, the design of climate responsive houses is often ignored when developing mass-housing proposals and may be dominated by cost, availability of land and population as is common in the aforementioned high-rise typologies. Also, it has been noted that sociocultural issues tend to influence the occupancy and morphology of their houses. It has been suggested that more suitable approach would be to examine both technical and socio-cultural factors side by side so as to derive an approach that would lead to the future development and maintenance of sustainable communities in Brunei Darussalam effectively.

## CONCLUSION

Communities usually survive most environmental challenges they face; as long as the adaptability period and means to adapt is within its capability and that there is cooperation amongst the community members to achieve a joint goal to survive. However, some challenges that prove to go beyond the community's resilience can result in a defeated end. The people living in Kampong Ayer appear to want to continue living there as they have adapted well despite the challenges imposed on the village, such as scarcity of local materials, economics or employment. Their undeniably strong sense of independence and individuality, apparent in the make up of their houses, shows confidence in their spirit to be sustainable. However, the extent of their resilience is yet to be determined. There are certainly other factors influencing the sustainability of such a community, some of these may be future threats. On that note, this paper opens doors to investigate what the limits are to this community's sustainability in this context.

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