

## Design Technology of Mosque Mimbar Kedah Darul Aman

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### ABSTRACT

*Mosque is important as a sacred place for muslim especially to perform solat. This research covered an aspect of design mimbar which are important element and only having in mosque. Besides, Islam religious itself show that Al-Quran and sunnah Prophet Muhammad is a guideline for muslim. But in term of the mimbar design, is it has its own guideline for mimbar design? The research had been done to identify mosque mimbar typology and can be determining mosque mimbar follow syariat or not. The research completed by applying of quantitative study which is wide database needed to achieve best result. Mosque mimbar design without follow syariat will cause gratuity or pahala which promise by Allah s.w.t. The research has been done on the aspects such as shape, size, location, entrance direction, entrance width, material use, colour, step and decoration of the mosque mimbar by twenty case studies around Alor Setar, Kedah. The methodology of the project research is mix method by using observation to the mosque mimbar and communicating with authority person like Mufti Kedah State. As a conclusion, hopefully from this research can help designers and give information for people about mimbar design.*

**Keywords:** *Mimbar, syariat, calligraphy, step, colour.*

## INTRODUCTION

Every muslim know that mosque is place for them to pray and praise to Allah S.W.T. Mosque become important place for muslim together to do an activity such as learning centre, war strategy and so on. At the same time mosque is for muslim to learn about life in this world and after death (akhirat). Muslim also learns at mosque about Islamic law which is knowledge likes muamalah (business) matter, people relationship among muslim with muslim or muslim with non-muslim. All the activities will do in mosque and mimbar is the one of the place to give all information related to Islam. So that, mimbar becomes an important place and role of muslim society to enhance 'Syiar Islam'. Our prophet Muhammad S.A.W (peace be upon him) build first mosque in Madinah after hijrah from Mekah to Madinah called Quba' Mosque in year 622 M or First Hijrah in Islamic calendar. Earlier than hijrah Madinah had known as Yathrib. The name was change to Madinah after Rasullullah and His follower hijrah or move from Mekah to Madinah. After that Rasullullah built market or bazaar to encourage muslim to be businessman. Bazaar was built to break monopoly of non Muslim business. Goods and prices can be controlled by Muslim as well. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) had an experience to do business with Siti Khatijah as His employer. Siti Khatijah become Prophet Muhammad wife after she likes his personal intergrity such as trusty, generous, helpful, kinds and all good manners (nilai-nilai murni). Rasululllah built a centre for muslim for their religious worship (ibadah). Mosques become a placed to perform religious obligations (beribadat). Hadith say: The person who performs ablution at his house, come to Masjid Quba' and perform prayer will get the reward of umrah. One of the channels to give information, knowledge to the muslim by using khutbah. Khutbah is a speech by khatib who is presenter to the makmum (audience). Khutbah is given by khatib standing on mimbar. Mimbar should be used in Jumaat pray (Friday pray), Aidilfitri pray and Aidiladha pray in Islam religious. Mimbar become an element or component in mosque building. At the same time another component or element like main prayer hall, dome, ablution, iwan (gateway),

and ablution pool (kolah), minaret (tower), dikka and kursi. Every single component play it own rule and still used in the mosque design. The design somehow can be different depends on requirement by owner but the elements should be there. Architecture styles are differing among mosque in China compare to architecture styles in Malaysia, India or Indonesia, but the main element like *mimbar* is using to build a mosque. Most of the people just know that mimbar is place to give khutbah. This research explores another dimension perception mimbar in Islam religious. Mimbar must be respected as important and holy place. It rules as a place to give sermons or khutbah, advice muslim about which wrong or right in islam religious. Rasulullah endorsed important of mimbar in hadith. In hadith show the important to say in a good phase or word on the mimbar. An evident due to this matter refer to hadith from Prophet Muhammad. “Dari Jabir bin Abdullah Al-Anshari, sesungguhnya Rasulullah S.A.W. bersabda: Barangsiapa yang bersumpah di atas mimbarku seraya berdusta, maka sama halnya dia mempersilari pantatnya (punggunya) pada neraka”(Imam Malik dari Adib Bisri Mustofa). From the hadith above, stated that Rasulullah S.A.W. remind his followers to use mimbar give right thing in Islam which mean don't lie on the mimbar. Mimbar is not a place for cheating people and make people more confuse in Islamic matters. Once somebody lying on the mimbar, it presents himself into the hell. In other perspective, mimbar also have decoration itself. In Islam there are a lot of art like khat, painting, timber or rock carvings, woven fabric, carpet, porcelain, or pottery, language, poem and so on. In the khat art divided into the various types like nasakh, thuluth, kufi, raqa'ah, diwani, farisi, raihani and maghribi. Decorative details at mimbar usually have an art like timber carving using nature motif like flora. It must be follows as syariah (syariah) or the muslim code of religious law.



Source: Utusan Malaysia (2002)

Figure 1: Prophet Muhammad mosque mimbar design

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### Location and Shape of the Mosque Mimbar

Location of the mosque mimbar is important. Mufti of Kedah State; Sohibus Samahah Dato' Paduka Syeikh Muhamad Baderudin Bin Hj Ahmad (2011), who is giving his views on this project research said that mimbar is located at right side of imam and have space between and front wall at least can be passing through a goat. Most of the space design by designer using rectangle shape. It's influenced by the furniture available in the market which is ready made in rectangle shape. It applies to interior design of office room, classroom and so on. Usually circle shape need come with custom made design furniture to suit with the room shape. If rectangle shape furniture used in a circle room shape, that space will not be utilised or full used. The negative space will happen which is the space not fully used. Mufti of Kedah State (2011) said there is no specific rule on shape aspect. There is no boundary for designers to design mimbar shape. Usually mimbar tend use basic geometry shape like circle, rectangle. Prophet Muhammad house is using rectangular shape and Nabawi Mosque also using rectangular shape for it building.

## **Size, Entrance Direction and Entrance Width of Mosque Mimbar**

In term of size of mimbar, there is no boundary to design size of mimbar. Mimbar size should be not wasted design. For example, mimbar is catcher for one person at one time, so it must be design with the size of one person. At the same time mimbar design size must be proportionate to mosque itself. One of the roles of mimbar to have visual contact between khatib who gave khutbah and jemaah or follower (listeners).

## **Stair/Step of Mosque Mimbar And Uniform Building By Law 1984**

Staircase or step is one of the building elements. Usually every two storeys building will have staircase. For mosque element also have step for the building. It consist step at mosque mimbar and so on. Step at the mosque mimbar is design to allow khatib or Imam goes to the top of mimbar. But the number of step is depending on mosque design itself. Utusan Malaysia (2002) wrote that mosque mimbar of Prophet Muhammad s.a.w having only three steps. Mufti of Kedah State (2011), who is giving his views on this research project responded that Rasulullah s.a.w mimbar having three steps. By providing step for mimbar make higher and easy for jemaah (followers or listeners) to have visual contact and can hear khatib giving khutbah. It also endorse by Mufti of Kedah State where the mimbar is higher contribute 'hikmah' (kebaikan) to jemaah to see and hear imam or khatib reading khutbah with clearer. Prophet Muhammad s.a.w mimbar have three steps. It is showing the mimbar used for His mimbar is using odd number. Odd number consist the number of 3, 5, 7, 9 and so on. Different to odd number, normal number derive by 2, 4, 6, 8 and so on. At the same time, the location of the step can be at the front, side or at the back. But Mufti of Kedah State (2011) said that the best location of step is at the front. Movement Imam through step to the top of mimbar is from front which is parallel to kiblah direction (Kaabah at Mecca). It is because to make easy for jemaah (audience) to see directly the movement of the khatib or imam go to the top of mimbar. Referring to Uniform Building by Law 1984 (2010), there is no specific law or requirement due to the mosque mimbar. But mosque mimbar consist of element like staircase, handrail, and head room, width of way or circulation and so on. The mosque mimbar step is design for khatib or imam movement into mimbar top platform. Uniform Building by Law 1984 (2010) stated that in clause 106 (1) in any staircase, the rise of any staircase shall be not more than 180 millimetres and the tread shall not less than 255 millimetres and the dimensions of the rise and the tread of the staircase so chosen shall be uniform and consistent thought out.

## **Colour of the Mosque Mimbar**

Harold Linton (1999) wrote that colour is an immensely evocative medium, possessing inherent power to provoke immediate and marked reaction in the viewer. Angela Wright (1995, published by Kyle Cathie, Ltd; London) had advised that; argues that there are patterns which can be calculated so that, given a correct amount of information, the 'correct' colour combination can be achieved in a scientific manner. Human have five senses including eye for see, skin for touch, nose for smell and ear for hear or for listen. Sense is important to give impact or impression to response with environment. Its happen to achieve quality of life and for better living. Every sense plays itself role due to its function. For example is eye to see. How object can be seeing as full at 360 degree angle? The object has colour and an eye will see through visual of eye with enough light level imposed to the object. This visual contact within coloured object can be defining the colour used. On the night situation with light source from the moon cannot give better colour identification compare to day lighting from the sun. The light level at the day can be specifically identifying colour used at the object. Artificial lighting will be used at night to improve emphasis colour of the object. Colour used for the object will be effect for first impression. It will impact for visual impression. Visual impression impact can be involving positive and negative effect. It is depend on how people see and giving impression whether good impression showing positive effect and bad impression is other way around. Visual impression can be influence by an appropriateness of the colour used. It can be show from visual weight. The effect of the selecting colour will make visual appropriateness. Object with colour can be look whether light or weight (heavy). Colour selection used for object sometime can is from it material inherent. It's using an original colour of material to achieve visual appropriateness as well as it placing in the space.

For example, facing brick without plastering will get an effect of red colour which is natural colour. On other example is using timber as building material and used itself colour to emphasis it. This is usually happen to mimbar design by using natural colour of timber itself. Allah s.w.t said in Al-Quran about colour. It describing in several surah consists of surah number Al Kahfi(18;verses 31), Al Insaan(76; verses 21), Ar Rahman(55; verses 46, 64, 70, 76), Ali 'Imran(3; verses 106, 107), Ash Shaaffaat(37), Al Ghaasyiyah(88; verses 8 to 16), An Naba'(78; verses 21 to 25), Thaahaa(20; verses 102) and so on. Allah s.w.t said about white, black, blue, yellow and green. Green colour is referring to heaven (paradise) colour. It also reflected to a holy characteristic quality or attribute. Furthermore green colour is heaven colour referring to Al-Quran.

## **Decorative of the Mosque Mimbar**

Decorative is the way to increase beauty of the object like room, building, façade, and vehicle and so on. It is also influence to the mosque mimbar design. It can be decorative, decoration or treatment. Most of decoration to attract people eye to see something like picture frame, timber, carving and so on. Decorative can be in a form of colours, texture, plane, picture, size, shape form, material used and so on. At the same time decoration also can be using through referring to nature element and manmade element. Elements like flora and fauna will be referred to make decorative. It can show in the furniture design which is use flora and fauna elements. Mufti of Kedah State (2011) enlightened that there is no specific decorative for mosque mimbar but selection of decorative must be appropriate with the spirit of Islam religious itself. At the same time, any pattern can be accept except animal and human figure carving because it is not reflecting to an appropriateness of mosque mimbar itself. Furthermore, mosque mimbar is not encouraged to have decorative to ensure that jemaah is not oblivious. Besides that, decorative can be derive in the form of art. Islam have an art consist of calligraphy art, carpet art, pottery art, language art, nasyid, poem, and so on. But in the case of mosque mimbar calligraphy, carving can be finding widely used. Varies of motifs can use for carving. Conversely, in Islam motifs usually apply in form of using geometry, calligraphy, flora and cosmos like star and crescent. However, calligraphy always applies to show in form of text. Besides that, decoration from geometry can be deriving from basic shape such as circle, rectangular and triangle. From this basic shape it also can develop to polygon like heptagon, hexagon, octagon, and so on. And then, motif can be creating from basic geometry shape to create pattern.

Pattern will exist because of the repetition of motif. It can be the same size and varies size. Furthermore pattern in a form of uniform of not uniform.

## **Material Used For Mosque Mimbar**

Another aspect covered is building material. Building material is material use for construction of house, office, tower, dump, and so on. It consists to build building element, building envelope, structure, substructure and superstructure. For example building elements like window, beam, door, column, wall and roof will material to construct it. At the same time structure like bridge, damp, reservoir and so on also using building materials. Besides that, for building envelope like curtain wall, wall cladding and roof use building material. Every single building element can use varies of building material like timber, concrete, steel, glass, rubber or plastic based and so on. It depends to client requirement or designer to select which material to select which material use appropriately to the building. For example building fully use concrete will seen as a heavy structure, but to break monotonous or single material, glass will to use to make lighter. At the same time can give view through the glass. Furthermore it can create solid and void composition which is more variety and good looking. Visually material like steel and concrete is more heavy compare to timber and glass. Building skin construct by using concrete is visually more heavy compare to building using glass for it envelope. Refer to traditional Malay house, material use for the building is timber. It may because of availability and easy getting or supply from Malaysia forest and neighborhood country like Indonesia. Timber house visually lighter than concrete or block house.

## METHODOLOGY

Research methodology for this research paper will use premier data, study and secondary data. Primary data is information getting from Mufti of Kedah state, Fatwa member of council and architect. For secondary data project research is using reference like Al-Quran, Shahih Muslim, newspaper and Uniform Building by Law 1984.

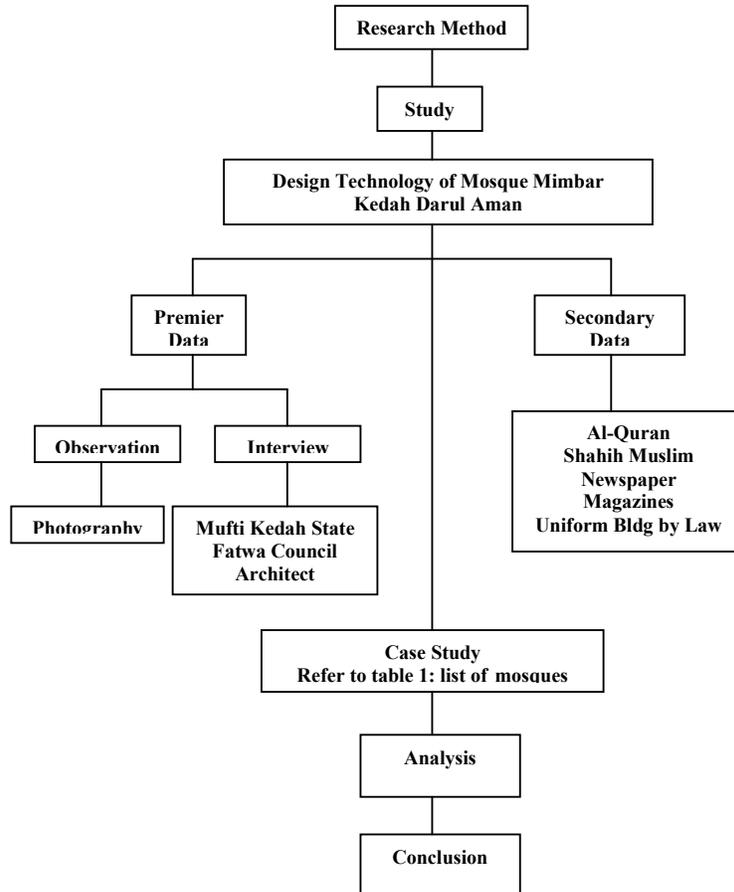


Figure 2: Research methodology chart

## RESULT AND ANALYSIS

In term of shape shows that 85% of the case study using rectangle shape for the mosque mimbar. Another 15% using use other polygon which is it still using geometric with six or eight sides. It shows geometric side four, six and eight is use for mimbar rather than to use circle which is not efficient shape. Looking to aspect of size in mosque mimbar shows that all mosques come with varies size. It is depending on the mosque committee and mimbar designer to identify the size. From the research study show the minimum size of the length is 1730mm, 790mm for width and >1400mm for the height. On the other hand, 95% of the case study locating mimbar at right of imam. The only one mosque mimbar contributed 5% which is located mimbar above the imam place while performing group prays (jemaah pray). At the same time, mosque mimbar is located at right and outside of mihrab. 65% of the case study recorded that mosque mimbar located at right and outside mimbar. To comply with syariat, mimbar must be having space between front wall and mimbar as size as a goat can pass trough. 80% of the case study stated that mosque mimbar having space between front wall and mimbar. In term of the entry direction at mosque mimbar show that 70% of the mosque mimbar use entrance from front direction, 15% from left and 15% from back direction. Jemaah cannot see imam or khatib movement as syariat if entrance direction from back direction. Furthermore from the research show width of the

entrance is design with the minimum size of 520mm. Entrance width show that to make easier for khatib or imam into mimbar platform. From the research show that on material aspect show that 95% of the case study using timber. Timber is unique material and giving an originality of building material. Besides that based on research show the colour used for mimbar is 90% is natural timber colour. In term of the stair and step referring to research show that the number of the 65% of the case study using odd number of step and 30% using normal number of step for mosque mimbar. Besides that two mosque mimbar using three step as follow as Prophet Muhammad mosque mimbar. At the same time, from the case study show that the minimum dimension for step is 195mm for tread and 50mm for riser. Only one mosque mimbar without dimension of tread because not applicable which is only have riser dimension. From the research case study recorded that all the mosque mimbar in the case study has decoration like flora motif, Islamic pattern, geometry shape pattern, calligraphy, wood carving. From the fact of the case study show that the mosque mimbar with decoration is at least combination two type of decoration from flora motif, Islamic pattern, geometry shape pattern, calligraphy, wood carving. Wood carving is applying 100% for the mimbar use timber as material.

**Table 1: List of Mosque**

No	Mosque Name	Location
1	Masjid Al-Islah	Alor Mengkudu
2	Masjid Al-Rahman	Mergong
3	Masjid Al-Bukhary	Alor Malai
4	Masjid Al-Irfan	Jalan Langgar
5	Masjid Al-Aziz	Tanjung Bendahara
6	Masjid Al-Ghufran	Akar Peluru
7	Masjid Zahir	Alor Setar City
8	Masjid Al-Salam	Tambak Bunga
9	Masjid Al-Huda	Teluk Kechai
10	Masjid Tunku Abdul Rahman Putera	Kuala Kedah
11	Masjid Mohd Iskandar Mas Tempawan	Jalan Datuk Kumbar
12	Masjid Tuan Hussain	Titi Gajah Kepala Batas
13	Masjid Tunku Intan Safinaz	Anak Bukit
14	Masjid Syed Ahmad Bukhary	Pantai Johor
15	Masjid Alor Merah	Pumpong
16	Masjid Sultanah Bahiyah	Jalan Sultanah
17	Masjid Jamek Nur Fadzilat	Ibu Pejabat Kontijen Polis Kedah
18	Masjid Al-Ihsan	Seberang Perak
19	Masjid Tandop	Tandop
20	Masjid Kampung Kebun Pinang	Kampung Kebun Pinang

## CONCLUSIONS

Research have been made is very important to help or guide people who involve in mosque mimbar design including designer, builder, constructor, and architect. For building consultant itself, this research will influence them to have a good design with a right way as follow as syariat or muslim code of ethic. They are the person who is the main key person in every project and have a power to do what Islam is all about. With the authority power, they will make it mimbar most the best design as an element or component in the mosque. It will make Islam is respected at higher by other religious. At the same time it is important fact or information for imam, mosque committee member for more sensitive to have mimbar with follow suit syariat. Furthermore from the research is very significant especially for Muslim and for all people in this world as guide for mosque mimbar design. For Muslim especially, by follow Islam syariat will be reward (pahala) by Allah. For example by right positioning of mimbar in the mosque will be get reward (pahala) from Allah. This research is important for Imam as guideline for constructing mosque. Imam is a person will in charge to make sure the mimbar are build follow as syariat Islam. At the same time imam is a leader for end user or other jemaah or

Muslim followers. From the research has been done and achieve objectives on identify mosques mimbar typology at Kedah Darul Aman and identify mosque mimbar elements like stair/step, size, shape, location, decorative element and material used. From the research shows that mimbar is important element to the mosque. Mosques perform Jumaat pray, Aidilfitri pray and Aidiladha pray need or require mimbar to deliver the khutbah. At the same time from the research, every mosque mimbar is difference each other, but general similarity between all mosque mimbar is based on the shape, size, location, stair or steps, colour, material use and decoration itself. Besides that, there are mosque mimbar is comply with syariat. All aspect including shape, size, location, stair or steps, colour, material use and decoration can be specified comply with syariat based on research aspect and references. The most important thing in term of decoration should not too exaggerate and influent jemaah or muslim loose concentration (khusyuk) and incautious while performing ibadah especially solat or pray in mosque.

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