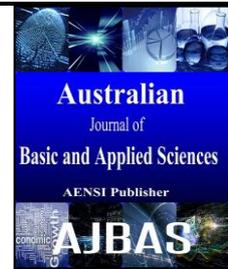




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Putrajaya People Bureau

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ABSTRACT

It should be pointed out that the concept of citizenship has long been a dispute and value-laden one in a democratic theory. To some, citizenship has implied a set of individual rights, while to others it is seen as a broader set of social and civic responsibilities. Citizenship as participation can be seen as representing an expression of human agency in the political arena. It is broadly defined rights enable people to act as agents. For the last twenty years, the concept of participation has been widely used in the discourse of development. The concern with participation in social change process is commonly dated back to 1960s-1970s, building on the work of South American pioneers of participatory approaches to social transformation. For much of this period, the concept has referred to participation in the social area, in the community or in development projects. Increasingly, however, the concept of participation is being related to rights of citizenship and to democratic governance. Linking citizen participation to the state at this local grassroots level raises fundamental and normative questions about the nature of democracy and about the skills and strategies for achieving it. The purpose of citizen group activity is to influence public policy decision making. Governance is not only for specialists and government officials. Government actors need to open up for more transparent and responsive decision –making. Without transparency, citizen participation is poorly informed and less effective.

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INTRODUCTION

Putrajaya People Bureau by Mohd Shafiq Dahlan seeks to nourish intangible interaction between governmental bodies and the public – political and architecturally – by representing the voice and highly participation of the people through manifesting their problem related or unrelated to government agencies (Arnstein, 1996).

The project aims to showcase a transparent government as well as to nurture down the grandeur images of Putrajaya by introducing non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as the key factor in the role of filling in the gaps of communication between the public and the government (Cornwall, 2001). These NGOs are not representing the government. Neither do they carry out the functions of the government (Freire, 1995). They do not acquire direct authority from the government and they are formed on a voluntary basis.[Who's the client of this project?]

Shafiq studied the following international projects to understand....1) Reichstag, New German Parliament, Berlin, Germany; 2) City Hall and Cultural Centre, Nieuwegein, Netherlands; 3) Town

Hall of Tallinn, Estonia; and 4) Vertical Forum, Technical University Delft, Netherlands.

Justification of Site:

Obvious from its title, the project is located at Precinct 3in Putrajaya. Promoted as an “Intelligent Garden City”, Putrajaya is a blend of urban form and philosophies from the west, and Islam from Malaysia (Issac, 1997). Putrajaya is intended not only to change its inhabitants, but to transform the entire nation. Its image as a quiet and serious administrative centre creates a perception that Putrajaya is only for the government. It has lack of vitality and does not attract activities beyond its role as the administrative capital of the nation. It is still seeking for the interactive and efficient spatial qualities of a coherent public realm.

Design Solutions:

Putrajaya People Bureau was designed with flexible open flow spaces for easy circulation and as an attraction for visitors. However, the separation of public and private spaces is maintained to keep the uniqueness of the concert hall. Innovative social spaces are offered for the public to encourage casual

interactions and exchange of information. Shafiq's proposal consists of de-compartmentalised city blocks, thus offering a wider open ground programmed in multilayer's with maximum flexibility. It is hoped that the open space would offer a much more dynamic and expressive programme, focusing more on the experience of users rather than just offering functional spaces.

The proposed design solution consists of mechanically transformable components that offer a variety of configurations. A series of sub-assembly components seem interact with each other in multiple ways. These choreographed components together appear evocative, representing the act of gathering or dispersing and yet calling for attention to the moments of experiences.

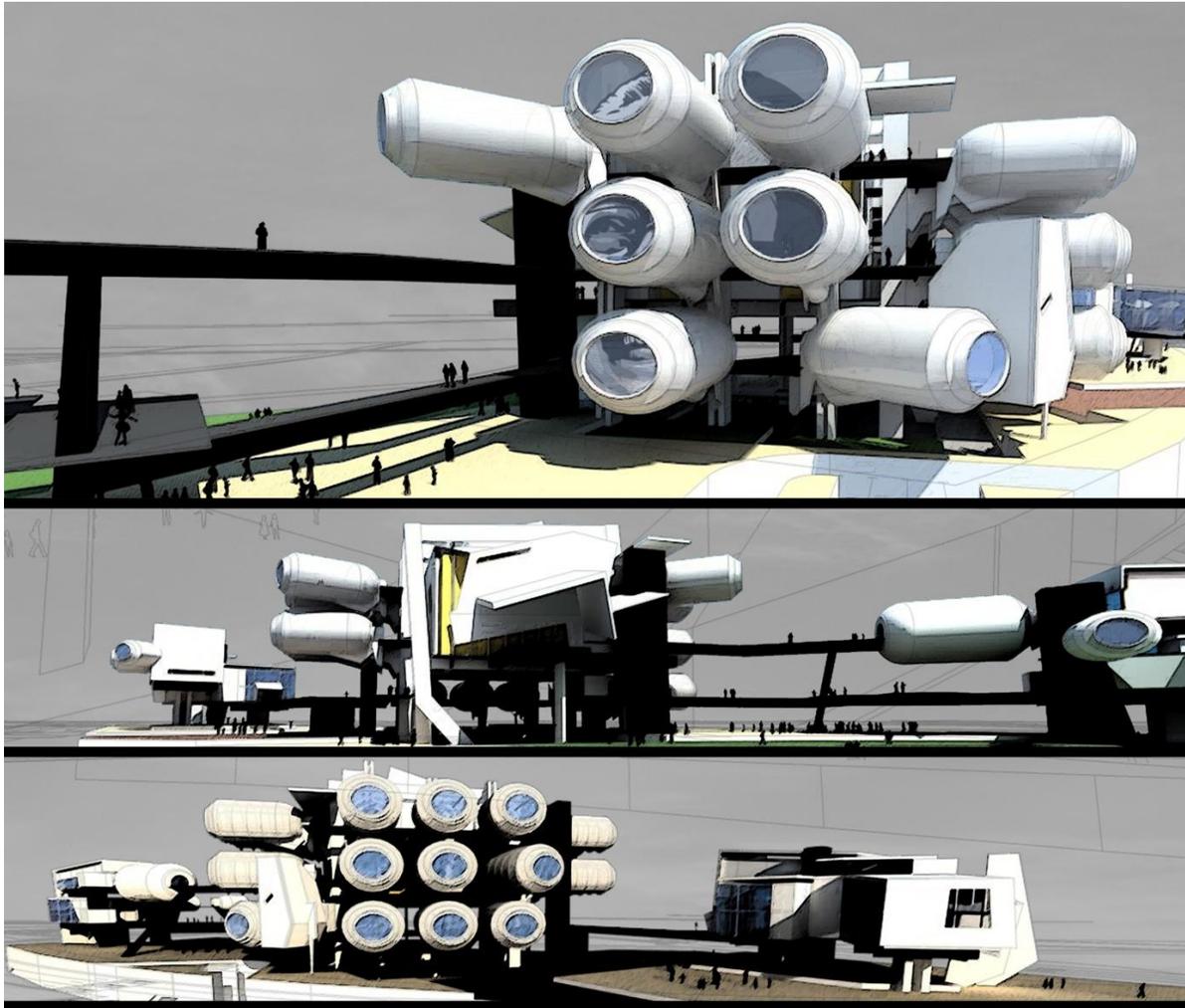


Fig. 1: Proposed Putrajaya People Bureau (Calvin, 1996)

Design Concept:

The concept of proposed Putrajaya People Bureau is based on a modular system. Modular system is designed with a focus on creating a wide range of living solutions capable of being adapted to meet the varying needs of a broad and diverse audience. Through extensive research and design, it provides different building components to fit different uses.

Components of modular system is created and customized individually based on the production line of modular units. The designs of the units are formed using a series of standard modules with the aim to minimize the cost of production and to maximize possible combinations of configurations. Modern

modular system facilitates the transformation of the traditional relation between an architect and the client in the building construction.

The decisions on the units are agreed during the design stage among the client, consultants and fabricator. The components then prefabricated in the factory. Upon the completion of the modular unit then were transferred to the site. This construction required less site observation compare to traditional method of construction. It also reduces the number of workers involved at site. Furthermore this method has a potential of duplication for other usage.

An example of a modular system is Nakagin Capsule Tower located in Ginzi. The project realizes the ideas of metabolism, exchangeability and

recyclability as the prototype of sustainable architecture. The design anticipates change and growth. By the replacement or removal of the capsule, the appearance of the structure is changing over time. Therefore, the building creates the potential for user participation in determining its form.

Each capsule of this building symbolizes individual human existence in the urban landscape. Another modular system is Capsule Hotel by Denis Oudendijk in the Netherlands, which consists of offloading pods designed as escape outlets. The Capsule Hotel helps to solve the issues of space restriction, waste of resources and under-utilisation of water as a living medium.

Conclusion:

Within the context of Putrajaya, Putrajaya People Bureau may appear awkward to some people but others may think it has responded well to human scale and urban spaces. The project can be associated with Pompidou Centre in Paris which had a spilt love-hate responses from the public when it was first proposed. Since completed, the building is considered as one of the most successful public buildings in Paris.

With regard to socio-cultural context, Putrajaya People Bureau is more than just a functional centre but it is also a gathering place to express voices and share opinions. The flexibility in the design offers

freedom to users to constantly change the centre to suit their needs. The users become part of the architecture and the architecture becomes part of the users; hence, creating a symbiosis relationship between man and its creation.

The challenge to this proposal is that it attempts to offer many design alternatives in order to achieve the objectives of being flexible and animated as well as making a blend between art and architecture. Further, the feasibility of the ideas requires further deliberation on buildability issues, particularly on the transportation of enormous components such as the capsules to the site.

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