

Post-Conservation Evaluation (PCE) framework for adaptive reuse museums: Case studies of George Town, Malaysia / Muhammad Firzan Abdul Aziz

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Abstract

The trend of converting historic buildings to museums has been found prevalent in the historic cities of Melaka and George Town, among the UNESCO World Heritage sites of Malaysia. However, adaptive reuse approach has not always brought in positive conservation impacts as some historic buildings turned dysfunctional after their conversion to museums. This scenario has called upon the needs for having an evaluation framework focusing on the post-conservation impacts of historic buildings converted to museums (adaptive reuse museums) within the UNESCO World Heritage of Malaysia context. Criteria of physical appropriateness, functional effectiveness and financial efficiency were scrutinised through literature review to conceptually form the Post-Conservation Evaluation (PCE). Case studies obtained through purposive sampling involving five historic buildings in the historic city of George Town were then used to test the operational and empirical capabilities of the conceptual PCE. Field work conducted at the case studies then led to the findings that the post-conservation impacts of adaptive reuse museums have been not convincing in the sense of physical appropriateness and also functionally ineffective in the sense of preserving sensitive collections. This evaluative research then contributed a PCE framework focusing on the impacts of adaptive reuse museums in the context of UNESCO World Heritage of Malaysia, based on validation via Delphi survey involving experts and stakeholders in the field of built heritage conservation.

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