

Gedung Kuning: **A Family Home and the Diversity of a Malay House**



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Abstract

Gedung Kuning or the Yellow Mansion was home to the family of Haji Yusoff bin Haji Mohamed Noor, the Belt Merchant, one of Singapore's earliest entrepreneurs. The 13,254 square feet mansion situates in the historic area of Singapore called Kampong Glam, the once centre of trade and commerce as well as a religious, intellectual and social hub for the Malays in Singapore. Gedung Kuning became private property in 1907 and was purchased by Haji Yusoff in 1912. Four generations of Haji Yusoff's family stayed in Gedung Kuning until Singapore government compulsorily acquired it under the Land Acquisition Act in 1999.

This presentation seeks to uncover Gedung Kuning in two aspects: Gedung Kuning as a home of a Malay family, and the diversity of the architecture and landscape that reflects the social fabric of Kampong Glam. Whilst the history of Gedung Kuning reflects the lifestyle of a Malay mercantile family, the analysis of the architecture was linked not only to a Malay House (though it has Peranakan and Chinese shophouse influences) but as a modern Asian architecture.

Biodata:

Hidayah Amin is the great-granddaughter of Haji Yusoff '*Tali Pinggang*'. She was born in *Gedung Kuning* and became interested in history after the government acquired her house. A Fulbright scholar, Hidayah has Masters degrees from the University of Cambridge and Lehigh University. She has published two books about *Gedung Kuning*.

Fauzy Ismail graduated from the National University of Singapore with a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture. He received the *Kumpulan Akitek* Prize and is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Architecture by research in creating Muslim Spaces in Modern Society through the creation of a portable *musollah*.



All are welcome!

