

# Sultan Abdul Samad Building



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

ASSIGNMENT 1 NAME: MUHAMMAD HAZIQ B. NOR KURNIA SHAH ID: 01-201111-00642 SUBJECT: HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE (ADA 133) SEMESTER: JANUARY 2013 HISTORY OF SULTAN ABDUL SAMAD BUILDING After the Sultanate of Selangor became a British Protectorate, the British Administration wanted to build a government office to govern the state efficiently. At that time, the Capital of Selangor, Klang is not a strategic location for administration as it is too far from the more developed area like Kuala Lumpur. The Sultan Abdul Samad who ruled from 1857 to 1898 later consent to change the State Capital from Klang to Kuala Lumpur.

When Kuala Lumpur became the Capital of Selangor, it only consists of several streets of shop houses and several non-prominent government office buildings. Thus, the Resident of Selangor at that time, W. E Maxwell wanted the new government office to be a prominent landscape of Kuala Lumpur. The idea and architectural design has started as early in 1889, when Maxwell invited an English Architect Arthur Charles Alfred Norman as State Architect and C. E Spooner from Ceylon as State Engineer. The original plan of the building from Norman was adapting the Classical English Renaissance concept.

But, Spooner does not satisfy with the design. Later, a young architect named Bidwell has made a modification with Norman design, adapting the Mahometan style concept of Moor and Moghul design as the main architectural design of the building. The building construction was commissioned in 1894. On October 6, 1894, the ground breaking ceremony of the building was done by the Governor of Straits Settlements, Sir Charles

B. H. Mitchell. The estimated cost of the construction was \$152,000 and will take 2 years and 7 months to complete.

After the construction fully completed on April 1897, the real expenses were \$152,824. The building materials were delivered from masonry in Brickfield. The building was inaugurated by the Resident-General of the Federated Malay States, Sir Frank Swettenham on April 4, 1897 and was known as the New Government Office. Among the offices that have been located here were Government Secretariat Office, State Council Chamber, Post Office, Sanitary Board, Judicial Commissioner, Public Work Department and District Office.

In 1948, when the Federation of Malaya was formed to replace Malayan Union, the building was renamed as Federal Secretariat. The building still retains its function after the independence of Malaya in 1957 and the formation of Malaysia in 1963. It is until 1974 when all of the State of Selangor Government offices were relocated to Shah Alam. The Federal Government also relocated its office to a new building at Jalan Duta. And, for the first time, the building was renamed Bangunan Sultan Abdul Samad.

A major renovation work took place in 1978, taking 6 years to complete with an expense of RM 17.2 million. The roof was changed into a new one, and the wooden dome was changed with a copper dome. The Supreme Court, Appeal Court and Malaya High Court were placed here in 1978 before they had been relocated in 2007 to a new complex in Jalan Duta. The Ministry of Information, Communications and Culture of Malaysia currently occupies the building. KUALA LUMPUR ATTRACTIONS The Sultan Abdul Samad Building is among Kuala Lumpur's earliest Moorish-style buildings.

It is set to the east of Merdeka Square (Dataran Merdeka) and the Royal Selangor Club, across from Jalan Sultan Hishamuddin. It was built in 1897 and was named after the reigning sultan of Selangor at the time. The distinguished landmark originally served as the secretariat for the colonial British administration. Designed by AC Norman, the architect responsible for Masjid Jamek (Jamek Mosque), the historically-significant building used to house the superior courts of Malaysia: the Federal Court of Malaysia, the Court of Appeals and the High Court of Malaya, before they moved to Putrajaya.

Sultan Abdul Samad Building's Design Sultan Abdul Samad Building is now home to the Ministry of Information, Communications and Culture of Malaysia and sits beside the old KL Railway Station. Though it no longer serves an official purpose, it remains one of the city's most important tourist attractions and a historical landmark in the city. Constructed entirely of brick, the building features strong gothic, western and Moorish-style influences with an imposing porch, graceful arches, curved colonnades topped with shiny copper cupolas and a domineering 41. m- high clock tower. It is frequently seen as the backdrop for Malaysia's annual Independence Day parades (which take place past Dataran Merdeka). EVENT A historical event witness by the building is when Malaya achieving her independence from United Kingdom in 1957. This is the place where the Union Jack flag was replaced by Jalur Gemilang for the first time. It is also a venue of New Year Celebration every January 1 and Independence Parade every August 31. It is also the place of Trooping the Colour ceremony and Warriors Day Celebration.