

Drying Area: An Empirical Study of the Missing Link in High–Rise Residential Buildings in Malaysia

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SUMMARY

The syndrome of the “Hanging Flag Poles or Hanging Laundry” so synonymous in Asian high rise residential buildings such as urban cities in Singapore, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur to name a few, highlighted the general dilemma where cities planners’ and architects fail to resolve. The weakness in resolving a simple yet a necessity part of daily living in providing an adequate area or space for drying clothes indicated no foresight and thought process of the overall planning and design analysis. The blatant flaunting “hanging laundry” syndromes are becoming an eyesore which constantly encapsulates the building envelopes of many Asian high rise residential cities. To date neither the designers, architects, developers nor the authorities has given due attention to this phenomenon especially in the external building envelope. How to ensure the external built form with this hanging syndrome able to complement and not creating an eyesore will be the topic of this research. The research explores the importance of domestic spatial design layout for high rise residential housing by focusing on the dry yard or drying area. This unassuming area so often neglect and overlooked by developers’ and designers will be the contentious subject to explore. The goal for this research is not to set out to produce new theory, instead to offer new approaches and assumptions by reviewing different perspective from diverse literatures, methodologies and existing “new” built buildings types to ascertain the possibilities to overcome the weaknesses. The findings will either bring together or make contents of each approaches applicable (if applicable) to its original intention.