

Chapter 8

Dutch Shop houses in Melaka

8.1 Introduction

The previous chapter discussed about the development of public buildings and its influence in Melaka. This chapter discusses about the architecture and *facade* analysis of 37 Dutch shop houses in Melaka. It will concentrate on Dutch architectural and decorative influences. It will give a summary of contents of Existing Inventories by Area and by Streets. Then it discusses on streets belonging to this research with regard to Dutch shop houses and town houses and a list will show, previous, comparative inventories of shop houses. It discusses on the types of shop houses and Dutch and Chinese influences. This will be done through the description of the *facade* (doors and windows and measurements of these).

There will be tables and figures in this chapter with reference to previous studies on shop houses, content, classification, *facade styles*, streets, front elevation.

8.2 The Alley house

The three alley house (Figure 8.1) was constructed, as Zantkuijl (1975:18) mentions, in rural areas because of the usage (persons and cattle). The three alley house with its narrow aisles on the side would prove not to be a functional town house. As well as the price of land was increasing which results in a gradual re-subdivision, from 30 feet (*voet*) (8.49 meters) wide into narrower parcels. From the steward's account of 1458-1459 land was re-used: the same quantity of land was divided to built more houses on. The houses on these plots of land were not named homestead anymore but were named house.

The three alley house was, as Zantkuijl (1975:4) describes, dark due to the narrow and low aisles. There was no space for windows in the aisles. Only at the side entrance the roof was a bit higher to allow for doors and fanlights. If the roof ended at the front of the house than the front ended triangular which was later so important for the houses in town.

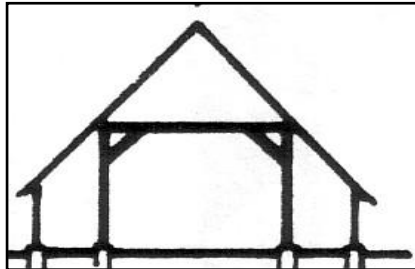


Figure 8.1: Three Alley House.
Source: Zantkuijl (1975:23).

The two alley house, as Zantkuijl (1975:5) mentions, was constructed in towns and rural areas. One alley was left out as to get more daylight through the sidewall in the houses. The normal two alley house needed, as the three alley house, more space, for the *facade*, and there for is not built anymore.

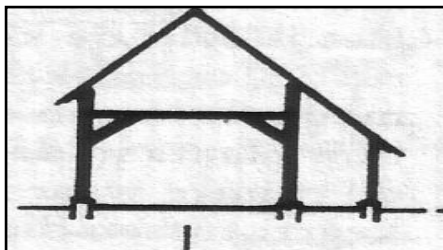


Figure 8.2: Two Alley house.
Source: Zantkuijl (1975:23).

The most ideal types of houses in town, as Zantkuijl (1975:19-23) describes, were the narrow **one alley house** (just as wide as the three alley house) and the wide hall house. The last one had the same width as the three alley house

The one alley house, as Zantkuijl (1975:19) mentions, was the ideal type for a townhouse. It has no side aisles which lets in more light. It is narrower than the three alley house. The term *Zaalhuis*, as Zantkuijl (1975:19) describes, was used for the one alley house. For the description of the townhouse this was the best description. It had all the constructive particularities, as Zantkuijl (1975:4) describes, of the three alley house: anchor bar, spatial

layout, fireplace with bed wall but no narrow aisles on the side. The middle part could reach a width of 4.50 meters. The wooden supports were put directly in the ground. This kind of house could very well have been used as an example for the shop houses in Melaka. The shop houses in Melaka had a narrow front as has the three alley house. The wide hall house was next to the one alley house, the most ideal type for in town.

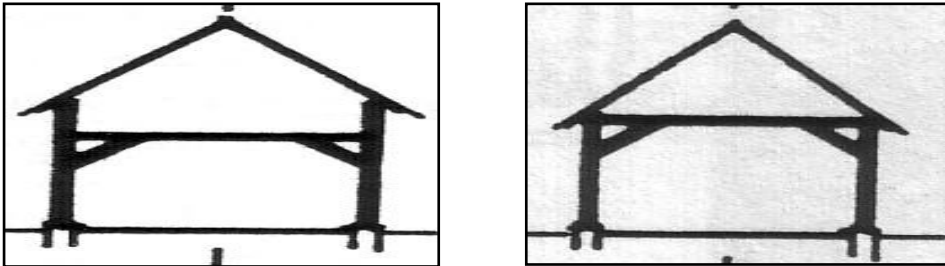


Figure 8.3: One Alley House.
Source: Zantkuijl (1975:23).

8.3 Selected shop houses

The selected shop houses will be shown in the map below. Most of these are situated in four of the streets in the Core and Buffer Zones: Jalan Tun Tan Cheng Lock, Jalan Hang Kasturi, Jalan Hang Jebat and Jalan Kubu. While the other two are outside of these areas: Jalan Tengker and Jalan Bukit Cina.

The Core Zone includes, as mentioned in the Nomination Dossier (2007:6), St Pauls Civic zone. Here are a number of government buildings, museums, churches, the urban square and the fortress/town from the Portuguese and Dutch periods. As well as the Historic Residential and Commercial Zone. The Commercial Zone includes around 600 shop houses, commercial and residential buildings. It has four around four main streets: Jalan Tun Tan Cheng Lock (*Heeren Street*), Jalan Hang Jebat (*Jonker Street*), Jalan Tokong/Tukang Emas /Tukang Besi and Jalan Kampung Besi.

The Core zone is, as described in the Nomination Dossier (2007:6,) surrounded by 134.03 hectares of Buffer Zone. The border is formed by Jalan Kota Laksamana, Jalan Ong Kim Wee, Jalan Tan Chay Yan, Jalan Munshi Abdullah, backlots of Kampong Banda Kaba, Jalan Chan Koon Cheng and Jalan Merdeka. Buildings located in the conservation area are mainly used for residential, commercial and religious purposes. Most of these buildings are privately owned.

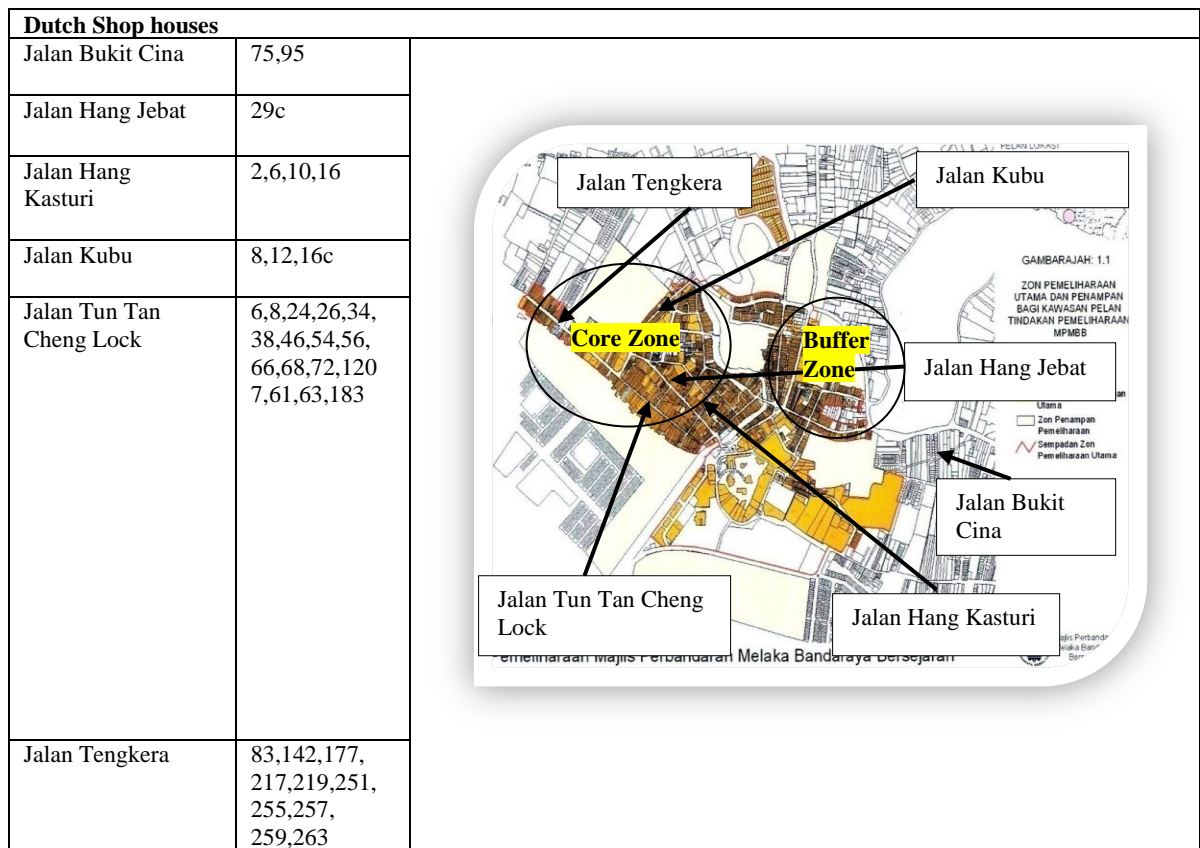


Figure 8.4: Location of the Shop houses.
Source: Pelan Tindakan (MPMBB): Gambarajah 5.1.

Table 8.1: Core and Buffer Zones in Melaka.
Source: Nomination Dossier (2007:6).

Core Zone	<i>St Paul Civic Zone</i>
	A Famosa, Christ Church, St Francis Xavier Church, St Paul Church, The <i>Stadhuys</i>
Core Zone	<i>Historic Residential and Commercial Zone</i>
	Jalan Tun Tan Cheng Lock (<i>Heeren Straat</i>), Jalan Hang Jebat (<i>Jonker Straat</i>), Jalan Tokong/Tukang Emas/Tukang Besi and Jalan Kampung Pantai as well as four perpendicular streets of Lorong Hang Jebat, Jalan Hang Kasturi, Jalan Hang Lekiu and Jalan Hang Lekir.
Buffer Zone	Jalan Kota Laksamana, Jalan Ong Kim Wee, Jalan Tan Chay Yan, Jalan Munshi, Abdullah, back lots of Kampong Banda Kaba, Jalan Chan Koon Cheng and Jalan Merdeka.

8.4 Summary of Existing Inventories by Area

The purpose of this summary is to show that there are other studies on shop houses which deal with some of the shop houses as in my study but with another approach. These are the following studies:

1. Raja Nafida, Kajian Tipologi Rumah Kedai Awal Era Belanda Di Bandar Melaka: Sumbangan Kepada Bidang Pemuliharaan Di Malaysia. Thesis (PhD), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia. 2008.

Raja Nafida (2008:48) approached her study through an analysis of case studies and gave a classification according to centuries from pre 1700 to 1980. In her study there is no classification for the period 1800 1911. The shop houses which Raja Nafida named early shop houses were the ones which were according to her study Dutch because of the narrow *facade* at the front because of tax reasons, square windows, big doors with big hinges and terra cotta tiles.

Table 8.2: Classification according to Raja Nafida.
Source: Raja Nafida (2008:48).

Raja Nafida, A typological study of early shophouse architecture of the Dutch era in Melaka: contribution towards conservation in Malaysia. (2008)	
<i>Early shophouses</i>	<i>pre 1700</i>
<i>Transition Shophouses</i>	<i>1751 - 1800</i>
<i>Straits Eclectic Shophouse</i>	<i>1800 - 1931 ?</i>
<i>Art Deco Shophouse</i>	<i>1931 - 1980</i>
	<i>1911 - 1930 and 1931 - 1950</i>
<i>Modern Shophouse</i>	<i>1971 - 1980</i>

2. Inventory of Cultural Heritage, Descriptive Approach, Façade styles Shop-houses (Bufferzone 1-9) and (Corezone 10-15), Straits, Townhouse, Ecclectic, Art Deco. NUS/UM. 2005.

The Inventory of Cultural Heritage (2005) determined the *facade* styles of the shop houses through specific, detailed, specifications with among others the personal details, types, design, use, structure, completion, contractor, present owner, current owner of the shop

houses. The area of the study is the Core and Buffer zone. In Table 8.5 are mentioned the streets and house numbers which are dealt with in the Inventory of Cultural Heritage.

Table 8.3: Inventory of Cultural Heritage: determination of Facade styles.
Source: Inventory of Cultural Heritage (2005).

<i>Inventory of Cultural Heritage in Meleka, Descriptive Approach, Facade styles Shop-houses, Bufferzone (1-9) and Corezone. Determination of Facade Styles through:(10-15) Straits, Townhouse, Eclectic, Art Deco. National University of Singapore and Universiti Malaya. (2005)</i>	
<i>Specifications</i>	
a)	<i>Building no/Nombor Bangunan</i>
b)	<i>Name(present/ /Nama (sekarang)</i>
c)	<i>Name (past)/ Nama (dulu) English/Dutch</i>
d)	<i>Adress(Alamat) English/Malaysian</i>
e)	<i>Building type (Jenis Bangunan): Shophouse, Residence, Commercial Facility, Public Office, ,Private Office, Religious Facility, Public Facility ,Factory, Others Size (Ukuran), Stories (Tingkat) Others (Lain-lain)</i>
f)	<i>Use (present/Pergunaan (sekarang) Use (past)/Pergunaan (dulu)</i>
g)	<i>Types: Straits, 2. Townhouse, 3. Eclectic, 4. Art Deco</i>
h)	<i>Design Eaves Spac , 2. Individual Varandah, 3. Balcony, 4. Pilaster, 5. Arcade, 6. Parti Wall 7. Parti Wall + Window, 8. Column (Brick), 9. Column (Wooden)</i>
i)	<i>Structure (Struktur), Wood/(Kayu), Brick (Batu Bata), RC/Beton (Bertulang), Others (Lain-lain)</i>
j)	<i>Finished Material: Siding (Papan), Stucco/Pleister, Stone (Batu), Others</i>
k)	<i>Completion Year (Tahun Selesaiyanya Pembangunan) Renovation Year (Renovasi)</i>
l)	<i>Designer (Perancang)</i>
m)	<i>Contracter (Kontraktor)</i>
n)	<i>Special features(Ciri Khas Bangunan) (appearance), style(etc)(penampilan, gaya dan sebagainya)</i>
o)	<i>Name (Nama), Resident, Owner</i>
p)	<i>Ethnic Identification (Owner):1.Malay, 2 Sumatran, 3. Riau 4. Indian/Tami/Sikh 5. Malayalam 6. Chinese/Fujianese, 7.Hakka, 8.Teochgiew, 9.Hokkien 10 Javanese 11 Eurasian 12. Others 13.Persian 14 Jawa 15 Aceh 16 Arab.</i>
q)	<i>Religion (Agama)), Islam,Christianity (Kristen), Hinduism(Hindu),Bhuddism (Bada),Taiosm,,Others (Laiain-lain)</i>
r)	<i>P resent Condition: 1. Delapidated 2. Neglected 3. Inapppriote</i>
s)	<i>Facade treatments: 1. color 2. signage 3. objects in good condition and usage</i>

Table 8.4: Inventory of Cultural Heritage.
Source: Inventory of Cultural Heritage (2005).

Work scope:
<i>I Bufferzone (Survey Area 1 -4)</i>
<i>II Bufferzone (Survey Area 5)</i>
<i>III Bufferzone (Survey Area 6 -9)</i>
<i>IV Core zone (Survey Area 10-11)</i>
<i>V Core Zone (Survey Area 12 -13)</i>
<i>VI Core Zone (Survey Area 14 -15)</i>
<i>VII Reference Maps</i>

Table 8.5: Streets with the inventory of Cultural Heritage.
Source: Inventory of Cultural Heritage (2005).

	Numbers	Types
Jalan Bukit Cina	75,95	Unknown
Jalan Hang Jebat	29c	Unknown
Jalan Hang Kasturi	2	Straits
	6	Town house

	10,16c	Straits
Jalan Kubu	8,12,16c	Town house
Jalan Tun Tan Cheng Lock	Even 6,8 24,26,34,46,54,56,66,68,120 Uneven 7, 61 63,183	Town house Straits Town house Straits
Jalan Tengker	83,177,217,219 251 257,259 263	Unknown Shop house Style Unknown Shop house Style

3. Inventory of Buildings in the Heritage Zone of Melaka Majlis Bandaraya Melaka Bersajarah (MBMB), *Aspects of significance to the Heritage value, 2006.*

In the Inventory of buildings in the Heritage Zone of Melaka (MBMB) the same streets and most of the house numbers, as in my study, are dealt with. The periodical description is different. In the Inventory of buildings in the Heritage zone of Melaka the period covered is from 101 till 1930. In the Inventory of my study the period covered is from 1641 till 1895.

Table 8.6: Inventory of Buildings in the Heritage Zone of Melaka (MBMB).
Source: Inventory of Buildings in the Heritage Zone.

Inventory of Buildings in the Heritage Zone of Melaka Majlis Bandaraya Melaka Bersajarah (MBMB), <i>Aspects of significance to the Heritage value, (2006)</i>							
Streets	Nrs	Period	Building Period	Streets	Nrs	Period	Building Period
Jalan Bukit Cina	75 95	Transitional Early Period	1801-1870 1750-1910	Jalan Tengker a			
Jalan Hang Jebat (<i>Jonkerstraat</i>)	29c				75 83 142 177 217	Transitional Transitional Transitional Early Period Unknown	1801-1870 1851-1870 1801-1851 1871-1890 Unknown
Jalan Hang Kasturi	Even 2 6 10 16	Early Period Early Period Early Period Early Period	1851-1870 1751-1750 1801-1850 1801-1850		219 257	Unknown Unknown	Unknown Unknown
Jalan Kubu	Even 8 12 16c	Straits Eclectic Eclectic Eclectic	1911-1930 1911-1930 1911-1930		259 263	Unknown Unknown	Unknown Unknown
Jalan Tun Tan Cheng Lock (<i>Heerenstraat</i>)	<i>Even</i>						

	6	Early Period	1801-1850				
	8	Early Period	1801-1850				
	24	Early Period	1751-1800				
	26	Early Period	1851-1870				
	34	Early Period	1871-1890				
	38	Early Period	1801-1850				
	46	Early Period	1871-1890				
	54	Early Period	1801-1850				
	56	Early Period	1801-1850				
	66	Early Period	1851-1870				
	68	Early Period	1750-1910				
	72	Early Period	1801-1850				
	120	Early Period	1751-1800				
	<i>Not even</i>						
	7	Early Period	1801-1850				
	61	Early Period	1801-1850				
	63	Early Period	1801-1850				
	183	Early Period	1750-1910				

Table 8.7: Areas belonging to the Unesco World Heritage Site.
Source: Inventory of Buildings in the heritage Zone (2006).

Areas belonging to the Unesco World Heritage Site
Civic Zone
Porte da Santiago, St Paul's Hill, Stadiums, Christ Church
Colonial buildings on Jalan Kota
Residential and Commercial Zone
Jalan Tun Tan Cheng Lock, Jalan Hang Jebat, Jalan Taking, Jalan Taking Emas, Jalan Taking Bessie, Jalan Hang Kasturi, Jalan Hang Likir.

8.5 Summary of Existing Inventories by Street

The purpose of this summary is to show that there are other studies on shop houses which deal with some of the shop houses as in my study but with another approach. These are the following studies:

1. Department of Architecture University of Seoul, *Analytical Survey, Heerlen Street, Shop houses: Transformation, Mutation and Transformation + Mutation.* 2007.

The lay-out of the shop houses is, according to the researchers of this inventory, based on the traditional Chinese style of a rectangular courtyard surrounded by walls, buildings or rooms. These houses have front pitched facade roofs rather than the western style gable *facade*. They make a distinction in three types:

Table 8.8: Department of Architecture University of Seoul.
Source: Department of Architecture University of Seoul (2007:51).

First Type: Transformation
Second Type: Mutations
Third Type: Transformation + Mutation

a. First Type – Transformation

The front sections of the shop houses went through a diverse transformation process during the Portuguese, Dutch and English era in Melaka. The Chinese-style front pitched *facade* roofs gave way to the gable *facade* as seen in the church buildings during the *Renaissance*. In front of the shop houses a covered passageway of ca. 5 feet was constructed in the British area, which was subsequently named ‘the five foot way’, in front of the shop houses. The inhabitants of the houses had the upper floors extended over the walkway or by blocking the entire walkway create more private space.

b. Second Type Mutation

In the shop houses courtyards were constructed for natural lighting and air circulation. The courtyard also has a water well to provide water for the kitchen, bathroom and laundry. These days the courtyard, in some cases, has been covered with a roof. Or is used as garden, dining or working area.

a. Third Type – Transformation + Mutation

The backside of the shop houses used to border on the sea and therefore the shop houses were easily accessible from the sea. During British times, a program of land reclamation was implanted and the backsides of the houses no longer border on the sea. These days these areas are covered with a tent or canopy, being neglected or used as a warehouse.

2. Measured Drawing, Department of Architecture, Faculty of Built Environment, University Malaya, Building Analysis Jonkerstraat: Historical Buildings. 2001.

In this inventory a few historical buildings are determined in *Jonkerstraat* according to certain criteria: Age and style, Architectural Value and originality, Current function and history.

Table 8.9: Work scope.

Source: Measured Drawing, Department of Architecture, Faculty of Built Environment (2001:8).

<i>Work scope</i>	Determination of a few Historical Buildings in <i>Jonkerstraat</i>
	Criteria : Age and style, Architectural Value and originality, Current function, History
	Buildings
	No 31, Royal Press, No 11 Kedai Antik You Seen
	Front elevation of a row of shophouses at the South West side
	Front elevation of a row of shophouses at the North East side

There are certain Architectural styles in this Inventory:

1. Typical Chinese Shophouse was an early style. This style was simple in form and highly functional. There was no intricate joinery and detailing, this style represented the simpler living of a very hardworking class of people. The use of three basic building materials was evident: timber, mortar and terra cotta along with the odd nails and the use of simple forms of joints in the wood could be seen in the walls, doors, windows and the roof.

2. The Chinese Baroque style was greatly influenced by Chinese Architecture from the mainland with intricate plaster carvings and details in many colours with depictions of Chinese mythology and legends. The materials used were of high quality and expensive. Like the wood which was especially imported from China.

3. The Straits-Eclectic Style was a mix of Local Chinese, High Victorian and Baroque styles. The handmade ornamentation was even more elaborate as with the houses build in the Baroque Style. These were build to express the family's wealth and influence. Materials

used were: Italian marble, polished granite, patterned and coloured glass, teak, blackwood, rosewood, rich paints and lacquer.

4. The Art Deco style was probably from a later, more recent period. The features of these houses were the straight lines, geometrical shapes and patterns used. The materials used were more durable like concrete and steel. The walls were of smooth plaster rather than adorned and textured ones. Colour is kept to a minimum.

Table 8.10: Architectural styles of *Jonkerstraat*.
Source: Measured Drawing, Department of Architecture, Faculty of Built Environment (2001:114/115).

Architectural Styles	
1.	The Typical Chinese Shophouse style
2.	The Chinese Baroque style
3.	The Straits-Eclectic Style
4.	The Art Deco style.

Typical Chinese shop houses are simple in, as the researchers Department of Architecture, Faculty of Built Environment (2001:115) mention, form and very functional. This can be seen for example in the joints in the wood. There are no ornate trimmings, intricate joinery and elaborate details. For these type of houses the materials used are: timber, mortar and terra cotta.

8.6 Comparative Lists of inventories shop houses and town houses.

Table 8.11: Comparative list by inventory.

By Area					
Streets	No's	Raja Nafida Historical and Descriptive Approach Typology	Inventory of Cultural Heritage Typology	Inventory MBMB Typology	Researcher Typology
Jalan Bukit Cina	75 95			Transitional Period Early Period	Dutch Dutch
Jalan Tun Tan Cheng Lock	Even No's 6 8 24 26 34 38	Early Shop house Early Shop house Early Shop house Early Shop house Early Shop house Early Shop house	Town house Town house Straits Straits Straits Straits	Early Period Early Period Early Period Early Period Early Period Early Period	Dutch Dutch Dutch Dutch Dutch Dutch

	46 54 56 66 68 72 120 Uneven No's 7 61 63 163 183	Early Shop house Early Shop house Early Shop house Early Shop house Early Shop house Early Shop house Early Shop house Early Shop house Early Shop house Early Shop house Early Shop house Early Shop house Early Shop house Early Shop house Early Shop house	Straits Straits Straits Straits Straits Straits Straits Straits Straits Straits Straits Straits Straits Straits Straits	Early Period Early Period Early Period Early Period Early Period Early Period Early Period Early Period Early Period Early Period Early Period Early Period Early Period Early Period Early Period	Dutch Dutch Dutch Dutch Dutch Dutch Dutch Dutch Dutch Dutch Dutch Dutch Dutch Dutch Dutch
Jalan Hang Jebat	29c				Dutch
Jalan Hang Kasturi	2 6 10 16c		Straits Town house Straits Straits	Early Period Early Period	Dutch Dutch Dutch Dutch
Jalan Kubu	8 12 16		Town house Town house Town house	Straits Eclectic Eclectic Eclectic	Dutch Dutch Dutch
Jalan Tengkera	83 142 177 251 263		Shop house Style Shop house Style	Transitional Period Transitional Period Early Period	Dutch Dutch Dutch Dutch Dutch

In previous researches the shop houses mentioned in this table were labeled: Early Shop house, Town house, Early Period, Straits, Shop House Style and Transitional Period. To make a distinction with these researches I named the shop houses in this study Dutch because of the decorative elements of specific Dutch origin. I will elaborate further on the Dutch influences in Typos in this chapter on page 184.

Table 8.12: Building Year.

	Building Year
Raja Nafida	
Early shop houses	Pre 1700
Inventory of Cultural Heritage	
Straits	
Townhouses	
Residence	
MBMB	
Early Period	1750 – 1751 1801 - 1850

	1851 - 1870 1871 - 1890 1891 - 1910
Transitional Period	1801 – 1850 1851 - 1870
Straits Eclectic	1911 – 1930
Eclectic	1911 – 1930

8.7 The Shop house

The types and typos of shop houses are:

Types

Table 8.13: Types.

Main Type	Sub- types	Streets	Numbers	Graphics
A				
	A1	Jalan Hang Kasturi Jalan Tun Tan Cheng Lock	10,16 56	Appendix D Appendix D
		Ground floor with a door in two halves on the right-hand side, window in two halves on the first floor on the left-hand side and one window on the first floor		
	A2	Jalan Tun Tan Cheng Lock	61,120	Appendix D
		Ground floor with a door in two halves on the right-hand side, window on the left-hand side and one window on the first floor.		
	A3	Jalan Tengkeru Jalan Tun Tan Cheng Lock	83 46, 72	Appendix D Appendix D
		Ground floor with a door on the right-hand side, window in two halves on the left-hand side and one window on the first floor.		
	A4	Jalan Bukit Cina Jalan Tun Tan Cheng Lock Jalan Hang Kasturi Jalan Kubu Jalan Tengkeru	95 7, 24, 26 2, 6 8, 16c 142,177, 257, 259	Appendix D Appendix D Appendix D Appendix D Appendix D
		Ground floor with a door on the right-hand side, window on the left-hand side and one window on the first floor.		
	A5	Jalan Bukit Cina Jalan Tengkeru	75 217	Appendix D Appendix D
		Ground floor with a door on the right-hand side, window on the left-hand side and two windows on the first floor.		
	A6	Jalan Tun Tan Cheng Lock	163	Appendix D
		Ground floor with a door on the right-hand side, window on the left-hand side and one window with on each side a smaller one on the first floor.		
	A7	Jalan Tun Tan Cheng Lock Jalan Tengkeru	183 219	Appendix D Appendix D
		Ground floor with a door on the right-hand side, window on the left-hand-side and on the first floor, which is made entirely out of wood, one window.		
	Total		25	
B				
	B1	Jalan Tun Tan Cheng Lock	6, 8, 54	Appendix D
		Ground floor with a door in two halves on the left-hand side, window in two halves on the right-hand side and one window on the first floor.		
	B2	Jalan Tengkeru Jalan Tun Tan Cheng Lock	263 34, 38, 66, 68	Appendix D Appendix D
		Ground floor with a door on the left-hand side, window on the right-hand side and one window on the first floor.		
	B3	Jalan Kubu	12	Appendix D

		Jalan Hang Jebat	29c	Appendix D
	Ground floor with a door on the left-hand side, window on the right-hand side and a very big window on the first floor.			
C	Total		10	
	C1	Jalan Tengker	251, 255	Appendix D
	Ground floor with a door in two halves, window on each side of the door and two windows on the first floor.			
	Total		2	
	Grand Total		37	

The case studies (shop houses) included in the preceding table are to be found mostly in the Core Zone of Melaka: Jalan Tun Tan Cheng Lock, Jalan Hang Jebat, Jalan Hang Kasturi and Jalan Kubu with the exception of these in Jalan Tengker and Jalan Bukit China.

There are three types of shop houses, A, B and C, which are divided in subtypes. A in 7 subtypes, B in 3 subtypes and C in one subtype. These types are split up according to the placement of doors and windows in the *facade* of the house. Type A1 has a door in two halves on the ground floor on the right-hand side, a window in two halves on the left-hand side and one window on the first floor. Type A2 has a door in two halves on the ground floor on the right-hand side, a window on the left-hand side and one window on the first floor. Type A3 has a door on the ground floor on the right-hand side, a window in two halves on the left-hand side and one window on the first floor. Type A4 has a door on the ground floor on the right-hand side, a window on the left-hand side and one window on the first floor. Type A5 has a door on the ground floor on the right-hand side, a window on the left-hand side and two windows on the first floor. Type A6 has a door on the ground floor on the right-hand side, a window on the left-hand side and one window with on each side a smaller one on the first floor. Type A7 has a door on the ground floor on the right-hand side, a window on the left-hand side and on the first floor, which is made entirely out of wood, one window. Type B1 has a door on the ground floor in two halves on the left-hand side, a window in two

halves on the right-hand side and one window on the first floor. Type B2 has a door on the ground floor on the left-hand side, a window in two halves on the right-hand side and one window on the first floor. Type B3 has a door on ground floor on the left-hand side, a window on the right-hand side and a very big window on tile first floor and Type C I has a door on the ground floor in two halves, a window on each side of the door and two windows on the first floor. The types differ in the quantity of windows on the first floor. Type A1, A2, Type A3, Type A4, Type B1 and Type B2 have one window on the first floor. Type A5 has two windows on the first floor. Type A6 has three windows on the first floor: a big window with on either side a smaller one. Type A7 has a window made entirely made of wood on the first floor. Type B3 has a very big window on the first floor and Type C 1 has two windows on the first floor. The types differ in the quantity of windows on the first floor. Type A1,A2,A3,A4,B1 and B2 have one window on the first floor. Type A5 has two windows on the first floor. Type A6 has three windows on the first floor: A big window with on either side a smaller one. Type A7 has an window entirely made out of wood on the first floor. Type B3 has a very big window on the first floor and Type C1 has two windows on the first floor.

Table 8.14: Graphics of Types.

Type A	A1	A3	A3	A4	A5	A6
	Jalan Hang Kasturi 10	Jalan Tun Tan Cheng Lock 61	Jalan Tengker 83	Jalan Bukit Cina 95	Jalan Tengker 217	Jalan Tun Tan Cheng Lock 163
						

A7	Type B	B1	B2	B3	Type C	C1
Jalan Tun Tan Cheng Lock 183		Jalan Tun Tan Cheng Lock 54	Jalan Tengkeri 263	Jalan Kubu 12		Jalan Tengkeri 255
						

All shop houses have general characteristics: a single storey between 6.00 and 8.00 meters in height. The Dutch shop house has a *facade* that is between 3.64 and 6.09 meters wide but are very deep. A narrow front between 3.64 and 6.09 meters high. A covered walkway or front porch between 3.64 and 6.09 meters, floor tiles and roof tiles.

Elements in the shop houses are the door and rectangular window on the ground floor in two halves and the window on the first floor of which the frames are made of hardwood. In the window foldable, downward and upward turning shutters, are placed where merchandise could be exhibited for sale. On the first floor there are, outward turning, shutters in the windows, which are made of timber.

Typos

Table 8.15: Typos.

All single storey	
Height	Between 6.00 - 8.00 meters
Narrow Front	Between 6.00 - 8.00 meters
All covered walkway or front porch	Between 3.64 - 6.09 meters
Materials	Front porch: Tiles Roof: Roof tiles

1. Typical Shop House style

Analyzing a structure, as Kohl (1986:4) mentions, to its floor plan and general building type was also an aid in studying the architectural environment. Kohl also mentions that another

form of categorization of architectural forms could be based upon ornamentation, which reflected both cultural influences and historical time periods.

Chinese temple roofs, for instance, represented either the *Minnan* style of cut-and-paste mosaic ornamentation from the province of Fukien, or the *Shekwan* glazed terra cotta figurine style of the Canton region. Shop houses represented a continuum in their *facade* ornamentation, from the earliest permanent structures build in a style influenced by Chinese architecture from the treaty ports cities of China, through a transitional phase to a fully Europeanized Palladian *facade*.

These earliest shop houses were, as Measured Drawing, Northwest by FAB/UM (2001:28) describes, one-and-a-half storey high. The inside was about 6 feet high. The windows and doors were of timber. The hinges were influenced by Dutch examples and are of the rail and stile type¹. Fanlights were rectangular and semi-circular, as Measured Drawing, Northwest by FAB/UM (2001:28) mentions, in shape. Over the door or windows small rectangular or semi-circular vents were placed. On the ground floor there were foldable shutters, as shown in Measured Drawing, Northwest by FAB/UM (2001:29) mentions, where goods could be exhibited for sale.

Another method was that the windows, as shown in the same were boarded up with removable planks. The shopkeeper would remove those planks in the morning so that the goods on the inside would be visible.

The ornamentation was minimal at most, as Measured Drawing, Northwest by FAB/UM (2001:30) mentions, occurring in the form of cornices. The reason could be the owners or construction workers could not afford elaborate ornamentation

¹ That windows swing on hinges.

2. Dutch Influences

The Dutch shop house and town house in Melaka, as Raja Nafida (2008:307/308) mentions, had a narrow front due to the tax levied on the width of the *facade* by the Dutch government of Melaka². This was a typical Dutch feature because houses in the Netherlands also have narrow *facades* for tax reasons.

On the ground floor of the *facade* the Dutch shop houses have a door in two halves. This was also a feature in houses in the Netherlands. During cold weather, this door would be completely closed. With warmer weather it would be open and everyone could walk in or out from the street. Or from the house into the street. The effect of this was that the street became an extension of the house.



Figure 8.5: Heerenstraat 56
Source: R.C.M. Weebers



Figure 8.6: Meester van Alkmaar (First half 16th century).
Source: Architectuur van Erasmus (1990:6).



Figure 8.7: Krankeledestraat 111. Amersfoort, the Netherlands.
Source: R.C.M. Weebers

Next to the door is a rectangular window. In some shop houses this window has two outward (downward and upward) turning wooden shutters. The bottom part would be used to place merchandise on. In front of the window a rattan screen was placed. This made it possible to look into the street without being seen. There are more openings on the first floor: one or two windows with or without shutters.

² According to Michiel Weber in an interview given in 2001 for Measured Drawing, Northwest by FAB/UM. p.25.



Figure 8.8: *Heerenstraat 8*.
Source: R.C.M.Weegers



Figure 8.9: *Jalan Hang Kasturi 16*.
Source: R.C.M.Weegers

Kohl (1986:3) describes the features of Dutch of buildings in Melaka which were the decorated gable walls, curvilinear *espadanas* (arcaded belfries), heavy hardwood framing, beam work, roof tiles, castellated walls, balconies, louvered windows and Palladian ornamentation such as balustrades, *festoons* and elegant wainscoted interiors.

The gables of the house were not facing the street but were at the side of the house. The reason is, as Temminck Groll (2002:137) mentions, that the ridge of the house was parallel to the street and that would have caused problems for the gutters with heavy rainfall. In front of the house was a covered walkway which has the same width as the *facade*.

Measured Drawing, Northwest by FAB/UM (2001:29) mentions, as part of the Dutch characteristics the small rectangular air vents over the doors or windows, in the outside wall. The iron hinges on the doors and windows are, according to Measured Drawing, Northwest by FAB/UM (2001:29) /Raja Nafida (2008:307/308), of Dutch design and influenced by Dutch examples. These are of the rail and stile type and allow the windows to open inward or outward.

Wall-anchors on the outside of the shop house secure the beams on the inside. The anchor connects, as De Witt (2000:145) mentions, the brick wall to the timber frame and to structural members.

The sloping (shallow) roofs are covered with tiles. These were, according to De Witt (2007:147), thin pieces of tile made from clay. They had a S-shape and an U-shape. The U-shape tiles were the most commonly used in Melaka.

Part of the Dutch characteristics of the shop houses, as Raja Nafida (2008:307/308) mentions, were the terra cotta tiles.

Iesnordin Hj. Malan, former curator of the Architecture Museum, in Melaka, mentions, in a discussion in 2007, that the houses were build of yellow coloured bricks which could have been baked locally. These were Dutch in design: rectangular in size, quite light and not very thick. The Dutch bricks were about 10 to 12 inches in length, 5 inches in width and 1 to 1.5 cm in thickness. In Melaka bricks known locally as *Batu Belanda*, as Rosli (1996:31) describes, were introduced by the Dutch as was the use for tile work.

Iesnordin, mentions in the same discussion, that it is possible to date the houses by the materials used: bricks used in the 17th and 18th centuries are laid with lime mixed with sand. Bricks laid in the 20th century would have cement. The walls are one brick deep.

There was no decoration of any kind on the outside of the shop house and the walls were plastered white on the outside as well. The occupants of the shop houses could have been workmen, carpenters, blacksmiths and small merchants of the VOC. Strict rules were introduced from the Netherlands and applied for building and planning or for the form and materials to use. Like the building lines, the use of bricks, tiles and the design, form and size of doors and windows.

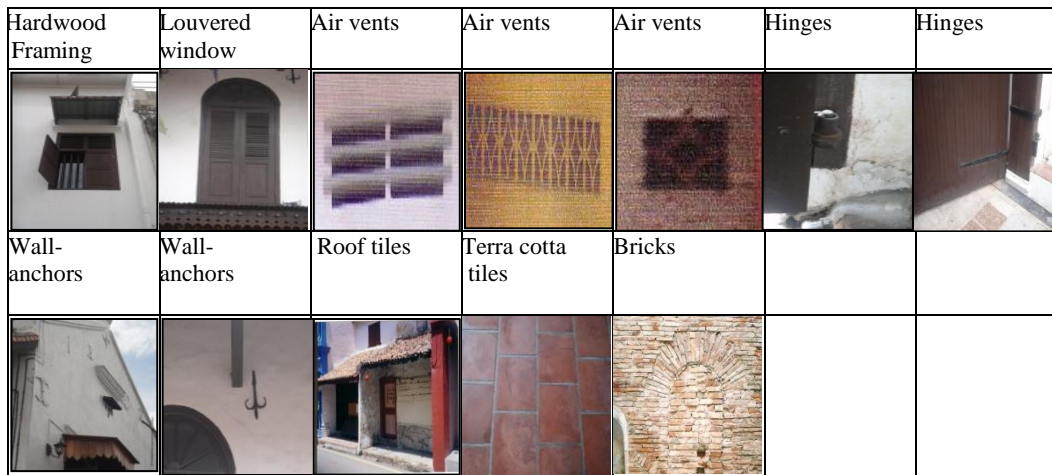


Figure: 8.10: Elements.

3. Chinese influences

The Chinese characteristics are, as Raja Nafida (2008:307/308) mentions, a firewall in the form of cat crawling and square ventilation holes.

The floor plan of the Dutch shop, as Measured Drawing, Northwest by FAB/UM (2001:26/27) describes, houses and town houses may well have been of Chinese origin since this house pattern was common in China. From the floor plan the basic, as Measured Drawing, Northwest by FAB/UM (2001:25) mentions, elements of Chinese merchants home can be recognized.

In the front room guests were received, as Measured Drawing, Northwest by FAB/UM (2001:26) mentions, separated from the rest of the house by a partition. This part of the house was meant for the ladies of the houses and their guests. This partition sometimes had eye-level slits cuts in them for the ladies to spy on their visitors without being seen. The rest of the house was arranged according to a long central axis where spaces for ancestral worship, courtyards, air wells, bedrooms and food preparation could be found. It is important that the front part of the house is wider than the back portion. This is part of the

Chinese symbolism: so good things would not diminish. Bedrooms are upstairs. Because the houses were so narrow you had to pass through every room to come from the front till the back.

“Ordinary Chinese in Melaka lived in small row houses made of brick. The house had one courtyard with a well used jointly by the neighbouring house. The front of the house was a two storey building used mainly as a shop, living spaces, and storage; the back building was used as a service area. Some units formed a block of row houses where each independent unit was separated by party walls from its neighbouring units. The front terrace was an indispensable part of each dwelling unit, and was not open to its adjacent units. The cooking, bathing and toilet functions were located at the courtyard area. This early typology of dwelling could be found everywhere within the old core of coastal settlements all over Southeast Asia”. Widodo (2004:100)

Chinese architecture emphasizes the roof, as Kohl (1986:2) describes, in the design of the building, largely steeply inclined surfaces covered with overlapping *pentiles* laid in the ridge-and furrow patterns³. Structures are mostly of brick walls supporting the wooden rafters and purlins⁴ of the roofing system. Occasionally, columns and bracketed capitals⁵ support the roof structure in more elaborate religious structures. Gable roofs are by far the most commonly found type in Malaysia, although examples of hipped and half-hipped examples are also to be found. Exposure of structural elements is common in Chinese architecture, revealing pillars, bracketing systems, beams, and rafters. Colour and ornamentation are integral, including painted or carved pillars and beams, pierced walls, tiled floors, gilding and surfaces covered with diaper patterns. Orientation around a court-yard or light well is nearly universal.

Shops are open in the front, with granite, or finely polished wooden counter, as Christy

³ A tile for covering the sloping part of a roof. Ridge and furrow is an archaeological pattern of ridges and troughs created by a system of ploughing used in Europe during the Middle Ages.

⁴ A type of beam, which supports the roof of a building.

⁵ A projection from a vertical surface providing structural or visual support under cornices, balconies, or any other overhanging member.

(2004/2005:31) mentions, for the display of goods. Behind the counter in some shops shelves are placed for the display of additional wares. An accountant's room is situated at the back of the room, as Christy (2004/2005:33) describes, and is screened off with an openwork wooden partition carved in climbing plants motifs of intricate diaper patterns. Openness and flexibility of the shop house, as Christy (2004/2005:33) mentions, to the street was enhanced through the double leaf doors and panels.

Shop houses were imported buildings build by the Chinese immigrants, as Christy 2004/2005:24 describes, from Southern China. Chinese immigrants, as Christy (2004/2005:24) mentions, originating from the coastal parts of Guandong and Fujian brought with them the architecture from their respective provinces. These houses have typical terraces to withstand the tropical heat and the downpour of rain. A shop house consists of shop and a house. The term shop house is a direct translation from *Tiam Chu* from the Hokkien dialect which means shop house. The shop houses are uniform in design, as Christy (2004/2005:25) describes, with shared walls. The walls are load-bearing that support the beams and purlins⁶. According to the length of the local timber that is used for beams and purlins determines the width of the facade. These shop houses, as Christy 2004/2005:25) mentions, are closely packed together and open directly to the street.

Pitched roofs and gable walls also form part, as Christy (2004/2005:26) states, of the shop house typology which is about the same as in Southern China. The roofs of the shop houses were usually composed of two to three gable roofs running along the central axis from the front to the back. The gable walls were typical, as Schubert Christy mentions (2002:28), of its counterparts in Southern China.

⁶ A purlin (or purline) is a horizontal structural member in a roof. Purlins support the loads from the roof deck or sheathing and are supported by the principal rafters and/or the building walls, steel beams etc. The use of purlins, as opposed to closely spaced rafters, is common in pre-engineered metal building systems and some timber frame construction.

The shift of development and the transformation, as Christy (2004/2005:30/31) describes, of the roof feature in the shop house typology have gone from the decorative and stylistic manner to a more plainer and simpler form. The street was an essential part of everyday life of the Chinese community. The shops opened directly to the street and so the shop became an essential part of the street.

8.8 Town house

In the shop houses that serve for residential purposes, as Schubert Christy (2004/2005:37) mentions, the front part would be the guest area. The cooking and bathing facilities were normally located at the rear end at the ground floor, normally after the courtyard and the air well. The living room area would normally occupy the courtyard area where there is more light. The upper floors would normally be the private residential area. The lay-out and design is the same as with the shop house. Only there is a difference in usage as shown above.

8.9 Materials

The materials used in the shop houses built were brick, wood, tiles and plaster. In Melaka the bricks used could be imported or made locally. Imported bricks are yellowish of colour, not so high, and quite long. Bricks locally made are darker in colour. The woods are most probably found locally and of good quality. Portuguese and Chinese roofing tiles and square terra cotta tiles were made locally. The houses were whitewashed on the outside to keep the heat from the sun entering the house. The walls were also whitewashed on the inside.

8.10 Conclusion

Different researchers or groups of researchers have made a study of shop houses in Melaka.

Each has classified the shop houses according to different criteria and drawn conclusions. Raja Nafida describes shop houses, which she classifies as early shop houses, as Dutch because of the narrow *facade* (for tax reasons), square windows, big doors with big hinges and terra cotta tiles. The Inventory of Cultural Heritage determines the *facade* styles of the shop houses through specific, detailed, specifications with among others the personal details, types, design, use, structure, completion, contractor, present owner, current owner of the shop houses. In the Inventory of Buildings in the Heritage Zone of Melaka (MBMB) the same streets and most of the house numbers, as in my study, are dealt with. The periodical description is different. In the inventory of the Department of Architecture University of Seoul the houses have front pitched *facade* roofs rather than the western style gable *facade*. The Chinese-style front pitched *facade* roofs gave way to the gable *facade* as seen in the church buildings in the *Renaissance*. Chinese shop houses are simple in form and very functional, as described in Measured Drawing, Department of Architecture, Faculty of Built Environment, University Malaya, this can be seen for example in the joints of the wood. There were no excessive ornaments, complex woodwork joinery and elaborate details. For these type of houses the materials used are: timber, mortar and terra cotta.

A comparative list of inventories of the shop houses and town houses has been made. Other inventories have given another classification to the shop houses and town houses. In this study these houses will be described as Dutch.

This study has classified 37 shop houses according to placement of doors and windows in the *facade* of the shop houses. The study has been conducted by determining architectural and other characteristics that are essentially of Dutch origin. There are also Chinese influences. Shop houses could very well have been of either Dutch or Chinese origin.