

Menara Maybank

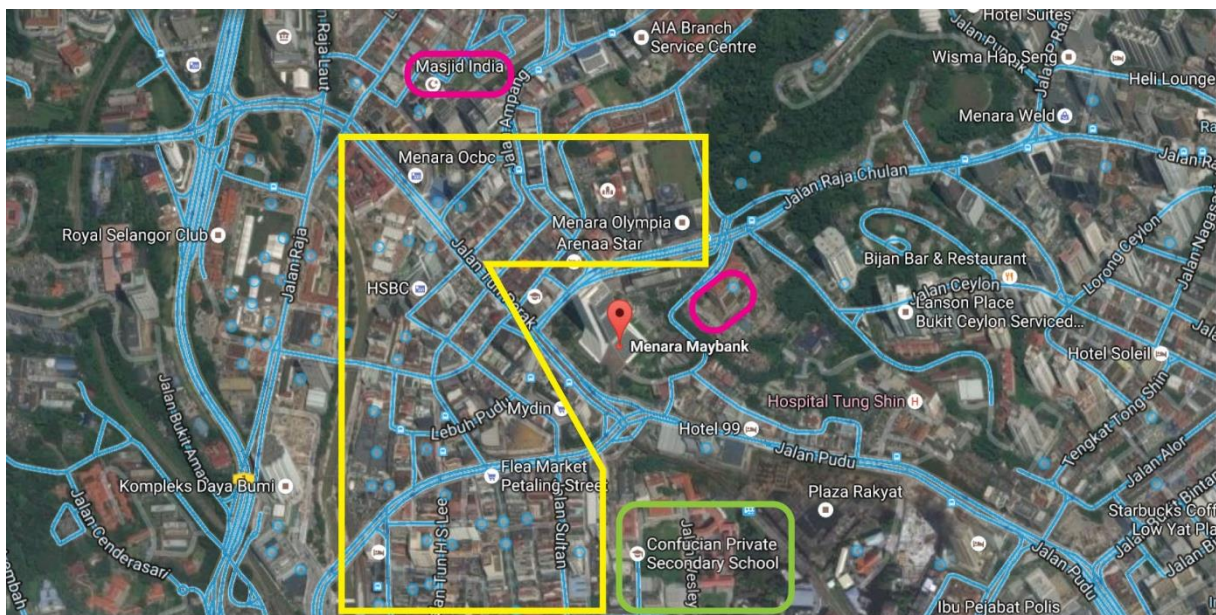
Group component

Introduction

Situated at the highest ground in its site, Menara Maybank stands to be the tallest building in Malaysia after its completion in the 1980s. Thus, our group, made up of 6 students, decided to choose this building which is one of the most prominent building during its era and analyse its application of modern architectural style.

Individual component

2.0 Site context analysis



- Religious Areas
- Education Centres
- Business Centres
- Main Road

Menara Maybank is located at the heart of Kuala Lumpur, where it has great proximity to tourist attractions, main headquarters of different companies, historical buildings and etc. Seated above a hill, it serves as a landmark of the city and remained as one of the most important high rise buildings in Kuala Lumpur. The intersection of 3 main roads increases the building's accessibility.

2.1 Building accessibility

Menara Maybank is situated at the central connection between Jalan Tun Perak (south-west), Jalan Pudu (south-east), Jalan Raja Chulan (north-east). It is near to a Light Rail Transit (LRT) station (Plaza Rakyat station), located at the south from the tower. It is also close to the Puduraya bus station.

2.1.1 Entry points

A) Vehicle Entry Points

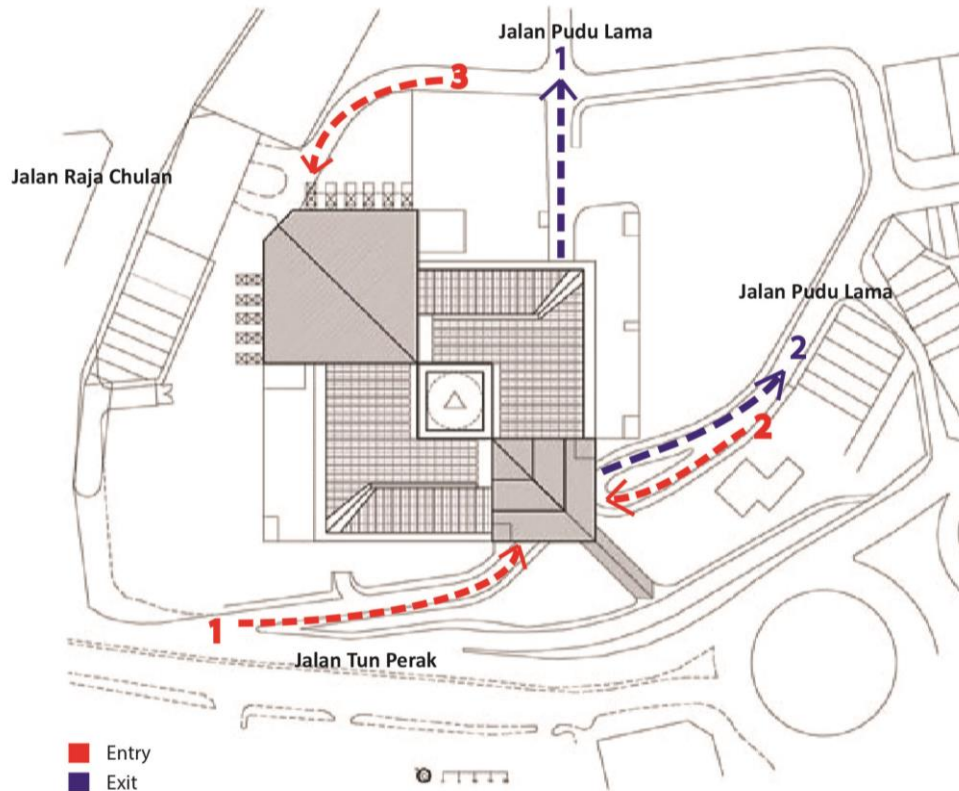


Figure 1 shows the entry and exit of vehicles



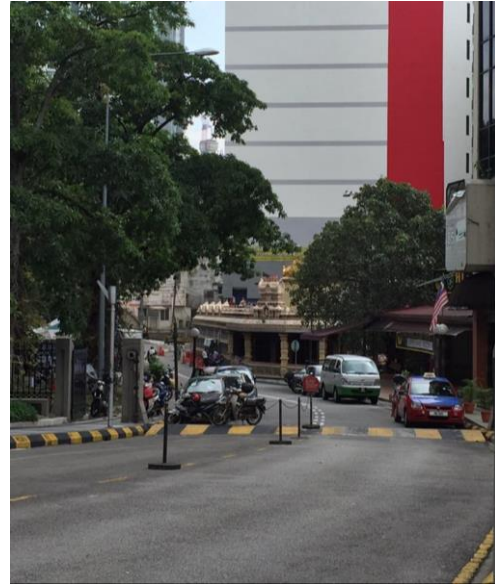
Entry from Jalan Tun Perak (1)



Entry from Jalan Pudu Lama (2)



Exit to Jalan Pudu Lama (1)



Exit to Jalan Pudu Lama (2)

B) Pedestrian Entry Points

Due to the many entrances towards the tower, people can choose to enter the building from different directions, thus showing convenience to enter the area.

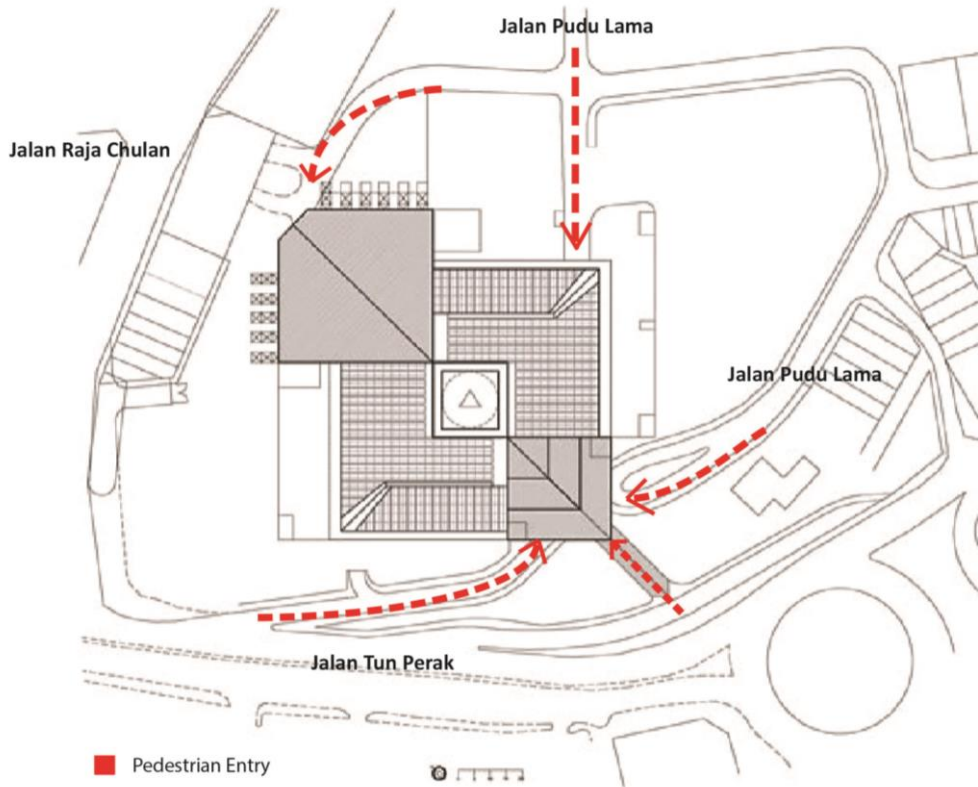


Figure 2 shows the entry points of pedestrian access



The entrance stairs connecting to the lobby area



The entrance escalator connecting to the lobby area

2.1.2 Modes of transportation

The tower can be accessed with motorcycles, cars and bicycles. Even so, due to the close distance to Puduraya station and Plaza Rakyat Station, where both are connected by a pedestrian bridge across the road, employees and visitors usually travel by bus or LRT.



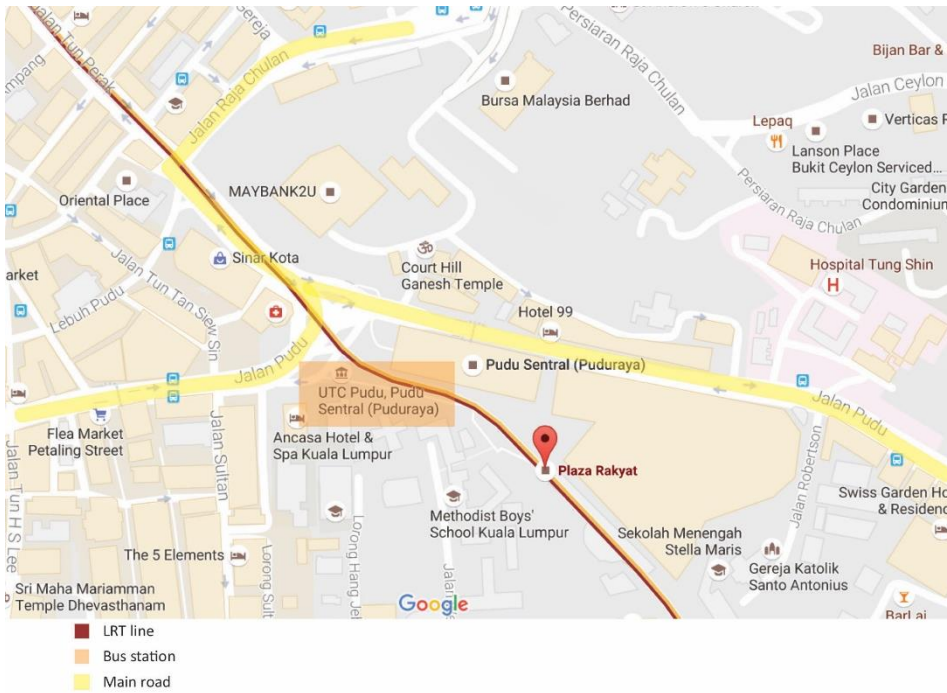
Bus stop at the opposite of Jalan Tun Perak



Plaza Rakyat LRT Station



Motorcycle parking area along the exit to Jalan Pudu Lama



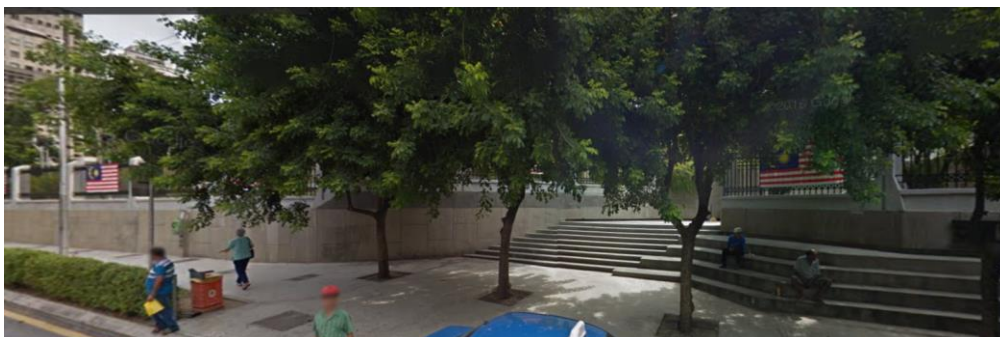
The map shows the LRT line, the main roads and the bus station near the tower.

2.1.3 Walkability - Pedestrian pathways

There are many pathways connected to the building as it has great accessibility with the neighbouring bus stations and LRT stations.



The pedestrian bridge connecting the tower towards UTC (Puduraya Bus Station)



Outside the Maybank Tower compound, a series of trees were planted to provide shade to the walkway connecting to the building. This encourages more people to pass through the area, thus attract their view towards the building,

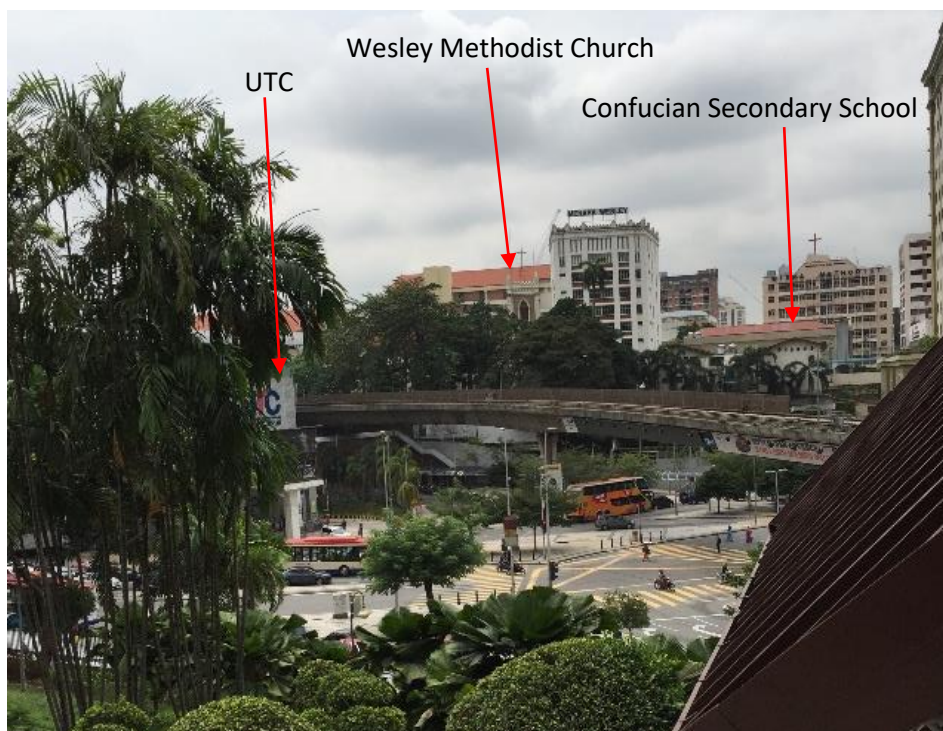


With the large cross road situated outside Maybank compound, the zebra crossing can be found on these junctions to allow pedestrians to walk about the area with ease and safety.

2.2 Relationship of Building with the Surrounding

2.2.1 Surrounding Buildings

Situated in the heart of the city, Menara Maybank is surrounded by high rise buildings such as offices, hotels while the neighbouring mid-rise buildings consists of school, shop houses and religious buildings.



View towards Confucian Secondary School, Wesley Methodist Church, pedestrian passageway towards UTC (Puduraya bus station)



View from Maybank tower towards
Wisma Lee Rubber



View from Maybank tower towards
HSBC Building

To further understand the site context, a few surrounding buildings are selected to be elaborated.

A. Plaza Rakyat LRT Station



Image 1 Plaza Rakyat Station

Plaza Rakyat LRT Station is located at Jalan Pudu, with a proximity of 4 minutes walking distance from Menara Maybank towards the South-East. The station is located behind Plaza Rakyat, a large mixed-use development project that was halted in 1997. It is embedded into the building, with thick, raw concrete columns and ceilings, and exposed pipes. Columns were painted to soften the coarse look of the station's interior.

Significance of the station towards Menara Maybank

Due to its proximity to Menara Maybank, many of the workers in the bank use the public transport to reach the tower. The access to the tower is further eased by the pedestrian bridge which connects the tower and the station. This will also further increase the crowd's usage of the pedestrian bridge as well as the LRT station.

B. Petaling Street (Chinatown)



Image 2 Entrance of Chinatown

Situated at Jalan Petaling, Chinatown can be reached within 6 minutes of walking distance from Menara Maybank towards the South-West. The street houses many restaurants and food stalls, serving local dishes such as Hokkien mee, asam laksa and curry noodles. Traders made up of Chinese, Indian, Malay, and Bangladeshi sell imitation products to attract tourists.

Significance of Chinatown towards Menara Maybank

Workers from Menara Maybank can have a taste of Chinatown's savoury local dishes during their lunch break without going through a hassle as Chinatown is just nearby. The close distance also allows tourists or the locals to visit the tower for certain transactions such as currency exchange. This increases the people's usage of the tower, thus maximizing the purpose of the tower, which are money related transactions.

C. Jamek Mosque



Image 3 Jamek Mosque

Jamek Mosque is placed towards the North-West of Menara Maybank, which can be reached within 5 minutes of walking distance. The mosque is one of the oldest mosque of the city, with its architecture inspired by Mogul influences. It served as the main mosque before the National Mosque was built.

Significance of Jamek Mosque towards Menara Maybank

Muslim workers from Menara Maybank benefits from their workplace’s strategic location, where the mosque is within reach. The comfortable distance of going to the mosque allows the workers to offer their prayers without having to rush from their workplace. This in turn also reduces cars to the Jamek Mosque, thus creating less traffic jams in the area.

2.3 Landscaping

The presence of greeneries and sculptures surrounding the Maybank tower brings liveliness into the area, where it is mostly surrounded by skyscrapers and man-made structures. Going up the slope to reach the tower, plantations are found to be welcoming the people who enter the area.



Figure 3 shows the area of greeneries, position of the sculptures and placement of the cafeteria (Laman).

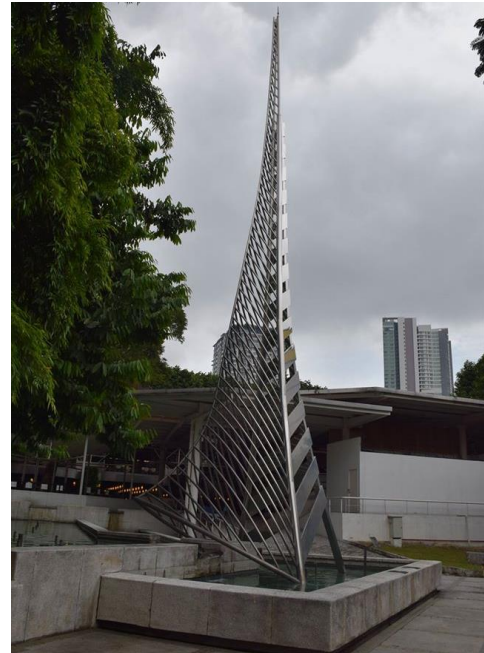


The pathway towards the cafeteria (Laman) with trees planted alongside.

There are 2 sculptures in the compound, one located near the main entrance, the other located near the cafeteria (Laman).



The sculpture at the main entrance - a symbolic representation of the unity between members of the Maybank group and their commitment to the prosperity of the nation and people



The sculpture near Laman attracts people to go through the lush green area to view the sculpture before heading to the cafeteria.

The existence of plantations around the Maybank compound contributes to replacing the concrete and tar roads which are heat conductors. The trees provide shade to the exterior besides filtering some of the polluted air in the city.



Palm trees planted along the escalators give a sense of cheerfulness around the area, creating a better mood to the workers and visitors.



The vegetation along the stairs directing to the main entrance invites the people as they pass through the area. This decreases the feeling of being tired while going up the stairs.



Greeneries located at the transition between the tower and the cafeteria (Laman) allows the workers to rest their eyes and appreciate the environment while going to have their meal.

The water feature near the entrance serves as an indication to reach the tower as cars drove by the area for pick up or drop off services.



The pleasant sound of the water gushing down also induces calmness while the employees or visitors rest around the area.

2.4 Response to Climate

2.4.1 Climatic Conditions

Since Menara Maybank is located at Kuala Lumpur, it has the city's climate, which is mainly rain or shine. Kuala Lumpur has high temperatures on average, with its warmest month in April while the coolest month normally falls on September.

The wet season for the city is during October to November. Even so, the western monsoon hits the city during the month of March to April, resulting in more rain in the city. Due to the city's frequency of rainfall, it has a relatively high humidity.

2.4.2 Designing in Relation to Climate



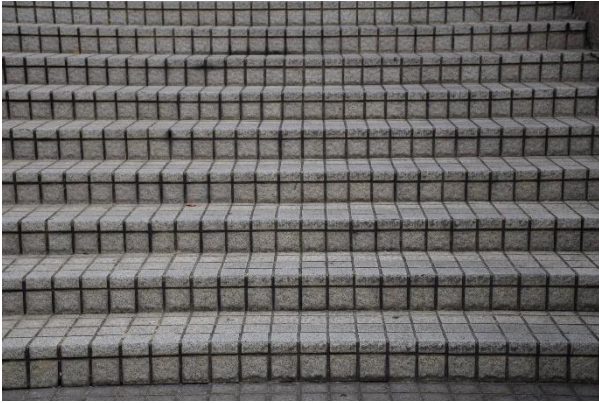
The entrance pathway leading towards the building is made up of 2 escalators per direction as the building sits on top of the hill. The pitched roofing covering the escalators are layered according to the slope to allow better ventilation to the building. The pitched roof also allows better drainage system and is more stable to be built on the slope. It also resembles the vernacular buildings in Malaysia which uses pitched roof in its design.



Although the building uses long, slanted strips of glasses, the material used which is tinted glass decrease the heat into the space while allowing much lighting into the interior spaces. The windows are also further shaded with translucent curtains to decrease more light and heat into the space.



The use of marble-like flooring also allows a cooling effect in the interior spaces while the interior spaces are well air-conditioned as well.



For the exterior flooring, rough textured ceramic tiles are used to prevent slippery surfaces due to the high frequency of rain in the city.



The lush green landscape along the slope is also designed to prevent mud slides around the building during rainy seasons as the slope is quite steep in the area.

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Image 3: Jamek mosque | tourism Malaysia. Retrieved November 19, 2016, from Malaysia Travel, <http://www.malaysia.travel/en/places/states-of-malaysia/kuala-lumpur/jamek-mosque>

Map 1 & 2: Maybank tower. Retrieved November 19, 2016, from Google Maps, <https://www.google.com.my/maps/place/Maybank+Tower,+100,+Jalan+Tun+Perak,+Bukit+Bintang,+50050+Kuala+Lumpur,+Wilayah+Persekutuan+Kuala+Lumpur/@3.1470286,101.6998701,1317m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m5!3m4!1s0x31cc49d3c2f5c4c1:0x17b673608b96bd2b!8m2!3d3.1472732!4d101.6995352>