



**INTERNATIONAL PAPER COMPETITION 2022**  
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## **INTERNATIONAL PAPER COMPETITION 2022**

### **SPATIAL INTERIOR PLANNING DESIGN FOR ZEN FACIAL AND SPA**

Sub-Theme (Architecture Engineering and Planning)

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**DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY**  
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# SPATIAL INTERIOR PLANNING DESIGN FOR ZEN FACIAL AND SPA

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**Abstract:** Zen Facial & Spa founded in Kota Kenangan, Kota Bharu, Kelantan. As an entrepreneur they understand well the high demand among Muslim women who are also interested in experiencing the tranquility of the spa. Thus, they had created the spa that more Muslim friendly and privacy for women. Proposing “Refresh Leaf” as a concept in order to create a refreshing environment and sensation which had inspired by the *Karesensui* garden (dry landscape). The design utilizes a soft color palette with natural materials also bring the natural light into interior space and incorporate with a modern organic style. This spa using natural ingredients which is contain tea tree oil (*melaleuca alternifolia*) extracts. Therefore, tea tree is the perfect subject matter to integrate in designing a new scheme for Zen Facial & Spa. The method of this study used in-depth interviews were conducted with the owner and workers of the spa. Another method is to do is on-site observation to study the space, function of the space, spatial planning and circulation of the workers and customers. This study reveals that several main categories mentioned above is not well planned and the interior ambience is not shown in their interior style. As a result, this spa design should be a new guideline for entrepreneur venture into the world of spas.

**Keywords:** Muslim spa; hijab; space planning; nature; tea tree concept.

## 1. Introduction

Women nowadays work and pursue careers on par with males. Therefore, spa as a place to focus on physical attractiveness, good health, and a charming attitude. They visit the local spa and hair salon to be pampered by beauticians and stylists who style their hair, give them body massages, and perform manicures and pedicures. They spend a lot of money and an hour per month in the beauty salon. Thus, entrepreneurs are seizing the chance and to develop this Muslim friendly spa into the market. Although Muslim friendly spas are common in Malaysia, there are no guidelines for these spas in capturing the interior ambience parallel with Islamic spatial interior planning. Understand that Muslim women have a lot to bargain, this study aims to be a fresh prescription for entrepreneurs looking to enter the spa industry.

Founded in 2016, Zen Facial & Spa begin their day spa journey in Kota Kenangan, Kota Bharu, Kelantan. Specializing in acne-prone skin problems using technologies and techniques from Korea, Zen Facial & Spa is going robust and they are opening another spa in Pulau Perhentian, Terengganu. Zen Facial & Spa understands that the Muslim hijab has a lot to bargain, thus making the spa a Muslim hijab friendly in Kota Bharu.

As the specialty of Zen Facial & Spa is acne-prone skin problems, most of its skin products contain tea tree (*melaleuca alternifolia*) oil extracts. Zen Facial & Spa produces products that include a cleanser, acne cream, scrub cleanser, and body oil. It is proven in pharmaceuticals and cosmetics that it contains rejuvenating and purifying properties. Used as folk medicine treatment to boost wound healing, it is also suitable for acne, nail fungus, etc. Thus, making it the perfect subject matter for designing a new scheme for Zen Facial & Spa.

Every woman deserves to indulge in some quality treatment to feel refreshed and relaxed, which also applies to Muslim women or *hijabi*. All may agree that *hijabi* deserves it more than others. Dealing with a hot temperature, hair loss, migraines, an oily scalp, etc. As a result, the spa would be an attraction for Muslim women that needed pampering, especially for *hijabi* in Kota Bharu, Kelantan. On the other hand, Kelantan might be an attraction for women if all spas in Kelantan focus on women, especially Muslim friendly spas. This would be a tremendous tourism selling opportunity for women entrepreneurs to strive more and be successful.

### 1.1. The Structure

Muslim friendly spa is spa that offers services, and products usage which follows Islamic requirements. However, most of these spas are not well planned and do not achieve the interior ambience that others spa has offer. Treatment given in closed room with female therapist with the use of halal products are not enough. In order for spa goer to truly participate in the treatment or experience they are there to enjoy, a spa must be well understood while also giving them the flexibility to disregard the surroundings. [1]

- a. Today's demands for women to be more attractive and healthier have pushed all entrepreneurs to begin producing their own healthy goods and developing new beauty products and stuff to sell to consumers including providing pampering services after a long day. Despite that, there is no interior guideline for these Muslim friendly spas to accomplish the spa ambience together with interior planning suitable according to Islamic law. [2]
- b. The issue is how these entrepreneurs must design the spas according to Islamic law together with capturing the authentic experience the spa has to offer. To truly immerse spa goers in the treatment or experience they are come to enjoy, a spa must be well understood while still providing them the flexibility to forget the environment. [2]
- c. In order for a system or procedure to be used as a guide for a nature spa business, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) must be translated into it in order for it to be carried out in accordance with Islamic law, according to Mrs. Norulnaha Abdul Razak, the founder of the Islamic Spa Practice that meets the standards required by the Malaysia Islamic Development Department (JAKIM) [3]
- d. The majority of spas today are more influenced by the concepts of Bali and Thailand, where the use of statues is frequently used as interior décor. This was obviously against the teachings of Islam, which forbid the usage of statues as ornaments.[3]

## 2. Literature Review

The activities conducted by the spa should follow the Islamic values where female therapists will be at the service of women and vice versa. Islamic law can determine the right way to do things, practices and social behaviour and that is the main influence in setting up a Muslim spa. The important in segregation of gender where it is should be seen in the spaces. The spatial must divided in three section where it can be as public zone, semi-private zone and private zone which could help to hide the customer *awrah* from the non-mahram gaze.

## 3. Methodology

Data can be understood as facts, words, letters, diagrams, charts or symbols that represent objects, situations, conditions or ideas. Data will be obtained with information provided by respondents through a survey form (Majid, 2004). According to Mohamed Izham (2004), data collection is a way of gathering information related to a variable. each questionnaire contains a complete set consisting of a questionnaire.

On this study, on-site observation and questionnaires about visitors' and employees' perceptions of the two (2) chosen case studies were utilised as the approach. Zen Facial and Spa is the first case study, while Celeste Beauty Salon is the second. Both spas that were picked as case studies claims that they are woman only spa and suitable for Muslim. The areas where there are variances are in how interior spaces are planned and designed according to Islamic law and how it seamlessly blended in with the spa ambiances.

### 3.1. Case study 1: Zen Facial and Spa

The Zen Facial and Spa is based in Kota Kenangan, Kota Bharu, Kelantan. It was formed in 2016 and incorporated by Mrs Zizie. The spa was set up to meet Malaysia's demand for Muslim friendly spa.

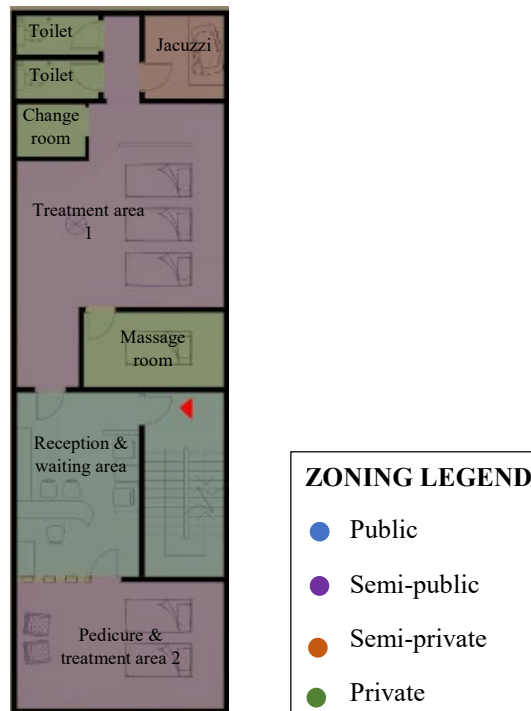


Figure 1

Figure 1 shows the Zen Facial and Spa space planning and zoning area in Kota Kenangan, Kota Bharu. Table 1 shows the legend of the coloured zoning area in Figure 1. The public area is limited to the entrance (stairs), and reception area while both treatment area are in semi-public zone. The private zone is change room, massage room and toilets.



Figure 2.1a



Figure 2.1b

Figure 2.1a shows the entrance of Zen Facial and Spa (on stairs) as they try to create the Zen feeling start from the doorstep of the spa. The basket of artificial tea tree in mini-island alike, timber on the wall and pendant light with cotton (Figure 2.1b) to camouflange the wire makes the customers feel like they have entered to a place far from the city.



**Figure 2.2**



**Figure 2.3**

The products display area and licence certificate of Zen Facial and Spa are located right after the customer walk into the premise and parallel to the waiting area so that customers can see and grab the product range that Zen Facial and Spa offers (Figure 2.2). Figure 2.3 is the reception area where the customers will be consulted with treatment package, doing transactions and doing a manicure session. There is not specific area for manicure (nail treatment) and the worker had to do it at reception's table. This cause new customers walk-in uncomfortable as the waiting area is beside the reception area. The cotton stuck to the wall of reception area and display area are unique attempt from the spa to make it look like in the cloud however it might cause smoke and then cause a fire in the premise.



**Figure 2.4**



**Figure 2.5**



**Figure 2.6**

Figure 2.4 is the walkaway area to the treatment area 1 and massage room gives the malay-bali theme with a hint of Chinese accessories/ decoration as customers walk into it. The facial treatment area is divided into two and placed in between reception and waiting area. Treatment area 2 (Figure 2.6) has 360° ceiling fan works as ventilation method and the treatment area 1 (Figure 2.5) is equipped with wall air-condition shared with changing room. The changing room is open and other customer's area bound to look into the room when passing to toilet/ jacuzzi room.

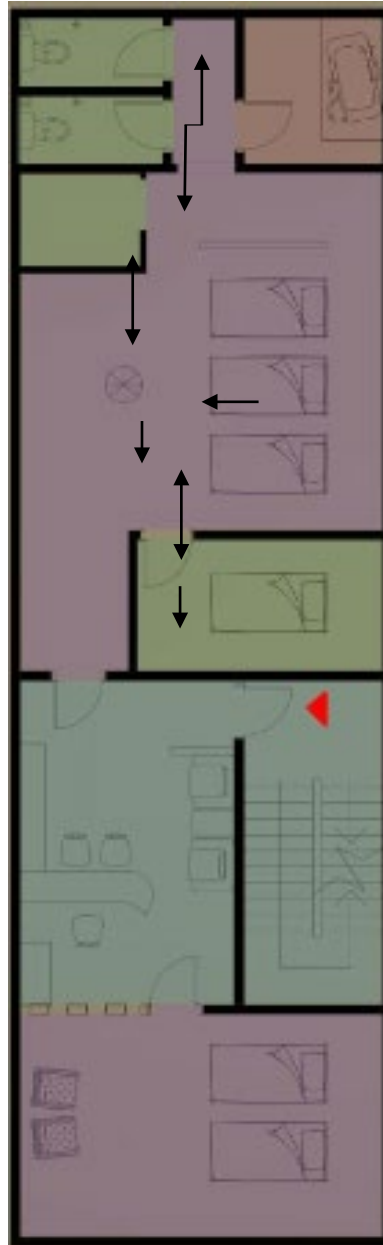


Figure 3

Figure 3 shows the poor circulation of the Zen Facial and Spa. Employees can cross paths with customers at any one time as the circulation area are quite small especially at the waiting/ reception area to treatment area 2/ pedicure area.

### 3.2. Case study 2: Celeste Beauty Salon

Celeste Beauty Salon claims to be a passionate provider of top-to-toe beauty care services for the discerning woman who knows exactly what feels good. Believes that self-care is an absolute necessity. Their seasoned professionals help rejuvenate look or simply just recharge and feel refreshed to face challenges.



**Figure 2.7**

Figure 2.7 is the reception area are flexible to any festival decorations and additional product to be displayed.



**Figure 2.8**

**Figure 2.9**

Figure 2.8 is the waiting area/ lounge. Placed opposite of the reception counter, Celeste Beauty Salon provide 2 one-seater sofa with fluted coffee table. Manicure section near the waiting area/ lounge in Figure 2.9



**Figure 2.10**

In figure 2.10 is the one private washing hair salon for treatment that produce unpleasant smell from using certain product to avoid the customer dissatisfaction from the smell.



**Figure 2.11**



**Figure 2.12**

Figure 2.11 is the product display area that displays the product range that Celeste Beauty Salon uses as Celeste Beauty Salon do not produce their own product lines. Figure 2.12 is the open hair wash salon for basic hair treatment.



**Figure 2.13**

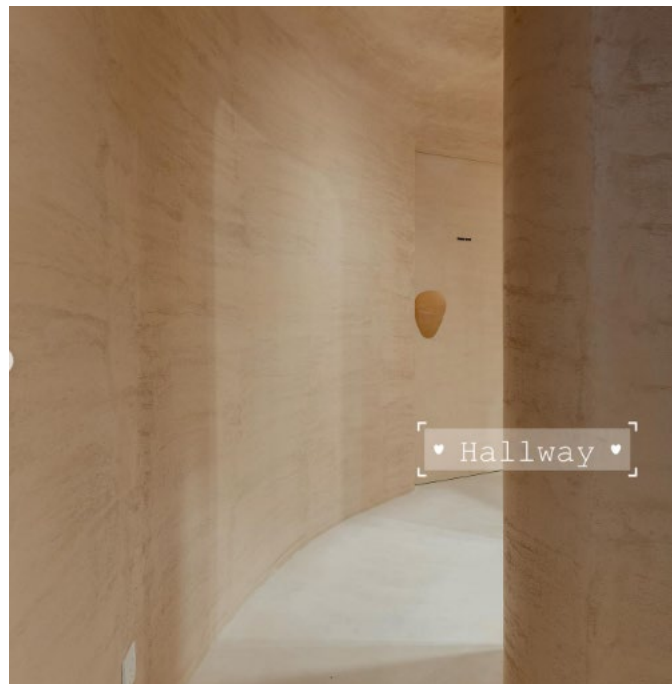
Pedicure area on the left side of the reception area consists of 3 seats only (Figure 2.13)



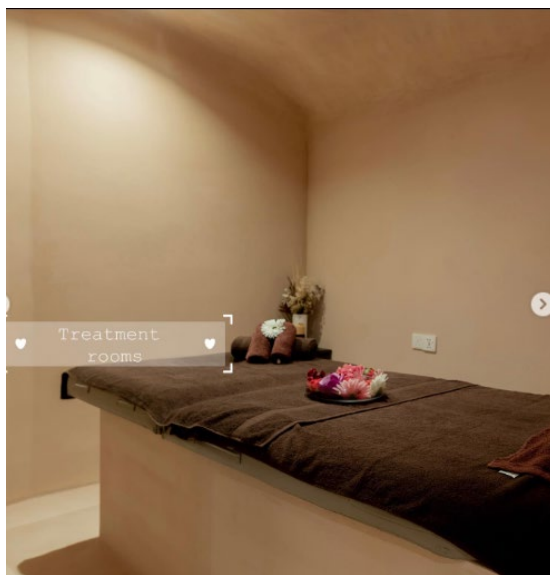
**Figure 2.14**



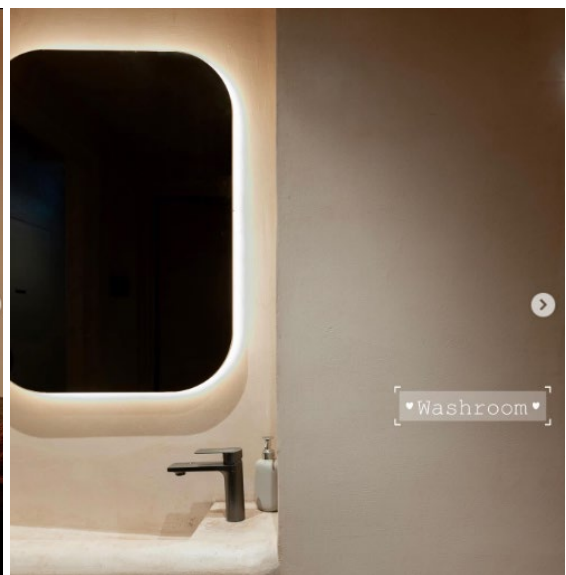
Semi-public cubicle for Muslim woman to have their hair cut and a consultation for hair problem treatments in Figure 2.14.



**Figure 2.15**



**Figure 2.16**



**Figure 2.17**

Figure 2.15 shown the narrow hallway to the massage room (Figure 2.16) washroom (Figure 2.17)

### 3.3 Discussion

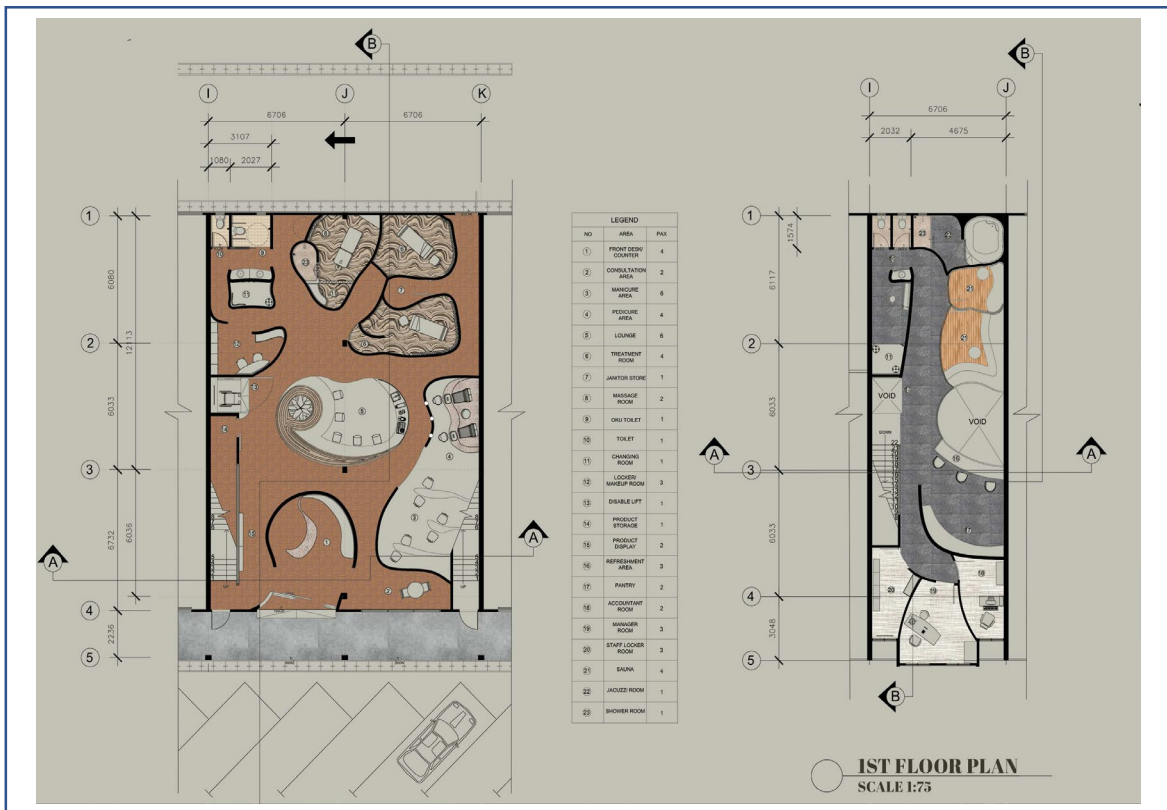
**Table 1.** Comparison between Zen Facial and Spa and Celeste Beauty Salon

Case study	Space planning	Traffic flow	Zoning
Zen Facial and Spa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 treatment area provide same treatment.</li> <li>Change room far from massage room</li> <li>No special place for manicure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small walking area through treatment area 2.</li> <li>Walkaway area to treatment area 1 and massage room become one person fit due to steppingstone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public area in between semi-public area</li> </ul>
Celeste Beauty Salon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Massage room is located at secluded section in the premise.</li> <li>Customers in waiting area can see directly to pedicure section</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Too spacious at hair area (waste of space)</li> <li>One person fit to walk at pedicure area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Perfectly executed</li> </ul>

The above table shows the space planning, traffic flow and zoning from different spa. The differences will be the outline to propose new design layout and align with Islamic law.

## 4. Results and Discussion

### 4.1. Space planning



**Figure 1.** Propose new space planning for Muslim friendly spa

Seeing the reception table and waiting area parallel to each other after entering the entrance of the spa. Onto to the right door to treatment consultation area. A descending wall as walking to the lounge area is a manicure area and through the ascending wall is pedicure area. The lounge shaped as bud of the tea tree flower, consisting of Karesensui garden with a sunshine through the tea tree from the second floor of the spa.



**Figure 3: Proposed new design scheme for Zen Facial and Spa at reception area**



**Figure 4: Proposed new design scheme for Zen Facial and Spa at lounge area**

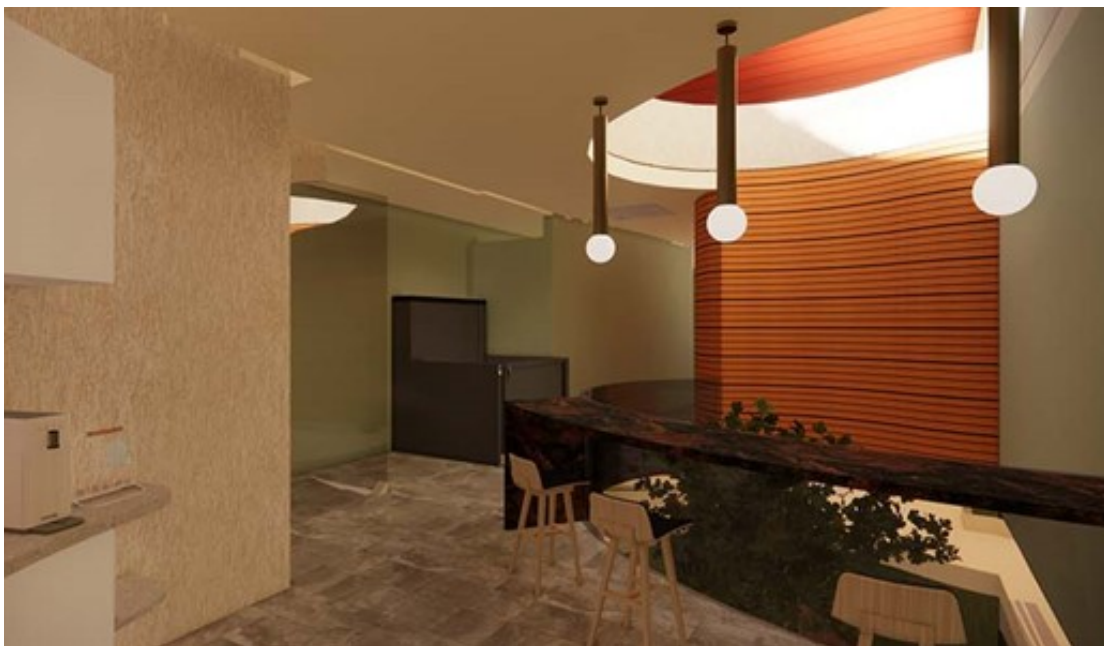
Treatment rooms were divided into organic shape of wall with textured paint and glasses. The curving wall reduces door usage between area as it blocks the view of passerby. A small copper signage to indicate the rooms and curtain to giving the more privacy to the room. A personal small shower room and change area in massage room give ultimate comfort to the customers as massaging requires to changes clothes and involves oiling.



**Figure 5: Proposed new design scheme for Zen Facial and Spa at massage room**

There are two ways in and out to the toilet area, which the opening before the massage room and from the changing room. This is to make it easier for customers to go directly from the toilet to the dressing room after finishing any treatments. After changing/ touch up some makeup, customers can move to the lounge through front door-like opening.

Passing through the product display area to reception area or to the second floor of the spa which the wet service that the Zen Facial and Spa offers. Customers that are done for their treatment would not collide with new customers as they will be passing through left door at reception area. This reduces the social distancing and smoothen the entrance circulation.



**Figure 6: Proposed new design scheme for Zen Facial and Spa at second floor lounge area**

The second floor of the spa is the administrative area and wet spa services. The first thing that can be seen after climbing the stairs to the second floor is mini lounge with a view of Karensensui garden from the first floor with skylight from the roof. A self-service pantry behind the mini lounge to cover

the office area from the customers. Provides two types of saunas which for 1 person and 3 persons only. Shower room is in Jacuzzi room as customers that having saunas can have their jacuzzi session and go to shower after the session.



**Figure 7: Proposed new design scheme for Zen Facial and Spa inside the treatment room**



**Figure 7: Proposed new design scheme for Zen Facial and Spa at second floor lounge area (view towards first floor lounge)**

#### **4.2. Discussion**

The outcome spa for Zen Facial and Spa design is different from the Kota Kenangan, Kota Bharu. As for the result, the zoning and traffic flow is part of the importance things to consider in order to achieve the Muslim friendly spa and where it is part of Islamic law. The five human senses are well used while being in this improvise design spa. Textured wall and floor for touch senses, soothing music through ceiling speaker throughout the premise for hearing, sunlight vision from the skylight of the second floor,

fragrant smell from the tea tree at the lounge area and out-source confectionery for customers are complete human senses that this proposed new design had offers.

The use of curved walls makes customers wonder where the journey will take them unlike straight walls which give an uninteresting and ordinary effect. Curved wall also be used to block the sight of passer-by without using door which often take up spaces whenever we use to swing the door open. It makes Muslim women feel more comfortable and safe because doors often give Muslim woman anxiety whenever they hear the door opens. The concept of the spa that does not allow non-mahram man to enter during business hours really give Muslim woman an assurance that their *awrah* is safely secure in Zen Facial and Spa spaces. Furthermore, most of the women in Malaysia not only Muslim rather to choose spa that are more privacy. Therefore, Malaysia has the opportunity to become largest Muslim friendly spa in the sector of tourism and spa industry that could also contribute in great revenue to the Malaysian economy.

## 5. Conclusion and Future Works

According to the findings, Muslim friendly beauty spas should be design with the goal of meeting Muslim demands when they go to a spa for treatments that help feeling refresh, revive, and recharge after a long busy day. Since Muslims today are conscious of leading healthy lifestyles while adhering to Shariah and Islamic teachings, the initiative to develop the design guideline for a Muslim-friendly spa in Malaysia is crucial to make the industry players aware and recognise the enormous potential and market that comes from this demographic.

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## Appendix

Appendixes, if needed, appear after Reference.