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Advice to architects on design

PUTRAJAYA, Fri. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called on architects to take into account the equipment that will later be installed in buildings they are designing.

Saying he was unhappy that this was not always done, he said this aspect of architecture must be given attention.

"Especially, air-conditioners are still seen hanging outside windows ... sometimes in rows, making a beautiful building less beautiful," he said. Dr Mahathir said this when launching the book "KLIA Gateway to Malaysia" by Datuk Esa Mohamed, an architect and planner, at the Prime Minister's Department.

Dr Mahathir said some people also hang their laundry, including their underwear, to dry outside windows and that to solve this problem it had been suggested that buildings have economical dryers.

"I am not satisfied as the design of many buildings do not take into account equipment that would be installed later," he said.

However, he congratulated Malaysian architects for having designed many beautiful buildings and having changed the nation's look.

At the launch, Dr Mahathir was presented the Malaysian Architects Association President's Award for Outstanding Contribution to Malaysia's Architecture.

The association's president Prof Datuk Parid Wardi Sudin said this was the first time the award was being made and was the highest honour bestowed on individuals or organisations outside the profession of architecture.

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