

ISLAMI HOUSE DESIGN CONCEPT

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Abstract: *Islam has a very wide scope, one of which being the architecture. In architectural science, dwelling house is one of works closest to our daily life. It is therefore important that we understand one of Islamic architecture works, that is Islamic house concept. Up to now, there is still the question on how Islamic house concept that conforms Islam sharia law is. Sometimes questions related to whether dome, tower, and mihrab are compulsory in mosque arise, although the answer is definitely no. Another question is associated to whether Islamic house should have calligraphy and domelike structures like Middle Eastern houses; the answer to it is another no. Moreover, there is a question about Islamic standard of toilet and wudhu/ablution place Dwelling house is not a merely a place to live for a family. It should provide the function of worshiping and preaching media. Thus, there are certain principles of Islamic house design concept to be applied, be it in the planning or building or in the behaving in it once it is done. We can now see and watch on TV about people dream house or healthy house. However, we have never obtained information on Islamic house. Since we need to be sure in building houses, Islam also teaches how to build a house in accordance to sharia. An example is that when building toilet, the position should not face forward or backward of the qibla. Bali has their standard rules in building houses and arranging their rooms to conform the balance of building and the environment. Islam must have more principles than that. Therefore, it is necessary to make and deliver guidelines on how Muslims should build their houses in accordance to Islamic syari.*

Keywords: *House, Islam, Concept, Build.*

Introduction

Having an Islamic house is a dream for every muslim. Unfortunately, since not everyone understands the real concept of Islamic house, many have misinterpreted it. An Islamic house is not a house whose architectural design is mosque-like nor a house with Islamic ornaments like calligraphy or such.

Dwelling house architecture is an Islamic science since the pattern applied in it is Islamic in essence. There are room arrangements separating public area, private area, and service area.

These confirm the very-Islamic guidelines as Islamic dwelling houses band together with keeping family privacy as well as assistant privacy, security and comfort. There has never been thorough exploration on Islamic literature from “Time Saver” to “Architect Data” book, mostly because the subject falls under general study instead of religious study.

In short, Islamic architecture is not merely a figment. When a house is built in proper manner and adjusts the people living in it, muslim people, it becomes an Islamic house. This is where a muslim architect make his/her muslim client’s wish come true. A good muslim client will not want to have their family’s privacy exposed, be it from outside world or during guests visits.

Discussion

An Islamic house is an efficient house, a place to worship Allah and to muse about death. Islamic house is not a house that faces qibla nor a house which toilet faces other directions instead of qibla. It is a house that is built as it is.

An Islamic house is a house enables its occupants to interact, while at the same time keep their own privacy. When those criteria are fulfilled, it is the duty of an architect to materialize it into the design. However, not everyone understands this. Often time the owners of the house refused to his house as it is. They want to have a seemingly grand and luxurious house. Lately, most people wish for a house closed from the outside environment and the neighbors. They build high fences. The tendency shows that people are becoming more individualistic. They also prefer to design their house where the parents’ main bedroom is upstairs while children’s bedrooms are downstairs. This leads to poor interaction between parents and their children. Islamic house design shows that there are private zones for every member of the family, but, it also has places where everyone in the house can gather around.

More importantly, an Islamic house is a house that stays connected to the outside world. It enables good interaction and social relation with surrounding neighborhood. Anyone visiting the house should also feel that they are welcomed. Islamic house is definitely not a house featuring luxury and wealth. Islamic ornaments like calligraphy might be placed there. One thing to be noted is that their arrangements should be in the right place.

There rise a question on how to design an Islamic dwelling house. First, we have to group 3 functions of zoning plan. Private area consist of main bedroom and children bedroom, dining room, pantry, living room, toilet, and family porch. Service area comprise of kitchen, assistant’s room, laundry room, ironing room, and garage. The last zone is public area that are parlor/guest room and terrace/front porch. There should be 2 doors, the first is in parlor for public area while the second one is in the garage or kitchen for private and service area.

That is a simple depiction of Islamic dwelling house. Hopefully there are more and more Islamic dwelling house to generate *mawaddah* and *sakinah* families. Broadly described, housing concept in Islam civilization has many rooms completed with *tabhane*/a place to welcome guests, garden, and also courtyard. The many rooms aim for visiting relatives for who come to keep in touch. This confirms that in the eye of Islam family tends to be a big one. Thus, adequate number of rooms are required to ensure their privacy. The parlor dan big room concepts provide places to welcome the visiting people as well as places for family to get together. Courtyard provides not only ventilation and lighting, but also a place for muslim little girls and teenagers to play around without their hijab.

Islam also regulates the concept of *silaturrahmi* and people in designing a house to maintain relations with surrounding neighborhood. Islam has a garden concept as house complement. The concept of Islamic garden can be taken from Holy Qur'an depicting the beauty of heavenly gardens. The balance of plants and other accessories in a garden should be preserved. Apart from their aesthetic values, plants can be chosen according their function to regulate micro climate in a house.

It is necessary that we pay attention to the guidelines of the sharia in designing an Islamic house, which according to Miftahul Asror (2009) are:

Special worship room: An Islamic house should have a special worship room which functions as adequate worshipping space.

Separate bedrooms for parents and children: An Islamic house should provide sufficient rooms for its occupants. This means the room facilitates family's needs. Parents and children should have separate bedroom. Boys' and girls' bedrooms should also be separated, especially when they have reached maturity (*baligh*) Rumah yang Islami harus memiliki ruang yang memadai bagi penghuni rumah. Artinya, ruangan tersebut sesuai kebutuhan keluarga. Dalam rumah yang Islami, ruang tidur orang tua dan anak-anak terpisah. Ruang tidur anak laki-laki dan perempuan juga terpisah satu sama lain, terutama bila sudah dewasa (*baligh*).

Guest bedroom: A house should be built with adequate number of bedrooms so that boys' and girls' can have different bedroom. This will also ease the occupants when guests come to visit at times. Guest bedroom should also be put apart from the living room so that it is impossible for the guests to peek freely.

Functioning house walls as hijab: A house is fundamentally built to cover people living in it. According to shari, hijab means closing/covering oneself from others'. Inside the house, aurat can be seen at certain times, and walls should perform its function as the perfect hijab.

The position of the closet faces directions other than the kibla: There actually are differences in scholars' opinion about this. However, it should be noted that Rasulullah SAW forbade urinating/voiding facing kibla.

Dzikrullah ornaments: All ornaments inside a house should be those allowed by sharia like dzikir words stipulated by Allah SWT. Nevertheless, Islam forbids exaggeration in everything.

The concept of Islamic house design has undergone multiple evolutions. The most striking point is that nowadays houses are no longer as wide as they were in Rasulullah era due to limited area. Economic condition is the main factor. Nevertheless, it is a challenge for us to create a house with Islamic concept in such a limited space. It is unacceptable to abandon the characters of Islam in it, including the custom to arrange the layout both of the rooms and furniture.

Islamic House Design Illustration

Question on how an Islamic house concept that conforms Islam sharia has been around up to nowadays. Sometimes there is also an inquiry whether dome, tower, and mihrab should always present in mosque. The answer to this is no. Another question is if Islamic house must have calligraphy and curving shapes like middle-eastern architectural dome. Again, the answer to it is no. The last question is whether toilet and ablution place have met Islamic feature. The answer is another no.

Islamic house is a vision of every muslim. Unfortunately, not everyone understands it. This leads to many misinterpretations. An Islamic house is not a house whose architectural design is mosque-like nor a house with Islamic ornaments like calligraphy or such.

In building an Islamic house, first, we have to group 3 functions of zoning plan.

- a. Private area consist of main bedroom and children bedroom, dining room, pantry, living room, toilet, and family porch.
- b. Service area comprise of kitchen, assistant's room, laundry room, ironing room, and garage.
- c. The last zone is public area that are parlor/guest room and terrace/front porch. There should be 2 doors, the first is in parlor for public area while the second one is in the garage or kitchen for private and service area.

Definition:

House: A building in which people live with their family, has social connection to surrounding neighborhood and carry out activities to prepare for outing activities, also a place of sanctuary for every member of family.

Islamic House: A house in which peace, love, and divine grace are found.

Islamic House Design: To build a house conforming proverb "Baiti Jannati" (Home sweet home) so that the house feels like a heaven on earth.

Goal and objective:

Goal: To build a house where users can have their activities and a house that provides harmonious peace and love.

Objectives: To establish a concept to get rooms that accommodate activities full of peace, love and divine grace.

To establish a concept to have building appearance that supports building functions.

User:

Father
Mother
Son
Daughter
Housekeeper
Guest

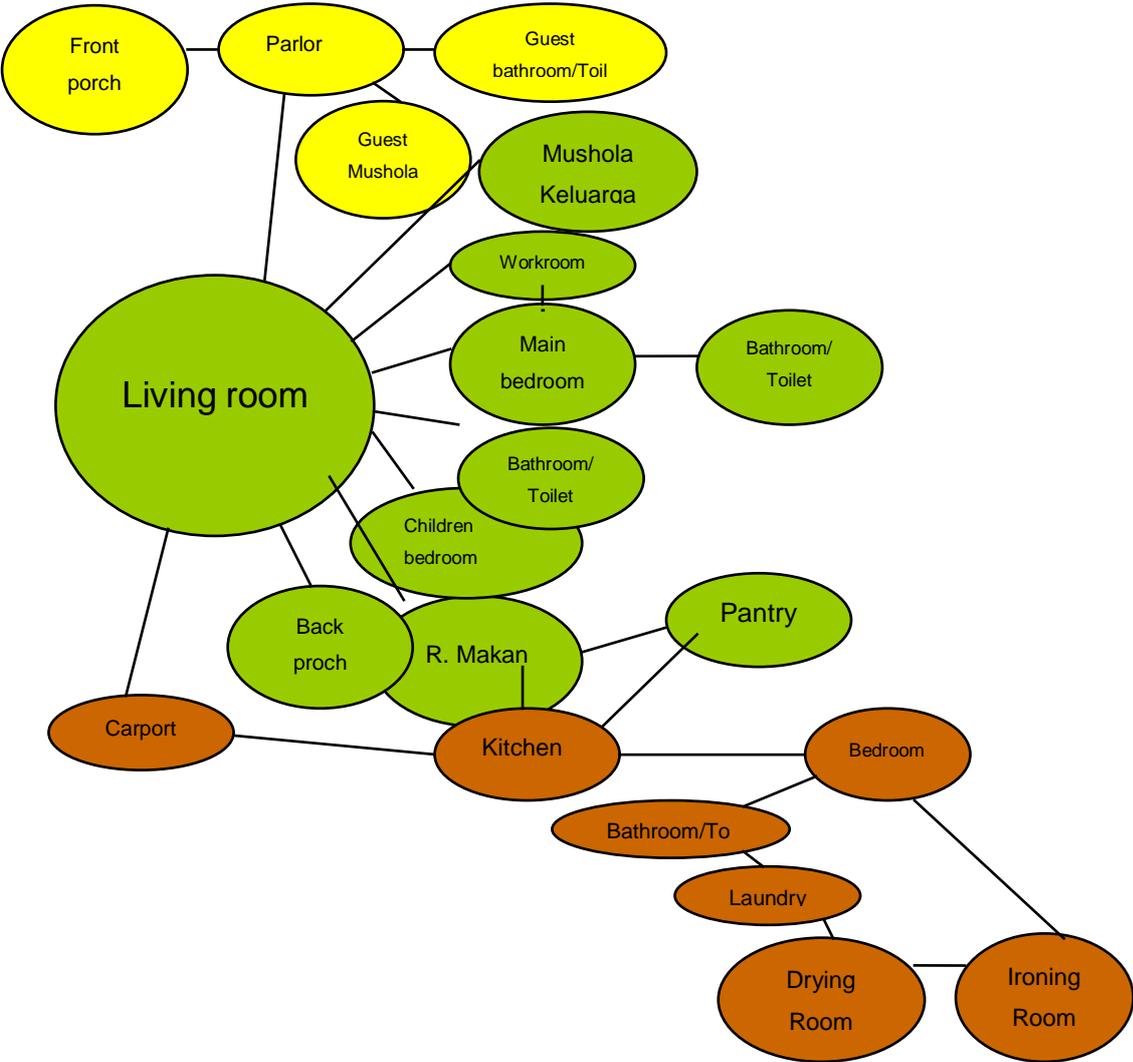
Activities:

No	User	Activities	No	User	Activities
1.	Father	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bathe dan Bladder • Pray • Eat • Leave for work • At work • Home from work • Relax/Watch TV • Work at home • Sleep 	4.	Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bathe and Bladder • Pray • Leave for school • Home from school • Relax/Watch TV • Study • Sleep
2.	Mother	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bathe and Bladder • Pray • Cook • Eat • Relax/Watch TV • Sleep 	5.	House keeper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bathe and Bladder • Pray • Cook • Wash • Eat • Drying clothes • Ironing • Relax/Watch TV • Clean up • Sleep
3.	Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bathe and Bladder • Pray • Leave for school • Home from school • Relax/Watch TV • Study • Sleep 	6.	Guest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Come • Sit • Bladder • Pray • Go home/Leave

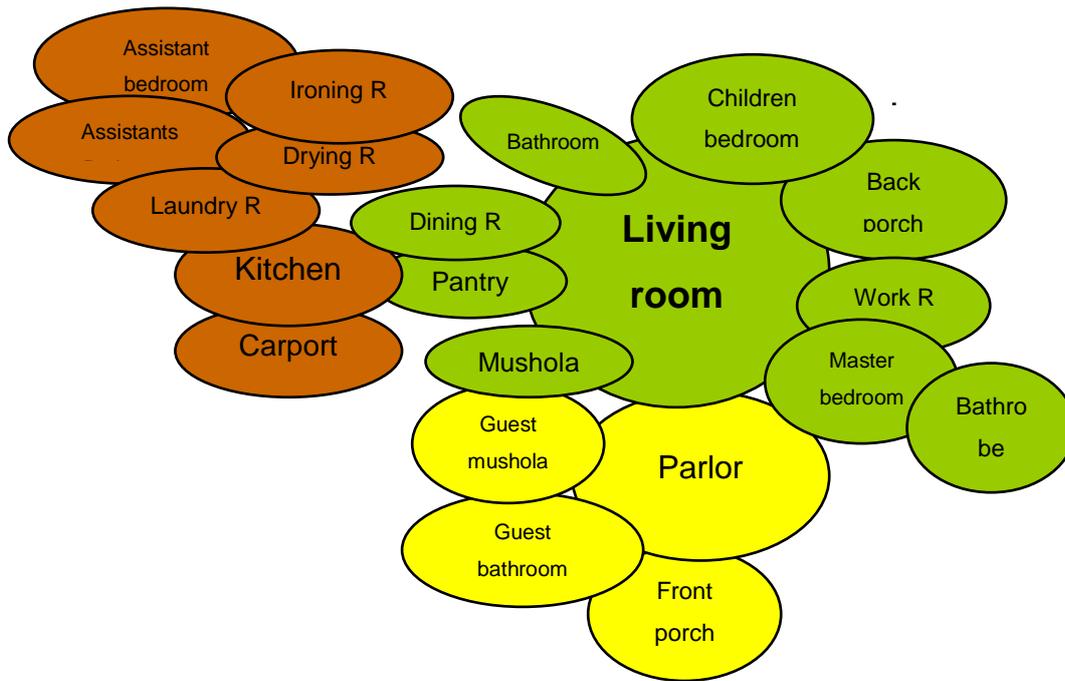
Room Requirements:

No	User	Activities	Room	No	User	Activities	Room
1.	Father	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bathe and Bladder • Pray • Eat • Leave for work/ Home from work • Relax/Watch TV • Work (At home) • Sleep 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bathroom/ Toilet • Mushola • Dining R • Carport • Living R • Work R • Bedroom 	2.	Mother	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bathe and Bladder • Pray • Cook • Eat • Leave/Come • Relax/Watch TV • Sleep 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bathroom/ Toilet • Mushola • Kitchen • Dining R • Carport • Living R • Bedroom
3.	Daughter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bathe and Bladder • Pray • Leave/Come • Eat • Relax/Watch TV • Study • Sleep 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bathroom/ Toilet • Mushola • Carport • Dining R • Living R • Study R • Bedroom 	5.	House keeper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bathe and Bladder • Pray • Cook • Wash • Eat • Drying clothes • Ironing • Relax/Watch TV • Clean up • Sleep 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bathroom/ Toilet • Mushola • Kitchen • Laundry R • Dining R • Drying R • Ironing R • Living R • Bedroom
4.	Son	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bathe and Bladder • Pray • Eat • Leave/Come • Relax/Watch TV • Study • Sleep 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bathroom/ Toilet • Mushola • Dining R • Carport • Living R • Study R • Bedroom 	6.	Guest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Come/Go • Sit • Bladder • Pray 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Porch • Parlor • Bathroom/ Toilet • Mushola

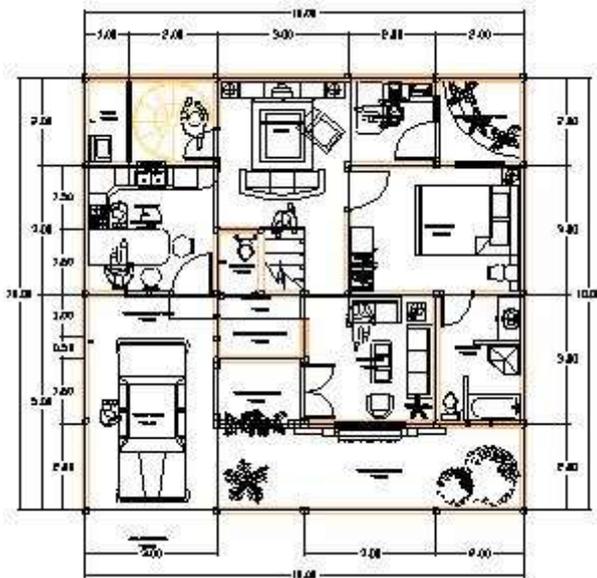
Room Connection:



Block Plan:

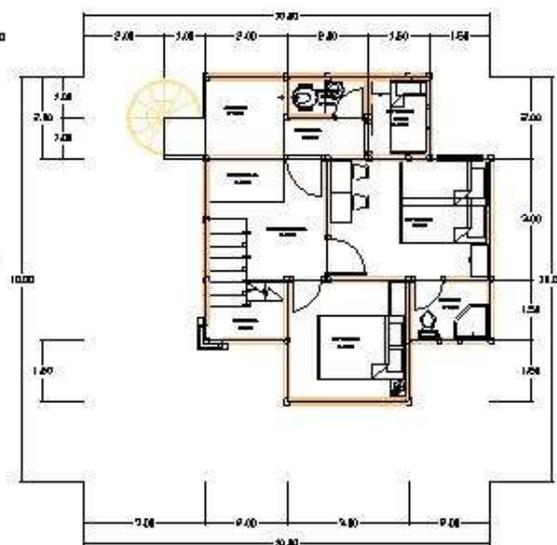


Floor Plan Illustration:

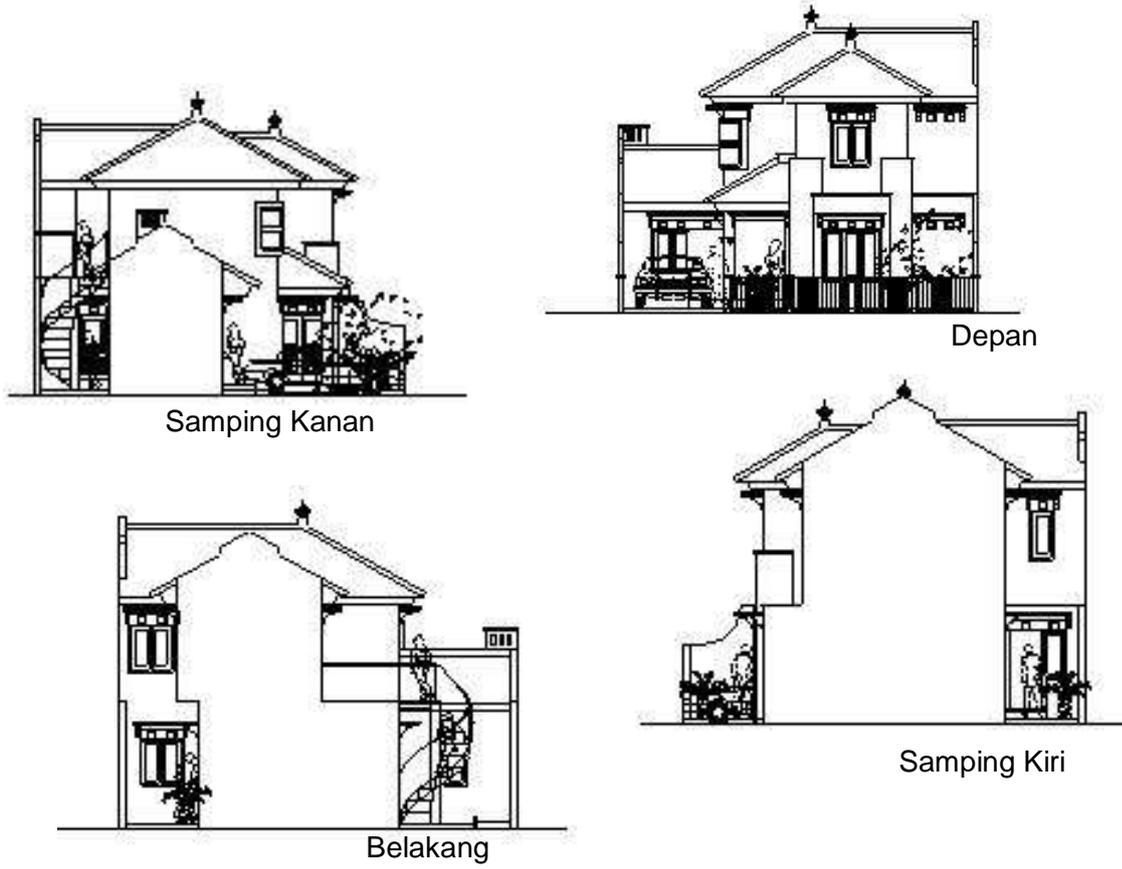


Denah Lt 1

Denah Lt 2



Elevation:



Perspective:



There are 10 important guidelines in arranging an Islamic house. They are:

Cleanliness and purity

Maintaining cleanliness and purity for a muslim is a plus point, a part of sharia laws. It is therefore a muslim should always be in clean and pure, be it his/her body, clothing, or dwelling place. This is an obligatory condition in worshipping, especially praying. When a muslim wipes out impurity/filth, s/he cleans not only his/her body but also his/her soul. That is why Islam has certain different regulation on how to clean every different filth.

Arranging and organizing interior design to make the house look beautiful

“Allah is beautiful and loves beauty.” Every muslim should be aware of this and maintaining the beauty of their dwellings. They can express it in the way they neatly dress, the way household items tidily arranged, and rooms being used as their functions. An instance is when Baitul Haram frame is displayed in parlor wall instead of kitchen wall.

Custom to lower voice, keep secret, and stay quiet

Imam Hasan Al Banna stated in his will, “Do not raise your voice higher than necessary for the hearer, as that is a foolish and disturbing behavior.” Loud voices in arguments, laughs, women’s shrill, or radio/television are sensitive things and they can trigger dispute. They are not parts of Islamic ethics. The occupants of Islamic house will always make effort to keep Islamic ethics in interacting with members of family or neighbors. They will be polite in speaking, respect others’ rights and keep their family secrets.

Arranging things related to knowledge and worship

The most important thing is mandatory knowledge related to worship, completing obligatory (fardhu) and sunnah practices. This can be manifested in building home library, enforcing worship especially praying (shalat), fasting, Qur’an recital, *dzikrullah* (remembrance of Allah) and do’a. All family member should help each other in realizing these things. The role of *tausiah* (advise each other) is crucial in keeping those practices.

Maintaining good relationship and interacting custom

Muslims have responsibility over themselves and their families. They are obligated to always select the quality and quantity of the food and drink to bring home. They should not pile up needless clothes and items as that is an extravagance. They are expected to value the importance and benefit of an item before purchasing it.

Keeping health and exercising

The occupants of Islamic house follow rules and regulation of Islamic interaction. They respect their parents, obey them, be kind to them, and regard them special. Husband and wife should interact well and provide good examples for their children. They keep contact with distant relatives and family. They accustom their children to respect the older people and care for the younger ones. They make good practices as habits.

Protecting home and family members from deviating behaviors and keeping them away from haram, makruh, and dangerous things

“There are two life’s pleasures most people forget, health and spare time” (HR. Bukhari). Islam pays attention to health. There are other hadiths mentioning the

importance of health and strength. However, in reality, many muslims ignore this matter. Muslim should give careful awareness to cleanliness of the house, the air, the ventilation, and the neatness of the layout. It is expected that every member of the family get used to exercising, be it jogging or walking in the morning, or whatever convenience to them. It will be best practice when exercising is accompanied by *dzikrullah* and do'a.

Be modest in eating, drinking, dressing, and having lifestyle

Islam teaches us how to be moderate in everything. There should be a balance in consuming foods and beverages to maintain our health. We should also live a humble lifestyle.

Be kind to neighbors, respect guests and maintain silaturrahmi

Honoring guests is one of muslim's obligations. Among the Islamic ethics is that when visiting someone we should not burden the host to entertain us. A muslim along with his family and house must always be prepared to have guests and honor them. Muslim family respect and fulfill their neighbors' rights in certain events, joy and sorrow. They keep their children to have good friendship with neighbors' children, and teach their children to keep their manner.

Coming in and out of the house custom

The first thing a muslim should pay attention to when coming in or out of the house is the sunnah related to it; which foot comes first and greet the occupants. Before leaving the house, s/he must determine the intention and purpose, then prepare and check bags. Muslim women should not use too fragrant perfume when leaving the house for fearing it will attract other men. They should also always keep their hijab well.

Conclusion

A house is a sanctuary for everyone in a family from the outside world. In it are harmonious peace and love. Islam as the perfect *dien* regulates how to make this happiness come true, how to create a home as the slogan "*Baiti Jannati*" (Home sweet home). This kind of house will give peace, love, and mercy from Allah, like a heaven on earth. They have rooms as private area, *tabhane* as a place to welcome guests, courtyard as a border between public and private area, and Islamic gardens.

A muslim will forever actively practice what the religion demands. He will also lead his family to do the same things, and keep them away from forbidden things. It is a common practice for muslim to recognize things considered as *aurat* to be kept.

We should be aware that some of our clothes are not for public consume, and we should keep them in places hidden from sight. Improper behavior and sayings must not be done to others. *Aurat* should not be shown, even in front of a little child. Items forbidden by religion such as statue should not be displayed inside the house. Other things categorized as *lagho*, *makruh*, and *haram* should also be avoided; they are things like useless and waste-of-time television and radio shows. Children must be protected from dangerous items like medicines, sharp items, and glassware.

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