

**Architect
centre**

Malaysia's leading property inspection and building advisory services provider

The danger within

Do you know your house could be harbouring terrorists?

No, we're not talking about the weapon of mass destruction-wielding type, but ordinary things which, if overlooked, could lead to serious consequences and affect your family's well-being.

Hussein Hussain, Architect Centre Sdn Bhd (ACSB) general manager said, home buyers should "check their homes for health hazards before finalising their purchases".

The problems, which may be caused by insufficient maintenance or lack of it, include dampness to internal walls surrounding the bathroom or other "wet areas"; prevalence of termites in flooring, door frames, cabinets and other wooden furniture; and live and unused electrical wires which haven't been connected.

Switchboards without safety switches and poorly maintained utilities such as water pipes, hot water systems and drainage also make the list.

Comparing Australian and Malaysian houses, Hussein said the latter are "structurally stronger" but are

plagued with "many more problems that could affect the health of their occupants".

These are among the findings of ACSB - the building advisory service of Pertubuhan Aitek Malaysia modelled after its Australian counterpart Archicentre, which is wholly owned by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects.

According to Hussein, of particular concern are dampness and mould as they could cause respiratory problems in the young and the elderly, as well as the risk of electrocution from faulty power points and wiring systems.

To prevent them from blowing up into major problems that could set you back in the thousands and place your loved ones at risk, ACSB recommends pre-purchase inspection and a maintenance programme.

This would ensure the value of your property is preserved in addition to making it safe.

For more information, surf to www.architectcentre.com.my



ACSB will continue to build a comprehensive database of building faults, says Hussein.

If you have a harrowing story on home defects, we'd like to hear it. Get the entry forms from www.pan.org.my or www.architectcentre.com.my.

All stories judged worthy of publishing every fortnight will win 6000 termites inspection vouchers worth RM200 each and RM250 worth of Darter licks.

Weekly winners will be in the running to win grand prizes worth more than RM10,000 in total!

You can either email your entry to acsb.property@gmail.com or post it to 'ACSB-Property, "Your Worst Nightmare Competition", 4th Floor, Balai Berita, 11 Jalan Riang, 59100 Kuala Lumpur or to Architect Centre Sdn Bhd, 466 Jalan Tangpi, 50480 Kuala Lumpur.

For more information, email info@architectcentre.com.my or call 03-2998 2488.