

Interesting For The Community Of Ancient Building In The Old City Of Semarang

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Abstract: This study was conducted to determine the public perception of the condition of the buildings in the old city of Semarang, what is appealing to the public.

Quantitative method is used for this research, data obtained from questionnaires distributed randomly to the 100 respondents who met and are conducting activities in the Old City. The questionnaire contains ratings (based on public perception) of the elements considered most attractive, from a few choice elements of the building include building orientation, ornament, color and facade, dimensions, architectural style, doors and windows, ceiling, walls and columns, floors, and roof. The assessment uses a Likert scale 1-5 where 1 to the lowest value (strongly disagree) and 5 for the highest value (strongly agree).

The results showed that there are five components of the building are considered attractive and are of particular concern to the people; ornament; color and facade; architectural style; doors and windows; as well as the shape of the roof of the building, it is seen that the value reached over 300, meaning that leads to agree and strongly agree as building components are interesting and deserve to be the basis of conservation.

Keywords: Community Perception; Building; Old City of Semarang

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I. Introduction

Old City of Semarang is a visual image that presents the architectural splendor of Europe in the past, many ancient exotic buildings and magnificent was the legacy of Colonial Netherlands which keeps a history that will never run out to told. Generally the character of building in the region are following the buildings on the European continent around the year 1700 (18th century). It can be seen from the typical building details and ornaments are identical with a European style, such as the size of doors and large windows, the use of glass colorful, unique shape of the roof, to the basement. However, along with the development of the times, the old city area which was once an image of Semarang seemed to lose its aura, this is evidenced by the many buildings that have been damaged, with 40% of the building is not enabled anymore.

In addition, a phenomenon that occurs in the Old City today is the only activity of life during the day, while in the night seemed to be a dead city. This is due to the function of the existing building in Old City is an activity almost the entire office that operates from morning until the afternoon, only restaurant who perform the activity until the evening, and it was not much. But the remains of ancient buildings are still be an attraction for the public to come there, although it is just circling location, nostalgic, or take a picture part of the old building that has a certain style, like architectural style, building color, shape, ornaments detail of the building, and so on.

Nowadays, when the Government of Semarang through BPK2L want to do conservation and revitalization of the old city area, should be conducted by the right steps to involve the community to find out, what is the actually part of any components of that old buildings attracts public attention. The study revealed to findings what is the interesting (appealing) about the old buildings base on the opinion of the community (public).

II. Aim Of Research

To find out public interest in the ancient building components in the old city, as preserved buildings

III. Theoretical Study Of Public Perception Of Ancient Buildings

Based on Aminul Asyraf (1979) in *The Conservation of European Cities*, Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, the preference is a product of perception. First, it has been assumed that the perception is directed to establish an environmental sense; Second, the perception is very inferential process, wherein the process requires knowledge, experience and interpretation remain. Perception is also one of the physical and

psychological processes through which the human being to obtain information regarding a particular environment (Kimball, 1917 in Utaberta, N. et al, 2012).

Perception involves the cognitive processes are difficult for the public generally, and therefore, in some studies on the building and the facade of building, the simple perception response is used for involving the assessment made by someone for something they want. Various studies have explained that the quality of the built environment will be evaluated through physical features (Brown and Gifford, 2001), however, the public's mental representation of the building usually get from the evaluation of the facade (Yorkshire Department of the Environment (1975), *Positive Conservation*), in other words, the appearance of the building has obviously played an important role in the evaluation of the physical environment. Not only that, some studies have also described the emotional position of the observer in evaluating the architectural quality of the built environment becomes an important factor in addition to the physical features itself (Mehrabian and Russell, 1974; Gifford et al., 2000 in Utaberta, N. et al, 2012). Factors that affect the evaluation of the built environment if the terms of the features exteriornya is cleanliness, ornaments, detail and content (Akalin, et al., 2009; Nasar Utaberta 1983, N. et al, 2012). Previous studies also identified that the elements - elements that can be used to evaluate the building, among others in terms of architectural style element to consider is the age of the building, the value of the building, the height and width of the building, color and materials used (Nasar, 1989; Hui 2007; Karaman; 2005).

As for the historic building, element to consider is the color, material information concerning the identity and background of the construction of these buildings, usability or functionality, familiarity level building (Coeterier, 2002). Further Coeterier (2002) mentions that the criteria for the appeal of historic buildings is the color, building materials, and proportions (height and width of the building). Brown and Gifford (2001) mentions six cognitive factors in the evaluation of the building, namely clarity, complexity, hospitality, originality, ruggedness, and meaningfulness.

Some studies believe that emotion to a form of a building can affect a person's evaluation of the building's facade. Erder, C. (1986) in the *Our Architectural Heritage: From Consciousness to Conservation*, explains that the evaluation of the building can be stated quite feasible through the measurement of preferences (like-dislike), arousal (attractive-unattractive), naturalness (natural-artificial), and pressure (relaxes-made stress).

IV. Research Methods

The research method used in this study is a quantitative method. While the data obtained from questionnaires distributed randomly to the 100 respondents who met and are conducting activities in the Old City. The questionnaire contains ratings (based on public perception) of the elements considered most attractive, from a few choice elements of the building include building orientation, ornament, color and facade, dimensions, architectural style, doors and windows, ceiling, walls and columns, floors, and roof. The assessment uses a Likert scale 1-5 where 1 to the lowest value (strongly disagree) and 5 for the highest value (strongly agree).

V. Results And Discussion

Historically, the city of Semarang has an area that is at around the 18th century a trading center. The region at the present time called the Old Town area which is also called Outstadt with a wide \pm 40 Ha. This area looks like a separate city with the surrounding area, earning the nickname "Little Netherland". Based on RTBL (Building Management Plan and Environment) of the Old Town area set in the Regional Regulation of Semarang No. 8 of 2003, explaining that The Old City of Semarang is a historical legacy of growth in city Semarang have architectural value, aesthetics, science knowledge and high culture that needs to be preserved and reorganized directionally to adjust the changing times.

The vision of Old City of Semarang is "The Old Town area as Region Historical Dynamic and Living for Social Work, Economics, Tourism and Culture". Old Town is part of Semarang city which was once a city bounded by Fort de Vijthoek. Judging from the utilization of space, the Old Town area defined by the composition of the area function, namely:

- Occupancy function;
- Trade and Office functions;
- Recreation and Culture function

Economic development is clearly visible on the main axis road Lieutenant General Suprpto, in this corridor there are a lot of facilities of trade, such as: shopping/ retail, restaurant (Ikan Bakar Cianjur), hotel (Hotel Raden Patah), car repair shops, and offices (Bank Mandiri, Life Insurance). Social and cultural characteristics that exist in the Old City clearly visible on Srigunting park, located next to the Blenduk church.

The social function Srigunting park become magnetized region, many people who use the park for gather, socialize, and interact in it.

Old City Of Semarang

Old City of Semarang is located in the Bandarhardjo Village, Semarang Utara subdistrict. Old City of Semarang has a border in the North is Jalan Merak front of the Tawang station, to the east boundary is Merak street, the southern boundary is is Sendowo road, and the West is Mpu Tantular road and Semarang river. Size of Semarang Old City around 0.3125 km².



Figure 1: The image of the old Semarang city now a days (2019)

Like the other cities that were under Dutch colonial rule, also built the castle as a military center. The pentagon-shaped fort and the first built on the west side of the old city of Semarang today. This fort has only one gate on its south side and five watchtowers. Each tower named: Zeeland, Amsterdam, Utrecht, Raamsdonk and Bunschoten. The Dutch government resettled China in 1731 close to Dutch settlement, to facilitate the supervision of all activities of the Chinese people. Therefore, Fortress not only as a military facility, but also as a control tower for all activities of the China activities. Then the Dutch settlement began to grow on the east side of the castle "*Vijfhoek*" (five corners). Many homes, churches and office buildings built in these settlements. This settlement is the forerunner of the old city of Semarang.

The locality is known as "*de Europeeshe Buurt*". Forms of urban planning and residential architecture is formed similar to the urban planning and architecture in the Netherlands. Semarang River shaped like canals in the Netherlands. At that time the castle "*Vijfhoek*" not integrated with the Dutch settlement.

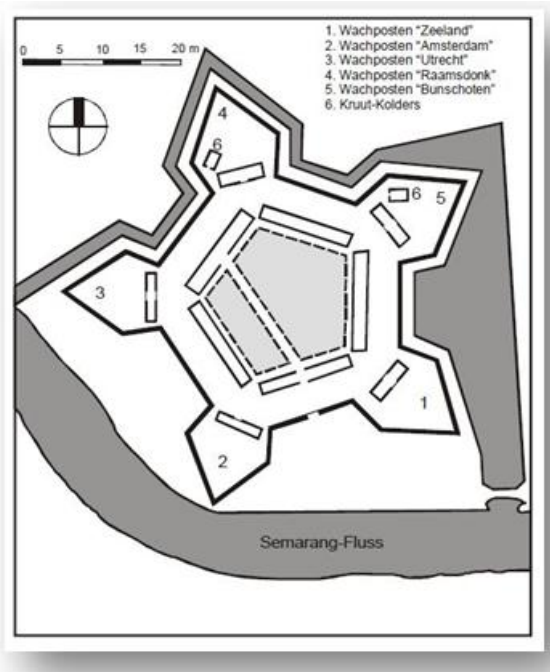


Figure 2: vrijhoek fort drawings in 1708

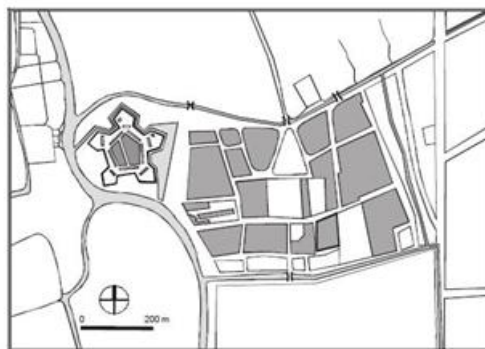


Figure 3: the image of the old city of Semarang in 1720

Semarang old city was planned as a center of the Dutch colonial administration with many colonial buildings. This happened after the signing of the agreement between Mataram and VOC on January 15, 1678. In the agreement stated that Semarang as the main port of the Mataram kingdom has been submitted to the VOC, because VOC help Mataram to quell the rebellion Trunojoyo. Starting in 1705, Semarang belong fully V.O.C. Since then began to appear a lot of rebellion. And the atmosphere becomes safe again. The Dutch built fort to protect settlements. The fortress is located on the west side of the old town is dismantled and built a new fort that protects the entire old city of Semarang.

West wall of the fort lies along the path MPU Tantular (formerly "Wester-wal-Straat") and Semarang river. North side of the castle wall located along the Merak (formerly called "Norder-wal-Straat"). The east wall is located at Cendrawasih street ("Ooster-wal-Straat") and the south side wall located on the street Kepodang, formerly named "Zuider-wal-Straat".



Figure 4: The facade of an ancient building today



Figure 5: image the boundary of fortress nowadays has become a road, are not visible at all of the former fort

The fort has three gates in the West, East and South. West gate called "de Wester Poort" or "de Gouvernementspoort", as it is located close to the VOC administration. South gate called "de Zuider Poort" and the East Gate called "de Oost Poort". Life in the Citadel developing well. Started many new buildings have sprung up. Dutch colonial government to build a new Christian church called the "Emmanuel" church which is now known as the "Blenduk Church". The fortress was built on the north side of military command center to ensure defense and security in the castle.

In 1824 the castle gates and watchtowers started to be torn down. The Dutch and other Europeans began to occupy the settlements around the Bojong (now Jalan Pemuda). In this era, the old city of Semarang has grown into a complete small city. At the time the governor general Daendels (1808-1811), built the post way (Postweg) from Anyer to Panarukan. Street "de Heerenstraat" (now jalan Let. Jend. Suprpto) become part of the post way (van Lier, H.P.J. 1928).

Many buildings were repaired. Emmanuel Christian Church (Blenduk Church) which is having architectural style renaissance was renovated in 1894. In 1924, a quarter century after the end of the VOC, the Dutch settlement began to widen to the Bojong road (Imam Bonjol) to the west (road Daendels) and along the way of Mataram street. Towards the 20th century old town is growing rapidly and built many trade offices, banks, insurance offices, notary, hotel and shops. On the East side Blenduk church, built an open field used for military parades or music in the afternoons, now it was only a little bit and is known as the Srigunting garden (van Velsen M.M.F. 1931). After Indonesian independence, the Indonesian government to take over the Dutch trading businesses, offices and other buildings. In connection with the migration of Semarang city business center to the Simpang Lima, and in the absence of progress in the management of trade and economy in the old city area, many new owners of this ancient building leaves and let the building neglected and left empty.

Semarang old city is no longer regarded as the center of the city, no longer as the economic center and the center of activity, the center has been shifted to another place. Thus gradually the city became a ghost town and only a few buildings that are still functioning. In the evening there was no activity at all of this, so it really becomes a ghost town at night.

Assessment Of Community Against Buildings

Building is a physical manifestation of a construction work that blends with its domicile, partly or wholly located above and / or in the soil and / or water, which serves as a human being doing business, either for residential or place of residence, religious activities, activities business, social activities, culture, and special activities (Constitution Of The Republic Of Indonesia Number 28 Of 2002 Concerning The Building). In accordance with the above theoretical study, the distribution of questionnaires to the public, such as choice of variable components of ancient buildings according to the rules of building standard, which includes the condition of the building itself and the condition of the buildings associated with the atmosphere of the environment. Thus meeting the ten components:

1. The orientation of the building
2. Ornaments and textures of buildings
3. Color and building facade
4. Dimensions (width / length / height) of building
5. architectural styles
6. Doors and windows
7. ceiling
8. Walls and Columns
9. Floor
10. Roofs

People are asked to select any component that has appeal, through a question by giving an answer in the form of interest rate, ie from SS = Strongly Agree; S = Agree; CS = Simply Agree; TS = Disagree; until STS = Strongly Disagree.

To get the amount of 100 respondents took as long as four weeks, samples were taken every two days in a week, on Saturday and Sunday morning. Respondents were guided in advance how to answer, then they fill themselves, and the result of stuffing delivered directly on the spot. The results showed that there are only five components that have a high value as it is considered attractive, seen in the following table

Table 1: The results of the questionnaire answers obtained the following reply:

No	QUESTION	ANSWERS (%)					SCORE
		STS	TS	CS	S	SS	
1	roof of the building is attractive, easily recognizable, and characterize for building			46	38	16	370
2	walls and columns of the building is attractive, easily recognizable, and characterize for building		36	52	12		276
3	floor of the building is attractive, easily recognizable, and characterize for building		48	36	16		268
4	the ceiling of the building is attractive, easily recognizable, and characterize for building	6	28	59	7		267
5	doors and windows of the building is attractive, easily recognizable, and characterize for building		1	67	14	18	349
6	the architectural style is attractive, easily recognizable, and characterize for building			22	43	35	413
7	the dimensions of the building is attractive, easy to recognize and characterize the building		24	68	8		284
8	color and facade of the building is attractive, easy to recognize and characterize the building		3	17	59	21	398
9	ornament of the building is attractive, easy to recognize and characterize the building		4	5	39	42	389
10	the orientation of the building is attractive, easy to recognize and characterize the building	6	17	67	10		281

SS = Strongly Agree; S = Agree;
 CS = Simply Agree; TS = Disagree;
 STS = Strongly Disagree.

VI. Conclusion:

The results showed that there are five components of the building are considered attractive and are of particular concern to the people; ornament; color and façade; architectural style; doors and windows; as well as the shape of the roof of the building, it is seen that the value reached over 300, meaning that leads to agree and strongly agree as building components are interesting and deserve to be the basis of conservation.

This could indicate that the community wants the condition of old buildings in the old city of Semarang not to be damage for the components mentioned above, ornament that has always maintained its authenticity and

is a meticulous job, colors and facade of the building has a specific meaning, bring to ancient atmosphere, architectural style that is maintained for historical reference for developing the Semarang architecture and Indonesia in general, the form of doors and windows as well as the shape of the roof in order to remain proportional, so the value and significance of the building is maintained.

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