

## **BUILDING FORM COMPARISON BETWEEN PAST AND PRESENT IN LAWEYAN**

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**ABSTRACT:** *Kampung Laweyan is one of popular tourist destination in Surakarta. Laweyan has been the center of batik since 1546. In the area of 24.83 hectare with population around 2.500 people, Laweyan people mostly work either as a batik merchant or a batik maker. This lifestyle comes with the need of change. Buildings in Laweyan were designed with thick and tall wall which is not suitable for selling batik. With the shift of lifestyle where Laweyan has become both producer and seller of batik, buildings there need to be compromised. This research is done to identify and understand the changes of buildings in Laweyan, and how does it affect the image of Laweyan. This paper is presented in a descriptive-qualitative manner. The goal of the research is to identify and compare the changes of architectural Elements in laweyan district between past and present so it can to understand the shift of laweyan image between past and present.*

**Keywords:** Kampoeng Batik Laweyan, Tourism Village, Batik, Facade

### **INTRODUCTION**

Surakarta is one of the batik-producing cities in Indonesia in the province of Central Java which is famous for its good quality batik. Besides that, Surakarta City has a strong Javanese culture because there are former Javanese kingdoms. Since 1911, Kampung Batik Laweyan Solo has become the evidence of the golden age of Sarekat Dagang Islam (Islamic Trade Union) by KH. Samanhudi. The increasing popularity of batik nowadays is in line with the introduction of batik products from Solo to the International. In the present, Kampoeng Batik Laweyan is being prepared by the Solo government as a tourist village in order to attract tourists. Kampoeng Batik Laweyan designed with an integrated concept by utilizing and rejuvenating an area of more or less than 24 hectares. High walls and narrow alleys are the typical characteristics of Kampung Batik Laweyan. The high wall aims for security and privacy because of the business competition on that time. The main door in the in Laweyan house usually have smaller door for the worker. Laweyan house also has a bunker to save their wealth, but unfortunately there just only one left because it's not used anymore.

Kampoeng batik is common in Indonesia and become one of the tourist destination. In Law No. 10 of 2009 concerning Tourism (Republic of Indonesia, 2009), stated that tourist destinations are geographical areas that are in one or more administrative regions where there are tourist attractions, public facilities, tourism facilities, accessibility, and communities that are interrelated and complementary the realization of tourism.

Solo government is in an effort to improve the tourism sector, carried out the development of tourism potential in Laweyan based on the existing context. In this case, Kampung Batik Laweyan which was previously an industrial area turned into a tourist destination for local and foreign tourists. Tourism villages basically can be understand as regions that have advantages in terms of architectural, cultural, and social activities of the community that have high competitiveness

and attractively presented through the development of good facilities and infrastructures, so they can attract the interest of tourists to visit.

As time goes on and the emergence of various phenomenon of political, economic and cultural issues, and the changes in government's system, also has an impact on changes in the process of architectural transformation on spatial, building and environmental patterns. In the process of architectural transformation, there are physical changes that make the residential area and commercial tourism activities mixed. This often creates conflicts between development and the existing context and sometimes make the tourist village lose its identity.

The changes of the identity of tourism village change the shape of architectural elements (building facade). The changes of identity also make a tendency for more functions to change from previous buildings into new buildings and new architectural elements appeared as supporting existing tourism activities, clear boundaries and parameters. These changes tended to dominate the physical form of the village area which caused disharmony in the appearance of facades and functions, the mixing of residential and commercial zoning, and even the mixture between those two. This phenomenon occurs because the development process is not accompanied by careful planning, but grows by itself in line with changes in community activities and the development of the existence of the tourist village. Changes that occur spontaneously and irregularly in urban villages into this tourism village create a phenomenon of architectural change or transformation in spatial, building and environmental patterns. This can create physical diversity to be more dynamic with tourism activities. The physical impact is at the same time accompanied with non-physical impacts, specifically the economic impacts caused by the tourism activities. This will automatically improve the economy and prosperity of the local community in supporting the existence of tourism villages.

The architectural transformation as a potential tourist attraction that has a positive impact on tourism activities is what triggers the economic development of local communities and tourism activities in some existing urban village areas. Thus, changes in regional elements as part of architectural transformation become an inspiration in the growth of the existence of several urban villages into tourism villages. This is a real manifestation of the transformation of several urban villages in Surakarta into tourism villages, which will have an important role in preserving the unique potential of the nation's local identity and improving economic, social and cultural as well as environmental conditions in accordance with regional development priority programs.

This paper present the result of observation which later can be identified thoroughly the differences between past and present so that later can be understand the changes of values dan architectural values in Kampung Batik Laweyan.

## **PROBLEM**

The phenomenon of changes in function in the laweyan area which was originally a place of production and storage now a tourist area can be reviewed and carried out further research to find out what issues exist and how community conditions face shifts in values and architectural characteristics, and this generate the question of whether the impact on the function old or there is continued development by maintaining old functions with the addition of new functions, how this happens and how the process

## **THEORY**

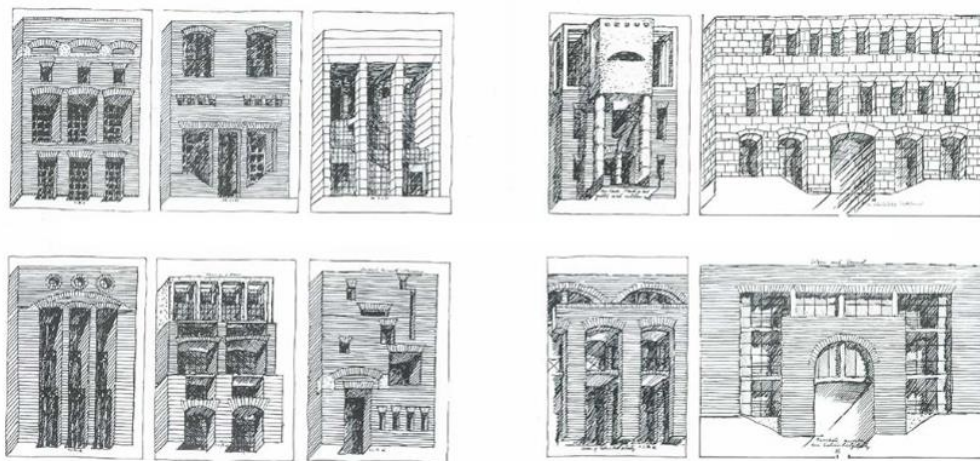
Elements of Architecture focuses on the fragments of the rich and complex architectural collage. Window, façade, balcony, corridor, fireplace, stair, escalator, elevator: the book seeks to excavate the micro-narratives of building detail. The result is no single history, but rather the web of

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origins, contaminations, similarities, and differences in architectural evolution, including the influence of technological advances, climatic adaptation, political calculation, economic contexts, regulatory requirements, and new digital opportunities. (Unwin, Simon. *Analysing Architecture*, page 19-41)

Facade is the most essential architectural element capable of communicating the function and significance of a building. The perfection of the body had priority over the creation of a specific "show-side" facing the street. It only in recent years, after the rediscovery of the importance of the public realm and the value of urban life, that the facade regained a new valuation.

Facade never only fulfills the natural requirements determined by the organization of the rooms behind. It speaks of the cultural situation at the time when the building was built; it reveals criteria of the possibilities and ingenuity of ornamentation and decoration. A facade also tells us about the inhabitants of a building, gives them collective identity as a community, and ultimately as representation of the latter in the public. (Krier, Rob. *Architectural Composition*, page 92-95)



Picture 1. Building Facade

Source: Krier, Rob. *Architectural Composition*

In 1927 Le Corbusier published a series of architectural principles in his magazine *L'Esprit Nouveau* and in the essay collection *Vers une architecture*, which he used as the basis for his designs. They are called the pilotis, the roof garden, the free groundplan, the horizontal windows, and the free facade. These principles have their own reason.

Free facade was the consequence of concrete frame system. With walls being removed from their constructional role, the design of facade can be freely explored. Not only that, facade can have diverse role rather than just being a cloak for a building. (Le Corbusier's *Five Points of Architecture*)



Picture 2. Villa Savoye, France  
Source: Google



Picture 3. Carpenter Center, USA  
Source: Google

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

This research using descriptive-qualitative method with analyze and observation approach. The aim of this method is to get the data about the changes of building in Kampung Batik Laweyan. This research focused on building form especially the building facade. The process of this research are preparation and implementation. The preparation is collecting the theoretical review and secondary data from literature book and journal article from websites. After Then the implementation are observation in Kampung Batik Laweyan and analyze the data. The observation take place at the center of Laweyan District as the sample. After collecting the data from observation, then analyze it with the theoretical review and secondary data to get the conclusion of this research.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS**

Observation followed by analyzing were done in Kampung Batik Laweyan. Observation was done by examining buildings on the main road sides. Photographs were taken and small note was written during this phase. Analyze were done by connecting theories that has been found before with observation data gathered on the day. In this phase earlier notes and photographs have supporting theories and were divided into some categories for better understanding.

As Unwin's theory, elements of detail and influences of technology are the one that make the rich and complex architecture parts, such as facade. Building facade in Laweyan had influences both from Dutch Era and Modern Era. In Dutch days, the main function of Laweyan is being batik-producer. Thus, high walls were made surrounding the building barely without detail, only doors. Nowadays, due to the switch function from batik-producer only to batik-seller as well, many of

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those building facade were changed to adjust the new function. This is what Unwin's said by there is no single history, but rather web of origins continuously changing every now and then.

In general, there are 2 types of facade modification. Each of them match either Le Corbusier's or Rob Krier's theory. Buildings without facade modification from Dutch Era didn't make it into the categories due to it still being batik-producer only.

The first type of facade modification found was to demolish walls on the side of the street so people can directly see what inside of the building. This type of facade modification appeals to Le Corbusier's Five Points of Architecture. Due to concrete frame system, the building won't fall after the walls have been demolished. This type were the majority of facade modification that found on Kampung Batik Laweyan.



Picture 4. First type of façade



Picture 5. First type of façade



Picture 6. First type of facade



Picture 7. First type of facade

The second type of façade modification change the function of the facade. The main door is always open for customer and mostly changed into a new door. The wall also repaired/redecorated to make a modern look and attract customer to come. The building terrace also become a batik shop's showroom. This modification gives a distinct differentiation between public realm and private realm. Kampung Batik Laweyan was made by, from, and for people, thus this method asserts the connection between customer and seller.

The second type of facade modification appeals to Architectural Composition by Rob Krier. Similar to Krier's theory " It speaks of the cultural situation at the time when the building was built." This modification reflect the needs and the changes happened in Laweyan in general. Thus the modified facade do communicate with traveler, tourist, and seller what is Laweyan.





Picture 8. Second type of façade



Picture 9. Second type of façade



Picture 10. Second type of façade



Picture 11. Second type of façade

## CONCLUSIONS

From the observation and data analysis, we can find the changes of architectural elements in Kampung Batik Laweyan between past and present. Buildings' function in Laweyan changes from batik factories into batik shop and the village changed into tourism village. This change of function make the difference of building facade. The building facade from the past are just high wall with a main door. The high wall aim for the security and privacy of batik production. But, today, the high wall are reconstructed and there's two types of modification.

The first type of facade modification found was to demolish walls on the side of the street so people can directly see what inside of the building. The wall is reconstructed by adding huge windows to show the batik products. The second type of facade modification change the function of the facade. In the past, the main door always closed due to the security and privacy. Today, the main door is always open for customer and mostly changed into a new door. The existing wall and building inside are maintained, but repaired/redecorated.

Both modification have the same purpose. It is to attract people to come due to the change of building function from batik factory into batik shop. Besides the modified building, there's also another building that still maintained the existing building without change the function. But, some of them are repaired to rejuvenate the building.

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