

The Influence of Art Deco on Later Colonial Architecture in Bandung

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ABSTRACT: *Bandung is a city famous for its history. It has many historic colonial buildings that use the art-deco style. so as a result, we decided to choose Bandung as a city to take a more in-depth study of its art deco architectural style. The purpose of this paper is to analyze and find out the influence of art-deco on later colonial architecture in Bandung. The analytical method used in this paper is to use precedents and case studies to analyze which parts use art-deco architectural components contained in the buildings that we have chosen, namely the Grand Hotel Preanger, Villa Isola, and Savoy Homann Hotels that already have a style art deco architecture. The conclusion from the building, we analyze Art Deco style that developed in the early 20s gave a lot of influence on the development of architectural styles in Bandung, we recommend it for further researchers so we can make it easier to get results. that increase knowledge and help people to learn the characteristics and distinguish the buildings included in the art-deco style.*

Keyword: Architecture, Art-deco, Art-Deco Style, Bandung Colonial Architecture, Colonial Style

INTRODUCTION

Art Deco is an art style that was popular in Europe and was widespread in the USA in the early 20th century. It is characterized by clean lines and sharp corners. Art Deco architecture is characterized by sleek geometric shapes, rich ornamentations, and bold colors. Typically, architectural building materials consist of stucco, concrete, glass, stone, terracotta, steel, and aluminum.

Bandung is the capital of West Java, which has experienced city development since the 18th century, starting from the colonial period until now. Along with the increasing globalization, aspects of the culture of other nations are also integrated into Indonesian culture, one of which is the thinking and style of modernism architecture. At that time, there was the desire of Indonesian architects to search for an Indonesian architectural identity because of dissatisfaction with the prevailing colonial architecture. Architects began to play with more abstract ideas and forms inspired by traditional local architecture, to adapt to the tropical climate, and to combine architectural styles of modernism, such as Art Deco.

In this paper, we will discuss the influence of Art Deco in the later colonial architecture in Bandung in the form of a literature review and case studies that will be developed into a more in-depth study.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The Beginning of Art Deco

In the 19th century, an era of the Industrial Revolution, artists and designers who had been instrumental in the development of the Art Nouveau recognized that the style was outdated. They think that it's time for something new, something that will become the identity of the 20th century. As a result, there is a new style, namely Art Deco. Starting in France but developing in the United States, the new style that was born has influenced the architecture and spectrum of other visual arts.

Art Deco is a term given to art style and architectural movements that were popular in Europe and the USA from 1920 until before World War II. The name comes from the "Decoratifs et Industriels Fine Art Exhibition", an art exhibition held in Paris in 1925. This is a style that combines traditional craft with industrial age imagery and materials. It speaks of luxury during difficult economic times. (Art Deco Coloring Pages for Adults, p2)

Art Deco is a style that is globally popular and influences many fields of design. Its products include luxury goods that are made individually and goods that are mass-produced. It is widely used in consumer products such as cars, furniture, cooking utensils, and electronic items i.e., radios, jukeboxes, and telephones. It also manifests itself in architecture, sculpture, painting, and graphic arts.

Art Deco as an art style began to emerge in the early 1920s. However, the influence of Art Deco into architecture began to emerge in 1922. In Chicago, a Finnish architect named Eliel Saarinen entered a contest to design the new Chicago Tribune headquarters building. Even though he didn't win the contest, his bold design received a lot of publicity and inspired others to explore new styles.

In 1924, Raymond Hood designed the American Radiator Building in New York City, which is considered the first Art Deco architecture in the US. Immediately, Art Deco became a popular choice in the major cities of America, which at that time experienced a tremendous building development. Through the 19th century, Art Deco was used as a style in architectural landmarks, such as the Empire State Building and Chrysler Building.

Art Deco Architectural Characteristics

Art deco architecture can be recognized for three main things:

1. Geometric shapes
2. Bold colors and texture
3. Decorative ornament.

Art Deco forms are characterized by linear compositions and geometric shapes that are highlighted with stylish decorations that include ornaments, colors, and textures. This is a fashion-oriented style and is very decorative, not concerned with functionality and technological issues (Benazir, 2012).

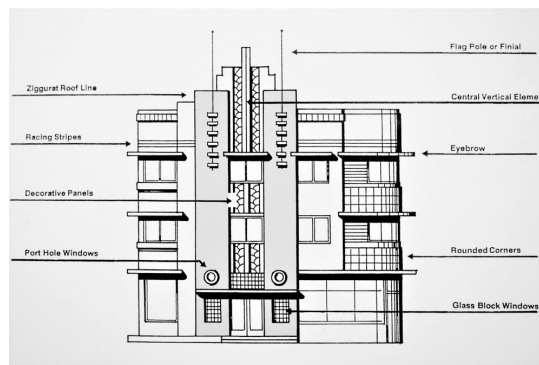


Figure 1 Art-deco characteristic

Source: https://www.reddit.com/r/architecture/comments/flgb8t/can_this_house_be_considered_art_deco_built_in/

A. Colors and Materials

Art Deco building materials include plastering, concrete, smooth-faced stone, glass, and terracotta. Besides that, modern materials such as aluminum, stainless steel, bakelite, chrome, and plastic are often used. Art Deco colors tend to be rich, vibrant, bright, and high contrast; metal surfaces combined with softer colors are also used.



Plastering
Figure 2
Art-Deco House



Concrete
Figure 3 Savoy
Homann Hotel



Smooth-faced stone
Figure 4 Grand
Hotel Preanger



Glass
Figure 5 Villa Isola

B. Roof

Art Deco architecture usually uses a flat roof with a parapet, tower, or structure. The low slope roofs of Art Deco properties usually have a height of only 10 degrees or less, making them invisible from the road. The gutter is also used to channel water in a closed section, hiding it from view from the start (Bradley, 2018).



Figure 6 De Driekleur

Source:<https://www.serbabandung.com/de-driekleur-gedung-tempat-memancarkan-proklamasi/>

C. Windows

Various shapes such as square and round windows can be found in Art Deco. Windows are usually arranged in a continuous horizontal line of glass. With a continuous line, the window is decorated with plain or decorative glass which gives a contrasting look to the solid shape of the walls and voids of the window when exposed to sunlight.



Figure 7 Grand Hotel Preanger

Source:https://id.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prama_Grand_Preanger

D. Entrance

Art Deco entrances usually have geometric shapes that surround them; this shape seems to arise horizontally from the building and serves as a sign of the entrance and shade. Pilasters and pediments can also be seen surrounding most of the entrances in Art Deco architecture (Wentworth, 2020).



Figure 8 Gedung Merdeka Entrance

Source:<https://cagarbudaya.kemdikbud.go.id/public/objek/detailcb/PO2016031700002/lokasi-gedung-merdeka>

The Birth of Art Deco in Bandung Indonesia

Between 1920 and 1930, the Dutch East Indies witnessed modernism in modern architectural forms including flat roofs and cubic shapes, and also the incorporation of Art Deco into the design. There are many Dutch Indies era buildings found in Indonesia, especially in several big cities in Java. Research in the sixties by the Minneapolis School of Art brought information that many of the early movements of Art Deco, and most of the drawings and decorative pieces at an initial exhibition in Paris in 1925, had been sent from Indonesia.

Bandung, a large city in Indonesia, had a strong presence in the early Art Deco movement. Bandung City is one of the cities in the world that has a very dominant and fast development of the Art Deco architectural style. Bandung has a large collection of Art Deco buildings, including those by several Dutch architects and planners, such as Savoy Homann Hotel and Sociëteit Concordia.

CASE STUDIES

Grand Hotel Preanger

Grand Hotel Preanger was founded in 1897 by W. H.C Van Deertekom, who used to have Indische Empire style architecture; then renovated and redesigned in 1929 by Prof. Charles Prosper Wolff Schoemaker who became Art Deco style architecture. It has an efficient modern functional style architecture with geometric Art Deco. This decoration is formed from an abstract arrangement of rectangles and lines, especially at the top.

The design of this old building creates a contrast with the architectural style of the surrounding buildings, but this building remains the highest residential hotel in the city of Bandung. The old design provides more value for tourists. Renovation and expansion of the building were carried out to accommodate the high level of occupancy of this hotel. Renovations carried out in 1988 formed a ten-story tower with a touch of Art Deco style in response to the old building. This renovation effort has received much praise from various audiences.

The renovation process was accompanied by conservation efforts in the Grand Hotel Preanger building which was carried out from year to year. The durable form of Art Deco inside the hotel building continues to be maintained to appreciate the early history of its construction. Interestingly, to support efforts to preserve the history of the hotel owner and manager provides a unique museum to produce historical information about hotel trips and display relics. The addition of this historical function is one of the solutions that feel good to respond to various problems of the loss of the identity of the old building to meet the tensions of the needs and the latest functions in the current era.



Figure 9 Grand Hotel Preanger

Source:https://id.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prama_Grand_Preanger

Villa Isola

Villa Isola is a residence designed by CP Wolff Schoemaker in 1933. The architecture of the building and its layout can be an example of a mix of western and eastern building art. It was built by a businessman of Dutch descent from Italy named Berreti. This building is located on Jl. Setiabudi Km 8 with the shape of the building resembling a ship. This building can display the style of modernism with a touch of Art Deco. The building is located behind the hill, and we can enjoy the view to the north of Tangkuban Perahu Mountain and south to the city of Bandung.

Villa Isola is a work of Art Deco architecture designed by Wolff Schoemaker for DW. Berretty, an elite telegraph businessman. Villa Isola cannot be separated from the creation of a sleek American style. It also had to do with the influence of the style of American architects who were familiar and admired by Schoemaker at the time; namely Frank Lloyd Wright. Schoemaker's design style always changed until returning from America in 1918, where he liked to use parallel lines, as well as dominant geometric details, which are characteristic of Frank Lloyd. (Handinoto, 1998)

Villa Isola was built in October 1932 and began to be occupied in December 1933. Prof. C.P. Wolff Schoemaker designed this building in the style of Art Deco architecture. In the development process, this development is accelerated and must pay a lot. They consider that when economic conditions are in decline, this development has no suspicion.

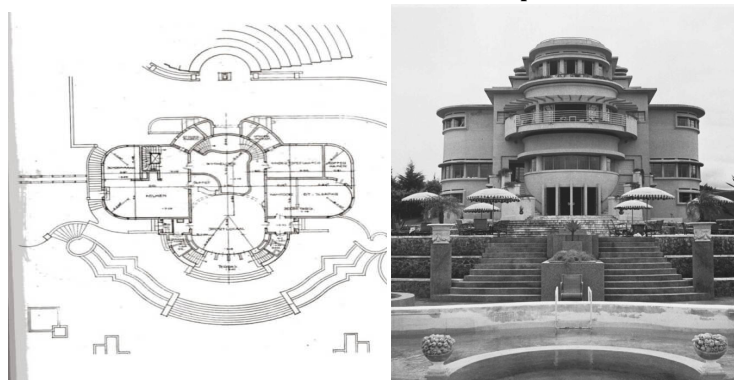


Figure 10 Villa Isola

Source:https://id.wikipedia.org/wiki/Villa_Isola

Savoy Homann Hotel

Savoy Homann Hotel is a prestigious hotel located on Jl. Asia-Africa No. 112, Cikawao, Lengkong, Bandung, West Java, Indonesia. The predecessor of this hotel is the Homann Hotel, which is owned by the Homann family. In 1939, this building was designed with the design of the sea art deco waves by Albert Aalbers. To emphasize its greatness, the word "Savoy" was added, which was added in 1940 and remained so until the 1980s.

The Savoy Homann Hotel building, built-in 1880, is based on a "meeting" of the "eigendom" deeds contained in a sketch drawing of the Savoy Homann Hotel with its owner a German citizen named Mr. A. Homann. In 1880, the Savoy Homann Hotel was named the Post Road Hotel in the Baroque architectural style. There was a change in building style to the Gothic Revival in 1883 and the addition of new buildings in 1910. Hotels underwent renovations in the late 30s from Baroque-style hotels to hyper-modern hotels, with architecture carried out by AF Aarlbers and RA De Tembok in 1938; until then its shape changed as it is now.

Its architectural characteristic is the International Style "Streamline" (Functional Geometric-Modern Art Deco). The use of steel material for building structures and the processing of plastic shapes with horizontal elements in the facade shows Aalbers's internationalism dominant in building design. Its architectural characteristic is the International Style "Streamline" (Modern Art Deco Functional Geometric). The shape of the building is a linear plastic curve, dominated by horizontal lines, and is equipped with a single tower that rises high, acting as a catch of attention. This form was very famous in his time. The Art Deco style is marked with details on the building, such as lights and dots, flowers, etc.

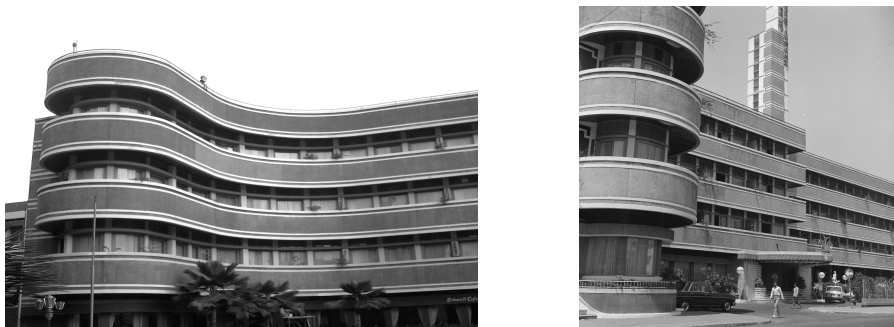


Figure 11 Savoy Homann Hotel

Source:https://id.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hotel_Savoy_Homann

ANALYSIS

The results of the three buildings that have been chosen, we find similarities in terms of architectural styles that lead to the art-deco criteria that we have examined in this paper. In this table, we analyze the building components included in the art-deco criteria contained in the building. The analysis is regarding which building components are included in the art-deco criteria contained in the building and explain their characteristics.

Art Deco Characteristics Analysis				
No.	Feature	Building Name		
		Grand Hotel Preanger	Villa Isola	Savoy Homann Hotel
1.	Overall Shape	Rectangular shape with long horizontal mass	Symmetrical streamlined	Streamlined with long horizontal mass accompanied by a tower
2.	Wall	Rectangular walls with sharp corners adorned with abstract geometric decorations	Curved white walls with rounded corners	Curved parallel walls with rounded corners and balconies adorned with a horizontal line

3.	Entrance	Porch with a rectangular cover adorned with abstract geometric decorations	Porch with curved cover	Porch with curved cover
4.	Window	Continuous window arrangement that follows the wall	Windows with casings placed on various sides symmetrically	Continuous window arrangement that follows the curved wall
5.	Roof	Flat roof with overhangs	Flat roof with overhangs	Flat roof

CONCLUSION

Art Deco style that developed in the early 20s gave a lot of influence on the development of architectural styles in Bandung. In general, the art deco style in Bandung is divided into 2 according to the overall shape, namely art deco with geometric rectangular shapes and streamline shapes, which are curved shapes inspired by aerodynamic design. Some buildings still stand today and inspire buildings with art deco styles that will be built in the future.

From the analysis above, the three buildings have some similarities based on Art Deco elements in general. Decorations such as geometric arrangements and horizontal lines can be found in this building. Windows also has many similarities in the three buildings, although there are some differences in length, the overall arrangement of the window is still the same using continuous window settings. The similarity can also be seen from the entrance of three buildings, the use of the entrance porch that has been closed with a geometric cover that serves as a sign of the entrance and shade.

This essay has discussed many features and elements of Art Deco that were used in buildings during the Later Colonial Architecture era in Bandung. It is recommended for further researchers to discuss more about the history of each building so that the discussion of Art Deco in each building becomes a complete and in-depth study. Another suggestion is to discuss how the effects of art deco style on later colonial architecture will later affect future architecture, especially those that use art deco styles. Discussion about inappropriate or not future buildings using the Art Deco style. The discussion can go further on certain topics such as the Rebranding Art Deco Style to become a trendsetter again in the future.

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Figure's sources

Figure 2. Art-Deco House

Source:<https://www.flickr.com/photos/mualphachi/42564466390/>

Figure 3. Savoy Homann Hotel

Source:https://id.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hotel_Savoy_Homann

Figure 4. Grand Hotel Preanger

Source:https://id.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prama_Grand_Preanger

Figure 5. Villa Isola

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