HERITAGE BUILDINGS AND ARCHITECTURAL TRANSFORMATION IN DEPOK CITY

I Nyoman Teguh Prasidha¹, Widjaja Martokusumo², Basauli Umar Lubis³

Doctoral Student of Architecture, School of Architecture, Planning and Policy Development, Institut Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia¹ & Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, Universitas Pancasila, Indonesia²
School of Architecture, Planning and Policy Development, Institut Teknologi Bandung³

nyomms@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

It is probably less known that Depok city has a long history of development. Based on historical relics, Depok has been inhabited ever since the neolithic era. The ignorance is understandable, because Depok is better known as a satellite city of Jakarta metropolitan region, which has undergone a rapid transformation in the last three decades. On the other hand, there are only a few of historical buildings that are being maintained, one of which is Rumah Pondok Cina. Architectural transformation in Depok city is perceived through the maintenance of heritage buildings. This paper is part of a dissertation research on the topic of architectural transformation in Depok city. The issues being discussed are those related to the relationship between architectural transformation of the city and heritage buildings in Depok city. How are the conditions of heritage buildings in Depok nowadays, and which buildings has undergone transformation? How does architectural transformation occur on the heritage buildings? How do people (public engagement) and government treat the heritage buildings in the transformation process? The purpose of the research is to understand and explain the process of architectural transformation on the heritage buildings in Depok city, and to reveal how the people and government treat the heritage buildings in the transformation process. In this study, historical method is used which includes documents analysis, observations, and interviews, coupled with a comparative analysis of the architectural transformation.

Keywords: heritage buildings, architecture transformation, public engagement, Depok

1. INTRODUCTION
1.1 The Area of Old City in the Transformation of the Architecture of Depok City

Depok, a city in the south of the capital city of Indonesia, Jakarta, has grown and changed rapidly in these 30 years. During that time, Depok has obtained a rapid transformation of the architecture of a city.
Various problems have occurred because of uncontrollable transformation of the architecture of Depok City, such as uncontrollable changing of land use, the increase of the intensity of land use which is not suited with the area supporting resource, the changing of building and area performances that causes city aesthetics problems, and other urban problems, including degradation of the condition of historical buildings as a part of the history of Depok City.

The last problem as a part of this dissertation research on the transformation of the architecture of a city with the case Depok city, is published in this article. Depok Lama is one of four researched areas, representing the character of historical area of Depok City. The other three areas are Kukusan, Margonda, and Perumnas I Depok. Depok Lama is in the south point of Margonda Raya Street. Its position is in the center of Depok City (see Figure 1).

In his book entitled ‘The Architecture of the City’, Aldo Rossi (1988: 34) states “the city as a man-made object’. In accordance with Rossi, Ali Madanipour also states “the city is seen as an architectural” (Madanipour, 1996: 43). Paul D. Spreiregen (1965: 68) says that urban spaces, urban mass, and circulation patterns are architectural elements that has the process of urban growth and change.

Architecture Transformation of a City is a process of the changing of the architecture of a city, which is affected by some factors, the internal ones or the external ones. Based on that definition, Habraken (1983: 14–16) explains that the transformation of a site (a site might be an area, a region, or even a city) happens through element addition, element elimination, change of position or element movement inside of the site, or the change included the combination of those three.

1.2. Depok Lama: A Piece Heritage of Cornelis Chastelein

An archeology researcher at University of Indonesia, Ali Akbar (2012: 1-12) says that people have inhabited the area of Depok, West Java since prehistoric times. Yet, the knowledge about this has not been widely known by public. Akbar revealed evidence of prehistoric through the discovery of several square pickaxes in the site Pondok Cina and the site Pondok Kelapa Dua, Depok region. This finding becomes the clue that there had been social life in Depok since Neolithic times.

The history of Depok can not be separated from the character named Cornelis Chastelein (1657-1714) (Ronald M. Jonathans, 2012). He was a former VOC (Vereenigde Oost Indische Compagnie) officer and a landlord who owned a lot of land in Batavia and surrounding areas, such as in the area of Weltevreden (1689-
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1693), Seringsing, Mampang, Coral Anjer, and Depok. Chastelein bought the land Depok on May 18, 1696 (Kwisthout, 2015: 54-59). Landlord Cornelis Chastelein built Depok, in the region that is now known as Depok Lama area (Figure 2).

Cornelis Chastelein died on June 28, 1714. In his will, he donated his land and property in Depok his 12 Christian slaves and their descendants, and gave them freedom as well. The descendants of Chastelein’s former slaves were the people who later became the residents of Depok Lama until now (Yano Jonathans, 2011: 40).

2. METHODOLOGY

The research on the transformation of heritage buildings in the area of Depok uses typomorphological approach and historical methods. Cortes (2006: 97) says the city typomorphological analysis is used to comprehend the elements of urban design, which is associated with the history of the city and the process of its change. As a study of the process of change within a certain timeframe, the research on the city typomorphology uses the historical method with the analysis of synchronic and diachronic. Albert Levy (1999: 80-81) explains, the synchronic analysis focuses on the relationship between the structural elements of the city, consisting of the blocks, streets, built space, and open space to the events influencing the change of the city.

Based on typomorphological approach and history, the stages of this study broadly described as follows:

a. Study of literature
   Studies conducted by the reading of literature related to the references of studies such as theories, concepts, and methods of analysis of city typomorphology, as well as references related to the history of the area studied. In the phase of the study of literature is also conducted the secondary data collection, such as archives, town sheets, newspaper or journal, as well as the internet, which is obtained from various sources (Ignasia, 2008).

b. Study of Maps and Images
   One important step in the study of city typomorphology is the study of maps and images. Pictures and photographs or images data is used to describe the physical condition of the object studied. Maps or images from different time periods are compared and analyzed through the changes, such as changes in shape of the building elements, which is then analyzed further in order to determine the factors that influence those changes.

c. Field survey
   A field survey in the form of field visits and observations is conducted in order to get a direct overview and to assess directly the condition of the object studied (Ignasia, 2008). This field survey was also conducted to compare the secondary data (map or photo) with the real object in the site.

3. DISCUSSION

3.1. Conditions of Heritage Buildings in Depok

Ratu Farah Diba, the chairman of Heritage Community Depok said (interview on 28 September 2016) that of approximately 600 early colonial heritage buildings in the area of Depok Lama, in 2013 there were only 43 buildings left. That number continues to decrease at this time, even at the last (2016) there is one of the heritage buildings as residential house on Pemuda street which has changed its shape and function into a mini market.

Exploring the heritage buildings in Depok, besides of the buildings in the area of Depok Lama, it is necessary to describe two historic buildings outside of the region, named House Pondok China and House Cimanggis. Both of the old buildings are the icons representing the condition of heritage buildings in Depok.

Figure 3. The condition of House Pondok China in 2001 (left), photo of the house when functioned as a cafe (middle) and its condition in 2016 (right).
House Pondok Cina is located on Margonda main street. The building was built in 1690, then it was damaged by the earthquake caused by Mount Megamendung. It was rebuilt in 1898 with a classicist elements architecture (Heuken, 2000: 284). The building becomes a place of lodging for the Chinese traders, arranged to trade only during the day in the area of Depok (Depok Heritage Community, 2013).

House Pondok Cina’s condition today has raised a debate between history viewers and the land owners. Many historians assess that abandonment of the heritage asset House Pondok China has happened (Koran Tempo, 7 November 2016). On the other hand, the land owners (the management of Margo City) stated that they maintain and preserve the building of House Pondok Cina (http://www.pikiran-rakyat.com/jawa-barat/2016/10/20/margo-city-bantah-telantarkan-rumah-pondok-china-depok-382761, retrieved on 18 November 2016). Regardless of the debate, the existence of House Pondok Cina in the past as a landmark of Depok, is not visible from the main street because of being surrounded by the mall and hotel buildings (Figure 3).

Figure 4. House Cimanggis’s condition in 1930 (left) and 2015 (right)

House Cimanggis, located in Cimanggis, near Jalan Raya Bogor, was built by David J. Smith between 1775-1778. The owner of the house is the widow of the Governor General of VOC, Petrus Albertus Van Der Parra, who ruled in Batavia in 1761-1775 (Depok Heritage Community, 2013). Adolf Heuken (2000: 284-285) describes the building as "...a big country house, ...an architectural point of view Cimanggis is a good example of an estate house of the 18th century. Its huge roof is supported by stone and wooden columns on three sides giving space to broad galleries... The high ceiling provides a cool atmosphere.”

The access to the House Cimanggis has been closed for public since 2014. The condition of the building is now badly damaged. The entire roof are crashed down, the walls cracked, and the inside pillars fell down (Koran Tempo, 7 November 2016). Almost all wooden frames and roof supports are gone (Figure 4).

The condition of the two old buildings are different from some public heritage buildings managed by The Foundation of Cornelis Chastelein (Yayasan Lembaga Cornelis Chastelein/YLCC) in Depok Lama, such as Immanuel Church on Pemuda Street (Figure 5), YLCC office (Figure 6), and some school buildings relatively well maintained. Though several changes and additions are made to the building elements, but the authenticity of the shape of the building is still held.

Figure 5. A church in Depok Lama built in 1854, its condition in 1920 (left) and 2014 (right)
Source: Kwishout, 2015: 243 (left) and documentation of writer (right)
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After the Dutch left after the proclamation of Indonesian independence on August 17, 1945, Depok experienced a miserable period when the social revolution occurred, known as the “Gedoran Depok” which took place in October 1945, in which the descendants of Dutch and the people who were considered as pro Netherlands were arrested by the local civils. Mass looting occurred against their property, destruction of buildings, and there were many victims killed (Wanhar, 2011: 87-101).

Other destruction was against the Cornelis Chastelein Monument built on June 28, 1914 to commemorate the honored man; it was demolished in 1960 by the initiative of the people of Depok themselves. The reason of the action was that the existence of the monument would bring harm to them because it symbolized the Dutch colonialism, since by that time the state was struggling for the liberation of West Irian (Jonathans, 2011: 142-144). With similar reasons (http://www.republika.co.id/berita/nasional/daerah/14/09/09/nbm7qt-dianggap-penjajah-tugu-cornelis-chastelein-dilarang, retrieved on 16 November 2016), the rebuilding of Cornelis Chastelein Monument in 2014 raised the pros and cons among the people and government of Depok (Figure 7).

In contrast to public buildings relatively well maintained condition, many of the private house buildings are not maintained. Several residential buildings are still well preserved and retains its original form, such as the house on Pemuda Street, Mawar Street, and Kamboja Street, they still have a large yard, no building added at the front part, edge sides or backsides (Figure 8). Even, if there were changes, they only replaced building elements such as roof tiles, roof list, and new color-painting of the walls, but the overall shape of the building is still original and intact.

3.2. The Transformation of Heritage Buildings in Depok Lama

Most of the remaining heritage buildings in Depok Lama have got a transformation, only a few buildings that still retain their original shape. The changes mostly occur in the form of additional building, the roof changes, changes/additions on architectural ornaments and / or other building elements, such as fences, windows, including the plots of the building. (Figure 9 and Figure 10) The most changes are of additional buildings on the empty plot toward the front, side, and rear, or new buildings to maximize the land use, which
cause changes in the building mass region system which affects the impression of Depok Lama area. Spiro Kostof defines transformation as an 'urban infill'. The process of the urban infill starts from building addition at the front of plots, continued to fill in the other empty part, then adding vertically (Kostof, 1992: 292-297).

The heritage house buildings in Depok Lama have similarities to the architectural style of the heritage house buildings of the Dutch colonial in major cities in Indonesia, such as Jakarta and Bandung. House buildings in Depok are also mostly tropical classicism style mixed with landhuizen style, using local materials such as bricks, white stucco, frog roof tile, terracotta natural stone or marble for the flooring. High ceilings, doors with large air vents, with tall and wide windows as well (Heuken and Pamungkas, 2001: 9-10). Inventory made by Depok Heritage Community (2013) shows that the heritage house buildings in Depok Lama were built around the year of 1919 to 1930 (early of 20th century).

Figure 9. Eben Haezer Building: it has addition at the rear (left) and the addition of the building in the front yard of a house on Pemuda Street (right)
Source: documentation of writer, 2016

Figure 10. Cleavage plots (left) and changes of the plant hedge and the wall (right)
Source: documentation of writer, 2016

The addition of the new building is one of the main cause of changes in the structure of open space of the region and the distance between buildings affecting the appearance of the region’s heritage. The presence of several mini market and new buildings which are too close to the edge of the street has changed the authenticity of the appearance of Depok Lama’s heritage area. Changes of function are not only from residential function into shops, restaurants, but also the change into a cluster of residential buildings with modern architectural style with a flat roof of a concrete roof that is not contextual with colonial architecture of Depok Lama (Figure 11).

Figure 11. The addition of the mass of the building to the front part of the plot and the new additional functions (left) and the presence of several residential clusters in Depok Lama (right)
Source: documentation of writer, 2016
3.3. Public Consciousness and Government Policy on the Preservation of Depok Lama

It cannot be excluded that the transformation occurred in the area of Depok Lama is also as a consequence of modernity. The transformation as a result of modernity, has the background factors such as political, economic, and social. Modernity does not just mean to present, or distinguish from previous periods, but also to break the tradition of the architecture of Depok city (Prasidha and Martokusumo, 2014). Basauli Umar Lubis revealed the limitation of land in urban areas and various motivations lead to competition and conflict of land use which affect the setting of urban space and buildings (Lubis, 2010: 215).

The changes mostly occurred in residential buildings or privately owned buildings. Destruction or removal of privately owned heritage building is a classic problem in the preservation and conservation. Widjaja Martokusumo (2010: 57) expresses the loss of heritage buildings, not solely because of the limitations of the city manager administratively and intellectually, but it is also because of low awareness and consciousness of the society for the preservation of old buildings. Derek Worthing and Stephen Bond (2008: 7) asserts "Undoubtedly, the majority of individual historic structures are not fully appreciated for their heritage value ...". That opinion was reinforced by the interviews conducted by Depok Heritage Community (2013) revealing that a lot of people of Depok Lama do not agree if the region becomes a heritage area. They argued that their region would be visited by outsiders and becomes an exhibited object.

Unfortunately, though Depok Government had arranged the Environment and Building Plan Guidelines (Rencana Tata Bangunan dan Lingkungan/RTBL) of Depok Lama in 2003, but the plan was not realized. Likewise, that also happened to the Spatial Planning of Depok City Year 2000-2010 (Depok City Regulation Number 12 of 2001 about Regional Spatial Planning of Depok City Year 2000-2010) in which the preservation of Depok Lama got less attention and priority for setting its space.

However, there is a hope, in the Spatial Planning of Depok City Year 2012-2032 (Article 61 paragraph 3) it is set as the strategic region of the socio-cultural interest point of view: Depok Lama’s region located in Kelurahan Depok is a heritage area that has historical value. Thus, the area of Depok Lama must be given priority for its spatial arrangement. The development plan of the strategic areas of Depok Lama include: 1) the arrangement of buildings and the environment; 2) the improvement of the quality of the environment; and 3) the maintenance of its historical value as a culture conservation. That means, now it is just about how to implement it consistently.

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The changes of heritage buildings in Depok Lama is a part of the phenomenon of the transformation of the city's architectural Depok and it represents that as well. The rapid growth of urban development has an impact on the heritage area of Depok Lama. The degradation threatening situation of heritage assets of Depok Lama have the background and the factors that distinguish the region with other historical districts or other cities. Some historical events of social conflicts contributed to the loss or destruction of heritage assets. The history of Depok Lama as reserved colonial residential area still leaves a perception of a land of colonialism for some people in Depok until today. This causes the different attitudes in handling the heritage area of Depok Lama.

Most of heritage assets are private properties (individual), while the building owners are faced with various problems and needs such as economic difficulties to take care of and maintain their heritage buildings, or other needs, and moreover, there is not any significant consciousness for preserving the heritage assets.

Depok buildings and heritage assets are vulnerable to destruction and disappearance because there is no legal acts that will protect the heritage assets. Urban infill, such as the addition of new buildings and a new function in the heritage plots, becomes the major cause of destruction of the heritage architectural system in Depok Lama.

Although there are not many heritage buildings in Depok anymore, but they must still be maintained and preserved. In the context of globalization, the existence of heritage area becomes important because Depok Lama is the forerunner of the city that also builds the identity of Depok. The history of Depok Lama becomes a differentiator of the existence of Depok City to other cities, which showed that Depok is not just a satellite city growing around the main city. The history of Depok Lama has become an evidence of civilization that has grown since long time ago, together along with the history of the city of Jakarta.

In the arrangement of the building and the environment, it is necessary to review the contents and implementation of the RTBL of Depok Lama 2003, and it needs to do the re-arrangement of buildings and environment in the area with the concept of city architecture, characterized by a typical colonial Depok Lama as...
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a thematic approach to the structuring of city area. Simultaneously, local regulations that specifically regulate and protect cultural heritage assets of Depok must be composed.

The most important thing to do is socializing the importance of asset management and protection, and regional heritage to the public, especially residents of Depok Lama. The existence and preservation of heritage Depok Lama is not merely as the preservation of heritage but moreover, that will give more value to the welfare of society and the city of Depok.

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