

The Space Pattern Of Chinese Temple Area In Semarang Chinatown, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT: Chinese temple area as religious area of Chinese community has a special space pattern, special views and vista which is a vital part of the image of urban community. The aim of this research is to study the space pattern of Chinese Temple area in Semarang Chinatown, Central Java, Indonesia. The purpose of studying space pattern of Chinese temple area in Semarang Chinatown is to examine the link between economic and socioculture aspects of community, space pattern, and an impact on the existing regulation. This research used a rasonalistic approach by a qualitative paradigm in relation to the aim of the research above. This research used a rasonalistic approach by a qualitative paradigm, on which used framework of theory not to prove or compile hypothesis, but to analyse problems and see object in its context. This approach needs theoretical framework that based on the experts' theories, to be constructed become grand concepts with holistic study (Muhajir, 1996). According to the result and the analysis, the writer found that both the character of physical aspect and non physical aspect of Chinese settlement forms and influence the space pattern of Chinese temple area in Semarang Chinatown. Basic of all the special pattern of Semarang Chinatown is the environment pattern especially the space pattern of Chinese temple area and their specific buildings as physical aspects, combine with the socioculture activity and the economic activity as non physical aspects. Yet the space pattern of Semarang Chinatown and their socioculture give Semarang sense of tradition, history and regional identification that remains resistance to the encroaching values of modern industrial society.

Keywords: Space Pattern; Chinese Temple Area; Semarang Chinatown

1 INTRODUCTION

SEMARANG CITY is famous for its designation as the city of a thousand Chinese temples because it has the greatest amount of Chinese temples compares with the other cities in Indonesia. In the core of Chinese settlement there are eight Chinese temples consist of five little Chinese temples and three big Chinese temples. There are amount of temples in other part of Chinese settlement and in outside of Chinese settlement. Administratively, Semarang Chinatown is situated in the village of Kranggan, in the subdistrict of Central Semarang, Semarang City, Central Java, Indonesia. The Chinese settlement that becomes the research area is situated near Kali Semarang River. This Chinese settlement emerged after the Dutch moved the Chinese community from their older settlement at Simongan in the end of 18 century. The people of this region make a living as merchants. The socioculture activity and the economic activity becomes Chinese daily activity. Most of Chinese community have Taoism, Confucianism, and Buddhism religion. Mostly, the buildings in Chinese settlement consist of three types: store houses (a house which becomes a dwelling and a store at once), houses, and temples. Their temple type consists of two types: Big Temple and Little Temple. Chinese temple area as religious area of Chinese community has a special space pattern, special views and vista which is a vital part of the image of urban community. The architectural style of some buildings are original, especially its roof shows Chinese architecture style which remains resistant. Some of them was modified its facade with western style (Europe), and some of them were Persian, but the modification was done at least 87 years ago. The special space pattern of Semarang Chinatown is the environment pattern of Chinese temple area and their specific buildings as physical aspects, combine with the socioculture activity and the economic activity as non physical aspects. The combination of physical aspect and their socioculture in this area remains resistant and need to be preserved, but nowadays some of them are changed its special space pattern and ignoring the architectural value.

1.1 Basic Problems

The space pattern of Semarang Chinatown and their socioculture give Semarang sense of tradition, history and regional identification. Based on the background above, so there are some problems such as the changing of space pattern and living environment quality has decreased because of ignoring open space function, etc.

1.2 The Purpose of Study

The purpose of studying space pattern of Chinese temple area in Semarang Chinatown is to examine the link between economic and socioculture of community and the form of space pattern. This study is to find elements which interconnected with space pattern, both physical and non physical, what divided to become Influenced Variable and Affected Variable.

1.3 The Use of Study

The use of this study are to improve the treasure of urban design in architecture image aspect, to maintain the special space pattern and the image of housing area concept and as input to make some regulations concerning the arrangement of the area spatial structure.

2 OVERVIEW AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Overview

The arranging of housing order as culture product is determined by three factors: the form of building environment, the condition of nature environment, and the socio-culture community (Rapoport, 1969). Space pattern is study about the pattern of space or area in physical way (Schulz, 1988). So a space pattern is reflected by the existing structural components of the place and the interaction of one component to another. Based on Semarang City Planning, space pattern consider several aspects such as: space character, space intensity, and space structure of the city. The space pattern of an area is study about pattern of space or area in physical way that is reflected by the existing of structural components such as space character, space intensity, and space structure of the

city. Each component has certain function and there is interaction of one component to another so it can reflect area character. Therefore to study space pattern must consider the socio-culture of community because city is expression of the community's culture.

2.2 Methodology

This research used a rasionalistic approach by a qualitative paradigm in relation to the aim of the research above. This research used a rasionalistic approach by a qualitative paradigm, on which used framework of theory not to prove or compile hypothesis, but to analyse problems and see object in its context. This approach needs theoretical framework that based on the experts' theories, to be constructed become grand concepts with holistic study (Muhajir, 1996).

3 PHYSICAL ASPECTS OF THE SPACE PATTERN

In this study, the Chinese settlement is divided in seven observation areas consist of Sioe Hok Bio Temple Area, Tek Hay Bio Temple Area, Tay Kak Sie Temple Area, Tong Pek Bio Temple Area, Hoo Hok Bio Temple Area, Wie Wie Kiong Temple and See Hoo Kiong Temple Area, and Liong Hok Bio Temple Area.

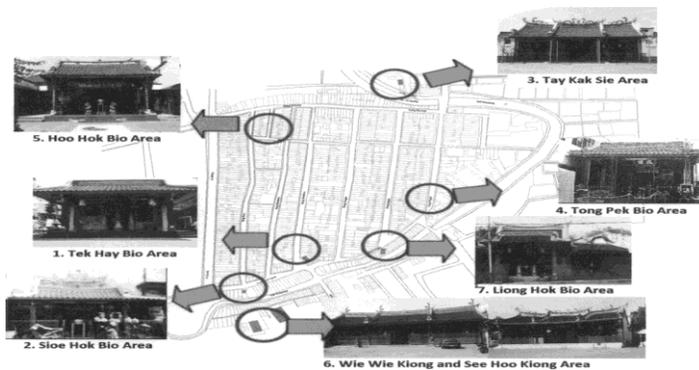
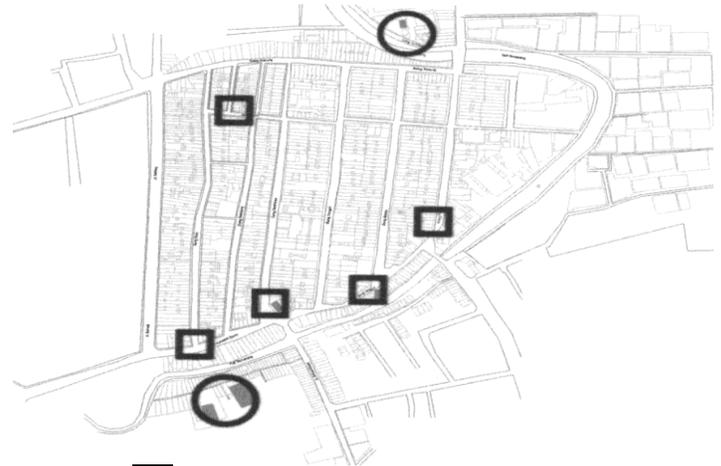


Fig.1. The Division of Semarang Chinatown into seven temple areas

Sioe Hok Bio Temple Area is situated in the crosswise position of Gang Warung. It was named Gang Warung because the majority of Chinese people living on its sides frequently sold their merchandize in front of their houses. Tek Hay Bio Temple Area is located at the end of Gang Gambiran. This alay is part of Chinatown famous for its species warehouses particularly gambir known as Gambiran. Tay Kak Sie Temple Area is situated in Gang Lombok, in the riverside of Kali Semarang River and it is the largest temple of Semarang. Tong Pek Bio Temple Area is located in the corner of Gang Pinggir and Kapuran Street. Hoo Hok Bio Temple Area is located in Pasar Baru Street. Wie Wie Kiong and See Hoo Kiong Temple Area is situated in Sebandaran Street. And Liong Hok Bio Temple Area is located in Gang Besen and Gang Pinggir Street. Based on the temple area observasion, Semarang Chinatown is divided into two parts: Firstly, At the layer of Kali Semarang Riverside, the original character of Chinatown settlement with roads that have intimate scale and the form of building that is dense and high tend not to be seen, because this area is not developed enough. Secondly, At the layer of The Settlement, the original character of Chinatown settlement is seen enough with roads that have intimate scale and the form of building that is dense and high.



The Settlement Layer:

- Area Kelenteng Sioe Hok Bio
- Area Kelenteng Tek Hay Bio
- Area Kelenteng Tong Pek Bio
- Area Kelenteng Hoo Hok Bio
- Area Kelenteng Liong Hok Bio



The Kali Semarang Riverside Layer:

- Area Kelenteng Tay Kak Sie
- Area Kelenteng Wie Wie Kiong & Kelenteng See Hoo Kiong

Fig.2. The Two Layers of Temple Area in Semarang Chinatown

3.1. The Building Architecture of Temple Area

The temples which remain resistant in Semarang Chinatown still have a lot of architecture similarity with the temples that exist in China, while for the housing buildings there were found a lot of characters that reflected the creativity of culture acculturation especially the acculturation between Chinese architecture and local architecture. The building architecture of temple area in Semarang Chinatown can be seen at Table 1.

TABLE 1
THE BUILDING ARCHITECTURE OF TEMPLE AREA

SETTLEMENT LAYER	KALI SEMARANG RIVERSIDE LAYER
In every temple area, the percentage of houses used as store is more than the other building type, because trading activity is experiencing rapid development.	In every temple area, the percentage of houses used as store is more than the other building type, because trading activity isn't experiencing rapid development.
There're a lot of houses with Chinese architecture style especially at the core of Chinese settlement but at the periphery of settlement some of them are modified with modern style.	There's a little houses with Chinese architecture style, and a lot of non permanent building that are impressed dirty and illegal.
The average of building high scale is $D/H < 1$ or $D/H = 1$, it has narrow impression and the roads tend look like alley.	The average of building high scale is $D/H > 1$, it has opened impression and natural.
The vertical building high is 2-4 floors.	The vertical building high is 1-2 floors.
The temple types in this layer are little temple type.	The temples types in this layer are big temple type.

3.2. The Form of Building Environment of Temple Area

Kali Semarang River as an edge of Chinese quarter form Semarang Chinatown which is surrounding by Kali Semarang River at south border, east border, and west border. This area is become the core of Chinese settlement. Furthermore the settlement forms two corridors: center corridor and periphery corridor. The center corridor (area core structure of the quarters) have strong grid pattern and which is influence and form temple location base concept or temple position which exist in the Chinese quarter as crosswise temple position and the temple position which across the street. And the periphery corridor (is formed by temples that have position in the side of Kali Semarang River) determine the forming of the settlement suitable with Chinese Fengshui that the ideal settlement must be situated in the side of the river.

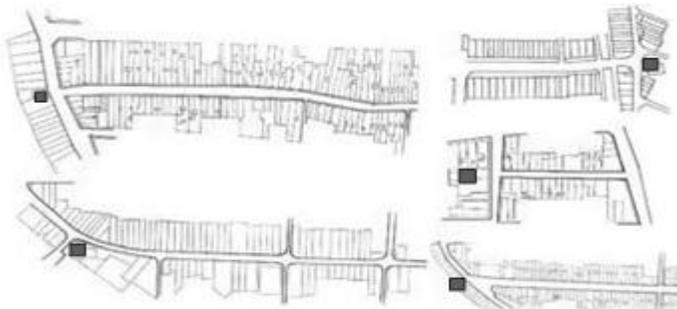


Fig.3. The Space Pattern of Settlement Layer



Fig.4. The Space Pattern of Kali Semarang Riverside Layer

The form of Building environment of Temple Area can be seen at Table 2.

TABLE 2

THE FORM OF BUILDING ENVIRONMENT OF TEMPLE AREA

SETTLEMENT LAYER	KALI SEMARANG RIVERSIDE LAYER
The temple area in this layer was formed by temples that have crosswise position and across the street position.	The temple area in this layer is formed by temples that have position in the side of Kali Semarang River.
The position of temples which is crosswise in this layer reinforces the area core structure at the settlement layer that has grid pattern.	Kali Semarang river as an edge of Chinese quarter determine the forming of the settlement suitable with Fengshui that the ideal settlement must be situated in the side of the river.

3.3. View and vista of Temple Area

The space pattern of Semarang Chinatown area was reflected through the strong relation between the building and the space pattern which temple as a landmark of area has a unique position that located at the crosswise position. That was caused the existence of magnets in the form of temple almost in every road alley and was caused vista in every corridor which the observers start to see the object from the entrance and then come into corridor and ended at the certain point (temple). The view and vista of temple area can be seen at Table 3.

TABLE 3

VIEWS AND VISTA OF TEMPLE AREA

SETTLEMENT LAYER	KALI SEMARANG RIVERSIDE LAYER
Strongly relationship between the form of building and the environment pattern which temple becomes a landmark of the area have unique view because located in crosswise position	The best view of temple areas in this layer are reduced by the Kali Semarang river condition which is not used as traffic line anymore.
There are magnets in the form of temple almost in every road alley and cause vista in every corridor which the observers start to see the object from the entrance and then come into corridor and ended at the certain point (temple).	The condition of Kali Semarang river which is dirty and smell do not support the existence of roads at the riverside and do not support the vista in this area.

4 NON PHYSICAL ASPECTS OF THE SPACE PATTERN

4.1. Human Basic Needs

The people of Semarang Chinatown make a living as merchants. The economic activity the socioculture activity and becomes Chinese daily activity.

4.2. Family Structure

Basic of all the socioculture life that constitute non physical aspect is closely family relationship of Chinese community. The family relationship caused a belief of family unity both the family members that still alive and the family members that had passed away. This caused an activity of Chinese community to honour the family that had passed away with the hope that their ancestors souls will always protect them from the danger.

4.3. Religion

Most of Chinese community have Taoism, Confucianism, and Buddhism religion. This religion activity can be done both at temple and at their houses. The yearly religion activity that is done by Chinese community is not irrespective of the Chinese family relationship which is celebrated by the Chinese community from the quarters and also from the outside of the quarters even from out of town.



Fig.5. The celebration of Kong Co Sam Po Tay Djien, the first Chinese that had come to Semarang



Fig.9. The tiger (samsi) attraction in Tay Kak Sie Temple



Fig.6. The dragon (liangliang) attraction in The Sam Po Tay Djien celebration



Fig.7. The atmosphere of Tiong Jiu Celebration in front of Tay Kak Sie Temple



Fig.8. The dragon (liangliang) attraction in Tay Kak Sie Temple

5 CONCLUSION

According to the result and the analysis, the writer found that:

1. The special space pattern of Semarang Chinatown is the environment pattern of Chinese temple area and their specific buildings combine with the socioculture activity and the economic activity as non physical aspect.
2. The space pattern of temple area sequences in Semarang Chinatown forms two layers: the layer of Kali Semarang Riverside and the layer of settlement.
 - a. **The layer of Semarang Riverside**, this layer form the periphery corridor. The temple area in this layer is formed by Chinese temples that have position in the side of Kali Semarang River. This corridor as an edge determines the forming of the settlement suitable with Chinese Fengshui that the ideal settlement must be situated in the side of the river. There is a little building that has original Chinese style. The space pattern changes because there are some settlers (newcomer) build new houses in the side of Kali Semarang River.
 - b. **The layer of The Settlement**, this layer form center corridor. The center corridor as area core structure of the quarters has strong grid pattern and which is influence and form temple location base concept or temple position which exist in the Chinese quarter as cross-wise temple position and the temple position which across the street. And the original character of Chinese settlement is seen strongly enough with roads that have intimate scale and the form of building that is dense and high. The trading activity is developed enough and caused the changing of space pattern and fasade buidings. But there is a lot of building with original chinese style. The space pattern remains resistant with the temple position that has a unique view and vista.

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