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Conservation of Dutch Colonial Architecture Heritage On Rectorate Building of Education University of Indonesia in Bandung

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to reveal the relationship between architecture and conservation of the Rectorate building of Education University of Indonesia (EUI) in Bandung, categorized as cultural heritage building. This study used qualitative method, through the steps: 1) revealing the building cultural significance of the form-function aspects. 2) Revealing the significant architectural elements to be conserved. 3) Describing the need of conservation treatment.The analysis was based on architectural theory (function-form-meaning) and conservation theory (value-based approach, ethics). The finding of this study: a) Cultural significance, consist of architectural significance (Europe Modern architecture adapted to local nature and culture) that relatively still steady, and historical significance (Dutch businessman house, part of Savoy Homann Hotel). b)The significant architectural elements were:Modern Architectural style at building envelope, the main entrance, rooms ordering resembled Sundanese architecture adapted to the North-South axis.c) The conservation treatment needed were preservation-consolidation on the building envelope, restoration on room ordering at centre part of the building, and adaptation of nowadays function to the building condition. d) The original and new parts of the building should be seen in harmony, but it still could be distinguished. Both of those must be supported by routine maintenance.

KEY WORDS: architectural conservation, function, form, meaning, preservation

INTRODUCTION

Ethical policy (Repay policy) began by Queen Wihelmina's speech in 1901 had changed the approach of the Dutch colonial views, to care about the welfare of the people of Indonesia [1]. Ethical policy also affected the style of colonial architecture, such as Indies Architecture (synthesis of local traditional architectural elements with European architecture) and modern style NieuweBouwen (synthesis of modern European architecture with local nature/culture) [2]. This colonial architecture that was acknowledged of high-grade by the master architects (HP Berlage, Grampre 'Moliere), was a synthesis of the European-style and traditional elements of the archipelago[3, 4]. Bandung had hundreds of colonial buildings categorized as a Cultural Heritage Building, but many of them were conserved in unappropriate ways. Some of them were emphasized on the authenticity while sacrificed the user needs, or on the contrary, or were focused on the managerial aspects [5]. In several cases, the conservation effort unconsciously had damaged the site of heritage building [6]. The cultural significance was not properly paid attention yet. One of the relatively complete and authentic was EUI's rector office, which still in a good and functioned until now, but had lost part of its cultural significance.

The central issue of this study was the conservation of the EUI's Rectorate building focused on architectural aspects (meaning, form, function) and conservation aspects (cultural significant, ethics-guidelines conservation) for the present and future. Cultural significance (meaning aspect) was kept up through conservation treatment in the aspects of function and form, based on conservation ethics. The novelty of this study focused on architectural aspects of form-function-meaning combined with conservation aspect, while the former study was focused on the form aspect only.

The purpose of this study was to reveal the relationship between conservation and architecture, consisted of: 1) Revealing cultural significance based on the aspects of meaning-form-function. 2) Revealing the significant architectural elements to be conserved. 3) Describing the appropriate conservation treatment.

The importance of this study: 1) Clarifying the relation between architecture and conservation. 2) Contributing the new knowledge in architectural conservation, that was theoretical and empirical aspect. 3) Creating the new method in architectural conservation. 4) As recommendation input of architectural conservation strategy for practitioner

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MATERIAL AND METHODS

The Case study

UPI's Rectorate building was designed by CP. Wolff Schoemaker (Dutch famous architect) and built in 1933 as residence of Dutch businessman (DW. Berretty). In 1936 was functioned as part of Savoy Homann Hotel (named Villa Isola) until 1942 (occupied by the Japanese army).In 1947 was used for Indonesia's independence soldier office, and the building was damaged by war. In 1954 the damage was repaired, interior rooms and roof floor was changed and adapted to the lecture rooms. The building was functioned as lecture building and was named 'BumiSiliwangi' in 1955 [7].The change of function (residence into an office) has changed the building form and interior spaces ordering, and this was the cause why this building was chosen as the case study.

The Method

This case study was considered as an architectural object organized of form-function-meaning aspects [8, 9] in need of conservation. This study requires qualitative methodology, such as observation, interviews, document review, and produce descriptive data [10].

In the first stage, revealing the cultural significance, that was the meaning aspect of the case study. This cultural significance would be conserved through conservation treatment on functional aspects (activities) and form aspects (building, outdoor space). The cultural significance of form aspects would be evaluated based on architectural/ rarity/ symbolic significance, and the functional aspects would be evaluated based on historical/ social significance. In the second stage, revealing the significant architectural elements to be conserved based on the form and function aspects. The element of form aspects: building envelope (roof, building faces, structure elements, windows, entrance,ornaments), interior spaces (rooms order, ceiling, walls, doors, floor, ornament), exterior space (environment, site, ornaments). All of those elements were valued based on cultural values (architectural, symbolic values for form aspects, and historic, social values for function aspects) in the range of low until high grade. In the third stage, describing the conservation treatments needed to all significant architectural elements based on physical condition and the needs of the present/ future, consist of preventive, preservation, consolidation, restoration, rehabilitation, adaptation, reconstruction.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study was grouped based on stages mentioned above, that were cultural significance, significant architectural elements and conservation treatments of those elements.

The Cultural Significance

The cultural significance consists of functional aspects (historical, social significance) and form aspects (architectural, scarcity, symbolicsignificance).

Historical significance:The original function of the building was the Dutch businessman residence in 1933 until 1934 (named Villa Berretty), then as part of Savoy Homann Hotel (named Villa Isola)in 1936 to 1942.In 1942was occupied by the Japanese army, and in 1947 as Indonesia's independence soldier office and damaged by the battle shot. In 1954 was functioned as the campus of Teacher Education University, when the building damage was repaired, interior rooms and roof floor was changed and adapted to the lecture rooms. In 1955the building was named 'BumiSiliwangi', and in 1996 was occupied as rector office of EUI [7].This historic significance was given high grade.

Social significance: This Building was more meaningful as a residence that could see the natural scenery around, matching named Villa, than a college/ office building (the natural scenery was useless). This building was often used as object/ background of picture-taking/ film-taking/ drawing. The exterior spaces were well accepted by the students for taking a rest, discussion, out-door activities. This social significance was given high grade.

Architectural significance:The architectural significance that needs to remain intact was the Europe modernity at building envelope (horizontally massive-transparent curved elements made of smooth materials, Prof. CP Wolff Schoemaker works) that still looked beautiful, sturdy, modern and comfortable (Figure 1). This architectural significance was given high grade as well.

Scarcity significance: It was difficult to find this kind of building, there was no equal in Indonesia. So, this significance could be high graded.

Symbolicsignificance: The simple plain curve of building envelope was Europe modernity symbol, the curved form of the building was the symbol of adaptation to the site bordered by the rotated street, and building form integrated to the North-South axis was symbol of adaptation to the place/ environment (Figure 1). This symbolic significance was graded as high.

Figure 1.Cultural Significance.

Left: North elevation of EUI's Rectory Building and North outdoor space in 1933.Centre-1: The position of the EUI's Rectory Building on its site/environment in 1933. Centre-2: North elevation of EUI's Rectory Buildingin 2013 (simple plain curve of building

Based on the cultural significance mentioned above, this building was quite significant to be conserved. The change of activity (residence to office) had changed the building form and interior ordering spaces.

Significant Architectural Elements to be Conserved.

The significant architectural elements to be conserved consist of the elements of building (envelope, interior spaces, ornaments) and exterior spaces (formaspects), and the activities (function aspects). Form aspects would be valued by architectural-symbolic value, and function aspects by historical-social value.

Building envelope: symmetrical pattern with surface composition in massive-transparent and horizontally curved elements made of smooth materials, oriented in North-South direction (North to Tangkuban Perahu mountain, and South to Bandung city), and leaf form at main entrance roof (Figure 2). Those elements were graded high for architectural value and also high for symbolic value (adaptation to local nature and culture). The building had flat roof of 4 floors in the beginning and now of 5 floors, but was difficult to distinguish between the original and the new parts (it was breaking the conservation ethics).

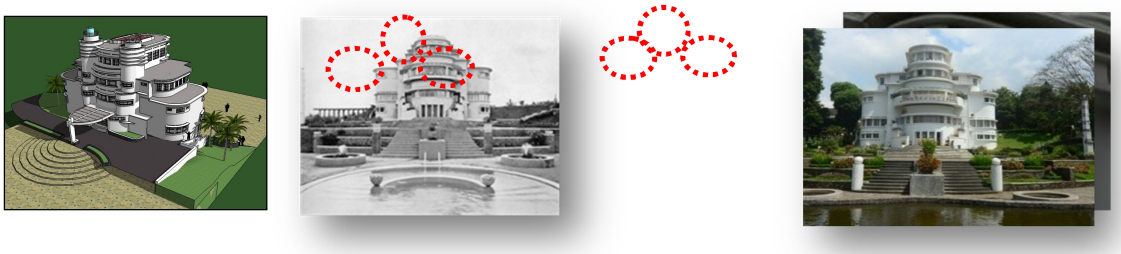

Figure 2.Building envelope.

Left: North/front side of the building(flat roof, main entrance roof like leaf).Center-1: North side of the building and outdoor space (pool, garden) in 1933.Center-2: North side of the building and outdoor space (relatively remain intact, but difficult to distinguish between old and new parts of building). Right: The wide windows with wide edge around building envelope.

Until now, this building is still appreciated as a modern style architecture, but more suitable for residential functions thatcould enjoy the scenerythrough wide windows around building envelope than for office function.

Interior space:The rooms order (three pattern like Sundanese Architecture with the center as the axis of North-South direction), the curved pattern (in mass and rooms)and wide windows around all of the rooms (for enjoying scenery) was graded high in architectural value and also high in symbolic value (respecting Sundanese culture and adapting to local nature), in Figure3.

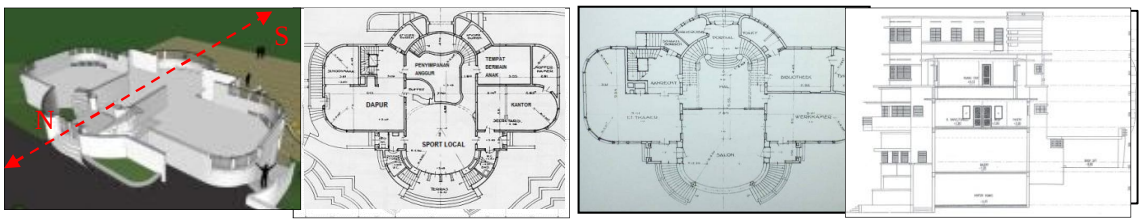

Figure 3.Interior Spaces

Above-left: The principle of rooms order (3 groups rooms), curve pattern and wide windows. Building envelope. Above-center-1: Ground floor in 1933 (bed rooms, office, sport, kitchen, storehouse). Above-center-2: Ground floor in 2013 (rectory administration).Above-right: Section drawing (rooms arrangement). Below-left: First-floor in 1933 (dining-family room, library, working room). Below-center-1: First-floor in 2013 (lobby hall, meeting rooms, museum, PABX). Below-center-2: Roof terrace and gardenin 1933.Below-right: The main meeting room on 4th floor (the change/adjustment of roof terrace)

Ornament:The main entrance roof (took a leaf shape) and its pillar (took a bird head shape), door-windows (had been changed) and circular stairs and column at lobby's hall (Figure 4). Those were complicated-accurate made in 1930s, and had high artistic value and symbolic value (appreciating local nature).

Figure 4.**The Ornament**

Left: The entrance roof shaped leaf (made of glass and concrete frame) in 1933. Center-1: The entrance foofshaped leaf (the glass had been changedby concrete, darkened the entrance hall). Center-2: Head of the roof pillar (like bird head, still retained). Right: Curved stair and column at lobby's hall).

Exterior spaces:North/front yard (garden, pool, inscription), South/backyard (garden, pavement, pool) open towards the south (Bandung city), tunnel, round stair to main entrance, graded curve path (Figure 5). All of those had well/accurately designed, and had been graded as high in architectural value and also high in symbolic value (adapting/appreciating the local nature).

Figure 5.**Exterior Space and Elements**

Above-left: Path and park atNorth yard (view to Tangkuban Perahu mountain) in 1933. Above-center-1: Path and park atNorth yard (view was blocked by beringin tree). Aboce-center-2: South yard in 1933 (curved path, circled pool (original) was open towards South (Bandung City). Above-right: South yard in 2013 (pool was remain with little change, straight path) still open toward South (Bandung City).Below-left: The main gate (authentic) in 2013.Below-left-2: Tunnel (authentic).Below-center:

The functionof the building had been changed (as residence to a campus, then an office), that had changed the building (building envelope, interior, ornament) and exterior. Actually, the function was not suitable for the building in nowadays condition.

Conservation Treatment

Conservation treatment for the significant architectural elements mention above based the current physical condition and the needs for the building due to current activities, and also reasonable to be done.

Building's Envelope was still looked beautiful, sturdy and modern, only a little tiny cracks in some of the eaves, but hard to distinguish between the original and the new parts. Conservation treatment needed: 1) Preservation treatment and strengthening (consolidating) at the weak parts (cracked eaves), while the whole parts of the building needed to be periodically maintained. 2) The new and the original parts of building envelope should be painted slightly different colours.

Some of the interior spaces had been changed (the stairs, partition walls). The restoration treatment should be done in the centre part of the building, so that the original architectural concept (curve pattern faced to North-South direction) could be recovered. Then, the routine maintenance should be done on all interior parts.

Ornaments as the main entrance roof (formerly transparent, and replaced to concrete slab) should be restored to its original state (transparent) so that natural light could reach the lobby hall. The head of entrance

roof pillar should be consolidated in order to withstand weather, the cord tissue trimmed and regularly maintained.

Exterior elements (garden, pool, inscription, pavement/path, tunnel, bench) need to be preserved and maintained regularly.The curved pattern atthe back yard should be restored, as posible as it could be.

The function (rector office) should be adapted to the building condition as historical heritage building, in order to conserve the building effectively. Modernisation in interior materials, lighting/security/comunication instrument had to be correctly installed so that the cultural significance of the buiding was still remain..

CONCLUSION

This study concluded three important points as follows:

1. The cultural significance of EUI's rectory office through architecture theory of function-form-meaning were: a residence that had been changed to an office (historical significance),aplace forenjoying the scenery around (social significance),Europe modernity adapted to local nature (architectural significance), scarce building (scarcity significance), the symbol of Europe modernity and local nature-culture adaptation (symbolic significance).
2. Significant architectural elements: a) Building envelope (symmetrical pattern and horizontally curved mass with North-South axis,the main entrance with roof leaf) of high architectural and symbolic value. b)Interior space (three pattern rooms of Sundanese Architecture, curved pattern roomsand wide windows around for enjoying scenery) of high architectural and symbolic value. c) The ornaments (main entrance roof took a leaf shape,the roof pillar, circular stairs-column at lobby's hall) of high artistic and symbolic value.
3. Conservation treatments include: a) Preservation treatment and strengthening at the weak parts on building envelope, while the whole parts were periodically maintained and the new and the original parts should be painted slightly different colours.b)Restoration treatment at the centre interior spaces, so that the original architectural concept (curve patterndirected to North-South) could be recovered, and then regularly maintained.c) Restoration and consolidation treatment at the ornaments (the roof and pillar of main entrance), then regularly maintained. d) preservation and regularly maintained at exterior elements. e) Adaptation on the function of the building, so that the cultural significance could be retained.

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