THE RESIDENTS' SHARED MEMORIES AND THE AWARENESS FOR MAKING A BETTER LIVING ENVIRONMENT

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SUMMARY

This study concerns with the psychological perspective in the maintenance of built environments at a scale of house and town through discussing the sustainability through residents' emotional and psychological commitments to their living places. It presents the awareness of the inhabitants of their own houses' surroundings. Through clarifying the memories of the inhabitants regarding their old house and the house's surrounding, this study discerns the influence of these memories in the present interaction between the inhabitants and their house and its surrounding. The field observations were done in the Kotagede area, the old Javanese living environment in Yogyakarta Region, Indonesia. Using the interview method, this study examines the past experience of the residents during their lives in their old traditional houses. A qualitative analysis was conducted to the transcription of interview data as well the visual recording data to get a description from different qualitative aspects of the informant's recollected memories. The result of this study shows that among the inhabitants' individual memories there are shared memories in which a process of sharing the same memory from other person to the inhabitant exists. The shared memories of the inhabitants can stimulate their attachment to their living environment and their awareness to achieve the sustainable living environment.

1. INTRODUCTION

In the fields of architecture, planning and urban design, the terms of memory, history, and past experiences would obviously be put within the theme on preservation. Studies and literatures in these fields mostly deal with physical matters of the old artifacts in the old living environment. For obtaining a strategy of practical use of memory and past experiences for the continuity of old living environment in the present life, it is needed to give more attention to the interaction between people and their old environment. More over, human as a subject and an active shaper of the living environment should be put in consideration when thinking about the adaptation and adjustment of old artifacts and old urban environment in the present time and even in the future. In this time it is necessary for looking through the