Culture of Living
International seminar workshop and exhibition in urban design 2005
February 19, 2005
Yogyakarta

Budi Prayitno

Department of Architecture and Planning
Gadjah Mada University
Yogyakarta, Indonesia
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# CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cover</td>
<td></td>
<td>i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening Speech</td>
<td></td>
<td>ii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forward</td>
<td></td>
<td>iii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contents</td>
<td></td>
<td>iv</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## I. Cultural Aspects of Living Space

1. Integrating Cultural Expression Within Urban Architectural Identity *by Krisprantono*  
   Page I-1  

2. From Qolbu Management to Environment Management of Islamic Architecture *by M. Syaom Barliana, MPd., MT.Ars.*  
   Page I-13  

3. Uniformity in Architecture Concerning to Local Cultural Development *by Arya Ronald*  
   Page I-30  

4. Living Culture of the Chinese Ethnical Community in Old Pecinan and Jalan Cibadak Area – Bandung City *by Udjianto Pawitro*  
   Page I-41  

5. Contemporary Living Style in Malaysian Urban Life; A Comparison of Past and Present *by Zuhairus Md Darus, Mazlan Mohd Tahir, Abdul Halim Ismail, Muhammad Fauzi Mohd Zain, Azamid Zahirin*  
   Page I-49  

6. Influence of the Urbanizing World at Urban Settlement Space *by Pindo Tutuko, ST., MT.*  
   Page I-55  

7. Development, Conservation, Community and Urban Design Problems *by Donatus Windya G. & Candraningratri Ekaputri W.*  
   Page I-67  

8. The System and Mechanism of Community in Japan *by T. Yoyok Wahyu Subroto*  
   Page I-81  

9. Implementation of Concept of Balance at Kelenteng / Shrine in Lasem *by T. Yoyok Wahyu Subroto, Dyah S. Pradnya, Alifah Harisah Husein*  
   Page I-87
I.10. Aquatic Living Culture of Marine and Riverine Ecopolitan
       by DR. Ir. Budi Prayitno, M. Eng. I-95

I.11. Spontaneous "Rukun Tetangga" Intermediate Action to
       Develop Post Disaster Neighborhood Living Unit in
       Indonesia by Ikaputra & Bambang Hari Wibisono I-100

I.12. Continuing the Urban Public Open Space from the Concept
       of Java's Traditional "Alun-Alun" Case Study : Alun-Alun
       of Malang City by LISA DWI WULANDARI I-110

I.13 Sonaf Bukan Sekedar Bangunan Manusia Tanpa Sejarah
       Niscaya Akan Kehilangan Jati Diri Mereka
       by Ir. Donny Y Kusa Banuek, MT I-118

II. Public Facilities Space

II.1. Redefinition of Traditional Market in Metropolitan Area by
       Evawani Ellis I-1

II.2. Redevelopment of Pasar Senen Cultural Context for
       Enhancing Livability of a Business District by Andri
       Widiantoko, Dwı Endah Kusumaningsih, & Merry Morfosa II-16

II.3. Spontaneous Public Space, The Neglected City's Asset by
       Mahatma Sindu Suryo, ST. II-22

II.4. Boundary and Urban Public Space: Design Context by
       Azimim Samsul Mohd Tazilan, Mazlan Mohd Tahir,
       Zuhairuse Md Darus, Abdul Halim Ismail II-28

II.5. Urban Context of Merdeka Square : Challenging the
       Design of First-Grade Civic Center in Indonesia by
       Danang Priatmodjo II-37

III. Street Space

III.1 Design Approach Toward Public Space for Location of
       Street Vendor by A. Ardyanto III-1
III.2 Spatial Use Living Patterns In CBD by Hendramaji

III.3 Making Good Pedestrian Path Design in the Urban Environment (Case Study: Pedestrian Path on Kyai Tapa Street in West Jakarta) by Nina Nurdiani & Nuzulifar Rahmah

III.4. Living on the "Hyperreality" Street Space Advertisements Expansion on Jogjakarta’s Streets by Harry Kurniawan

III.5 Urban Design Context in the Façade Composition Change Pattern of Ir. H. Djuanda (Jalan Dago) Corridor Bandung by Lilis Widaningsih

III.6. Making a Street As a Public Space: Understanding Conflicts in Commercial Corridors in the City of Bandung by Petrus Natalivan & Sigit Dwianto A.

III.7. Pedestrians' Preferences and The Role of Public Activities on the Crossing Bridge by Nurhikmah Budi Hartanti

III.8. The Characteristic of the Street Vendor Location in Urban Area (Case Study: City of Surabaya) by Sri Amiranti

III.9. Some Notions for Creating Liveable Street in Tropical Regions (Sub-theme: Urban Street Space Design) by Ir. Titien Saraswati, M.Arch., Ph.D.

III.10. “Outdoor Activity” as A New Life Style by Nurtati Soewarno

IV. Open Space

IV.1 A Meaning Study in Public Space: An Observation Toward Behaviors of the Users of the Lapangan Taman Tugu Pahlawan Surabaya by Nur Endah Nuffida, ST,MT

IV.2. The Using Of Campus Open Space By Students Activities
A Case Study In Trisakti University by Nurhikmah Budi Hartanti

IV.3. Public Space for Social Activity in Yogyakarta by Dwita Hadi Rahmi

IV.4. Urban Context of Merdeka Square: Challenging the Design of First-Grade Civic Center in Indonesia by Danang Priatmodjo

IV.5. Peran Warga Kota dalam Pengelolaan Ruang Terbuka Publik by Freddy H. Istanto

IV.6. The Concept of Design Public Open Space in Plangkaraya: Consideration Cultural and Ecological Factors by Parmonangan Simanurung

IV.7. The Ecological Concept of Sub District Jampirejo – Temanggung in Supporting Tourism Industry Growth by Erni Setyowati, Ria Fendriarko

V. Settlement

V.1. Culture Spirit in Indigenous Malay Kampung by Yohannes Firzal

V.2. Public Space for Ethnic Relation in Surakarta by Dhani Mutiar & Wisnu Setiawan

V.3. Spatial Changes Pattern on Chinese Houses in Lasem, Rembang by Yulyta Kodrat P & Nuryanto

V.4. A Prismatic Temporary Shelter Design Limited Comfortable Living Space to House Tsunami Refugees in Aceh by Djoko Wijono

VI. Urban Living Space & Tecnology

VI.1. Planning a Settlement Area after Disaster by Deva Fosterharoldas Swasto
VI.2. Fire Protection Strategies as A Friendly Urban Utility in Environment by R. Darmono VI-12

VI.3. Toward Bioclimatic Urban Square Design for Hot Humid Tropic City by Jono Wardoyo, ST. MT. VI-24

VI.4. Rules of Thumb In Daylighting Design by Nik Lukman Nik Ibrahim & Muhamad Fauzi Mohd Zain VI-30

VI.5. Failure of the Modern City by Mastor Surat & Dr. Mohd. Tajuddin Mohd Rasdi VI-47

VI.6. Living with Disaster In The Archipelagic Context by Budi Prayitno VI-53
Aquatic Living Culture of Marine and Riverine Ecopolitan

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Abstract

The land-based metropolises and big cities have caused the disappearance of waterfront cities. The natural environment is suffering extensive deterioration and much of Indonesian aquatic living culture is disappearing.

Hence, the new ideas should be taken to retain the marine and riverine living characteristics and coexistence with the prosperity in the rapidly change habitat for the future generations. New concepts for symbiotic ecopolitan in the archipelagic context are necessary if this phenomena is to be remedied.

Keywords: aquatic living culture, archipelagic, marine riverine ecopolitan, amphibious, hybrid

INTRODUCTION

The Indonesian waterfront cities were developed by the exploitation of the aquatic resources. However, today's increasingly modern cities make it imperative that related to the context of symbiosis. This paper shows the proposed idea for future waterfront city design based on the archipelagic paradigm. In the waterfront city development context, the word 'aquatic living culture' is not taken into consideration but it is any government intervention. The government is interested in such new urban development projects of land-based approaches in order to fulfill the basic objective of raising the standard of living, thus, the traditional aquatic settlement and waterfront city have been overlooked.

LAND-BASED AND WATER-BASED CIVILIZATION

In the cosmological model, the series of concentric rings of continents and oceans, reflecting the rise and fall of these continents and oceans and seems to fit with the aquatic symbol of civilization.
The ancient model of canal cities is not only city planning a formal art but the associated symbolism of water people and their aquatic past living values. It was in effect a summary of the total experience of oceans and mountains and the total environment on a macrocosmic level.

Fig.2 A Stone bas reliefs at Borobudur. Showing Indonesian Woden Houses on stilts.

Fig.1 Cosmological Model of Concentric Rings

Fig.3 Metamorphosis of Bojo Floating Settlement (Salipu, A, 2000)

The examples of people living in harmony with the aquatic environment are in Bojo settlement and in Banjarmasin riverine city. The instinct of the people
was thus water-based, and this gave rise to a unique culture. However, the metamorphosis of such aquatic living areas from water-based to a land-based town seems complete. Disappeared are floating living culture and most of canal cities.

**HYBRID CONCEPT: SYMBIOTIC AMPHIBIOUS AND FLOATING CITY**

*Amphibious* settlement was original form for aquatic habitation in the delta plain area. Concerning the morphological city in the earliest period which was located on the aquatic delta area, the most distinctive features are *its low-lying land* and *networks of rivers and canals*. The settlement prototypes are divided into two types, the first is *structural floating* on the water and the second on *stilts* situated along the periphery of the aquatic or land area.

This basic idea of the amphibious settlement may generate 'more hybrid' but *more sustainable* words into the modern context of *aquatic living culture*.

**AQUATIC ECOPOLITAN**

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Fig. 4 Ancient Model of Water-based Spatial Design

Fig. 5 A Late Seventeenth century water-based Spatial Design
The main consideration of this proposed model is that 'Indonesia is an archipelago, and this is its key point. Sea, Island and People could best represent the nature of archipelascapes in Indonesia. A scenario for harmonizing the water and land (aqua-terra) linkages in the design prototype of ecopolitan may generate the replicated model of amphibious concept of riverine and marine settlement. In this scenario, it would be a minimum hydrological design but more using the ecological approaches. Thus, the living culture makes an 'aquatic' community and not 'hydraulic' community.

Fig. 7 The Image of Modern Waterfront Cities