

The Existence of The Malay House 'Limas Potong' in the Midst of Modernization Currents in the City of Batam 1970-2022

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Abstract: The purpose of this study was to determine the impact of the modernization of the city of Batam on the existence of the Malay House Limas Potong. The method used in this research is historical research. The steps in this research are heuristics, source criticism, interpretation, and historiography. The results of the study show that the very first simple industrial concept in Batam, which began in 1898, was the Pertuan Muda of Riau, Raja Muhammad Yusuf-Ahmadi on behalf of the Riau Lingga Kingdom, who granted part of Batam Island land to King Abdullah, Raja Ali Kelana and Raja Muhammad Thahir. In 1978 B.J Habibie changed the course of Batam's development. Batam was transformed into the direction of industrial, service, trade, *transshipment* and tourism. The Malay House Limas Potong once dominated the architectural forms of houses in Batam City. Currently, the construction of a Malay house with the traditional architecture of the Malay House Limas Potong is no longer a *prima donna*. Construction efficiency, land availability, difficulty in obtaining raw materials, and up to the development of today's architectural models have changed a lot. The only Malay House Limas Potong currently in Batam City is in Kampung Melayu, Nongsa District.

Abstrak: Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui dampak modernisasi Kota Batam terhadap eksistensi Rumah Melayu Limas Potong. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah penelitian historis. Adapun langkah-langkah dalam penelitian ini heuristik, kritik sumber, interpretasi, dan historiografi. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa konsep industri sederhana yang paling pertama di Batam yakni dimulai pada tahun 1898 yang di Pertuan Muda Riau Raja Muhammad Yusuf-Ahmadi atas nama Kerajaan Riau Lingga telah mengukumi sebagian tanah Pulau Batam kepada Raja Abdullah, Raja Ali Kelana dan Raja Muhammad Thahir. Pada tahun 1978 B.J Habibie mengubah haluan pembangunan Batam. Batam dirubah menjadi haluan kawasan industri, jasa, perdagangan, *transshipment* dan pariwisata. Rumah Melayu Limas Potong pernah merajai bentuk arsitektur rumah yang ada di Kota Batam. Saat ini pembangunan Rumah Melayu dengan arsitektur tradisional Rumah Melayu Limas Potong tidak lagi menjadi primadona. Efisiensi pembangunan, ketersediaan lahan, kesulitan untuk memperoleh bahan baku, dan hingga perkembangan model arsitektur rumah dewasa ini yang telah jauh berubah. Satu-satunya Rumah Melayu Limas Potong yang saat ini terdapat di Kota Batam terdapat di Kampung Melayu Kecamatan Nongsa.



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INTRODUCTION

Modernization is a common practice nowadays. The rapid development of information technology was allegedly the main cause of the spread of the modernization wave which implicitly succeeded in eliminating territorial boundaries and other things that were considered to be obstacles to the spread of information flow.

Modernization makes such a large positive contribution to the development of civilization. However, it does not rule out that modernization also has a negative impact on the socio-cultural life of a nation that is affected by modernization which is slowly being able to erode the local wisdom values of a nation which is reflected not only in non-physical cultural aspects but also this erosion occurs in aspects of physical culture, including traditional houses.

After independence, Indonesia has developed and continues to experience a process of modernization. Several areas that previously experienced less modernization are slowly starting to improve by continuing to carry out infrastructure developments in order to prepare themselves for the direction of modernization. One area that is experiencing a process of modernization so fast is Batam City.

Batam City itself is a city in the form of an archipelago with Batam Island as the main island and flanked by several small islands around it. The city of Batam itself has a very strategic position, which is right at the intersection of international trade maritime routes that connect the South China Sea and the Malacca Strait and is directly adjacent to the State of Singapore. This strategic position has certainly made Batam Island, which is administratively known as Batam City, transformed into a city that has a very rapid level of development in Indonesia. This has an impact on the flow of modernization which is certainly unavoidable.

The development of Batam City towards modernization has started since the early 1970s. Through Presidential Decree No. 41 of 1973 Batam was officially designated as an industrial working environment. Since then, development on Batam Island has been increasingly stretched and the process

towards modernization has certainly become clearer.

The rapid development of Batam City has had a positive effect on economic growth. The construction of industrial centers, the development of tourism and various other types of development has had an impact on the creation of large employment opportunities. So that the city of Batam becomes a magnet for immigrants who want to try their luck in the city of Batam and thus make Batam a very diverse city. However, the development movement and the current of modernization have had an impact on the fading of cultural symbols and local wisdom of the indigenous people of Batam City who come from the Malay ethnicity.

The original inhabitants of Batam City are the Malays. Malays are a large nation that includes several modern countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei Darussalam, Southern Thailand and the Southern Philippines. The Malay nation has a great civilization heritage with various local wisdom values contained therein. This culture can be seen from aspects of non-physical culture, such as the language that is currently used in various countries in the Southeast Asian region with various dialects, to physical cultural heritage, one of which is the traditional Malay House Limas Potong, which of course has local wisdom values. which is very high and able to reflect the character of the owner of the house in particular and the character of the Malay nation in general.

The Malay House Limas Potong itself is an identity for the Malay people, especially those in the Riau Archipelago province. As part of the treasures of civilization of the Malay nation, the local wisdom of the Malay House Limas Potong itself deserves to be preserved. In general, the local wisdom of the Malay House Limas Potong is currently in an

apprehensive condition. The degradation that occurs is caused by various factors. So that research must be carried out immediately. This research was carried out as an in-depth analysis to find the root causes of the problems that have occurred so that they have an impact on finding solutions that will contribute to the development of history and culture as well as education in the Riau Archipelago region.

METHODS

The method used in this research is historical research. Louis Gottschalk (1986: 32), the historical method is the process of critically examining and analyzing past records and relics and writing down the results based on the facts that have been obtained which is called historiography. According to Kuntowijoyo (2013) historical research has four stages, namely: heuristics, source criticism, interpretation, and historiography.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

According to Yulia Siska (2015: 67-69) that modernization comes from the Latin, modo (way) and ernus (present). In other words, we can translate modernization as a method or process from the past to the present. Modernization that has been going on for approximately 50 years in Batam City has been able to shape the face of Batam Island slowly. Whether we realize it or not, this impact is being felt in various lines of people's lives that are heading or have even reached modernity.

The city of Batam has now transformed into a city that is so exotic that is promising for immigrants who are not only from Indonesia, but also from abroad. The purpose of work is the main reason for migrants to come to Batam City. In the mid-1980s, when the industry opened on a large scale on Batam Island, making Batam Island the destination for nomads to live on Batam Island. The city

of Batam is slowly transforming into a modern, metropolitan and heterogeneous city. In detail, the development of modernization in Batam City which is taking place slowly can be seen as follows:

The very first simple industrial concept in Batam, which began in 1898, was when the Riau Youth Association, Raja Muhammad Yusuf-Ahmadi, on behalf of the Riau Lingga Kingdom, granted part of Batam Island land to King Abdullah, Raja Ali Kelana and Raja Muhammad Thahir. Raja Ali Kelana opened a brick factory in collaboration with his business partner, a wealthy businessman named Om Sang Liong. The brick factory used steam-powered machines made in Germany which was later named "*Brickworks*".

In 1971 the authority for the development of the Batam City Industrial Area was established by a Presidential Decree. Ibnu Sutowo was given the responsibility to build and develop Batam City. This is because Ibnu Sutowo is the Director of PN Pertamina. At that time, Pertamina, which had a lot of income, was considered the most financially prepared to develop Batam City. This appointment was not without reason, at that time Pertamina was booming world oil prices which were soaring, thus bringing abundant profits to Pertamina. Moreover, at that time Pertamina became the most vital economic engine because it contributed 60% of the state budget. The government at that time did not have the budget to build the city of Batam.

In 1971 the development process led to a modern development concept. The first Industrial Development Area in Batam City is located in Batu Ampar, with an industrial concept that is only one zone. Batu Ampar is known as "*Particulate Matter*" or also known by the term "*bond zone*" namely the first free trade area, namely an area that is one zone. The industry that was developed during the time of Ibnu Sutowo is an industry that was

built to facilitate oil and gas logistics base activities.

When these industries developed in Batu Ampar, this company did not have housing for its employees, so many of them rented in Jodoh. At that time, Jodoh was still a slum with the concept of houses still in the Malay style. Some of the Malay houses in Jodoh live on the land side, but not a few are perched on the beach, jutting out towards the sea. This wooden house in Jodoh had to be abandoned after the village of Jodoh burned down for the second time in 1982. During its journey, the location was reclaimed and in 2000 a ship-shaped building was erected which later became known as the Pacific Palace Hotel.

However, in 1975 Pertamina went bankrupt so that the development of the city of Batam was temporarily halted. In 1976-1978 the development of Batam was continued by J.B Sumarlin, who had started using the state budget. Batam at that time had been used as a logistics base for oil and gas. In the early 1960s, which was used as the basis for logistics and petroleum, it was still based in Singapore. In 1976 this was the starting point for building a house with a wall concept in Batam City. Namely the construction of the first wall-concept house in Prambanan, Bukit Senyum. This housing was built to meet the need for housing for Pertamina employees. In this decade, the hotel industry, lodging and so on began to develop. In 1978 B.J Habibie changed the course of Batam's development. Batam was transformed into the direction of industrial, service, trade, *transshipment* and tourism.

Slowly it began to develop until rapid development began to occur starting in the 1990s. The industry was not only a heavy industry for supporting shipping such as the shipyard which was based in Batu Ampar, but had started to spread throughout the city of Batam. This development was also followed

by the development of manufacturing industries such as the Philips electronics industry and so on. The 1990s also saw industrial relocation from Singapore to Batam after the MOU between President Soeharto and Lee Kwan Yew which resulted in a large industry located in Muka Kuning today, namely Batam Indo. This is the beginning of Batam City being used as a manufacturing industry. Batam in the 1990s to 2000s began to experience a booming population explosion of up to 12%, exceeding the national population growth. This has caused the start of entering National developers such as BTN. Batam started to partner with the developer, this became a movement which resulted in the increasingly eroding of Malay housing into more modern homes like today.

The nomads who come to Batam Island come from various ethnic groups so that the presence of the nomads adds to the treasures of cultural diversity in the city of Batam. Batam has now become a heterogeneous metropolis, which is very friendly to all forms of differences and is able to coexist peacefully and harmoniously. This is a positive impact from the modernization that has occurred in Batam City apart from the ongoing physical aspects of development to date.

Modernity itself also has a negative impact. Various issues that revolve in society, especially in urban communities, have become part of the negative impact of modernity in Batam City. These problems include poverty, urban planning, employment, to the fading of local wisdom, one of which is the Malay House Limas Potong.

Massive industrialization which was then welcomed by the presence of nomads and various social problems that arose afterward as a result of the modernization that was occurring slowly began to erode

local wisdom. Patta Rapanna (2016) states that local wisdom is all local intelligence that is transformed into creativity, work, and initiative (culture) so that people can be independent in various social climates that are constantly changing. Thus it can be said that local wisdom is a human genius in facing the challenges faced. One of the tangible forms of cultural results in the city of Batam, one of which is the Malay House Limas Potong.

A traditional house is a building that can be passed down from generation to generation and can be used by residents of the area to carry out activities as well as possible with its own characteristics from the manufacturing process, form, function and ornament (Igit, et al 2013: 22). Firzal (2015) argues that to identify a Malay house there are three physical characteristics in the way it is constructed, namely: the fact that the house is in the form of stilts, the shape of a gable roof, and the roof finishing with gablefinials. Traditional Malay architecture symbolizes the ingenuity of the Malay people in adapting to society and the surrounding habitat physically and spiritually (Rashid, 2017).

As the traditional house of the Malay people in Batam City, the Limas Potong Malay house is an icon of Batam City. However, currently the construction of the Malay House with the traditional architecture of the Limas Potong Malay House is no longer a prima donna. Construction efficiency, land availability, difficulty in obtaining raw materials, and up to the development of today's architectural models have changed a lot.

Development Efficiency

The Malay House Limas Potong has a stilt house structure like most traditional Malay houses. This is often an obstacle in the construction of the Malay House Limas Potong. The structure of a stilt house

certainly requires high calculations and accuracy in the construction process. Starting from the selection of materials, determining the design of the house, the strength of the supports, to the selection of quality materials is a form of complexity in building a house with a house structure on stilts like the Malay Limas Piece house.

The high level of difficulty certainly has an impact on the length of time needed to build the house. The length of time goes hand in hand with the need for development funds that are not small. Thus, many people have discouraged their intention to build houses with stilt house architecture, such as the Malay House Limas Potong, although it cannot be denied that there is still a desire to build houses with traditional architectural styles.

After the opening of Batam as an Industrial City which was marked by the establishment of industrial areas in Batam City, it was directly proportional to the very significant population growth which was largely due to the flow of urbanization of people who came from the islands around Batam Island and from various other areas throughout the archipelago. .

The problem that arises then is the increasing need for housing for immigrants and native residents in the city of Batam. Efficient housing is the most appropriate choice that must be made. A simple house with a minimalist style is an efficient form of housing for the majority of the population in Batam City.

Taking into account the efficiency of the construction, the Limas Slash House is not the right choice as a form of housing. The development process and the architectural style of the Malay House Limas Potong, which is certainly not simple, makes the house not the right choice as a residence.

Housing that is easy in terms of workmanship, effective in the development process and oriented to the main function of a house is the main foundation in overcoming the problem of meeting housing needs for the people of Batam City. Such a situation has exacerbated the conditions of existence of the Malay House Limas Potong

Land Availability

As previously mentioned, the industrialization that occurred in Batam City certainly had an impact on land availability. The need for land is so great while the need for land is increasing along with the massive development of industrial areas.

The high rate of migration from urbanites who not only come from the area around Batam City but comes from almost all parts of Indonesia certainly requires the availability of land to live in, which is certainly not small in number. Due to the dwindling availability of land, the price of vacant land in Batam City is getting higher day by day.

The increasing price of land is due to the limited amount of land in Batam City. The need for land intended for the construction of industrial locations on the one hand which must be shared with the need for land intended for residential locations on the other hand adds to the complexity of the existing land problems in Batam City.

To solve housing problems for residents of Batam City, the solution that is considered appropriate and has been implemented is the construction of houses up to the top such as apartments or flats. So that the housing problem can be solved without reducing the initial goal of developing Batam City as an industrial city. However, the ideas for building houses up as previously planned are slowly being abandoned.

Currently housing construction in Batam City is dominated by housing construction with a widening concept. This situation can be seen by the massive spread of residential housing developments carried out in Batam City.

The need for land for the construction of industrial center locations also cannot be ignored. Batam is an industrial city that makes the industrial sector the main support for the course of economic activity in Batam City. Creating a good investment climate will facilitate the creation of new industrial centers which will absorb a large number of workers so as to reduce the unemployment rate both in Batam City and nationally in general. However, this can happen if good facilities and infrastructure are created and one of them is the availability of adequate land.

Modernization that hit the city of Batam. Such complex conditions have made the Malay House Limas Potong no longer chosen as a form of residential architecture for the people of Batam City. To build a Malay House Limas Potong requires a lot of land and this goes hand in hand with the high costs that will be required.

Limited Raw Materials

Today the construction of houses is dominated by the use of bricks as the main raw material for construction. The use of bricks as the main raw material in the construction of a house has several advantages, such as unlimited quantities, low prices, and an easy construction process. In addition to the home care process

Traditional houses in Indonesia generally use wood as the main raw material for building houses. In the mid-19th century in most parts of Indonesia, houses with wooden ornaments were still common. This is due to various factors such as industrialization which is still not massive

and generally still focuses on big cities while areas outside these big cities have not been penetrated by the industrialization process including Batam City. In addition, in the mid-19th century the number of forests in Indonesia was still very large so that the supply of wood was still very abundant. The abundant amount of wood makes it possible to use it as the main raw material for making traditional houses, including the Malay House Limas Potong.

In addition, the process of urban expansion contributed to reducing the amount of forest. In big cities, there are urban forests, but not in the traditional sense of forests as in the past. The high birth rate, the urbanization of people in various big cities and newly formed cities such as Batam City affect the amount of forest area and at the same time exacerbate the scarcity of wood as the main material for making traditional houses, one of which is the Malay House Limas Potong.

Just like other traditional houses in Indonesia, it can be said that most of the raw materials used in the construction of the Malay House Limas Potong are made of wood. As a percentage, wood contributes more than 90% of the total raw materials needed to build a Malay House Limas Potong.

Wood becomes very expensive caused by the scarcity of the wood itself. When compared with bricks, the construction of houses using wood as the main raw material is very expensive. Not only that, maintaining a house with wood as raw material requires a lot of money and must be done regularly, especially when compared to maintaining a house using brick as raw material. In the midst of the economic crisis that hit the world at this time. It is very risky to build a house with wood as the main raw material, such as the Malay House Limas Potong. So that slowly but surely the existence of the Malay House Limas Potong will increasingly be eroded.

The complex conditions regarding the availability of raw materials above then became an obstacle to the construction of the Malay House Limas Potong. This situation was caused by the limited availability of quality wood and the soaring price of wood. In addition, a house with the main material of wood requires extra care and of course requires a lot of money too.

Development of Architectural Models

Humans are dynamic social creatures. Change is something that is certain for humans. Every periodization of human life always has problems and different forms. Of course, humans are required to be able to survive in these various situations in order to maintain the continuity of human life in the universe.

The problems experienced by humans will be answered along with the ability of humans to adapt to circumstances. The Malay House Limas Potong in Batam City also experiences similar problems. The high level of urbanization, the construction of massive industrial centers and the development of architectural models contributed to the decline of the Malay House Limas Potong.

Developments in technology and information affect various aspects of life including residential architecture. The rapid exchange of information also influences changes, including architectural changes. The concept of a modern house with a minimalist design is the choice of most people.

The building materials needed are few, do not require large areas of land, and the architectural models are simple and seem contemporary. This situation certainly has an impact on the fact that it is almost rare to find a Cut Limas House with a stilt house architecture anymore. Such conditions make the Malay House Limas Potong slowly begin to be eroded by architectural developments. The Limas Bambu House is an amazing

cultural heritage that shows the elegance of Indonesian civilization in general and the Malay people in particular.

CONCLUSION

The local wisdom of Rumah Melayu Limas Potong is a very valuable cultural heritage. The Malay House Limas Potong is a concrete manifestation of the archipelago's cultural treasures which are very rich and full of philosophical values contained therein. In the city of Batam itself as a city that has undergone a process of modernization that has taken place slowly since 1969 until now it is slowly either consciously or not starting to lose the forms of local wisdom that existed before and the most obvious form is in the Limas Malay House. Cut.

Currently in Batam City, there is only one piece of Malay House Limas Potong remaining, namely in Kampung Melayu, Batu Besar Village, Nongsa District which is currently being designated as a cultural heritage by the Batam City Tourism Office in 2011. Even though it has been designated as cultural heritage status, the house is currently in an alarming condition, especially after the pandemic *Covid-19*.

Various factors are suspected to be the cause of the fading or even disappearance of the Malay House Limas Potong. However, in general, this problem is caused by several factors, including construction efficiency, land availability, difficulties in obtaining raw materials, and the development of today's architectural models that have changed a lot.

SUGGESTION

Raising awareness from all elements ranging from the government to the community which is very difficult to materialize in the form of action to build the Limas Cut Malay House can be replaced with efforts to maintain, care for, and preserve this local wisdom in simpler forms.

It is fitting for all elements to realize that maintaining the Limas Cut Malay House is very important in order to maintain cultural values and local wisdom which can then be passed on to posterity. Being yourself by caring for cultural assets as a great nation is a manifestation of the values of nationalism and patriotism that all children of the nation should practice.

Indeed, various obstacles are always present in the effort to care for and preserve the Limas Cut Malay House. However, these various obstacles can certainly be handled properly by building synergy and collaboration from various elements, as well as promoting cultural awareness campaigns by displaying cultural values in all aspects of life.

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