



## Reconstruction of Dili City Center to Show Identity of Timor - Leste City (Case Study: Heritage Building in Central Zone)

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### ABSTRACT

Talking about the city will never escape from his identity, because it is very important as a paradigm of the city own. For this reason, the city should be able to provide comfort for them who want to stay or come for the purpose of making a living or just traveling. Besides, the city must be able to provide what is needed by its inhabitants and also to provide hospitality to anyone. Thus, the city is not only the accumulation of product from decision making and society group, which is valid at a certain time, but also a physical manifestation from the power of economic forces, social, cultural and society political that shape it. As a new state Timor - Leste needs a good development. It expects through reconstruction of the Dili city center, in order to get the identity of actual city. The reconstruction discusses is the central zone, in charge of some parts of devastated areas since 1999 to 2006. The method used in this preliminary research is a qualitative descriptive method. with two indicators, they are, the identity and the elements. Further the physical elements of the city, the two indicators as a key tool in this research. The results take the form of reconstruction guide proposal based on a reconstruction concept.

**KEY WORDS:** Reconstruction, The identity of Dili, Timor – Leste city center.

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

Before the arrival of the Portuguese, the city of Dili, which is inhabited by people of Timor Leste has a traditional system of government. This government is led by an emperor that has the title *Maromak oan* (king child). For the government system consists of the structure executive-legislative that has the title *Mako'an*, while yudikatif has the title *Maktetun Lia Nain*, and liaison institution has the title *Lia Nain Mahibuk*. Implementing high-level command is held by four executive namely responsible person in the field of population, land and economy who has the title *Dato Wa'ins*. A special intermediary for the emperor with his subordinate officers has the title *Makfu Makfanun`at eh*, responsible person in the field of religion and belief has the title *Makair Lulik* while responsible person in the field of the army and order in district has the title *Rai Makatuas Lor*.

At that time the structure with the procedures of government including the physical order in Dili city is still managed traditionally. It lasted a long time until the arrival of the Portuguese, who then change the government system, including patterns of urban settlement according to their system. Presence these changes became one of the background of the need to do this study, namely to explore go back and formulate the steps of reconstruction. Emphasis will study more on the physical aspects in the city order, with a focus on critical zones both relics of the traditional government and Portuguese government. The basic reason for what the study is done is to raise the city's original identity in Timor Leste. It is generally known that the shape of Dili oriented patterns and styles of Europe, due to Portuguese colonization for 450 years. It also has a strong effect on complexion of culture and structure in Dili ever before. Based on these facts, so this study will also discuss the linkages and the influence of the European system (Portuguese) as an input or consideration in an effort to excavate and reconstruct the identity of Dili, especially in the central city with its zones. Dili city itself has become the capital of Timor-Leste República Demaocratica Da Timor Leste (RDTL) since 1999. Before the city of Dili had been a provincial capital in two periods of government, namely the period during the 450 years of Portuguese government and Indonesia government for 24 years. Since colonized by the Portuguese government, the form of Dili followed European style.

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For these reason, the Dili had been big emporium scale regional, well considered symbol or city landmarks Timor Leste as part of Portugal state when his state was.

As a city that is formed from civilization with a long span of time, the City Dili has many assets with huge potential and value. Various artifacts of the city is the relics of the Portuguese government and the Indonesian government. But when events poll or a referendum in 1999, many artifacts are damaged or burned, due to large-scale conflict between stronghold of pro-independence and stronghold of pro-Indonesian. The artefact of the city as an asset of civilization needs to be preserved again with the aim of to revive the city's identity as the capital Dili Timor Leste. Some assets referred to the heritage buildings of the Portuguese government, which is located spread in 14 zones. However, considering the time and scope of the study in writing a thesis, then only appointed one zone is considered to have representation and is the zone most important and strategic. Central Zone is a zone.

In general, Central zone have function as the town center and government center (*centro administrativo*, where there are buildings *propincial e Council of East* or the *Palacio da Governo* (equivalent with governor office), *centro escolar* (school center), *eskolah tekniko e Liceu* (technical schools), *chines escola* (china school), *Banco / Bank Central Comercial* (commercial central bank), porto port, and *e inlcido Plano instalacoens the MDA marinha* (navy pier). Most of these buildings in this zone is burnt and destroyed in 1999. Apart from the buildings above, there is also in some central sub-zone, buildings suffered damage, including: port office building, taxation building and court building.

These assets mentioned above becomes something very important in the effort to restore Dili city's identity, if the problem destruction of these buildings are not immediately addressed. Departing from that problem, the writer want to discuss the topic of reconstruction of heritage buildings on centar area of Dili to revive the city's identity in Timor Leste with the focus scope of research on the city of Dili. This research is expected to raise again the identity of the Timor Leste city in appropriate and based on the perceptions and desires of the people of Timor Leste who want to restore the image and revive the city of Dili. From explanation for background of research problems, it can be formulated as follows: Damage of buildings relics in the past in **the central zone** that resulted declining of urban life; good from the aesthetic side of the building face, as well as function and structure has undergone many changes and incompatibility with the previous city's identity.

## 2. THE STUDY

Based on the formulation of the problem, it can be decided three research questions as follows: first, factors cause the loss of the city's identity, second how to order patterns of Dili city center and third, how the effort to restore the city center identity of Timor Leste . In order to solve it, the objectives to be achieved for this research, namely: Formulate the reconstruction action in Dili city center by an appropriate concept with the identity of Dili center, the city known as the urban heritage. The target of this preliminary research as follows: one, identifying the identity of the city, especially Dili city center and find the cause of the loss the city's identity and, two, formulating concepts that will have function as the basis for the appropriate reconstruction implementation with Dili city central.

This preliminary research focuses on a particular region, namely Dili city center that have a value of unique past history. Starting from this, therefore this study will further be positioned in the form of historical research (historical). Research history is an attempt that is done to tell the record of past events or situations. This will depend on gathering as many of empirical facts and deductive facts used to construct / put the story in a certain area (2) Wang, 2002). Research in scope of historical will attempt to make the reconstruction in the past, in associated the life of the Dili city, especially in the city center area. Efforts will be made systematic and objective way to collect, evaluate, verify, and synthesis evidence to establish the facts and obtain a strong conclusion [1]

Based on literature review in the previous chapter, the indicators used in the investigation as follows: Indicators concerning the identity of the city center with historical values investigation in environmental and building through: Heritage buildings, with detailed scope including the following aspects:

- Heritage buildings
- Identification of buildings associated with the types of buildings and activities that accommodated
- The condition of the building maintenance associated with the level of building damage
- Assessment of building cultural meaning
- Material / material forming the building
- Use of Portugal architectural appearance
- Typology of buildings in center area

To obtain maximum results of the study, the process of analysis based on data has been arranged. According Loeckx (1984) in [1] that to analyze research object architecture, there are several ways to read or to interpret the data, namely, synchronic reading and diachronic reading. Synchronic technique used to analyze the

condition of heritage buildings, particularly which accordance with the functions and activities within the building, as well as changes in appearance / façade buildings, related to the replacement of elements / building materials, the addition elements /substances other buildings. Synchronic technique is also used to analyze the data came from respondents who are interviewed. While the diachronic techniques used to analyze the condition of heritage buildings concerning the typology of buildings, room order in building, style usage of architecture view and ornamentation on the building. The data that are collected and analyzed qualitatively, such as the meaning of cultural heritage building, the physical condition of heritage building, physical condition and the existence of facilities and infrastructure in the region and others.

Analysing the Heritage Buildings and the transformation of Buildings in Central Zone as follows. As a point of departure, identification of the building heritage to be done, particularly those using architectural appearance of Portuguese in the downtown area by using Portuguese heritage buildings in the city of Macao as a reference. This Identification aims to detect the existence of heritage buildings that exist within the study area. Within the downtown area several heritage buildings is spread on each street. The existence of the remaining heritage buildings are scattered within the downtown area that will be used as reference for the reconstruction, can be seen in the Figure 1 and Figure 2. Regions of Dili when the Portuguese Government is divided into 14 zones with their function each of zones. However, in this study it is only focused on 4 zones: central, sub-zone of Farol, sub Lecidere zone, sub zone Caicoli. As example to of the four zones only Central Zone including the key buildings (Figure 1) dicusses in detailed.



Figure 1 The condition of key buildings which still survive nowadays, such as Palacio de Governo, Liceu dr. Francisco Machado, Ex-Police Station and Church Motael (Source: 2010 survey results)

As one of the oldest areas in the main city of Dili that has the old buildings into vocal points in the region, if it were observed carefully the buildings contained in this central zone, prior to changing the concept design of the buildings, used the concept colonial architecture. Central Zone, since the Portuguese until the referendum, the function and role as the central government still exists, but the condition of buildings around the area is not the same as previously, as a result many levels of change in these buildings. However, the key buildings there not only have had destroyed, but also did not noticed by RDTL government. For this reason, these buildings need to be reconstructed, especially those damaged buildings within the central zone of Dili. Figure 2 shows the image detail of port area supported by Figura 3, shows the transformation process of three building and its surrounding area.

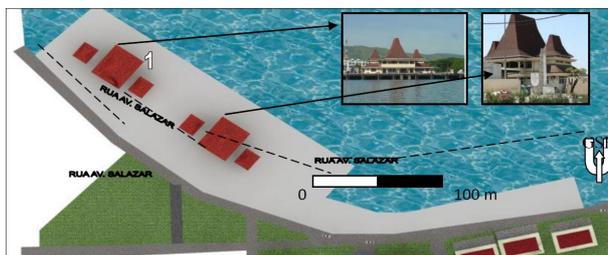
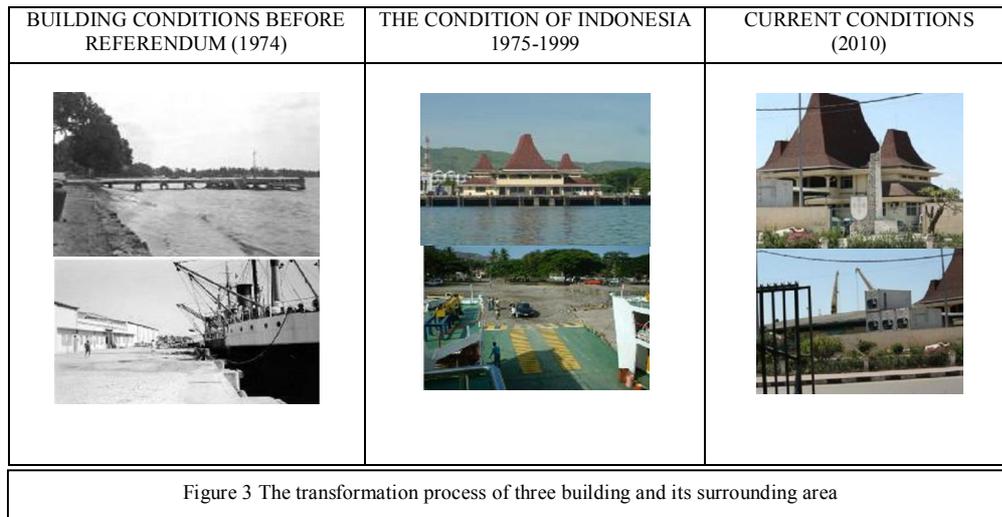


Figure 2 Image Detail Area Port In Central Zone (source: 2010 understanding results)

The formation of Central zone and the appearance of port buildings also influent directly on the character of this region. If it is observed, the port building using the concept of colonial architectural style with design features that reduce the ornaments and orientation to a more simple mass formation. It is unique in this port there are no large buildings in this area and more emphasis on the concept of **view** and the existence of these ports are very strategic. Description of port area can be seen in detail in the Figure 3.



By considering the related indicators of research, the analysis of port buildings, the physical condition of heritage buildings was identified which involves:

- a. Existing building types associated with the activities held in them,
- b. The well conditions associated with the level of damage to building elements or material which form the building,
- c. Assessment of cultural meaning to heritage buildings,
- d. Use of Portugal appearance which becomes a marker downtown area of Dili,
- e. Use of material forming the building,
- f. Pattern / typology of buildings exist in the downtown area, as heritage buildings which are many in the area.

This is can be explained that Portuguese architectural is the most prominent (dominant) and easy to be recognized in terms of appearance, color, material to the view. Almost on all heritage buildings use these features. Another feature is the use of **ornate** on the roof ridge, and the use of **pastel** and elements and arches on every aperture enrich the appearance of the building. Usually, it used in general (public) buildings, such as building from buildings housing , offices, and trade and other buildings. From this description, it can be concluded that one of the markers in central Dili environment is the existence of several buildings that use characteristics of Portugal architectural appearance described before. Thus, to improve the image of downtown Dili, one of which is to present and/ display abstract forms of Portuguese architecture, applicable to all buildings exist in downtown Dili.

#### SUMMARY

- Existing conditions in the area of Port of Dili before being changed, which explains that the function of the building before referendum, the building in above when the Portuguese government is used to function as a port office also serves as an office for excise tax/ *alfandega* at the time and distance between this building with the harbor is 50 meters from the south. but the building when the Indonesia government began from 1974 there is a change which converted the residence of the Missionaries from Indonesia, and how many years later until 1999 this building was used as a residence Mr.Carlos Bishop Filipe Belo.
- Judging from the site plan in picture 1.4 For the whole complex of office this port before experiencing a change has BCr + 40%
- To outline border port office buildings in the area formed by the road which follows the coastal strip by the name of the Avenida salasar from the north and on the south by the Avenida Jose Maria.
- Border line of the building from the south along the road distance between port office buildings with the motorway at 10 meters from the roadside.
- Based on the data above this area before referendum in the view of this building is a building that has the style of Colonial architecture of Portugal, but the current conditions only in the form of existing vacant land and not be considered again by the government on heritage buildings in this area.

Reconstruction of the relevant office to rebuild this port needs to be associated with some theories - theories that relate to identity, this is expressed by [4] that the meaning of a place is said to be present when the person is inside can see clearly that city's history through artifacts - artifacts that between one another to make a series of stories. However, if the old pattern that has historical significance is omitted, or left damaged, how existing human place in it can interpret these.

From the results of field observations indicate that prior to the change in this harbor office when the referendum then the port office is ideally situated with its existence as a strategic monumental buildings.

Based on survey results that have been discussed in the survey results point that the area is a big change, in which these buildings were completely destroyed since Timor Leste enter Referendum

So the office area of this port needs to be held back reconstruction by adjusting the old concept. The condition of the building is currently very negative impression which the condition of the building is no longer like before and until now the government no longer regard the concept as a Heritage Building. So the office of the port needs to be reconstructed back by a few points below among others:

- Demarcation line office buildings in this port need to be adjusted to the rules that apply when this building was reconstructed.
- Then the roof height of office buildings can be customized so that the port does not interfere with the view from any direction to the harbor office.

By searching of the origin of the object building's heritage, building appearance can be described. Then it can be concluded that in buildings that use applying Portuguese architectural become the most prominent (dominant) characteristic and easy to be recognized from the point of view of appearance, color, material to the view. Almost on all heritage buildings use these features. Another feature is the use of ornate on the roof ridge, and the use of pastel and elements and arches on every aperture, which can enrich the appearance of the building, usually used in buildings that are general (public), which is used in any building, from buildings housing , offices, and trade and other buildings. From the description before, it can be concluded that one of the markers in the environment seen from the city center is the presence of several buildings that use architectural appearance with the characteristics of Portugal such as described above. Thus, to improve the image of downtown Dili, one of which is to present / display abstract forms of Portuguese architecture, applicable to all existing buildings at the center of Dili.

## **7. CONCLUSION**

In order to restore identity, the analysis which has been made in the previous paragraph is used as a guide in formulating the concept of the reconstruction of downtown Dili, Timor Leste,. The study result formulated in the concept of reconstruction can be beneficial to the development of a region, especially the downtown area. The steps undertaken in this study is obtaining the factors that cause loss of identity of the downtown area of Dili. From the analysis and discussion that has been described before, the measures that can be done to improve the environmental quality based on the values of key buildings reconstruction in the area of central Dili. This is for the aim of creating visual harmony in an effort to improve the image of the region through: building typology, the appearance / facade, the use of materials and colors, and to establish the similarities to the elements of line, field and space, by taking a fourth zone located in on the downtown area.

After re-building the key building on four the zone, must be raised how a strategic effort to keep the key buildings in the area of downtown Dili, in a way:

1. Maintaining a comfortable environment with caring for street trees in the area
2. Preserving and enhancing the maintenance of buildings presenting typical and historical of area.
3. Optimizing the area of infrastructure and accessibility as a public space so that people feel comfortable when they are in the region.
4. Participate Society maintains and preserves the image of the region as a follow-participation of conservation activities.
5. Conducting oversight on the use / function of the building in the area, especially residential buildings, given the changes in building functions that are not controlled can lead to changes in building form that can reduce the value of historic areas
6. To cultivate public awareness as a public intervention in regional conservation activities.
7. Improving hygiene in the region
8. Improving maintenance of parks
9. Ensuring the presence of personnel who guarded the area, so that people feel safe and comfortable and feel the presence of a responsible party in the region

10. Socializing local regulations relating to the preservation of historic buildings that can enhance cultural appreciation and preservation areas

## **8. SUGGESTIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS**

Firstly, in the implementation of reconstruction activities, it is needed government authority and support from the academic community to control development, especially relating to the act of gentrification and Addis. This is to create harmony and visual harmony in order to improve the quality of the environment as an effort to preserve the city center area as an urban heritage. With the creation of harmony and visual harmony between old buildings (heritage buildings) with new buildings, it will be to improve the image area of the region identity and enhance Dili downtown area as an Urban heritage.

Secondly, the phasing to conduct implementation of activities suggested is the beginning of the reconstruction phase back center area of Dili to the key buildings which have been destroyed in the fourth zone to return the identity to raise up downtown Dili as urban heritage.

## **9. LIST OF LITERATURE**

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