

Performances Development of Traditional Settlement in Skonjing Village, Ogan Ilir, South Sumatra

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ABSTRACT. *The traditional settlement in Skonjing Village has unique characteristics that reflect the local community's close relationship with the natural surroundings. Using natural materials, especially wood, in house construction reflects the sustainable and eco-friendly principles the locals have implemented. The buildings built in the early period in Skonjing Village were mostly stilt houses that used materials easily found around the location. Through observation of field surveys and interviews with residents, this research identified the characteristics of Skonjing Village's traditional settlement based on their function, use of materials, and visual appearance that have been changed and threaten to be dismissed. It was discovered that the development performances of Skonjing Village started from the outskirts of the Ogan tributary and spread outwards, away from the riverbank. Understanding the characteristics of these traditional houses is crucial for preserving the cultural identity of Skonjing Village.*

Keywords: *characteristics, building, traditional, village*

INTRODUCTION

Studying building characteristics involves thoroughly investigating the elements that combine architectural organisms to form building character. This includes examining the design, materials, and overall visual appearance of traditional houses in Skonjing Village. Understanding the unique characteristics of these buildings can lead to a deeper appreciation for the cultural identity and heritage of the local community (Aritama, A.A.N., Wiryawan, I.W., 2020).

According to Krier, R (1996) the supporting elements of building character include windows, driveways and entrances, roofs, walls, and the basic plan and shape of the building. These elements are essential in defining the overall visual appearance of a building and its relationship to the surrounding environment. In Skonjing Village, the traditional houses are constructed using available natural materials, such as wood, which reflect the sustainable and environmentally friendly principles that the people of the village have implemented.

These materials have resulted in unique architectural designs and techniques specific to the region.

Moreover, the physical location of Skonjing Village, which is situated on the edge of the Ogan River tributary, has significantly impacted the design and structure of the traditional houses. For instance, most of the early buildings in the village were stilt houses constructed using wood easily found around the location. Preserving the characteristics of traditional houses in Skonjing Village is crucial, especially as modernisation and urbanisation continue to threaten their abandonment. Through in-depth research and analysis of the buildings' characteristics, we can gain valuable insights into their historical and cultural significance, which can inform preservation efforts in the future.

Characterising a building and its elements is fundamental to understanding its architecture and design. According to Vidler's research in 1998 (Antariksa, 2017), grouping the elements can produce a summary that helps determine general data and comparisons in specific cases;

Windows are crucial for the entry of natural light, and they can also affect the overall aesthetic of the building. Depending on the size, placement, and design of windows, they can provide a sense of openness and transparency or privacy and seclusion. Furthermore, windows can impact the energy efficiency of a building by controlling the amount of heat and light that enters.

Driveways and entrances play a vital role in the overall functionality of a building (Rahmadani, I. I., K. Sapardir, W. H., Uly, A., 2021) as they allow for easy access and transition from the public exterior to the private interior. Entrances are the main point of access to a building, while driveways provide access to parking and outdoor areas. The design of entrances and driveways can impact the overall aesthetic of a building and the ease of access (Zain, Z., Milenia, C. J., & Aulia, N. I., 2021).

Roofs act as a visual representation of the building and can significantly impact the overall aesthetic. The design of the roof can be used to create a specific architectural style and can also affect the functionality of the building (Wazir, Z. A. 2018). For example, sloped roofs are commonly used in areas with heavy rainfall to prevent water from accumulating and causing structural damage.

Walls are one of the most critical elements of a building's facade and can significantly impact its overall characteristics and character. The design of walls can be used to create a sense of texture and depth and can also impact the energy efficiency of a building. Additionally, the materials used to construct the walls can affect the building's durability and maintenance requirements.

Lastly, the basic plan and shape of the building must be distinct from the elements of shape, space, and structure that support it. The design of the building's layout and the arrangement of its structural components can significantly impact its overall functionality and aesthetic. Additionally, the shape of the building can be used to create a specific architectural style and can also impact the energy efficiency of the building.

OBJECTIVES AND BENEFITS

The research conducted in Skonjing Village, South Sumatra aimed to delve deeper into the characteristics of traditional residential buildings, specifically focusing on the influence of time and natural conditions on these structures. The study was carried out using qualitative research methods, which were deemed appropriate for understanding culture, traditions, and social phenomena in a particular context.

The researchers visited Skonjing Village to conduct direct observations. They selected several buildings to use as objects of observation, which were analysed based on variables such as function, materials, and visual appearance. In analysing the data, the researchers found that the early buildings in Skonjing Village were constructed primarily using readily available materials, predominantly wood, and were mostly built as stilt houses. Additionally, the development pattern of Skonjing Village started from the outskirts of the Ogan tributary and spread outwards from there.

The study further revealed that traditional houses in Skonjing Village are physical structures and serve as cultural markers of identity and heritage. They reflect the close relationship between the local community and their natural surroundings, using available natural materials in house construction reflecting sustainable and environmentally friendly principles relevant to village development planning (Fitrianti, A. A., Ramadhan, A. A., Salahudin, 2022). The study concluded that it is essential to preserve the cultural heritage of traditional houses in the face of modernisation and urbanisation (Siswanto, A., 2009, and the findings of this research could be used as a valuable reference for maintaining the characteristics of traditional houses in Skonjing Village.

RESEARCH METHODS

The research on the traditional settlement of Skonjing Village employed qualitative methods to gain an in-depth understanding of the culture, traditions, and social phenomena in the village context. The researchers collected data through

direct observation or field surveys with the tools of interviews with the village residents and visual analysis of local buildings in Skonjing Village. The collected data was then analyzed qualitatively by grouping it, identifying patterns, and interpreting the meaning behind the characteristics of the traditional house buildings in Skonjing Village. The study aimed to identify the characteristics of Skonjing Village's buildings, specifically traditional ones. The variables used in this research include function, use of materials, and visual appearance of the building. The researchers selected several buildings and used them as objects of observation. The observations were made in conjunction with interviews with representative residents to understand better the buildings' history, function, and style. The researchers found that the buildings built in the early period in Skonjing Village used materials easily found around the location, especially wood, most of which were stilt houses. The performance development of Skonjing Village started from the outskirts of the Ogan tributary and then spread outwards, away from the outskirts of the Ogan tributary. The traditional house in Skonjing Village reflects the close relationship between the local community and the natural surroundings. Using available natural materials in house construction, such as wood, reflects the sustainable and environmentally friendly principles that the people of Skonjing Village have implemented. The study shows that building characteristics are determined by unifying elements such as windows, driveways, entrances, roofs, walls, and basic plans and shapes. The elements that make up a building cannot be separated from the elements of shape, space, and structure that support it. The research also aimed to provide information for preserving traditional houses in Skonjing Village and to understand the influence of time and natural conditions on their characteristics. Overall, the study on Skonjing Village's traditional buildings provides valuable insights into the characteristics of traditional houses, how they reflect cultural identity and heritage, and the importance of their preservation in modernization and urbanization.



Image 1. Location of Skonjing Village, Ogan Ilir, South Sumatra

Source: Google Earth (edited by author), 2023

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The research results indicate that a few of the inhabitants in Skonjing Village have switched to constructing modern houses by either renovating their old houses or building new ones, mainly to accommodate immigrants. The study reveals that these modern houses are built using modern construction materials and techniques, which differ significantly from the traditional houses in the village.

Building Function

Regarding building function, the research findings demonstrate that residential buildings in Skonjing Village serve various purposes, with the primary one being a safe and comfortable living space for the residents. The traditional houses in Skonjing Village are built using locally available natural materials like wood and bamboo reflecting the villagers' sustainable and environmentally friendly principles, and enabling them to maintain their cultural heritage (Kurniawan, I et al., 2020). Furthermore, the study reveals that some of the houses in the village have social functions, such as hosting family gatherings and community events.

In contrast, others have been converted into economic spaces, such as small shops or grocery stores, to cater to the daily needs of the local community. These functions reflect the daily lives and culture of the villagers, which are closely linked to their environment and natural surroundings (Lestari, L et al., 2020). Overall, the research provides valuable insights into the characteristics of traditional and modern buildings in Skonjing Village and the impact of changing times on these structures. The study also highlights the importance of preserving and understanding cultural heritage in the face of modernisation and urbanisation.



Image 2. Rumah Panggung with Multiple Function (Shop)
Source: Author, 2023

Use of Ingredients & Materials

After careful observations, it was found that Skonjing Village's traditional houses primarily use wood and concrete as their primary building materials. Wood is commonly used for building the frame structure and walls, while concrete is used to construct the house's foundation. Notably, some traditional houses in Skonjing Village use wood as the foundation of the entire house structure. The wood used to construct traditional houses in Skonjing Village mainly comes from local forests, which are abundant in the area. The types of wood commonly used are meranti, ulin, and jati, known for their durability, strength, and resistance to weathering. These types of wood have been used for generations in the construction of traditional houses in the area. Their use reflects

the community's reliance on local resources (Prabasmara, G., Wibowo, S & Yuniastuti, T., 2020). In addition to wood, concrete is also used as a structural material for the house's foundation. The use of concrete in traditional house construction is a relatively recent development, and it reflects the influence of modern building practices in the area. Concrete is mainly used for its strength and durability, making it ideal for the house's foundation (Marwati, M., 2014). Overall, using wood and concrete to construct traditional houses in Skonjing Village reflects the community's reliance on local resources and the influence of modern building practices. These materials have been used for generations, and their use has become an essential part of the cultural heritage and identity of the community.



Image 3. Wood and Concrete as Main Materials for the Houses
Source: Author, 2023



Image 4. Rumah Panggung with Dominated Wood Material
Source: Author, 2023

Visual Form of Building Appearance

In Skonjing Village, the construction of modern houses has significantly impacted the traditional houses in the area. The lifestyle of the villagers has transformed due to the introduction of modern house designs, which has influenced the traditional houses' characteristics.



Image 5. Rumah Panggung as a Traditional House in the Village
Source: Author, 2023

The traditional houses in Skonjing Village are built using a stilt house design, which has two floors. The first floor serves as a foundation, while the second floor is the central part of the house. A stilt house is a construction system where the floor is elevated from the ground or water surface, supported by pillars (S. B. Pribadi, et al., 2012).



Image 6. Concrete Foundation
Source: Author, 2023

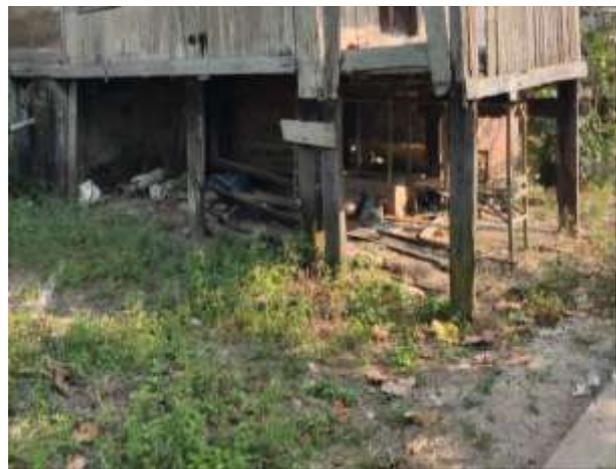


Image 7. Wood Structure
Source: Author, 2023



Image 8. Hollow Foundation Section (Left) and Foundation Section, which is Used as a Closed Room (Right)
Source: Author, 2023

Observations show that some residents of Skonjing Village have renovated the space under their stilt houses to serve different purposes, such as shops, additional rooms, living rooms, or warehouses.

This shift in function for the space under the house highlights the changing needs of the villagers and the influence of modernisation on their traditional way of life (Nugroho, S., Hidayat, H.,2016). It is also interesting to note that the modern houses in Skonjing Village are mostly newly built and use different materials from traditional houses. Modern houses use bricks and cement, unlike traditional houses, which use wooden materials. The construction techniques used for modern houses also differ from those used to build stilt houses. This shift from traditional building materials to modern materials and techniques highlights the impact of modernisation on traditional architecture and its cultural significance. However, traditional houses still hold immense cultural value and should be preserved for their unique characteristics and historical significance (Angkasa, Z., 2018).

Interestingly, the stilt houses in Skonjing Village have a similar spatial pattern in the interior, with partitions in each room serving as dividers. Houses usually have a living room, family room, bedroom, kitchen, dining room, and bathroom, all arranged to maximise available space. This traditional arrangement of rooms reflects the lifestyle and culture of the people in the village.



Image 9. House's Layout
Source: Author, 2023

The spatial pattern in the interior of each house in Skonjing Village is quite similar, with partitions in each room acting as dividers. The stilt house design used in this village typically features a living room, family room, bedroom, kitchen, dining room, and bathroom as the main spaces. This design reflects the needs and lifestyle of the local community, and it has been passed down from generation to generation.



Image 10. The Building Frame (Top) and Roof Structure (Bottom) are Made of Wooden Joints
Source: Author, 2023

The research on the characteristics of traditional buildings in Skonjing Village has revealed many interesting findings. One of the most notable findings is the development pattern of the village, which starts from the edge of the Ogan tributary and then spreads outwards. This pattern reflects how the people of Skonjing Village organise their space based on environmental factors and their social needs. The study on the traditional buildings in Skonjing Village has also shown that these buildings are not just physical structures but also markers of cultural identity and heritage that need to be preserved. Using available natural materials, such as wood, in house construction reflects the

sustainable and environmentally friendly principles that the people of Skonjing Village have implemented.

Moreover, the research has identified several variables that affect the characteristics of traditional buildings in Skonjing Village. These variables include function, use of materials, and visual appearance of the building. The results of the analysis show that the buildings built in the early period in Skonjing Village used materials easily found around the location, especially wood, most of which were stilt houses.

The Influence of Modern House Building

It's interesting to note how the construction of modern houses in Skonjing Village has affected the traditional houses and the lifestyle of its residents. With modernisation, many people have renovated the area under their stilt house, initially used for storage or as a workspace, into additional rooms for various purposes, such as shops, living rooms, or warehouses (Image 11). These changes have significantly impacted the traditional houses in the village and have brought about a shift in the way of life of its residents.

The construction of modern houses in Skonjing Village has brought significant changes to the lifestyle of the people of Skonjing Village. Apart from lifestyle, this modern development also influences the traditional houses in this village. Residents have yet to renovate the area under their stilt house into a room with different functions. Some have turned it into a shop, additional room, living room, or warehouse (Image 12).

CONCLUSION

The Skonjing settlement houses are physical structures and markers of cultural identity and heritage that must be preserved. The research found that the traditional houses in Skonjing Village were primarily used as residential buildings, with some serving additional economic functions such as food stalls and grocery stores. Wood was the primary material used to construct these

houses, while concrete was used as the foundation material for some of the buildings.



Image 11. The House on Stilts Had the Lower Columns Renovated into a Living Room
Source: Author, 2023



Image 12. The House on Stilts (the Lower Foundation was Renovated into a Garage)
Source: Author, 2023

The visual form of these houses took the shape of traditional stilt houses typical of South Sumatra,

which can be categorised into two types: pure stilt houses and stilt houses with renovated functional spaces. It was observed that the construction of modern houses in Skonjing Village influenced the traditional houses in the area. Many residents chose to renovate the space under their stilt houses into rooms with various functions, such as shops, additional rooms, living rooms, or warehouses.

The research findings provide valuable insights into the characteristics of traditional houses in Skonjing Village and the influence of modernisation on these houses.

To preserve these characteristics, it is essential to continue maintaining the building parts that use wood through regular care and maintenance. This involves monitoring the condition of the wood, treating any damage or rot, and ensuring that it is protected against pests and other environmental factors that can lead to its deterioration.

Documenting the wood connections and traditional house shapes can also help preserve the unique features of these buildings. This documentation can include photographs, sketches, and videos, which can be used to study and replicate wood joints and traditional house forms. However, the continued use of wood as the primary material for constructing houses can lead to a decrease in the availability of wood around the village. This can pose a significant challenge to maintaining the traditional buildings' characteristics. Alternative materials like synthetic wood can be explored to address this issue. Synthetic wood is a durable and sustainable alternative to traditional wood that can be used to build houses without compromising cultural and architectural integrity. Another solution to preserve the unique characteristics of Skonjing Village's traditional buildings is to preserve trees. In summary, maintaining the unique characteristics of Skonjing Village's traditional buildings requires a multi-faceted approach that includes regular care and maintenance, documentation, and alternative materials.

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