

Adaptive Reuse of Heritage Building for Youth Center with Betawi Culture

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Abstract: Colonial buildings are one type of cultural heritage building in Indonesia, with several neglected and unused buildings. Historical buildings need to be preserved to be remembered, and their architecture can be studied and maintained. It will maintain and preserve the building by adaptive reuse of historic buildings that adapt to the current conditions and environment. This research aims to apply the adaptive reuse of cultural heritage buildings into youth activity centers with a Betawi cultural interior design approach. The methodology used in this research is literature study, observation, design thinking, and location survey. The case study of adaptive reuse of cultural heritage buildings also analyzes the side effects and influences. Cultural heritage buildings are full of history and have been passed down from generation to generation. Adaptive reuse of cultural heritage buildings as a youth activity center with Betawi culture aims to become a special place to facilitate positive activities for teenagers, provide education, and preserve Betawi culture. The conclusion states that reusing cultural heritage buildings can build awareness about preserving culture and youth activity center strategies by showing positive value for society and the environment.

Keywords: adaptive reuse, Betawi culture, heritage building, interior, youth activity center.

History Article: Submitted 7 June 2024 | Revised 14 February 2025 | Accepted 7 March 2025

How to Cite: Devina, C., Nediari, A., & Fajarwati, A. A. S. (2025). Adaptive Reuse of Heritage Building for Youth Center with Betawi Culture. *Journal of Aesthetics, Creativity and Art Management*, 4(1), 53–61. <https://doi.org/10.59997/jacam.v4i1.3735>

Introduction

Cultural heritage buildings are rich in history and passed down from generation to generation. Colonial buildings in Indonesia are one type of cultural heritage building that was neglected by the times and not utilized. Cultural heritage buildings that have the status of historic buildings need to be preserved so that they can still be remembered and their architecture can be studied and then maintained. Cultural heritage buildings starting to be neglected are renewed by renovation and reuse that adapts to the current conditions and environment. This application is also called adaptive reuse (Saputra & Purwantiasning, 2020). The re-utilization of cultural heritage buildings can be an opportunity to become a location for youth activity centers because cultural heritage buildings are usually located in big cities, where these buildings are adjacent to crowded places, and the concept of reutilizing buildings can be used to target young visitors. The idea of cultural heritage architecture has become a public attraction and is common in other cities, including Indonesia (Febianti, 2021). However, at this time, most teenagers are more interested in youth activity centers located in modern and minimalist buildings due to the influence of foreign cultures. Cultural heritage buildings can be used as a space for youth activity centers because they can

introduce and preserve historic cultural heritage buildings and provide education about these colonial buildings. So that the utilization of cultural heritage buildings can be processed and reused by the younger generation of Indonesia.

The requirement to meet the needs of the entertainment and education industry, which is a youth activity center, poses a challenge to historic buildings and cities. This cultural heritage building utilization project aims to respect, maintain, and preserve cultural heritage in buildings. Therefore, the cultural heritage building to be utilized is not altered and still retains the original form of the building, because this building will still be remembered as a form of historical heritage, especially for the purposes of the youth activity center building so that it remains historical in nature that will be remembered by today's younger generation.

Methodology

This research uses a qualitative method by collecting some research. The same method is also done by scholars in designing building such as by Anwar & Ardhiati (2023), Ardhiati (2022), Gunawan & Ardhiati (2022), Herlambang & Ardhiati (2023), Kholis (2023), Luthfianto & Anggita (2022), and Subagyo & Adi (2023) but all their works are different from this research in terms of physical location and object of study.

From some of the data that has been collected, observation and reading literature from journals and books or making direct observations through site surveys at Taman Benyamin Sueb (Benyamin Sueb Park), Jatinegara, East Jakarta, Indonesia as a cultural heritage building used for youth activity centers. The site survey used the SWOT (strength, weakness, opportunities, threats) method by identifying the advantages and disadvantages in the utilization of cultural heritage buildings aimed at youth activity centers. Based on the results of these research methods, the data obtained was then developed into a design process. The design thinking method is also applied to research; this method helps solve problems and provide new solutions and creative ideas. Design thinking consists of five stages: empathize, define, ideate, prototype, and test.

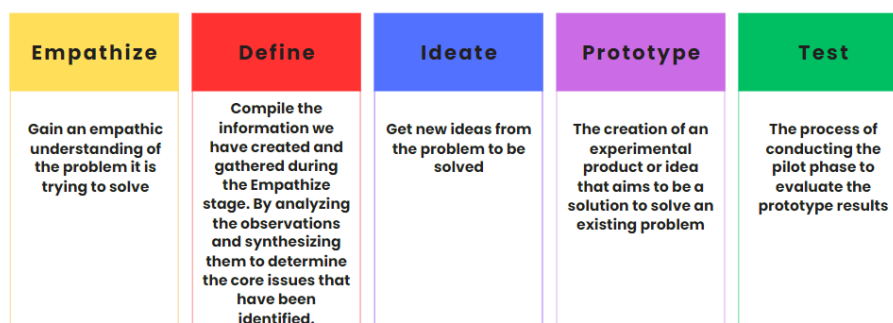


Figure 1. Design thinking method

This research was conducted by applying the design thinking method with the empathize stage designed to understand the relationship of adaptive reuse

of cultural heritage buildings with youth activity centers with Betawi culture. The defined stage aims to identify user needs at the youth activity center related to the application of Betawi culture in the interior of the cultural heritage building. The ideate phase links the analysis of cultural heritage buildings and Betawi culture applied to the interior elements of the youth creativity center, which will be depicted in the form of a three-dimensional model. The prototype and test phases will be developed in separate reports.

Results and discussion

In cultural heritage utilization, projects can bring many benefits to the community, as local communities can improve their quality of life by revitalizing abandoned buildings. The process of cultural heritage utilization generally has a positive impact because it provides a new function for abandoned historic buildings and can be managed through social or cultural activities. Regarding adaptive reuse, according to Purwantiasning (2016) adaptive reuse itself is one type of conservation activity, so it is an effort to manage and maintain the authenticity of a place and maintain its cultural value (Saputra & Purwantiasning, 2020). According to Fajarwati (2020) the original building and form of cultural heritage requires some adaptation so that the building is suitable for current needs utilizing mixed use that retains the original form of the building and only changes the function of the building to maintain the preservation of cultural heritage buildings and can still adapt to the use of new buildings (Fajarwati & Wulandari, 2020).

In addition, Taman Benyamin Sueb building, which was once a Dutch colonial building during the colonial era, has been used to store relics, which later became a museum of the Betawi historical figure, Benyamin Sueb. The contents of this building can also provide elements of Betawi culture through the Dutch colonial era, precisely in the East Jakarta area. Moreover, the architectural building of Taman Benyamin Sueb which is different from the surrounding buildings can attract visitors' attention so that visitors are interested in visiting architectural displays that still maintain the authenticity of the building. The main focus in the utilization of this cultural heritage building is used for planning youth activity centers to promote and preserve the concept of Betawi culture in cultural heritage buildings where the majority of users are teenagers.

Taman Benyamin Sueb in Jatinegara, East Jakarta

Taman Benyamin Sueb is located near the train station, Jalan Bekasi Timus No. 76, Jatinegara District, East Jakarta. This building was previously the residence (Landhuis) of Meester Cornelis and the office of the Jatinegara Regent, built in 1930-1942. This building is categorized as an Indies style building, which can be seen from the influence of European Neoclassical at that time and has been adapted to follow the tropical climate in Indonesia. The building is divided into three building masses, namely, the main building in the center which is then flanked by pavilion buildings in the left and right areas of the main building. The main building is larger than the other two buildings. According to the DKI Jakarta

Provincial Tourism and Culture Office (2019), the former Makodim 0505 East Jakarta building is designated as a cultural heritage building as stated in the Decree of the Governor of DKI Jakarta Number 475 of 1993 (Dinas Pariwisata dan Kebudayaan Provinsi DKI Jakarta, 2019).

Then on September 22, 2018, the Governor of DKI Jakarta inaugurated the residence (Landhuis) of Meester Cornelis and the Jatinegara Regent's office or the former Military Command Headquarters of Greater Jakarta City 0505 Jatinegara Timur as the Taman Benyamin Sueb Cultural Center which was written in the Decree (SK) of the Governor of DKI Jakarta Number 1156 of 2018. The building is now used to store relics of the Betawi historical figure Benyamin Sueb, which later functioned as the Benyamin Sueb Museum. The utilization of the cultural heritage building can be seen in Figure 1 and Figure 2.



[Source: Devina, 2023]

Figure 2. Main building of Taman Benyamin Sueb, Jatinegara

Heritage Perspective

Taman Benyamin Sueb cultural heritage building has ornaments representing Betawi from the building structure on the ceiling that forms *gigi balang*. In addition, this building uses *krepyak* doors adapted in Indonesian architecture according to the tropical climate, and some windows function as ventilation. The front of the building has pillar-shaped columns, and the building area has a garden, gazebo, and fountain. The colonial style of the building has been adapted to the tropical climate in Indonesia. This building was built with a reasonably high roof, around five meters, and several tall windows for air ventilation and sunlight enter the room.



[Source: Devina, 2023]

Figure 3. Ornaments and ventilation of the main building of Taman Benyamin Sueb, Jatinegara

Betawi Culture for Local Content

According to Nurbayanti (2020), the Betawi tribe is the result of acculturation from other regional cultures that were in Batavia at that time, namely a mixture of Sundanese, Malay, Balinese, Bugis, Makassarese, Ambonese, Arabic, Chinese and Indian. Betawi culture is currently a cultural element that represents the city of Jakarta (the capital of Indonesia) with a mixture of other national and international cultures found in Jakarta. Betawi culture began to fade due to globalization. It shifted to the periphery but did not forget the elements of traditional Betawi art such as ornaments, house shapes, dance, theater, music, literature and puppets (Nahuway & Sudarwani, 2021). Although it has developed the city of Jakarta into a modern city, Betawi culture still has a distinctive character that makes the Betawi tribe still recognized (Fanthi et al., 2021).

Youth Activity Center

Adolescence is the process of transitioning from childhood to adulthood. According to Wandu, et al. (2022), adolescence lasts 12 to 24 years. In this transitional period, in general, adolescents are still uncertain about their role so that an identity crisis arises. Teenagers usually process to find a way of life that suits them, and in this process it is often done with an unstable attitude and frequently trial and error (Wandu et al., 2022). Adolescents are future assets for the nation because they will continue the generation to the next generation. Usually at this age, adolescents have advantages and talents that can be seen early.

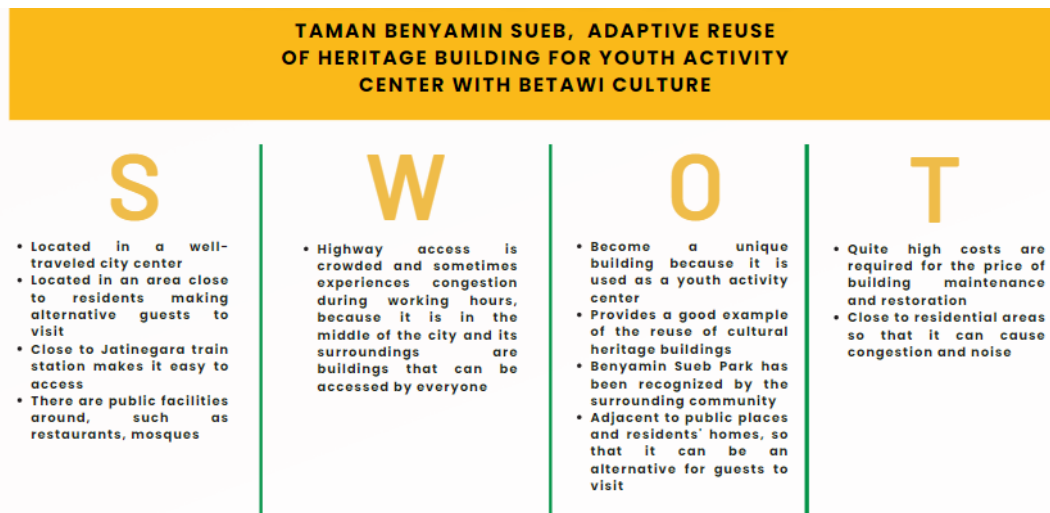
Seeing the much potential creativity in Indonesian teenagers, a special place is needed for teenagers to channel their creativity and develop their talents and hobbies through youth activity centers, where they carry out activities such as gathering together to discuss textbooks and storybooks, looking for creative ideas, reading literature on Indonesian historical figures, and developing their innovative ideas through painting and drawing. In addition, activities in the youth creativity center can increase youth productivity, hone their talents, and provide new experiences in learning and honing knowledge outside of school. The cultural heritage building has its charm because it looks vintage and unique in the implementation of adaptive reuse and is still attached to the history of the building so that in addition to being used for teenagers' creativity, it can add education about the building, especially for teenagers.

Youth Activity Center with Betawi Cultural Approach

The youth activity center is a space that can direct teenagers to positive activities with facilities that have been provided such as a library, dance practice room, music practice room, room with drawing tools and discussion room. With the facilities that have been provided, and the right direction, can develop the hobbies or potential of teenagers, so that they can express themselves freely and hone their creativity well. The cultural heritage building located in Taman Benyamin Sueb, Jatinegara, East Jakarta is used as a youth activity center with a Betawi Cultural approach, to promote and preserve the concept of Betawi

culture which is used as a youth activity center. In the concept of the Betawi approach, the youth activity center is related to Betawi culture, such as a dance studio devoted to learning typical Betawi cultural dances, Betawi music, a library about Betawi history and Betawi figures, a painting or drawing room about Betawi cultural arts and a discussion room that can be used to discuss or do school assignments.

Youth activity centers with a Betawi cultural approach can increase the awareness of today's youth to preserve Betawi culture and provide education on Betawi culture through the arts and creativity of adolescents that can be developed. As well as education in the literature provided in the library, which contains history and Betawi figures. With the participation of teenagers who use the youth activity center with a Betawi cultural approach, it can be a target in preserving regional arts and culture, which are now starting to fade due to changing times, and increasing positive activities for Indonesian teenagers, especially in East Jakarta. Based on the results of data collection and analysis of location surveys that have been carried out, opportunities and threats to the adaptive reuse of cultural heritage buildings for youth activity centers with Betawi culture are presented. Table 2 presents the results of the SWOT analysis that has been carried out.



[Source: Devina, 2023]

Figure 4. SWOT analysis

The results of the overall SWOT analysis show that the adaptive reuse of the cultural heritage building as a youth creativity center has a more positive impact on aspects related to its location and conservation.



[Source: Devina, 2023]

Figure 5. Color application

This design uses colors that reflect Betawi's characteristics, namely bright and colliding colors that create a lively impression. Bright colors, such as red, pink, green, and yellow, are used on some furniture and areas. The use of brown and cream aims to neutralize the bright colors in the room so as not to make users feel uncomfortable when bright colors collide.



[Source: Devina, 2023]

Figure 6. Betawi music explanation area at the Youth Activity Centre



[Source: Devina, 2023]

Figure 7. Explanation area of Betawi building in Youth Activity Center

The uploaded image illustrates the adaptive reuse of a cultural heritage building, specifically the Taman Benyamin Sueb, which has been transformed into a youth activity center. Figures 4 and 5 depict a three-dimensional interior design that embodies the essence of Betawi culture through its architectural elements.

The design features a detailed approach where traditional Betawi motifs and styles are prominently integrated into the wall panels and display vitrines. This fusion preserves and celebrates the cultural heritage by adapting it for contemporary use. The wall panels likely exhibit intricate Betawi patterns or scenes, while the vitrines may display artifacts or objects representing Betawi traditions. The adaptive reuse of this building highlights the importance of cultural preservation through modern applications, providing a space where the youth can engage with and appreciate their heritage meaningfully. This approach ensures that the cultural legacy of the Betawi people is preserved and dynamically integrated into the daily lives of the community.

Conclusion

From observations and data collection related to youth activity centers that use cultural heritage buildings, it is concluded that they have unique characteristics and concepts that are attractive to visitors. Using the concept of Betawi culture creates an interior design order that is expected to blend and harmonize with the architectural concept. The location of Taman Benyamin Sueb, which is in the center of East Jakarta and adjacent to schools and shops and residential areas, makes a characteristic that attracts visitors to come to the youth activity center to preserve and provide education about Betawi culture. The unique concept increases the number of visitors, especially teenagers, who will come and do their activities, even though it is only limited to photos on social media. This also provides a new and exciting experience for the people of Indonesia, especially in the city of Jakarta, to use the facilities that have been provided and can increase knowledge about Betawi culture.

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