

Creative Urban Forms as a Collaboration of Spontaneous Architecture and Environmental Design Developed by Marginalized Inhabitants

Dr.-Ing. Paulus BAWOLE

Head - Laboratory of Housing and Urban Environment, Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, Duta Wacana Christian University - INDONESIA

Journal_bawole@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

The United Nations forecasts that 61 percent of the world's population will be urban by 2030. In absolute numbers, Asia is the epicenter of the current urbanization surge. China will add at least 342 millions people to its cities by 2030; India, 271 million; and Indonesia, 80 million. In developing countries it is common phenomena that several parts of urban areas especially around the city center are occupied by the marginalized inhabitants. Those inhabitants in informal settlement show their great energy and intelligence in the use of resources and evaluating priorities. They can weigh the relative merits of different strategies like short term discomfort and security, in return for long-term benefits such as independent space and income generating possibilities.

Since the housing facilities in such settlements are very limited, the inhabitants have to be creative in order to maintain their life individually in the family and togetherness as a social human being. By this creativity it can be seen how the poor in informal settlements creates spontaneous architecture and environmental design in urban areas. Besides, their culture also has a great influence on the appearance of their simple building design, and as occupants they often decorate buildings in accordance with local customs and beliefs. Even though the environmental quality around their housing areas is poor, their creativity in developing their houses and spatial urban form can be taken as a basic concept of informal settlement development.

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