

Cross-Cultural Planning and Policy Development A 'Gotong-Royong' Co-Housing Concept

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ABSTRACT

This paper argues that urban planning and policy development, particularly in terms of a multi-cultural co-housing arrangement, should be referred to a critical analysis team in terms of metropolitan cross-cultural development, academically termed an 'Empathetic Analysis'. This analysis infers that Co-Housing, as the major style of Indonesian Housing, needs to be planned and designed with respect to the users' own interpretive feeling, awareness and concerns toward the socio-cultural values that embrace their day to day living. Since 'gotong-royong' has been a basic social characteristic of Indonesian societies, such an Empathetic Gotong-Royong Oriented Co-Housing Concept and Practical Formulation within Urban Planning and Policy Development is not only natural but also a welcomed necessity for the preservation of cross-cultural harmony. Therefore, an empathetic analysis is of critical concern to planners, designers and policy developers in every Urban Planning and Policy Development venture, which in turn should be carefully based on a comprehensive understanding of a holistically-inductive paradigm or strategic verstehen (empathetic understanding). This strategy is oriented towards achieving Co-Housing arrangements in which Indonesia's fundamental culture named Gotong Royong will be received and implemented within the Co-Housing community wherein housing for a cohesive multicultural community can be optimally preconditioned by virtue of such a sensitive and intelligent foresight.

Keywords: *gotong-royong, co-housing, planning and policy development, empathetic analysis, socio-cultural values which, holistically induce awareness*