

Implications of Politics for the Architecture of Chinese Settlements. Case Study of Chinese District (*Pecinan*) in Surrounding Pasar Gedhe Surakarta

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ABSTRACT

The Chinese Community of Surakarta lives in the environment, which is mostly affected by political policy of the government power. The problems relate to the political factors that affects architecture houses of Chinese Community. This started from the era of Mataram Kingdom in 1745, to the period of Dutch Colonial Power in 1755-1942, until the period of Reformation Era in 1998-2008. This regards to how the reaction of Chinese community facing the problems.

The focus theory of the research will be related to the linked between politics and architecture. This theory will be associated with the sustainability of architectural forms in anticipating modification factors. The substantive theory used in this research includes the concept of way of live, personality, the culture of Chinese community related to architecture which is formed traditionally that is developed in urban area.

Case study research is used with the combination between textual analysis and empirical analysis by observation. The textual analysis is conducted to obtain the reference and theory related to Chinese Architecture and history of political development of the Chinese community in Indonesia, especially in Surakarta City. Furthermore, the content analysis will be used in order to find the meaning of housing / shop-housing visual according to text analysis interviews and direct observation.

Results of the research found that the political factor which was influencing the Chinese architecture in Surakarta was “Ethnic Segregation”. This gained the access to the Chinatown by acculturation, assimilation through economic development, restricted to economic development in the rural area, prohibited to the Chinese identity expressions; destroyer of Chinese houses, prohibited to the expression freedom. Other findings are that the reaction of Chinese community express in the space lay out and housing façade. This leads to increasing power of the Chinese identity; adapting to other cultures; modification and creation of new identity, closeness, and heritage conservation.

Keywords: *politics, architecture, Chinese houses*