

**PERTUBUHAN UKUR JURUTERA & ARKITEK (PUJA)
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

Cultural identity, dwelling transformation and architectural research

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Exploration of cultural identity within architecture gives much greater sensitivity to local (built) environment, local people, and local society. Meanwhile, architectural identity is a process which operates within transforming (built) environment. Within academic and theoretical enquiries, understandably problematic to point out one nation identity or even a city identity, particularly in architecture. Indonesia as a nation that is multi-culture, pluralistic, and complex, that contains various different sub-cultures, levels of civilization, religious and historical backgrounds, naturally, contains multitude architectural identities. Patterns of relationships in the construction of identity and architectural place, provides normative guidance to follow-on intercultural exchange to reconstruct transforming identity. Evidently, dwelling transformation in Bali, Jakarta and Bandung are useful to illustrate this topic.

This presentation aims to make a contribution towards a better understanding of the general issues on how to encourage an analysis of the architectural identity. This objective is reached through following sections. The first part provides a brief overview of the interconnectedness of architecture, religion, culture and identity discussed in this presentation. The second section focuses on dwelling transformation as illustrations for exploring the issues of architectural identity reconstruction. Thereafter, in the third section, the elaboration of Bali case study is outlined. The fourth section provides some insights into the urban revitalization ideas for preserving architectural identity in urban context are explained, using Jakarta (Betawi) and Bandung case studies. In the context of the preceding sections, the final part of the presentation furnishes an outline of aspects in architectural research method that may constructive for exploring architectural identities generally.

Keywords: architecture, dwelling transformation, identity, research.