

TONGGING LEISURE PARK WITH NEO-VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE APPROACH

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ABSTRACT

Tourism in Indonesia is one of the economic and welfare generators for the local community as well as improving the quality of life of tourists through various activities such as recreation, resting, and getting new knowledge. The Indonesian government through the Ministry of Tourism has chosen ten priority destinations that are rich in natural and cultural products which are expected to bring millions of tourists every year, one of them is Lake Toba in North Sumatra. A village near Lake Toba, namely Tongging Village is still not optimized as a tourist destination, so to attract tourists and support a variety of vacation needs, a leisure park is needed. In designing leisure park, the Neo Vernacular architecture approach is applied because it is not only suitable with the design location, but also very concerned about the elements of locality in the area, and intended to preserve and introduce the rich cultural heritage of Karo District to the general public.

Keywords: Neo Vernacular, Architecture, Leisure, Park, Tongging

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a country that is rich in tourism potential, because it has a lot of natural beauty and cultural heritage. The tourism sector in Indonesia is not only an important part of economic development for the country and its people, but also increases the welfare of the local community. Tourism also aims to improve the quality of life of tourists through various activities carried out such as resting, relaxing, recreation, and increasing the level of knowledge and insight on something new. Tourism now grows with increasing income and the quality of life of the global community which makes travel is a basic necessity [1].

In modern times, the tourism sector is increasingly becoming a mainstay for many countries to sustain the pace of the economy. Increasingly high human needs for a vacation, relaxing, enjoy entertainment and the desire to share holiday experiences to social media make countries put the tourism sector as one of the top priority sources of state revenue. One of the developments of the tourism sector is the construction of a tourist attraction.

Specifically, in Indonesia, the government through the Ministry of Tourism selected ten priority destinations in Indonesia. These ten tourist destinations are expected to be able to bring millions of tourists every year and continue to increase in the following years. One of the ten destinations is Lake Toba in North Sumatra. In some locations around Lake Toba, there are still some that have not been optimized as tourist destinations. One of them is Tongging Village, in Karo District. Tongging Village is a village that is famous for its beautiful scenery because it is located directly on the edge of Lake Toba, and is the closest location from the city of Medan if we want to feel and enjoy the beautiful scenery of Lake Toba. According to [2], place identity in Karo tourism area is very important in increasing tourism. Therefore, if place identity in Karo tourism area is not improved and optimized, Karo District would be left behind from other tourism areas.

According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary [3], parks have meaning, namely 1. Gardens planted with flowers and so on (a place to have fun); 2. Place (which is fun and

so on); 3 Seats for brides (which are decorated with flowers and so on). Parks is a "garden" planted with flowers, etc. and a place to have fun. A park is a place that is planned or deliberately planned to be made by humans, usually outdoors, made to display the beauty of various plants and natural shapes. Parks can be divided into natural parks and artificial parks. Parks that are often found are residential parks, neighborhood parks, playgrounds, recreational parks, and botanical parks.

Leisure, which means the same as "recreation" from the English word, which comes from the verb "to recreation". "Re" which means to restore, and Create. So according to its origin, recreation means reinventing. From this meaning, it can be said that leisure or recreation is the activity of creating something related to one's joy or pleasure, which aims to regain creativity. According to [4], recreation is also pursuits undertaken in free time. Recreational pursuits include home-based activities such as reading and watching television, and those outside the home including sports, theatre, cinema and tourism.

Neo-vernacular architecture is one of the ideas or flow that developed in the Post Modern era, namely the flow of architecture that emerged in the mid-1960s. Post Modern was born due to the modern era arising from protests from architects against monotonous memorable patterns, and loss of identity of place or location, due to the determination or selection of forms rational-geometric without looking at aspects of history or locality [5]. Neo-vernacular architecture usually manifests in original environments dominated by vernacular architecture, where the environment is used as a source of inspiration in designing architecture [6]. Neo Vernacular's architecture itself takes its name from the vernacular, which applies cultural elements to its architectural physical but is modernized and adapted to the place where the building was built.

The concept of Neo-vernacular architecture applied to the Tongging Leisure Park is intended to preserve and introduce the rich cultural heritage of Karo District to the general public. Apart from being a leisure destination for local and foreign tourists, the

Tongging Leisure Park is also a place for tourists to learn about Karo culture through the various facilities provided. According to [8], culture is a complex entity that contains knowledge, beliefs, arts, morals, laws and customs that exist in one place. So that when tourists understand all this, it will increase public awareness of the importance of culture to the local community who live in the area. The concept of Neo-vernacular architecture can also support the quality of life of the local community from an economic perspective because the preservation of cultural heritage which is the main objective can be an attraction for heritage tourism and increase local and foreign tourists to come to Karo District.

The Neo-vernacular Architecture theme applied to the design of the Tongging Leisure Park is interpreted through the characteristics of the traditional Karo Batak building applied to the design. In understanding traditional Karo architecture, there are several important things that must be considered, especially in the philosophy and the way the building responds to the climate on the site. According to [9], Karo architectural space is full of meaning that describes the life of the Karo community. Karo people usually create architectural spaces not only for living humans but also for something invisible that exists in the world and lives side by side with them. According to [10], traditional Batak Karo buildings such as Si Waluh Jabu, are very responsive to the climate, especially to the wind. This can be seen from the way the Batak Karo people determine the site layout and construction elements of buildings that are potentially responsive to winds on Karo land.

METHOD

The design method applied to the design is the Glass Box method, which is a rational thinking method that is carried out objectively and has clear objectives. A design method that can be traced clearly the process of a design from start to finish. There are several stages that need to be considered in designing the Tongging Leisure Park project, It can be described through several stages, (1) Location selection method: Collecting data in the form of functions and theme of the

building to be built, and then look for an existing location that matches the planned functions and themes. (2) Solving the design problem approach method: Collecting and explain existing data based on clear facts. And then the data is analyzed to produce a conclusion, namely the design concept.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The project site is located in Tongging Village, Merek District, Karo Regency. The area of the design is 6,4 hectares. The existing location on the site is the paddy field. The macro design area is located between the districts around the Lake Toba Tourism Area, Aceh Province, and several other districts in the northern part of North Sumatra Province (Figure 1).

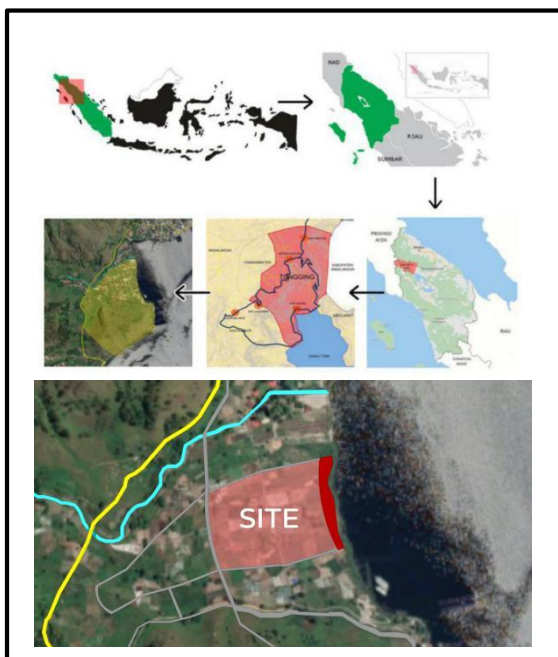


Figure 1. Project Location

MAIN CONCEPT

The design of this leisure park uses a Neo Vernacular theory which is based on a Genius Loci concept. Genius loci comes from the Roman language, can be interpreted as "spirit of place". According to [11], Genius Loci refers to the unique, memorable, and value aspects of a place. Genius Loci is not limited to physical aspects, but also includes cultural aspects (such as beliefs, place history, art paradigm) and social aspects. According to

[12], a place is a "space" that has its characteristics and special atmosphere, which is not obtained from other places. This is all felt through the five senses and its nature is not abstract. To create this place condition, two elements are interconnected, namely nature and culture.

The "nature" element is related to Neo Vernacular architecture because it is rooted in vernacular architecture which in the past followed and respected the characteristics of the place where the building was built, such as climate and topography.

The "culture" is a way of life that is owned by the people in certain places that have become ingrained and passed on to their families. This is formed because it is influenced by various elements, such as religion, politics, customs, language, and others. Each place has a different culture so that culture can become its own identity in each place, such as the characteristics of the traditional buildings and socio-cultural. According to [13], the pattern of settlements in the traditional Batak Karo village in general, the houses are grouped in one area that has a clear boundary between outside and inside the village. The orientation of traditional houses in the settlement area follows the upstream-downstream direction of the river, with the door of the house directed to the source of the river (julu) and the back towards the tip (jahe) (Figure 2). Karo village was built near the river where the river water was used for daily needs. When entering the traditional Karo village, the atmosphere of the building is dominated by palm fibers on the roof. All types of buildings in the Karo traditional village (traditional houses, Jambur, Lesung, and Geriten) generally have almost the same shape, construction, and materials. (Figure 3).

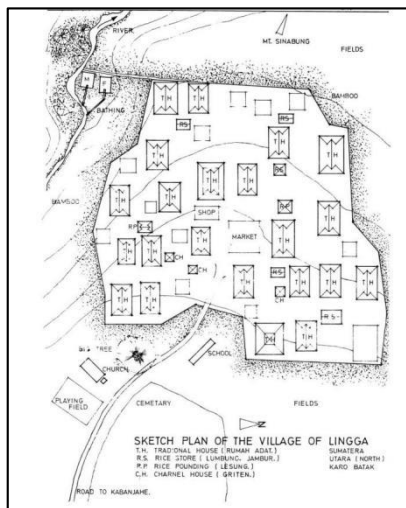


Figure 2. The Village Patterns of Batak Karo
(Source: *Traditional Building of Indonesia, Volume II, Batak Karo*, PUPR)

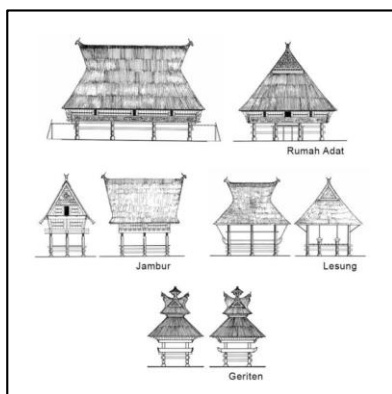


Figure 3. Traditional Buildings of Batak Karo
(Source: *Traditional Building of Indonesia, Volume II, Batak Karo*, PUPR)

The elements that exist in the traditional Batak Karo architecture need to be applied to the concept of designing a leisure park. This is where the orientation of the building in the leisure park also follows the direction of the river outside the site, made clear boundaries on the site plan, and use natural elements around the site for building materials (Figure 4). Then to bring the impression of the traditional Batak Karo village to tourists, the character of the existing building form in the traditional Batak Karo building is applied to the shape of the building that is in the design of this leisure park (Figure 5).

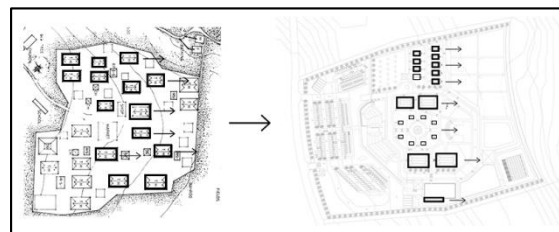


Figure 4. The ground plan of the design follows the Karo Batak Village Patterns

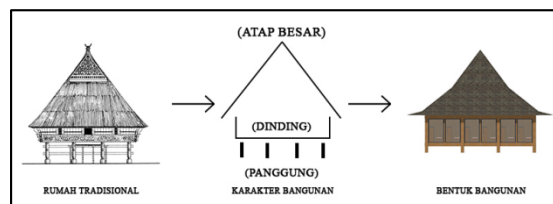


Figure 5. The characteristics of the building follow the Traditional Buildings of Batak Karo

Apart from the physical aspects of buildings that are applied to buildings in leisure parks, there are also other aspects that need to be considered, namely cultural and social aspects. According to [14], evidence of the greatness of the Karo traditional house can be felt from the sense of togetherness, cooperation, sharing which is highly emphasized in every aspect of life. According to [15], the Batak Karo community has several customs that are commonly practiced until now, namely Ertutur and banquet [3]. Ertutur, is an activity of introducing themselves to each other, the inherent identity in each of them. When someone meets a relative or family it always starts with Ertutur activities. It has not been considered comfortable for them before knowing the identity of the interlocutor and knowing each other's kinship. This Ertutur activity is interpreted as the first activity that visitors do when they arrive at the leisure park, which is to find out more about the park in the Information Center and Cultural Area. Such as "acquaintance" activities between visitors and the park (Figure 6).



Figure 6. The *Ertutur* concept in the Tongging Leisure Park

After the *Ertutur*, always followed by a banquet. If the person concerned hasn't eaten, then they should be invited to eat at their house. This is one example to prove the kinship that exists in the Batak Karo community. This "banquet" activity was interpreted as providing culinary facilities and placed after the Information center and Cultural area, so that after "getting acquainted", visitors could immediately eat the special food of the Karo area (Figure 7). This culinary facility is an important part of the leisure park because it also provides regional specialities for tourists.

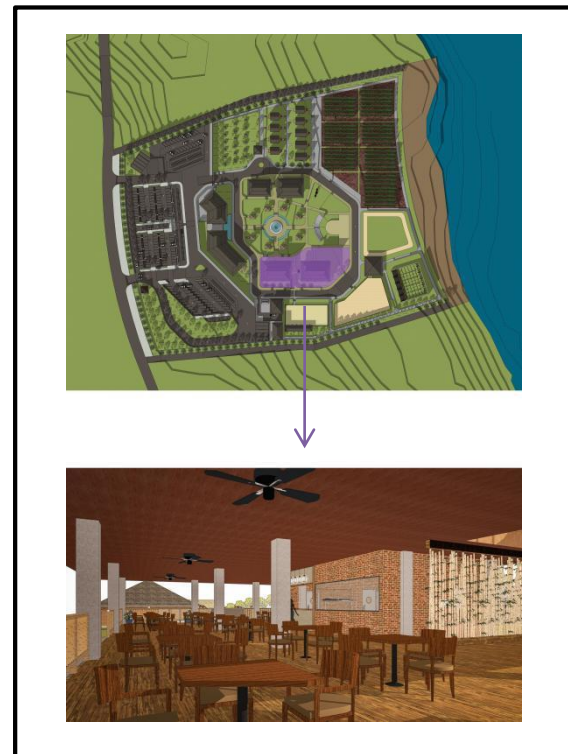


Figure 7. The banquet concept in the Tongging Leisure Park

According to [16], the Batak Karo community also has a sacred ritual culture, namely *Erpangir Ku Lau*. This ritual is a self-cleansing activity by bathing in a river with the intention of thanksgiving ceremony for *Dibata* (God), avoiding a disaster, healing disease, and asking for something. Some of the properties used for rituals come from nature such as kaffir lime, betel leaf, black pepper turmeric, etc. So that the Karo ethnic cultural heritage is very supportive of environmental preservation and cultivation of fruit or plant species. From the properties used, it shows that the Karo Ethnic ancestors already had knowledge or intellectual strength in terms of healing diseases through the use of plants found in their neighborhood. These healing rituals are interpreted in leisure parks as providing traditional health facilities in accordance with the culture of the Karo community, such as Karo Massage and *Oukup* steam baths that use natural ingredients in their treatment activities. Around this leisure park, there is also an element of water that surrounds several facilities that are useful as a medium of healing and tranquility for visitors. In addition, the park also provides the *Tongging Garden* as a

place for the preservation and cultivation of plants used for health materials (Figure 8).

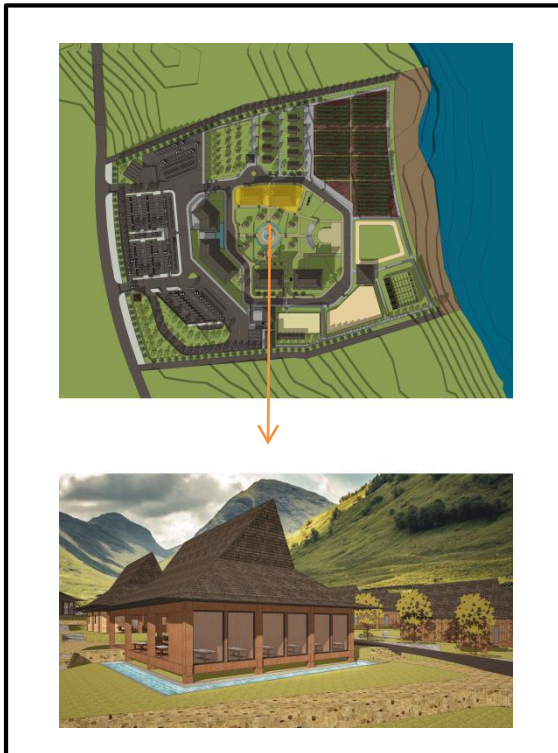


Figure 8. The healing concept in the Tongging Leisure Park

EXTERIOR CONFIGURATION CONCEPT

In the design of the outer space, the public area is placed at the front of the site plan, which is a parking space and visitors circulation before entering the core area of the leisure park. The park has bamboo fences as the boundary, which resembles the original Karo Batak traditional village and strengthen the neo vernacular concept. The plaza is placed in the middle of the park and is surrounded by facilities such as culinary, health, lodging, garden, and recreation facilities. The point is to create the impression that the plaza is the center of all the facilities. This concept can be seen in the site configuration (Figure 9).

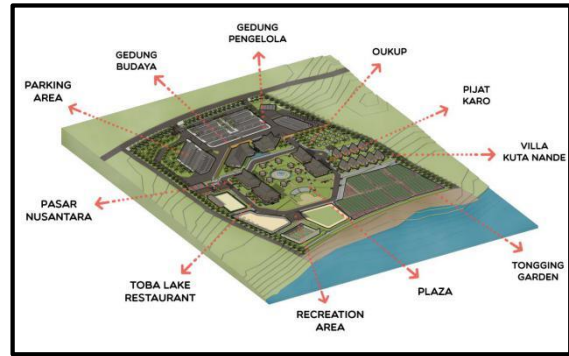


Figure 9. Site Configuration

The concept of spatial planning following the traditional Batak Karo village pattern, the direction of the traditional house follows the upstream-downstream direction of the river. The direction of the building on the site plan is also made facing the lake, which follows the tip of the river. So that each main building faced in the same direction that is toward the lake (Figure 10 and Figure 11).



Figure 10. Bird's Eye View 1



Figure 11. Bird's Eye View 2

INTERIOR CONFIGURATION CONCEPT

To strengthen the Ertutur and banquet concept, visitors who want to enter the leisure

park area must pass through the ticketing area and information center that is included in the Gedung Pengelola or Management Building (Figure 12). Visitors can also find out more about the Karo Batak culture to visit the Cultural Area (Figure 13).



Figure 12. Information Center and Ticketing



Figure 13. Cultural and Praying Area

After that, visitors will immediately find culinary facilities in which there is a Pasar Nusantara as a place to shop for natural resources and souvenirs from the village of Tongging, then can eat local specialties at Toba Lake Restaurant with beautiful views directly to Lake Toba. (Figure 14).



Figure 14. Toba Lake Restaurant

FACADE CONCEPT

The concept of the façade of the leisure park building comes from the character of the building that exists in traditional Karo buildings, such as shape, construction, and material. Taking its characteristics, the roof is

larger than the wall, and the stage system in the building. There are also elements of stones, wood, bamboo, and fibers on the building's façade to strengthen the neo-vernacular concept. (Figure 15 and Figure 16).



Figure 15. Gedung Pengelola (Management Building)



Figure 16. Gedung Budaya (Cultural Building)

STRUCTURAL CONCEPT

The design of the building will use a different structural system depending on how high and the extent of the building. The foundation structure used in the main building and other supporting buildings uses foot plat foundations to overcome soft soil around the lakeside. The structure is made of reinforced concrete under the building column. In the design, two types of floor plate structures will be used, namely Concrete Floor Plates and Wood Floor Plates. Both are used according to the needs of each building.

CONCLUSION

The design of the Tongging Leisure Park aims to make the Lake Toba area a priority tourist location, and at the same time as a preservation of the cultural heritage elements of the local community. The design of this leisure park uses the theme of Neo Vernacular Architecture, which in designing is very concerned about the elements of culture and locality in the area. Placement of facilities in the design also reflects the habits of the Batak Karo community, namely the philosophy of Ertutur, banquets, and there is also a traditional Batak Karo health facility namely Traditional Karo Massage and Oukup Steam Bath. In addition, there are lodging and camping facilities for visitors who want to experience living in the traditional Batak Karo village, and also want to feel living in the beautiful nature of Tongging village.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This research is a study of the leisure park which is expected to be a recommendation to the government as a solution to create appropriate tourism based on nature and culture, and a place to learn the Karo Batak culture. Also, this research is part of the requirement to obtain a bachelor's degree in the Architecture Department of Universitas Sumatera Utara.

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