ECLECTIC ART DECO IN SURAKARTA: COMPARISON OF THREE RESIDENCES IN SURAKARTA (LAWEYAN, BALUWARTI, KAUMAN)

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ABSTRACT

Art Deco emerged from the change of thinking ways of a group of people who one of them backed from the establishment of the economy. In Surakarta, there are areas that get influence Art Deco style, among others: Baluwarti, Laweyan, and Kauman. The problem is the absorption and adaptation of elements of Javanese culture and other culture that produce different art deco typology in each object of study. This study aims to compare the absorption and adaptation of elements of Javanese culture and other culture that produces different art deco typologies in three different areas in Surakarta. With different backgrounds, the absorption and adaptation of Art Deco style in residential houses in each region is different. But the common thread is the absorption of several styles, namely: Java, Art Deco, Art Nouveau, Middle East, and China which finally created the eclectic Art Deco style.

Keywords: Art deco; architectural character; comparative studies.

DEFINING ART DECO STYLE

Excerpted from Johana (2004 in Solikhah, 2017), Art Deco Architecture in addition to receiving historical ornaments, this style also received the influence of the flow of architecture that was developing at the time, namely: Bauhaus, De Stijl, Dutch Expressionism, International Style, Rationalism, Scandinavian Romanticism and Neoclassicism, Arts and Crafts Movement, Art Nouveau, Jugendstil and Viennese Secession. They also influence the formation of Art Deco architecture and provide modern touches. Modern at that time defined by "daring to be different and new, appearing more attractive than others and not ancient" all of which are manifested by striking color choices, unusual proportions, new materials and decorations.

At The beginning of the 21st century the Art Deco style enjoys popularity unrivalled since its inception at the 1925 Exposition Internationale des Arts Decoratifs et Industriels Modernes in Paris (Tinniswood, 2002). Since then the name of Art Deco is used for Named art that was popular and modern. The emergence of that terminology in some articles increasingly made the name of Art Deco a place in the art world with the publication of the book "Art Deco" by Bevis Hillier in America in 1969. Art Deco is one of the very widely applied styles, various examples we can find, in Architecture, clothing, posters and household appliances as well as many other examples. Although there are a variety of objects that use Art Deco style, but it is not easy to define how the Art Deco style. Popular themes in Art Deco are trapezoidal, zig-zag, geometric, and puzzle...
forms, ornaments that are used more regularly and use many lines or squares. Every country that receives Art Deco style develops itself, giving local touch so Art Deco somewhere will be different from Art Deco elsewhere (Johana, 2004 in Solikhah, 2017).

Excerpted from Nas (2009), Art Deco Building in Indonesia is better known as Indies building (Indische Landhuizen) because it has elements of culture and climate in Indonesia. Excerpted from Widyarta (2012), the definition of a single Indies society through the synthesis between elements of Eastern and Western cultures. Suryokusumo and Suryasari (in Indartoyo, 2008) conclude that as the beginning of the development of the Colonial Architecture in Indonesia is the Indies Architecture. Subsequent developments were marked by the appearance of Nieuw Bouwen Architecture, where the architectural styles that flourished were modern architectural styles, including the Art Deco style inside.

**METHODOLOGY**

The type of study that used is comparative studies in the form of explorative description of the absorption and adaptation of Art Deco style in the residence in the object of study. Descriptive method focuses on finding facts as to actual circumstances (Moleong, 2005: 14). The scope of study area are Kampong Laweyan, Kampong Baluwarti, and Kampong Kauman in Surakarta city (fig. 1). While the scope of the substance is the assessment of the absorption and adaptation of Art Deco style in residential houses in each region. Selection of sample and respondent is done by purposive sampling with criterion of residence in scope of study area which have character of Art Deco and have got recommendation from resource person, that is:

- a. Residence of M. Asngad’s family (formerly home of Tjokro Handoko) on Jl. Dr. Rajiman Number 473, Laweyan, Surakarta
- b. Residence of Hj. Asiyiah’s family (Bakri Zaed) in Gambuhan RT/RW. 01/03 Number 30, Baluwarti, Surakarta
- c. Residence of Hj. Qisti Mas’adi’s family on Jl Wijaya Kusuma Number 28, Kauman, Surakarta

The requirement factor to be studied is fixed, where the condition of the indicator can not be changed and as a characteristic of each object which will function as a parameter (Fletcher, 1963). The factors that studied are the historical background and the embodiment of absorption and adaptation of Art Deco style (Architectural Character) in the residence of a stylistic system that embodies the form, including: facade, roof, wall, column, opening, and decoration (excerpted from Setyaningsih, 2004). Furthermore, these factors will be analyzed in each object of study with explorative description method so that it can be known the absorption and adaptation of Javanese cultural elements and others cultures that produce different art deco typology in three different areas in the city of Surakarta.

**Fig. 1. Location Case of Study on Surakarta’s City Map (Source: http://dprd.surakarta.go.id/selayang-pandang/, 2017)**
DISCUSSION

Art Deco in Laweyan

History of Kampong Laweyan

Based on interview with Mr. Muqoffa (March, 2017), Laweyan is settlement of Batik entrepreneur in Surakarta. The name Laweyan has existed since the founding of the Nagari Surakarta Hadiningrat in 1745. In its development, most of the architectural buildings in Laweyan are the result of acculturation by local people through the presence of European, Middle East and Chinese characters due to the high sociability and economic ability that allows Laweyan residents to visit to some parts of the world. One of the important things is the experience of Hajj pilgrimage that allows the interception with the outside culture.

History of Residence of M. Asngad’s Family

Residence of M. Asngad’s family located on Jl. Dr. Rajiman No. 473, Surakarta was built in 1955. It is seen from the symbol of the year that became the ornament on some glass and wall of the house. This house was formerly owned by Tjokro Handoko, a successful Batik and Bus businessman in Laweyan and a close associate of Ir. Soekarno (first President of Republic of Indonesia), then in 1977 this house was bought by a textile entrepreneur named Mr. Sanusi. Today the house is inhabited by Mr. M. Asngad's family (the first child of Mr. Sanusi).

Absorption of Art Deco

a. Organization of Space

Kampong Laweyan is a Kampong that older than Kasunanan palace, so that the interaction of middle to upper class citizens more oriented to Europe, Middle East, and Chinese. Residence of M. Asngad’s family was built in 1955 in the Late Art Deco period with the organization of space which is more referring to European style houses, it shows that the absorption of Art Deco style is more influenced by the wide social circles with Europe, the East Central, Chinese. Although Tjokro Handoko is a batik entrepreneur, but the production site is located on different land (fig. 2).

b. Fasade

The facade uses a geometric zig-zag pre-columbian style to form rhythmic irregularly patterns as the influence of Art Deco styles. The influence of the period of Late Art Deco/ Streamline (1930-1950) is seen in the overtek of the building facade which is arranged horizontally elongated to form a dominant streamline on the facade of the building (fig. 3).

c. Roof

The roof of the building uses a pyramid roof with a tile cover material to adjust the local climate combined with a flat roof of concrete material as a adoption of colonial-style of the 1920s. Massive walls on the roof of the building using geometric zig-zag
pre-columbian style. The use of elements of the Dutch East Indies colonial architecture between the 1900s and 1920s took the form of acroteric jewelry on the edge of the roof ridge with a curved geometric style. The roof of the building was also influenced by the style of Nieuwe Bouwen from 1915 to 1960 through the use of modern materials and construction methods in the form of non concrete use (fig. 4).

d. Wall

The walls of the house are made of plaster and fine-textured bricks. There are several variations of wall coating, namely: coated paint, coated wood (parquete), coated with natural stone, geometric motive (fig. 5). On the inner wall of the main room and the living room half of the wall is lined with wooden sheet (parquete).

e. Column

Columns become elements that reinforce the influence of Art Deco in residence of M. Asngad’s family. This can be seen from the use of twin column on the exterior of the building. The influence of the Late Art Deco/ Streamline period (1930-1950) is seen in the use of vertical line planes so as to form a vertical streamline on the building column (fig. 6).

f. Opening

Bovenlicht above the door/ window using ice glass ornaments with symbol "thumbs up" which is a logo of business Tjokro Handoko and "1955" which shows the year of making the house. The windows get Art Deco influences through the use of brown teak paneled panels and filled with geometric patterned iron rods with an uniformly pointed composition of arrows. The influence of Art Deco lies in the espouse of wood material with geometric motives (fig. 7).

g. Decoration

The decoration of residence of M. Asngad’s family is formed by colorful tiles, the use of iced glass
with "thumb" & "1955" symbols, and the unity of geometric motives that characterize the Art Deco building (fig. 8).

Fig. 8. Decoration (Floor) of M. Asngad’s Family Residence (Source: Primary Survey, 2017)

Art Deco in Baluwarti

History of Kampung Baluwarti

Beteng area in the area of Kasunanan Palace called Baluwarti, derived from the Portuguese baluarte which means a fort because it has a limits (edges) in the form of a fortress. Baluwarti was originally a residence area of Courtiers and their servant of Kasunanan Surakarta with two district patterns, the pattern of dalem and settlement patterns. Pattern dalem form a house (dalem) with a large yard surrounded by a wall of yard. While the settlement pattern began to be provided by PB III in 1755 in the form of a group of houses for the Courtiers in one profession (Farkhan, 2004: 456 in Solikhah, 2012).

Baluwarti arrangement is structured based on functional and symbolic-spiritual conceptions. The symbolic-spiritual pattern is seen in north-south orientation and imaginary circle based on the gradation of sanctity, where the Palace as a central. In a functional conception, Baluwarti’s environmental order was established to support the existence of the Kasunanan Palace. Settlement activities related to the profession of the Courtiers (Farkhan, 2004: 456, in Solikhah, 2012). With the development of the type of economic activity and increasing the economic level of Baluwarti residents, then we can find the typology of Javanese-European-Chinese-Islamic mixed house style.

History of Residence of Hj. Asiyah’s Family (Bakri Zaed’s Family)

One of the citizens of Baluwarti who experienced a rapidly increasing economy was Nyai Zaed, through efforts in the field of weaving, yarn (lawe) – based woven materials, tobacco, and wenter (dye fabric). Her business experienced rapid development in the 1950s by opening several stalls in Pasar Gedhe. To show her existence and social status, she began to renovate her residence in the Kampong Baluwarti.

Influenced by a wide range of associates with batik merchants from Laweyan and Kauman as well as business associates from Chinese people at Pasar Gedhe, her residence was heavily influenced by Art Deco and Indisch houses that already exist in Laweyan and Kauman areas of the early 19th century. In addition, the adaptation of Chinese architecture also influences the decoration of the living quarters of Nyai Zaed (now occupied by Bakri Zaed’s family).

The initial design of the residence uses the services of a Chinese descendant architect named Alay, but the role of the architect does not dominate. Nyai Zaed did not hesitate to adopt a variety of ornamental architectural styles that are or ever trend, such as Art Deco, Indisch, and Art Nouveau (Interview with Faizah-the youngest daughter of Bakri Zaed -, 2012).

Absorption of Art Deco

a. Organization of Space

Although located in Kasunanan Palace area, but the organization of space in the residence of Hj. Asiyah’s family does not refer to the organization of Javanese house used in Dalem Pangeran residence located in Surakarta palace but actually refers to the organization of European-Chinese living room (fig. 9). This shows that the absorption of Art Deco is more influenced by the wide circle of association with batik merchants from Laweyan and Kauman as well as business associates from Chinese people around Pasar Gedhe.

b. Fasade

The facade uses a geometric zig-zag pre-columbian style to form rhythmic irregularly patterns as the influence of Art Deco styles. The influence of the period of Late Art Deco/ Streamline (1930-1950) is seen in the overstek of the building facade which is arranged horizontally elongated to form a dominant streamline on the facade of the building (fig. 10).
c. Roof

The roof of the building uses a pyramid roof with a tile cover material to adjust the local climate combined with a flat roof of concrete material as adoption of a colonial-style of the 1920s. Massive walls on the roof of the building using geometric zigzag form as the influence of Art Deco style. The shape of this ornament tends to be rigid and angular. The use of elements of the Dutch East Indies colonial architecture between the 1900s and 1920s took the form of acroteric jewelry on the edge of the roof ridge with a curved geometric motive. In addition to the dominance of Art Deco influence, the typology of building roof is also influenced by Nieuwe Bouwen style from 1915 to 1960 period through the use of modern materials and construction method in the form of non concrete use (fig 11).

Fig. 9. Organization of space of Hj. Aisiyah’s Residence (Source: Redraw by Author based on Primary Survey, 2017)

Fig. 10. Facade of Hj. Aisiyah’s Residence (Source: Primary Survey, 2017)

d. Wall and Column

The walls of the house are made of plaster brick, finely textured, and coated with light green-and-white paint. On the wall in the main room and family room there is a decoration of the inner wall 1 in the form of a geometric pattern of repetition with a combination of green color typical of the Middle East. The lower part of the wall in the main room is covered with 20x20 cm ceramic with combination motive and composition pattern. The inner wall decoration 2 and the decoration of the inner wall 3 using a combination of geometric, natural, stylactic, or medallion-shaped motives as the influence of the Dutch colonial style. The influence of Art Nouveau is characterized by leaf-stylized motives and leaf-shaped curved shapes. The influence of Chinese motives is found in the natural pattern of red flowers. At the bottom of the Wall there is a green geometric motive as an adaptation of Middle Eastern architecture. On the outer wall there is an adaptation of dorik columns with plain motives and a combination of light green and white. The influence of Art Deco is found in the decoration of outer walls 2 in the form of natural stone expose times (fig. 12).

Fig. 11. Roof of Hj. Aisiyah’s Residence (Source: Solikhah, 2012)

e. Opening

Doors and Windows

The decorative character of the doors-windows varies to indicate the function of space. Decorative
doors and windows use the 1950s colonial type by removing ornaments, geometric decoration, and straight detail. Doors and windows match the colonial type of vertical plane with teak wood and the use of ice glass without motive. The colors of the doors use a combination of ivory yellow and light green. Geometric motives on the leaves of the doors are arranged with a pattern of composition.

Variety of decorative window 2 get Art Deco influence through the use of brown teak panel and filled with geometric trellis iron rods with a regular composition that led to arrows. Door 4 decoration using wood and glass with natural motives in the form of a combination of flora-fauna motives are arranged with a pattern of stuffing as an influence of Chinese culture brought by the architect of Bakri Zaed's family home. Panel and door leaves are coated with ivory yellow paint, while on natural motives use red and green.

Decorative of door 5, door 6, door 7, door 8, and window 3 using 1950s colonial type by removing ornaments, geometric decoration, and straight detail, door and window in the field of vertical with wood material teak. The effect of Art Deco lies in the expose of wood material with geometric motives and the use of ivory yellow (fig. 13).

![Fig. 13. Opening of of Hj. Aisiyah’s Residence (Source: Solikhah, 2012)](image)

**Bovenlicht**

The influence of the colonial style of the 1950s on bovenlicht in the form of combinations of materials, motives and patterns of decoration. Bovenlicht on the main entrance as decoration bovenlicht 1 using brown teak panel. Teak wooden brown wooden filigree is arranged using irregular field pattern with geometric motive of horizontal field. While bovenlicht above the window lined on the terrace as decorative bovenlicht 2 get Art Nouveau influence. Bovenlicht 2 uses teak panel and filled with iron bars with combined motives, namely geometric motives and still-shaped curved tendrils motives equipped with ice glass without motive (fig. 14).

![Fig. 14. Bovenlicht of Hj. Aisiyah’s Residence (Source: Solikhah, 2012)](image)

**Art Deco in Kauman**

**History of Kampung Kauman**

Summarized from Pusponegoro (2007), Kampung Kauman in Surakarta has a relationship with the existence of Kasunanan Palace Surakarta along with the establishment of Surakarta Great Mosque by Paku Buwana III in 1757. The mosque was built by the king as a form of obligation of the King in leading his people where the King as Sayyidin Panatagama Khalifatullah, which means king in addition to being the leader of the state (kingdom), the king is also a religious leader for the people to live in peace and prosperity. To perform the duties of Sayyidin Panatagama Khalifatullah, the king appointed and placed a penghulu (an expert in the field of religion as well as
adviser to the king) in the mosque, and the penghulu also given the right to use on a plot of land located in the north of the mosque.

The birth of the Kampong Kauman started with the placement of a servant of Pamethakan duty in charge of religious and mosque, namely Kanjeng Kyai Penghulu Mohammad Thohar Hadiningrat who settled around the Great Mosque. Penghulu oversees the land around the mosque whose citizens are composed of servants Pamethakan and ulama as a helper/representing the duty of Penghulu if penghulu absent. The land he occupies is a gift from Paku Buwana III with the status of land Anggaduh, which means only entitled to occupy and have no property rights. By the Palace, the land is named Perkauman, meaning the land where the clans live, and become Kauman.

Excerpted from RM. Sajid (In Pusponegoro, 2007), it can be concluded that the existence of the Kauman village existed because it was desired by Paku Buwana III as the King as part of the four components of the pattern of Islamic government city that consists of: Keraton, Alun-alun, Masjid, and Market.

History of Residence of Hj. Qisti Mas’adi’s Family

Residence of Hj. Qisti Mas’adi’s family (formerly home of H. Abu Amar, Kyai/Religious leader/Batik Entrepreneur) in Jl Wijaya Kusuma number 28, Kauman has a land area of 899 m2, building area 750 m2, built in 1856 M. Currently the building has not been too many significant changes (relatively original). Excerpted from Musyawaroh (in Pusponegoro, 2007). House of Hj. Qisti Mas’adi was built in 1828, the figure was once inscribed on the inside wall of the house which has now been shelled replaced by a new one. However, according to the landlord, the number 1828 may be the year of Java, or if used as BC is 1898 M.

Absorption of Art Deco

a. Organization of Space

The residence of Hj. Qisti Mas’adi is a house built by batik entrepreneurs and doubles as a living place and place of batik business (production to sales). Space organization refers to the house/Dalem of Courtiers in Kasunanan Palace Surakarta because they are descendants of the religious leader of Kasunanan Palace (fig. 15).

Organizations of space of traditional Javanese house commonly used in Dalem Pangeran dwellings generally consist of: courtyard, pendapa, ndalem (complete with left senthong, right, center) and partly added with gandok and pringgitan. Also equipped with a lojen located in front or side of the house. While the organization of space Object 3 is: courtyard (front/ side/ back), dalem complete with senthong left-middle-right and factory. Currently Object 3 is still original as at the beginning of construction complete with factories located at the back of the house, but the condition is less well maintained and the factory left unused.

b. Fasade

The facade of is a blend of traditional Javanese with Europe. Javanese architectural features seen in the open pavilion and limasan roof used. The European elements are applied to building ornaments such as: roof gable, lambrissering, columns, poles, etc. Height of Object 3 is ± 7 m, with a building span of 1-1.5 m from its height, so the building is impressive high and dashing. The ornaments or decorations found in the housemaid describe the social status of the owner. The more beautiful and intricate ornaments, the richer the owner of the house. The absorption of Art Deco can be seen in the Lojen facade which uses geometric zig-zag motive (fig. 16).
c. Roof

The roof of the building uses a pyramid roof with a tile cover material to adjust the local climate combined with a flat roof of concrete material as a colonial-style adoption of the 1920s. Massive walls on the roof of the building using geometric motives zig-zag pre-columbian style as the influence of Art Deco style (fig. 17).

Fig. 17. Roof of Hj. Qisti Mas’adi’s Residence (Source: Redraw by Author based on Primary Survey, 2017)

d. Wall

The dividing wall on the side of the pendapa is composed with the opening plane, tritan pole, lambrisering, ornamented iron balustrade, floor/ trap rise and roof gable. Some parts of the wall use geometric motives (fig. 18).

Fig. 18. Wall of Hj. Qisti Mas’adi’s Residence (Source: Primary Survey, 2017)

e. Column

The wooden pillars supporting the roof of the terrace on the pavilion are decorated with Art Deco Classicism carved with paint and prada to accentuate the luxurious and expensive impression (fig. 19).

Fig. 19. Columns of Hj. Qisti Mas’adi’s Residence (Source: Redraw by Author based on Primary Survey, 2017)

f. Opening

Bovenlicht above the door/window using ornaments carved wood carving spirals. The windows get Art Deco influences through the use of brown teak paneled panels and filled with geometric patterned iron rods with an uniformly pointed composition of arrows. The effect of Art Deco lies in the espose of wood material with geometric motives and the use of ivory yellow (fig. 20).

Fig. 20. Opening of Hj. Qisti Mas’adi’s Residence (Source: Primary Survey, 2017)
g. Decoration

Decorative Variety at Residence of Hj. Qisti Mas’adi’s family one of them in the form of the use of colorful tiles that impress the impression of luxury and expensive. At this time some parts of the building have been replaced with ceramics because there are old floor that has been damaged and the floor surface is declining (fig. 21).

Fig. 21. Decoration (Floor) of Hj. Qisti Mas’adi’s Residence (Source: Primary Survey, 2017)

CONCLUSION

Background of the history of the area that gained the influence of Art Deco style in Surakarta City, namely: Baluwarti is settlement for Courtiers and their servant of Kasunanan Palaces, Laweyan is settlement of Batik entrepreneur in Surakarta, while Kauman is the settlement for Religion Courtiers (Ulama) of Kasunanan Palace. With different backgrounds, the absorption and adaptation of Art Deco style in residential houses in each region is different. But the common thread is the absorption of several styles, namely: Javanese, Art Deco, Art Nouveau, Middle East, and China that finally created the eclectic Art Deco style. There are no standard characters and styles. The process of absorption based on the taste of the owner as a form of self-existence that is influenced by social status, economic level, social culture/politics (associated with Kasunanan and Pura Mangkunegaran), and social circles.

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