The application of architecture in the tradition of building house based on The Tajul Muluk text

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Abstract. This Study Aim to describe the application of architecture in the tradition of building a house written in a manuscript which is teh intellectual propert of tradition society in Indonesia archipelago. The data of this study were obtained from Tajul Muluk text belongs to Mr. Malim Husin who lives in Tanggabosi, Mandailing Natal District, North Sumatra. This text is basically written in Jawi character consisting of 146 pages, and contain various description of human life and it’s surrounding nature. In this study, the researchers only focus on the tradition of building house which is explained in Tajul Muluk text. The data were analyzed by using descriptive-qualitative method. The finding indicates that the tradition of building a house is displayed in accordance with the texts, starting from choosing the right day, selecting the timber, gauging columns, deciding the builder and tools, knowing the conditions to build a house which was already established, good and bad influence, selecting the land, and also some advice in building a house.

1. Introduction

Architecture and culture are closely related. The cultural diversity in Indonesia is a factor contributed to the diverse values in architecture, and these values are expanding up to this moment. The values of architecture today have shifted and rarely apply architectural traditions that follow their originality or authenticity values. (2) Thus, the origins of these traditional architectural values might be lost in the current globalization.

Researches related to traditional architecture might have been carried out by other researchers, typically from various ethnic groups in Indonesia. However, researches related to specific texts related to traditional architecture has not much been studied, for example; the traditional architecture which has been passed from generations’ intellectual work. One of the traditional architecture in Indonesia archipelago is the tradition of building houses which is called as “Tajul Muluk”. This manuscript is a collection which belongs to Malim Husin who lives in Tanggabosi Village, Mandailing Natal, North Sumatra. This text basically explains various aspects of human life and their surrounding environment, but this text also describes about the traditions of building houses.
1.1 Tajul Muluk Text

Tajul Muluk is one of the traditional manuscripts which is written in Jawi characters. Initially the manuscript was collected by Sheikh Ismail in Aceh and then copied by Sheikh Ismail in Makkah. According to Wan Mohd Shaghir Abdullah, the first edition of Tajul Muluk was published by Mathba’ah al-Miriyah al-kainah in Makkah in 1311 H/1893 M edited by Sheikh Ismail and analyzed by his teacher, Sheikh Ahmad Bin Muhammad Zainal al-Fathani.

Through the inventory process, three manuscripts have been found and were suspected as Tajul Muluk text. However, the manuscript used as the data in this research is the one which was found in Bosi, Mandailing Natal and it is a personal collection of Malim Husin Lubis.

Tajul Muluk text consists of 148 pages, and pages 90-116 specifically describe about the tradition of building houses. This script does not illustrate the architecture of a house as general with the diagrams and visuals, but it provides traditional description of building a house through a story.

1.2 Traditional Architecture

Traditional architecture is based on the values or beliefs including the cosmological symbols applied in architectural element. When people undergo a process of transition between culture and the development of modernism, it will affect the traditional system in building a house and begin to leave or might by negate the construction of the house from the very beginning.

The implementation of tradition in this era may be faded due to many factors including economic factors, lifestyles and inability to preserve the prevailing traditions. Traditional architecture that still maintains the traditional elements rarely uses Vernacular Architecture as a means of developing the traditional Architecture.

2. Method

This study applies qualitative descriptive method to analyze the rituals that must be followed in the tradition of building a house written in Tajul Muluk text which has been translated into Indonesian. The data on this study was collected that has been claim was belongs to Malim Husin Lubis that take place in Tanggabosi Village, Mandailing Natal.

3. Result and Discussion

3.1. Tradition In Tajul Muluk Text

The architectural tradition in Tajul Muluk text is started by selecting the timber, measuring the pole, determining the builders and the tools needed, considering the conditions when building a house which has been already established, making the doors for the house, and building the house.

3.1.1. Wood Selection

This text explains about how to choose a high quality wood. The best timber is from the trees that grow on the edge of the soil which contains water and mud (moist soil). Other good types of wood are from the trees that grow at the edge of waterfall, the wood surrounded by pegaga leaves, beehive wood, and the wood mixed with shallot root. Bad wood that should not be used is from the trees whose roots are rotten and mixed with garlic, trees that produce reddish liquid after they are cut, trees that produce white liquid after they are cut, and trees which produce bubbles after they are cut. These low quality woods can also be used to build a house under specific conditions. For example, if the trees which produce reddish liquid after they are cut, these trees should be let alone in three days before they can be used. As what is written in the following text:

Then, this text also describes about how to choose the day to build the house. Every day brings good and bad values, for example; Sunday is believed to bring positive influence to the condition of
the house, but negatively, the house might be haunted by ghost. Building a house on Thursday might cause someone died in the house. (4) Based on the days explained, Wednesday is the best choice to build a house because the house will be easy to build, but more tools might be needed to build the house.

In Tajul Muluk, it is also explained about building a house which would be compatible with the owner based on its size. The tool used to measure the length is a robe which is counted in cubit instead of using a meter like these days. Before the house is built and the woods are cut, the owners of the house should measure the length of this house in cubit. (4) Each cubit has a different size, for examples; tangkal ke tangkal, tangkal asap kalam, singa sempurna, anjing kekurangan, harimau pahlawan, naga keibuan and etc. Tangkal ke tangkal measurement is believed to provide happiness to the owners of the house. (4) Anjing kekurangan would give problems to the owners, death, despair, and poverty at home. Naga keibuan would cause love, not jealous, unfaithful, and the owners would always be able to share the problems in the house. Because every measurement has meanings, the owner of the house will determine the size of their house by repeating the size several times, and stop on a size that would bring good impact like singa sempurna. (4)

3.1.2. Building A House
There are several conditions that should be met before building a house. Selecting the right land is also the condition which is believed to have an effect on the good or bad life of the people who live in the house later. (4)

The good soil conditions described in the manuscript is the land which faces the East and North, and the soil structure should also be flat. Whereas the land which is not good might be heading toward Northwest, South, Southwest, and the land structure is also hilly and uneven soil conditions. If a house is built on land with these bad characteristics, the owners are believed to be harmed later. (4)

After determining the direction of the land and the structure of the ground, the position of doors is also explained in this text. One part of the wooden door should be directed toward the direction of head when sleeping, and the other part of the wooden door is directed to the East. The people who live in the house should sleep by facing the Qibla with the position of the door leading to the sunrise. This is believed that crime will not befall on the people living in the house. (4)

3.1.3. The Prohibition When Building A House
In Tajul Muluk manuscript, it is explained that a two-story house is prohibited to build because it is believed that it will make the child of the people who live in the house will be harmed and the people will have a headache. (4) Another prohibition is not to build a house which faces toward the Sunrise or Sunset because it will cause fights and not good for the occupants in the house. (4)

3.1.4. Building A House Which Has Been Build (Rehabilitating A House)
In Tajul Muluk text, the conditions or rehabilitating a house is also explained. The first thing to do is cleaning process. In this process, the equipments needed are the dipper and the water with flowers. (4) The water with flowers is then doused in the middle of the house and then a piece of gold is placed in front of the door. (4) After this process, praying is enchanted. The condition of the house will be seen on the next day, if the water does not bring any change to the condition of the house, then the house is good to be rebuilt, but if the house crashed in the next day, the house is not good to be built. (4)

4. Conclusion
The Architecture and the Tradition of Building a House in Tajul Muluk Text Tradition is a practice or a habit inherited from generation to generation, but over time this tradition has not much been applied. (5) This is based on the continuous development of the times and the changes in understanding individuals and the people who can judge the good and bad things for this tradition to be applied today.
This can be assessed on the basis of what is written in Tajul Muluk text in which it can be seen that the tradition applied is very traditional when compared to the value of architecture that develop at present that emphasizes the minimalist value in its design. The traditions are the belief in nature and have big influence on the establishment of the house, the wood materials and the rope as the measuring instrument. Meanwhile today’s society applies more minimalist values in its occupancy with easily found building materials, and sophisticated tools.

Likewise, with the materials used, it can be seen that the house materials described prioritize wood as the basic material and the main material of the construction. It is different compared to the materials used these days which are more effective and easy to be found and used for building houses. The traditions written in Tajul Muluk is traditionally priceless when compared to the activities of the present millennial society which is fairly busy with their respective activities to apply the traditions that existed long before this.

Clearly, the traditions of building a house written in Tajul Muluk text is more about suppressing wood as a basic material and nature as the main guide in carrying out the construction of a house. This text is also more focused on the conditions of establishing a house where myths and beliefs are the conditions that must be considered in the establishment.

![Figure 1. Step In Tajul Muluk Text Tradition](image)

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