Architecture and Monumental (Study About form in Architecture)

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Abstract. The architecture develops along with the development of human history. So architecture is the field of study related to human physically and non-physically. The development of architecture is a long process within the culture the architecture develops. Physically, architecture has different shape from every historical phase. The different shape has different historical background. The important building on one period is always impressed. This impression still remains until now, in this postmodern era. From the phenomena appear in architecture so this study focused on the monumental buildings by analyzing the form of the building in this era. The objects of the study are the buildings in Medan which represent the monumental impression (Maimun Palace). The qualitative approach is applied to give more knowledge in history, theory, and criticism of architecture. The results of this study described that the monumental impression of the object of study and forms of building support that impression.

1. Introduction
Architectural masterpiece is the work resulting from all activities, which are done by humans. An architectural masterpiece has each peculiar in accordance with the conditions that the work is located. In studying, the architecture needed broad insight knowledge of the non-physical aspect and the physical aspect. Non-physical aspects relate to the activities undertaken by people daily and how human interact with each other. While the physical aspects relate to the building directly such a figure, appearance of the building, building materials, forms, styles of building and building interaction with the surrounding environment.

In this study emphasized the physical aspects than the non-physical aspects, because the study is form of the existing architecture and memorable monumental appearance. Generally, the important buildings in classical times up to now show you a monumental impression. For that case, the understanding of this monumental needs to be examined in order to unlock insights to the development of architecture in general.

Knowledge of the architectural theory is required to establish a thorough understanding of the development of architecture. In understanding the form, we should understand about architectural theory that describes the form in architectural design. Because of it, the memorable monumental form becomes the primary focus in this study.
Monumental impression is always associated with regularity, generally the impression displayed is show the sides of buildings, especially facade of building with a strong symmetrical axis. It will be studied more detail in the role of making monumental impression in a building.

In architecture, monumentalism is a spiritual quality which inherent in a structure that conveys a feeling of immortality. Similar with the quality of the Parthenon, which is recognized ancient Greek architecture [1]. In this case, it can be seen that the monumentalism building is very concerned about the physical structure, strength, and a building material for the spiritual qualities inherent in such matters [2]. Not only building in classical times was built on a monumental scale, but also the important buildings in every phase of history were always constructed with memorable monumental. The dominant impressive monumental buildings are palace buildings, government buildings, banks and religious buildings [3]. In addition, the museum also uses the monumental scale in the building [4].

From the literature statement above, the monumental buildings are buildings that generally have an important function in the area where the building are located. Besides the quality of spiritual, physical aspects, strength, and building materials are important things in showing the impression of monumental in buildings. Architecture that comes with the monumental impression can be a landmark for region or city as a whole. One of the important buildings at the Greek era was Parthenon (477-432 BC) gave rise the impression of monumental and democracy in his time.

![Monument of Parthenon](source:id.wikipedia.org)

Figure 1. Monument of Parthenon  
(Source: id.wikipedia.org)

The purpose of this research is to determine the development of architecture in the understanding of the monumentalism and the study of architectural form associated with monumentalism. While the benefits of the study are fundamental understanding of architectural form and development of monumentalism in architecture.

2. Method
The data is analyzed in the discussion for the settlement of the existing formulation of the problem and achieve the results of research or findings in the conclusion. In this research, the method of data analysis is qualitative descriptive. This method describes the observed object as it is without a purpose. The analysis wants to see phenomena that occur on the object of the study.

The facts contained in the field are explored with the historical approach by looking phenomenon of monumentalism in the way of development of architecture in the world. This phenomenon is analyzed based on the fact that there is by looking at his physical formation.
2.1 Object of the Research
The object of research is Maimun Palace building in Medan to prove their monumental impression on the architecture. The data of this object from architectural drawings are floor plans, elevations and sections. These data was collect directly from the object of research by field survey. The physical body will be studied more deeply to discover the monumental impression in architecture. With descriptive method, data analysis techniques to provide an understanding of the situation that happens and apply on the object of research [5]. In addition, this method is suitable for use inductive approach that is supported by the facts on the field [6]. The use of qualitative research methods is to look at the things that are associated with this form of architecture through literature data and facts obtained from the object of research. The object of research is Maimun Palace building in Medan to prove their monumental impression on the architecture.

3. Results and Discussions
The results of this study are to examine the basic form of the object of research that is Maimun Palace. In line with that, the present form produces monumental impression. The results of this study use three approaches Sculptural, Authentic Shape and Art Shape [7]. These three approaches are described as follows:

3.1. History of Maimun Palace
Maimun Palace is the palace of the pride of Medan society. This palace is the Sultan Deli’s Palace located in the city of Medan. The opening of the tobacco plantation in 1863 by the Dutch colonial government by appointing Jacob Nienhuys, Vandervalk, Elliot as a trustee of the estate [8]. These plantations located around Medan region and make this city visited by traders from various countries at that time. The opening of plantations is through the agreement to Sultan Deli [9]. The story of the good quality of tobacco that makes this city becomes a place for traders to have transaction in their trade activities. By increasing the number of tobacco trading volume at that time then Nienhuys and friends who have office in the region of Labuhan then moved into offices in the city of Medan because the city has the potential to grow. Along with that, it was established rail company named Deli Spoorweg Maatschappij, which became the main transport-transport plantation products. The company got the concession to build a railway network to transport the tobacco, rubber and palm oil. The first path of this train was from Medan to Labuhan and authorized to be used on July 25, 1886.

Deli Sultanate that was originally located in Labuhan Deli also moved the centre of government to the city of Medan to facilitate the relations with the colonial administration at that time. Medan then developed rapidly into a bustling city, admitted by the Dutch into township (Gementee), and had self-government under the colonial government in Batavia. Deli Sultanate displacement was accompanied by the construction of various buildings in support of the government of the empire at that time. Along with that, it was built the palace complex consisting of Masjid Al-Mashun buildings and a park called Taman Sri Deli and its main building named Maimun Palace. At the time, Deli Sultanate led by Sultan Mahmud Al-Rashid Perkasa Alamsjah.

Maimun Palace was built on August 25, 1888 and construction was completed on May 18, 1891 which was had Malay architecture by a touch of Mughal and Italian architecture. The overall width of this palace is 2,772 m2 and has 30 rooms. The architect named Theodoor van Erp, which was Dutch man, the building consists of two floors and the position is located at Brigjen Katamso Street, Medan.

3.2. Basic Form of Maimun Palace
Architectural form is the meeting point between mass and space. Architectural forms, textures, materials, lighting, shadows, and colors combine to form/present the soul, or the quality that describe the space [10]. Form is a term that has multiple meanings which may lead to the outward appearance that can be seen his form. In the design, the term is often used to organized symbolize, structuring elements or parts that exist in a composition, thus providing a logical and consistent picture [11].

In general, the form of Maimun Palace is dominated by square shape and symmetrical shape overall. The square formation combined with another square shape but does not eliminate the harmony of the whole building. The view of building is like have a stage similar with traditional Malay house. Architects tried to bring the traditional sense but in a larger scale.

Traditional Malay House built with materials from wood and with a system of pegs and no nails. There is porch that is being characteristic of this house. The porch is not walled but only fenced which made of woodcarvings characterized Malay. The porch is also one of part explored by architects Van Erp by applying it around the 2nd floor of Maimun Palace used by guests and the royal family to sit around and relax.

![Figure 2. Traditional Malay House and Maimun Palace Medan](Source: id.wikipedia.org)

Looking at the shape, it has three parts consisting of a main building and accompanied by the right and left wing of building. The building consists of two floors; the first floor is generally used as a workroom for royal employee or spaces reserved for the royal administration. While the second floor of the main building function as a hall while the right wing of the building functioned as a rest room for the family and the royal family of women while left wing of the building to the family and royal family of men.

![Figure 3. Plan of Maimun Palace First Floor](image)
Maimun Palace building form consists of three parts that have a strong symmetrical axis. The influence of Palladianism felt in the form of buildings, these influences popularized by an Italian architect named Andrea Palladio (1508-1580). This influence is seen in the form of buildings that tend to widen with a strong symmetrical axis as one of the buildings by Andrea Palladio that is Villa Barbaro (1560). Andrea Palladio uses symmetric axis to reinforce the image of the looked building. Palladio's works inspired by Greek and Roman architecture oriented to the symmetry and perspective.

3.3. Sculptural
Sculptural is the main form of monumental because it gives the impression of a holy, pure, and entertaining [12]. Monumental impression that is displayed in the form of an impression as a magnificent palace and distinct surroundings. The unique shape and relatively large size of the building are supported by the landscape in the form of an open space that is around the building especially in the front of the building facing the Brigjen Katamso Street. The open space is used as a people room and a space for public gathering. This activity is still going on until now because of its strategic position to support events organized.
3.4. Authentic Shape

Authentic shape is one of the characteristics of a monument [13]. From its present form at Maimun palace is an authentic form as shown by the adoption of elements of Malay culture with a mixture of Mughal and Italian architecture. In general, a square shape is a shape that is widely used by buildings [14], but with the creation of the architect, this building comes with an impression that does not eliminate the overall shape of Malay architecture. Architect Van Erp tries to maintain the impression of Malay architecture by designing a second floor building in order to produce staged building. Mughal influence seen in the dome-shaped roof at the front of the building with a base square that is different with domes generally shapes circular.

Except form of the roof, part of which will be retained to present the impression of Malay architecture seen on the stairs located on the front of the building as a welcome area for guests. The staircase continues up to the second floor and meets with the foyer to get into the palace.

![Figure 6. Maimun Palace Medan from Top](Source: google maps)

3.5 Art Shape

To support the monumental impression of a building will require the expertise of the artists. In Maimun Palace building, there are several forms of art that refers to the ornaments that exist in Malay traditional house. These ornaments are applied in some parts of the palace building but no longer have the meaning as in a traditional house. Some ornaments used to present the impression of monumental to building so that the Malay architectural impression is not lost. It can be seen in the picture below that form of railing full of Malay carved object on the porch of the Palace.

![Figure 7. Domes and Stairs of Maimun Palace](Source: sumutmedia.net)

At the edge cover of roof, there is *fascia board* along the roof using a Malay carving ornaments. This proves that the monumental impressions that want to be presented in this building are remained until now.
3. Conclusions
Maimun Palace is a building that is proven to have a monumental impression. This is seen from the figure of the building that has a symmetrical shape and displays a different impression with the surrounding buildings. Forms owned figure support to show an important building of its time and the impression is still perceptible until now. Conditions landscape or open space is impressive monumental building support. Form of the building is authentic (a mixture of Malay, Mughal and Italy Architecture) and supported by the art form of Malay Traditional Architecture will be able to maintain the impression of a monumental building.

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