

Characteristic of Old Shop Houses Façade in Selatpanjang City as Character of Waterfront City

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Abstract: Selatpanjang city is a part of trade development since Siak empires. The trading areas were started from waterfront to the Ahmad Yani, Merdeka, and Imam Bonjol corridor. This was marked by appearance of shop houses around. Generally, this building is combining residential and commercial were typically used for business and trading. The purpose of this research is to analyze and understand the characteristics of the old shop houses façade. The method used is qualitative descriptive by analyzing façade element, façade composition, and building profile. The result shows that there is architectural assimilation between Chinese, Colonial, and local. The typical building façade characteristics will be a reference of preservation corridor development in the future.

Keywords: Shop houses, building façade, characteristic.

1. Introduction

Selatpanjang City is the center of Meranti Regency government. The uniqueness of this city has been formed since a long time ago in a heterogeneous society, especially Malay and Chinese. The building style in Selatpanjang City area such as Jalan Merdeka corridor, Jalan Ahmad Yani corridor and Jalan Imam Bonjol corridor consists of old shop houses. The buildings in Jalan Merdeka corridor is a building assimilation of Chinese architecture. The corridor is a business area [1]. The building style makes the character of a corridor. Unfortunately, damage and physical changes can occur slowly. Typical façade in this area can be a reference for conservation efforts. Therefore, the purpose of this research is to identify and analyze characteristics of old shop houses façade in Selatpanjang City.

2. Literature Review

Chinese people have known the archipelago since the 5th century. In general, Chinese settlements in Java city until 1900s were found in Chinatown and were still thick with the style of Chinese architecture. According to Gurstein (1990), shop houses are part of urban architecture from cities in Asia from the 18th to 20th centuries due to socio-economic benefits [2]. Unfortunately, after the 1900s, the building style of Chinese architecture began to gradually disappear [3]. The characteristics of Chinese architecture especially those in Southeast Asia are [4]:

- a. Courtyard
- b. Emphasis on the typical roof shape
- c. Open structural elements (sometimes accompanied by decorative elements)
- d. Typical color usage.

Chinese ethnic areas are called Chinatowns. The relatively narrow and very densely populated Chinatown area does not allow for large-scale buildings. Chinese architecture buildings in Chinatown are temples, shop houses (*ruko*) and residences. Shop house is a typical Chinatown building. Ruko is a 'landmark' in Chinatown in the coastal cities of Southeast Asia [4]. Shop house is a combination of business areas on the lower floors and residential areas on the upper floors. Shop house is a combination of high density and intensity of economic activities in Chinatown. But Alain Viaro (1992) gives his argument that shop houses occur as a mixture of architecture due to trade along the coastal cities between China and Southeast Asia by Westerners, Chinese, and local residents [3].

According to Hasan and Che Yahaya (2012), parts of the building forms also integrated the local architectural settings such as roof overhangs for shades, maximum openings for cross ventilation purpose, cantilever floors (verandah or *anjung*), and double roof construction (jack roof systems) for cool and hot air internal circulation, that eventually produced a new hybrid architectural styles [2]. Any

physical object has its own visual characteristics. The building has an architectural form, which makes it recognizable and different from other buildings [5].

According to Burden (2003), façade is the exterior face of a building, particularly one of its main elevations, almost always containing an entrance and characterized by an elaborations of stylistic details [2]. The composition must consider functional requirements namely windows, door openings, sun shading and roof areas. The facade design relates to the creation of harmonious unity between proportions, vertical and horizontal structure arrangement, rhythms of material, color, and decorative elements.

To produce the facade arrangement criteria include the principles of composition, final completion (material, color, texture), facade architectural proportions (comparison of massive openings, vertical-horizontal, visual linkages), and the use of decorative elements [6]. The facade is composed of several single elements namely entrance and entrance, arcade, ground arrangement on the other side. Facade elements are different objects so that they have different shapes, colors, and materials.

The facade elements of the building consist of doors, windows, walls, roofs, sun shading, and ornaments. The roof facade element as an orientation of the height of building consists of 3 factors, i.e. the shape, slope, color, and roof material. Walls are the main determinant of the assessment of the existence of buildings. Ornaments serve to add aesthetic value to a building that will eventually add financial value to the building.

The building facade composition consists of geometry, symmetry, rhythm, proportion, and scale. The proportion is the relationship between parts of a design or the relationship between parts and the whole. A ratio is the basis of each proportion system i.e. a value that has a fixed price can be used as another comparison. Rhythm is defined as movement characterized by repetitive elements or motives patterned at regular or irregular intervals.

The facade profile of the building is affected by the building's back and forth, the presence or absence of sun shading, *trisisan*, columns, and the presence or absence of a balcony.

3. Material & Methodology

The old shop houses study area is in Selatpanjang city. The observation begins with several old shop houses in the main corridor, i.e. Jalan Merdeka corridor, Jalan Ahmad Yani corridor and Jalan Imam Bonjol corridor. From these three corridors, the old shop house character still exists on Jalan Merdeka (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Jalan Merdeka Corridor in Selatpanjang City

This research uses qualitative research with rationalistic paradigm. Qualitative researchers are usually involved in interactions with the reality they are researching [7]. Research characterizes information in contextual form and leads to patterns or theories that will explain social phenomena [8]. The research variables are based on the characteristics of the facade theory. It consists of building facade elements, building composition and building facade profiles. Data collection techniques consist of field observations, interviews and documentation. The analytical method used in this study is a qualitative descriptive analysis method. Descriptive analysis method is a research method that describes and explains the state or status of phenomena or the relationship between phenomena that are studied systematically, factually, and accurately.

4. Results and Discussion

Analysis of building façade elements consists of five elements: doors, windows, roofs, walls and ornaments. In terms of geometry and material consist of the doors, windows and roofs. While ornaments in terms of geometry, material, motif / pattern, location, and color (Table 1).

Table 1. Analysis of Facade Elements viewed from Geometry and Material Forms

Element	Form	Material
Doors	Square	Wood
Windows	Square	Wood, Glass
Roof	Gable	Zinc
Wall	Square	Brick, Wood



(a)



(b)

Figure 2. Material of windows and doors is wood. The position of the door is in the middle and the window is on the left and right side

Forms of doors and windows are square that consists of 2 units. The position of the door is in the middle and the window is on the left and right side of the door. Door and window material are wood (Figure 2). Some of old shop houses, window materials use glass. When viewed from Figure 2a, the top of doors and windows have air ventilation in same material. Figure 2b showed that air ventilation material is cement which is integrated with the wall and it has hexagon pattern. In addition to the pattern, some old shop houses have a rectangular pattern.



(a)



(b)

Figure 3. (a) Shape of gable roof and (b) wall of wood and brick material

Figure 3a shows that the roof material is made of zinc and saddle-shaped. Some of old shop houses that increase the number of floors, the roof form is a flat made by concrete material. Old shop house wall, for 1st floor is a plaster brick. The 2nd floor is made of wood material (Figure 3b). But some of shop houses walls with plaster masonry, 1st floor or 2nd floor. Wall color consists of white, beige, green, yellow and blue.

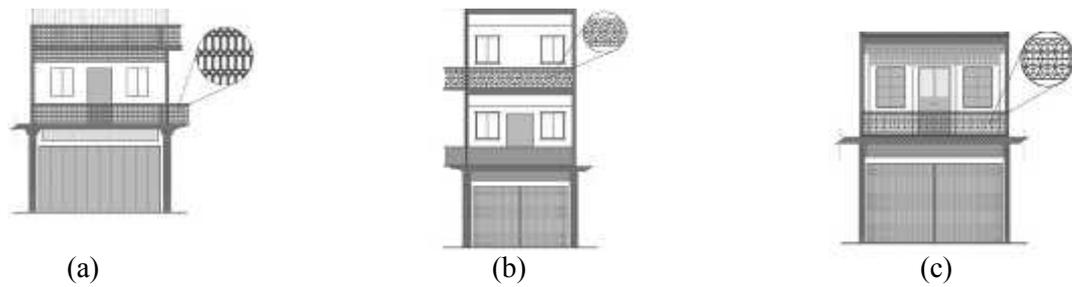


Figure 4. Balustrade of various geometry patterns

When compared to the form of old Chinese shop houses in several places, the old shop houses in the Merdeka street corridor use balconies. Balustrades on balconies have geometric patterns (Figure 4a-c). This pattern consists of square, rectangle, and circle. For details of the balustrade pattern can be seen in Figure 5. Figure 5d shows that there are also iron materials on balustrade ornaments.

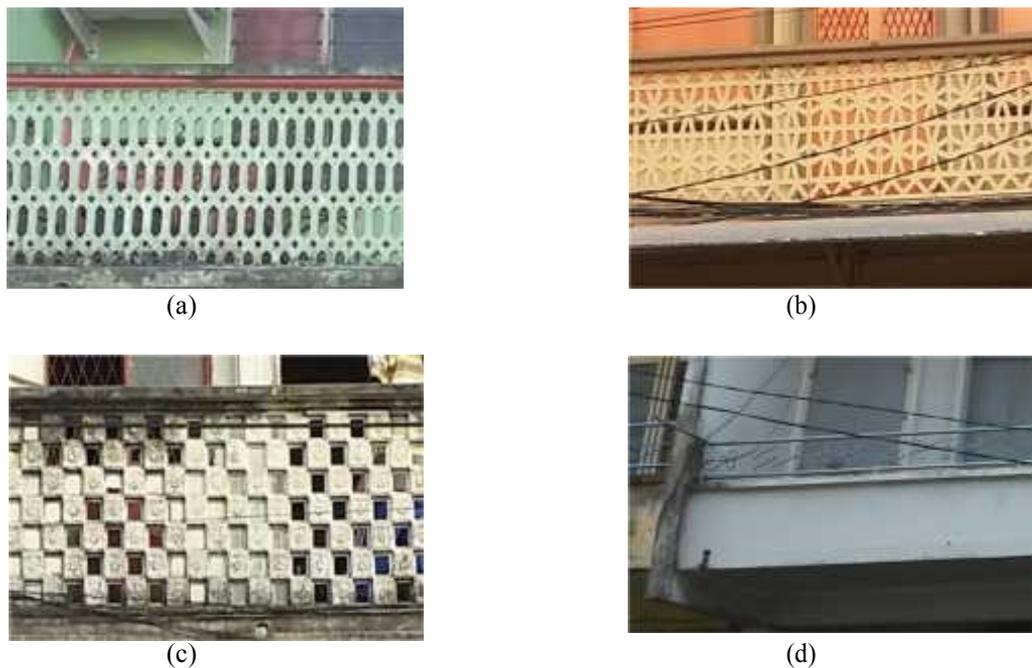


Figure 5. Balustrade ornaments consist of various geometry patterns

In addition to balustrade ornaments, it can also be found on air vents, both on the 1st and 2nd floors. Ornament patterns in the form of geometry can be seen in Figure 6.

Characteristics of the building facade that viewed from the composition of the building (Figure 7) are:

- Proportion. The proportion of the distance between the door elements to the left and right windows is the same. Height per floor is around 3.5 meters to 4 meters.
- Symmetry. Building symmetry by sharing the same facade elements between right and left.
- Rhythm. There is a repetition of shapes on the opening and column elements. Repetition of forms is also found in elements such as balustrade and air ventilation.
- Hierarchy. Seen on the door elements of the window in the same shape and different sizes.

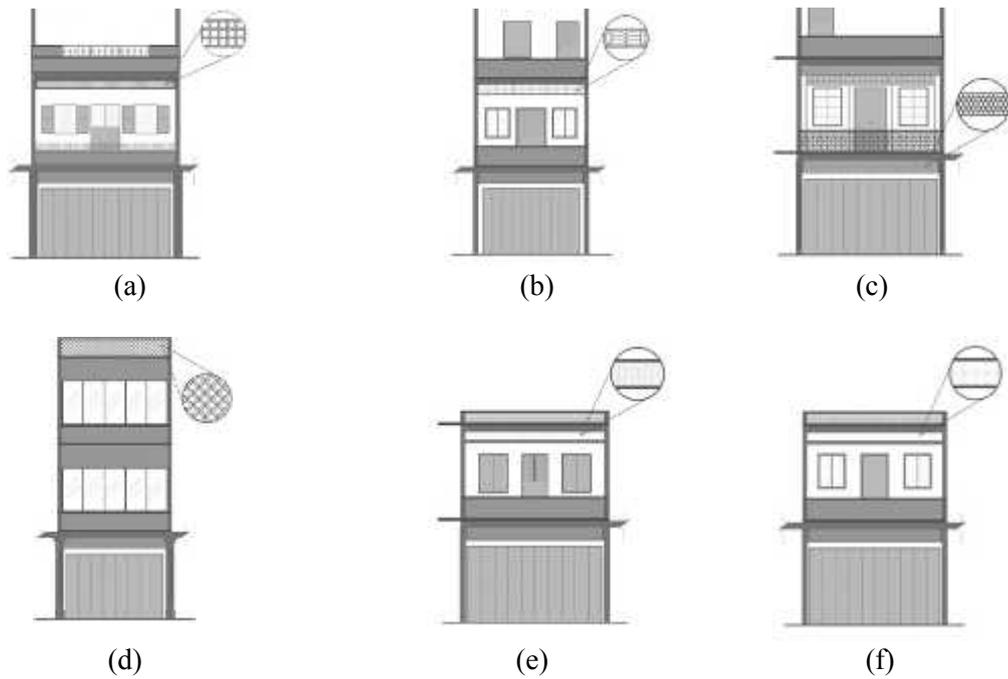


Figure 6. Various types of air ventilation ornaments on the first floor

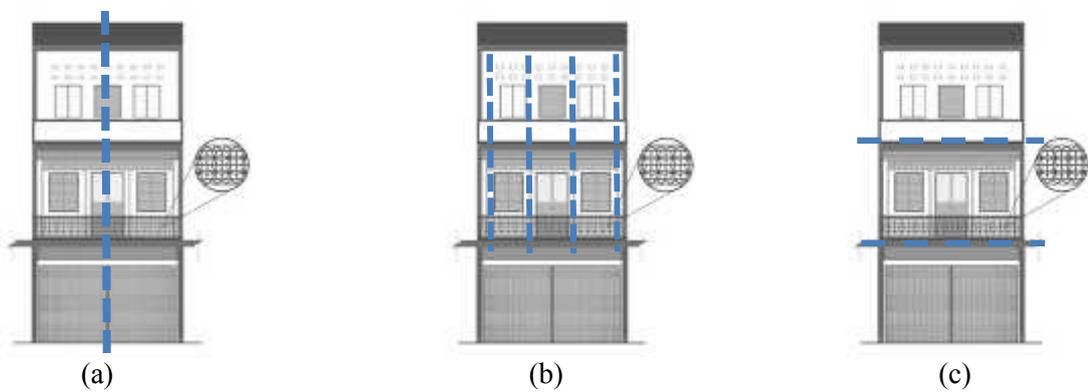


Figure 7. Building composition: symmetry, rhythm, and proportion

Some types of old shop building profiles in the study area are almost have balconies that function as sun shading. The position of the balcony on the 2nd floor makes the building look more forward when compared to the 1st floor. There is a truss in the shop building. Some shop buildings also have columns on the 1st floor as vertical lines under the balcony. The shape of the column consists of a rectangle with brick exposed and round type with concrete material.

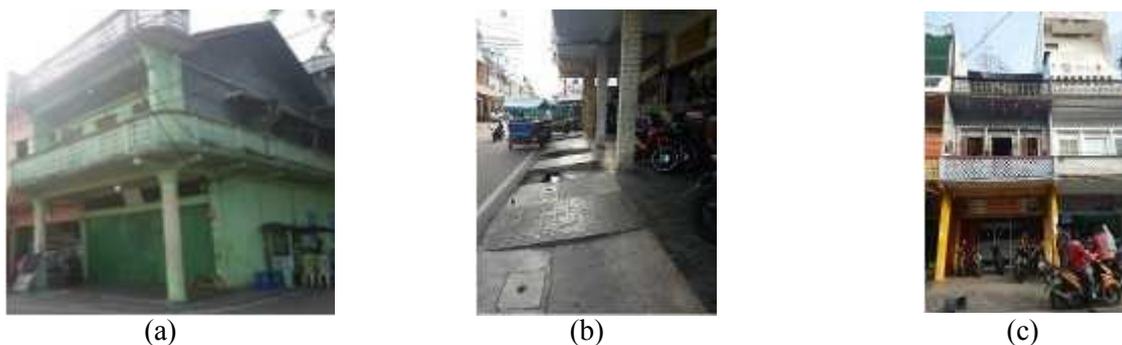


Figure 8. Type of building profile consists of (a) building back and forth, (b) column form, and (c) balcony as sun shading

Overall, the old shop houses in Selatpanjang area, especially Jalan Merdeka, Jalan Ahmad Yani and Jalan Imam Bonjol corridors have the following characteristics: simple and clean façade design, using zinc materials gable, reinforced concrete construction, no ornamentation, wood on doors and windows, simple geometry decoration, air ventilation section in façade, balcony.

The influence of colonial architecture can be seen in the adaptation of balustrade iron material and brick combination. In addition, local architectural adaptation can be seen in ventilation air holes and cantilever roofs.

5. Conclusion

Jalan Merdeka corridor is a trading corridor in which it has Chinese architecture characteristics. Some factors that influence corridor characteristic are architectural building style. There are several building changes, façade elements, addition floor number, and new building. Building façade design criteria refers to characteristics of building façade elements, composition, and profiles. It consists of Chinese architecture, colonial architecture style, and local architecture style.

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