Architecture 3 3rd Formative Task

Different Generations Perspectives of Surabaya’s Architecture

Results of survey

Elder Respondents

We interviewed Erick’s 70 year old grandpa, Judy Woentono, and Vinny’s 82 year old grandma, Kartika, on the 10th of February 2013.

In their youth they both went to food places located along the streets where they live. They worked at school. They lived and spent their days at home. In the past there were not as many places to go as there are now. The bicycle was the most common form of transportation in the past.

Some places the respondents remember from their youth still exist. Grandma Kartika mentioned that there is this building called the “Balai Sahabat,” which is still there. It is located in Jl. Genteng Kali. She said that this place is still used for gathering and performances like dancing and singing.

They both lived in the Dutch-styled homes:

* windows were colorful and has wooden frames
* door were made out of wood, Dutch style,
* ceilings were high,
* furniture was old style and made out of wood with decorations made of wood,
* statue were made *taring gajah* which is the elephant tusks,
* lamp were hanged, ball shaped. This is the Dutch style,
* the roof color was red and it was made out of cement,
* there are even Dutch styled curtains.

Both grandparents actually don’t really miss those places because there are many modern buildings that they can go to now. They don’t react negatively to these new buildings but don’t like it if the old buildings are now destroyed.

The older generation, like them, strongly agree that the older buildings in Surabaya should be preserved because the legacy will kept for the next generations. It is very important because these buildings are the evidence of the Surabaya’s history.

Adult Respondents

Many of the adults go to all types of places, because we live in modern times. For entertainment some went to the cinema or fishing. For recreation there are not so many things for them to do. Some stayed at home, went swimming or went shopping at the Siola. Only one of them went to zoo.

There were various foods mentioned. There are many things the respondents like to eat like Soto, fish and other dishes. They go to eat along the street and restaurants. Meeting with family was mostly done at home. They preferred to have big occasions, such as wedding and big family gathering, in a restaurant.

The respondents already use more modern transportation. Some even have cars already. In a previous era a becak would have been used.

Some of these buildings that the adults went when they were young, like the Siola, still exist. Some buildings have been changed into malls and some are the same and some are already gone. Some respondents said that certain buildings don’t exist now because in the past the company who owned the building got bankrupt so no one cares about the building or it was bought by a new investor.

Some of Surabaya’s buildings still exist because the government preserved them. So many people still go there. Some of the citizens miss the buildings in the past and looked at the pictures of them. They like to tell her kids about historical places in the past and visit buildings that still exist. Some don’t really miss old buildings because that now’s building is much better than before.

These are the details of architecture of buildings in the past :

* Windows were made out of wood, filled with mosaic and divided into four.
* Doors were made out of pale color wood.
* Ceilings were filled with ornaments and relief. They were very high in the Dutch style, the color was white and they were made out of eternity.
* The furniture was heavy, looked antique, was simple, was leather and was made out of wood.
* The decoration was old fashioned. The colors fade. The lamps were yellow colored and dominant.
* The bulbs were an old fashioned shape and a pulling lever was used to turn the bulb off and on.
* Antique roofs are triangular shaped, high and dark red color.

All of the respondent agreed that their generation needs to care about Surabaya’s historical architecture. Some of them said that it is something to remind us about the past. It should be preserved because it is evidence Surabaya’s history. Remembering the past and knowing about the history of where we live and where we come from is deeply valuable.

Young Generation

Most of the younger generation know some older buildings that are well preserved such as Kya-Kya, Hotel Majapahit, Balai Pemuda and Grahadi. All of them think that Surabaya’s old architecture buildings are good because they have historical meaning behind them and are our city’s landmarks.

All of the respondents appreciated Surabaya’s old architecture. Only one respondent expressed disappointment because she thinks that some buildings are not well preserved.

The respondents think that Hotel Majapahit and House of Sampoerna are the most well preserved buildings because we still can see the old architecture design of the building.

They all think that young generations should care for the older buildings so that in the future there are still the old buildings for people to enjoy. One respondent didn’t agree. She thought that old buildings could be demolished because modern buildings are more important.

Some said that the old buildings are important for our country’s cultural heritage. They think the possible ways to preserve old buildings are by repainting, renovating, making books and educating others about it.

Similarities between Adult and Elder

Both generations miss the old buildings and some of them look at the old pictures to remind them of the buildings. Both say that some buildings are still well-preserved and they can still see the old architecture designs. They agree that the buildings should be preserved because those old buildings have history and values.

Similarities between Young and Elder

-none other similarities-

Similarities between Adult and Young

Both generations don’t really comprehend the history and value well because they didn’t live in the era in which the old buildings were important

Similarities between all generations

All generations care about Surabaya’s architecture and think that the architecture should be preserved. The heritage and history of the city is important. They all agree that old buildings should not be demolished. They all agree to preserve historical architecture in Surabaya.

Conclusion

Based on the survey people don’t really go to old places, like the House of Sampoerna, Wismilak and Hotel Majapahit, anymore. Even the younger generation think modern buildings, such as the mall, restaurants, theme parks and cafés, are much better to go to.

However, they agree that we must preserve historical buildings because they know their importance to the city’s identity. Many people say that the reason why they don’t go to or appreciate these places is because they are not well-preserved or and there is no proper information there about the history.

People expect Surabaya’s cultural buildings to be the same like the ones in other countries, such as the Coliseum in Rome and the Eifel tower in France. Going to other countries’ historical places is fun because they are very well-preserved and have become a global tour destination.