

**VISUAL QUALITIES OF DARMO HERITAGE STREET CORRIDOR IN SURABAYA,
INDONESIA**

Muhammad Alfian R. Saputra

*Graduate Student, Majoring Urban Design,
Department of Architecture, Sepuluh Nopember Institute of Technology,
Surabaya, Indonesia*
alfian.mars@gmail.com

Endang T. S. Darjosanjoto

*Professor in Architectural and Urban Morphology,
Department of Architecture, Sepuluh Nopember Institute of Technology,
Surabaya, Indonesia*
endar@arch.its.ac.id

Josef Prijotomo

*Professor in Critic and Theoretical Architecture,
Department of Architecture, Sepuluh Nopember Institute of Technology,
Surabaya, Indonesia*
cepitulas@arch.its.ac.id

Abstract

In modern times, the original state of Darmo street corridor in Surabaya is losing focus as more and more progressive development occur and people increasingly using vehicles to navigate across the city district rather than being pedestrians and walk to their destinations just like the past times. The occurred phenomenon: there are visual contrasts between original dutch-colonial buildings and its environment, to the refurbished buildings in the form of dimension and proportion of building components that viewed by observer. Thus a study is needed to identify Darmo condition as one of the Surabaya's historical site to find out what kind of visual qualities potential possessed by the heritage buildings forms and its surroundings. Results revealed that there is a strong connection between good visual qualities of heritage buildings and proper visibility towards observer. While pedestrian realm should be able to provide support for the existing visual qualities.

Key Words – City corridor, Heritage, Visual

1. INTRODUCTION

Surabaya as one of the former Dutch colonial city in Indonesia have a distinct characteristic when associated with the city's role as a melting pot of many civilization and cultures of the past or present inhabitant. Furthermore, Surabaya is known as 'City of Heroes' and this identity came from the city's role as a medium: as significance reminder of certain historical periods. Therefore, many Dutch-Hindies heritage buildings and structures are found on several areas of Surabaya. The municipality already established some of those areas as heritage sites to preserve the historical objects such as Darmo street, with many of the key buildings already declared as heritage conservation buildings.

Along with the shift of historical periods, there are also alteration of urban forms because of main factors such as socio-cultural, city ordinance, building technology or economy factor. Sometimes these factors caused buildings (old nor new one) to change their landuse. This change of building function often comes with new appearance of building facade and its surrounding: namely changing the order of facade components or the overall form, which doesn't fit with the existing urban pattern where the building is located (Habraken, 1994). New appearance of buildings found in Darmo corridor is caused by personal preferences of land owner, requirement of certain comercial franchise trademark, the need of distinct and different building form, building with new special use, etc.

In turn, recent alteration of building facade and its surrounding will affect the change of overall urban form and order, in this case comprise of entire Darmo corridor. The Darmo street is by default parts of Darmo Heritage Residential Site, consist of many building dated back to 1920s as the southward expansion of Surabaya city for the european colonist (Handinoto, 1996 and Sumalyo, 1993). The visual qualities possessed by each colonial buildings need to be fully exhibited to the passing observers (Nasar, 1994) in honor of their status as part of Darmo Heritage Site. Which in turn each prominent buildings eventually will need good visibility. Therefore the perimeter component of building such as wall or fences need to have a good design in accordance with buidling facade, and also provides good transparency so the observer will be able to fully capture the visual qualities. These are part of urban conservation efforts that should be applied in historical district (Cohen, 2000; Feilden, 1979; and Verneires et al, 2012)

2. METHOD

The chosen research method is descriptive qualitative, which describe the natural setting of Darmo corridor (Darjosanjoto, 2012 and Nasution, 1996). The data are acquired by linear side view method with the observer taking photos directly opposite of each side of corridor. The data is presented by tables and index cards, analyzed with synchronic reading technique. Darmo corridor is divided by 3 zones of each side to facilitate more distinct characteristic finding in term of visual qualities and internal condition in Darmo.

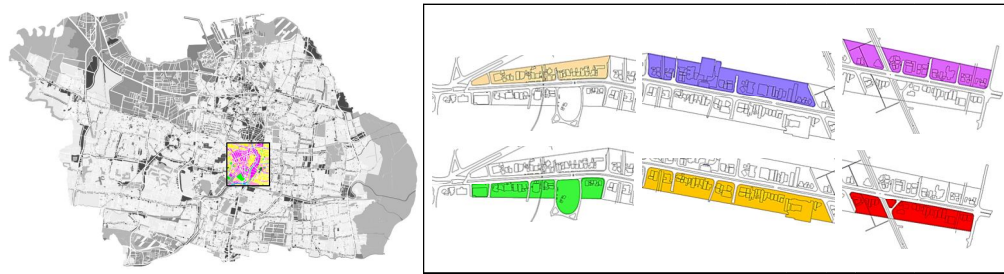


Figure 1. Location of Darmo street corridor in Surabaya and the research zoning

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

To establish the internal condition of each zone, the prominent building facade and its pedestrian realm will be analyzed with criterias defined by aesthetic theory of urban design which consist of unity, proportion, scale, harmony, balance and symetry, rythm, and contrast (Moughtin, 1999).



Figure 2. Streetscape of entire zone 1 (top-left on figure 1) of Darmo corridor which shows the internal condition

It is revealed that the building components which capable to bind and provide good visual continuity for Darmo corridor are the roof shape (influence the building outline) and the canopies

with bovenlicht (influencing the scale of building facade and fascia). Other aspects that typically found on colonial heritage buildings are also provide good visual qualities and sense of coherence. Meanwhile, to determine the appropriate urban form to be applied on Darmo corridor, 22 prominent buildings with distinct facade characteristics are declared as reference and dicussed with following index cards:

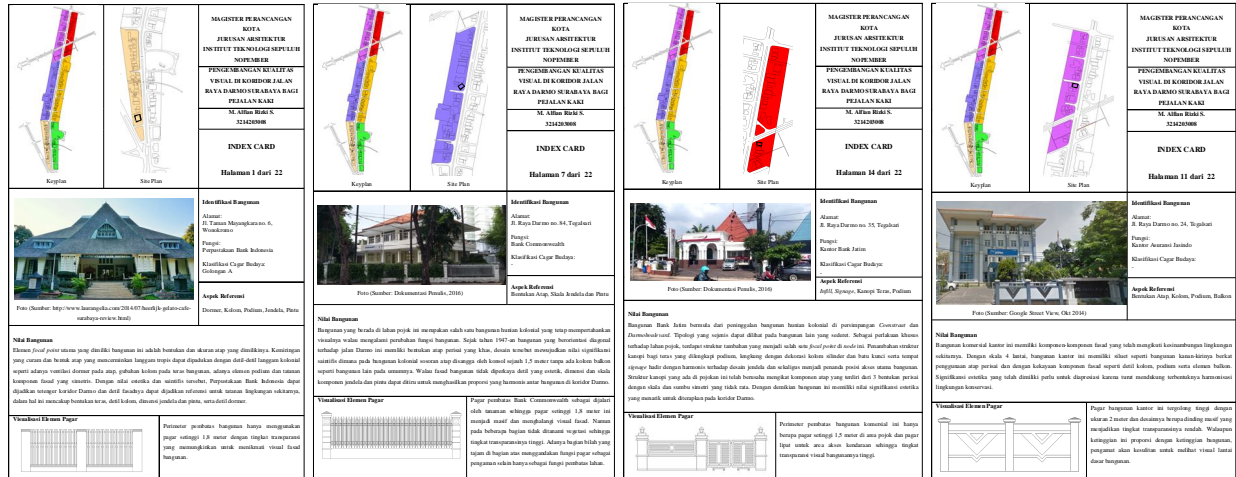


Figure 3. Samples of index card describing values of each prominent buildings

Visual qualities acquired by observer should need good amount of transparency of fences, it is matched with one of main aspect for good pedestrian-oriented city design stated by Ewing (2013) in which pedestrian should always have information about object and activities located beyond the site boundaries. Surabaya city municipality also stated that massive and solid fences are becoming an issue for Darmo street corridor. Therefore each index card also give evaluation for the degree of transparency provided by the building fence.

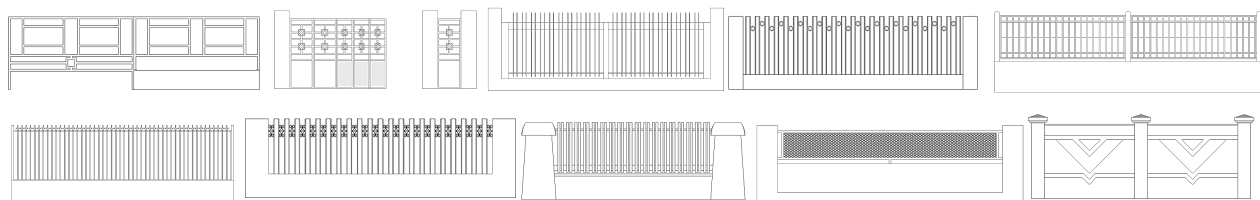


Figure 4. Variety of fences with high transparency to low transparency found in Darmo

4. CONCLUSION

This research found that there are different states of visual qualities generated by the buildings and the pedestrian realms. Majority of building that shows visual coherence are consist of colonial

residential buildings and building that declared as heritage buildings. Only few of the new buildings or infill buildings that follow the urban pattern of Darmo in regards of the colonial-facade order and form. Buildings with commercial-use are using high transparency or temporary fence in favor of accessibility thus providing clear view of the building, whereas residential building tend to use massive wall and fence with low transparency in favor of security.

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