

Neoclassical Architecture as a Style Influenced by Local Content and Its Role in Education

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ABSTRACT

This article describes the development of Neoclassical architecture that was dominant in Europe and spread to Indonesia. Besides that, it also explains its existence as a style that is influenced by local content in the history of national development. The development of architecture in Europe, which was a pioneer in Greek and Roman architecture, had a strong influence on the development of architecture in the following centuries. Taking, mixing, and matching to present the image of a classic building makes Greek and Roman architecture survive even with different forms. The periodization of architecture in line with the course of human history reached its peak in the 18th and 19th centuries by presenting classical elements in distinct forms. This period is called Neoclassical, which means that classical elements are still used to give the impression that this building has links with Greek and Roman architecture. However, the use of elements only as decoration and no longer has a meaning as part of the previous classical architecture. From this background, it can be seen that the use of classical elements still dominates and influences the development of world architecture, including Indonesia. With a descriptive qualitative method, the study was conducted by looking at the development of Neoclassical architecture that influenced the development of architecture in Indonesia, especially the city of Medan. The results obtained from the classical architectural movement did not only penetrate Europe and America but also spread to the Asian continent. This adds to historical learning that the Neoclassical movement is part of the development of architecture in Indonesia.

Keywords: Neoclassic, History, Local Content, Medan City.

1. INTRODUCTION

Various events that occur in the hemisphere have an influence on the course of history in a place. History records journey is in line with the journey of architecture that gives identity to the era or era of the appearance and figure of the building. The development of European architecture, which was colored by Greek and Roman architecture, influenced further architectural developments. For example, by Zantine, Carolingian, Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque, and Rococo architecture are still seen using decorative elements from Greek and Roman architecture referred to as Classical Architecture [1].

The development of classical architecture reached its peak when classical elements in the form of column decorations and others were taken and designed with other declarations to maintain a classic feel. The era is

called Neoclassical people who see the building invites to reminisce into the classical era with the figure of a building full of decorations that refers to classical architecture [1]. This era is the era after the Renaissance (revival era) in Europe at that time. Due to the war and many damaged cities, Europe rose again by rebuilding their area and rearranging their cities at that time. After arisen and developed, it accompanies by the emergence of the bourgeoisie had intense capital.

This situation led to many buildings with classical forms being built and owned by the bourgeoisie. They want to reminisce about the former glory of the classics. It is the factor that led to the emergence of the Neoclassical era. The picture below shows that classic elements became the primary choice of significant buildings at that time. The opera building designed by the Architect Charles Garnier locates in Paris, France featuring Neoclassic style (Fig 1).



Figure 1. Opera de Paris (1861–1875)

Source: <https://www.culturalheritageonline.com>

Indonesia is one of the Dutch colony countries and receives many cultural influences which are consciously or not reflected in its architecture. The colonialization lasted for 3.5 centuries preceded by a trading company called VOC (Verenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie), which initially wanted to trade and then control the spice trade which was needed by European society at that time [2]. In 1799 this company went bankrupt and was taken over by the Dutch government and automatically formed a colony of the area controlled by the VOC. With colonialism in Indonesia, penetration of culture and architecture is commonplace, and this Neoclassical influence gradually spread to the Asian region, including Indonesia.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The Neoclassical Architecture development is an architectural development that has colored the growth of big cities in Indonesia, including the city of Medan. It has an impact on the widespread use of this style in primary cities of the world. Using a historical approach to see its development as a whole because Neoclassical influences provide a contrasting color to the emergence of the world's modern architectural movement

The emphasis in writing this article is on extracting knowledge about the common thread of Neoclassical Architecture that developed in Europe with the development of architecture in Indonesia. Several objects of study become a place to prove the Neoclassical influence on the shape and form of its architecture. It is a witness to the history of colonialism in Indonesia in the past.

At first, the Dutch came to the archipelago (Indonesia) for trading purposes, especially spices which were the prima donna at that time in Europe but their interests changed and controlled one area with convinced politics to make this area a colony [3]. Gradually the Dutch had overseen areas in the archipelago. Then they established a government called the Dutch East Indies and made Batavia (now Jakarta) its capital. Other regions

in the archipelago must follow the line of government established by the Dutch. Based on article 1 RR 1854, the implementation of the Dutch East Indies government leads by the Governor-General and on behalf of the King. Everything in the Dutch East Indies was obliged to recognize the Governor-General as the representative of the King [4] since the Dutch have had complete control over their colonies.

With this full power, the Dutch began to develop regions with a decentralized system [4]. One of the Dutch heritages that are still intact is the buildings established during the reign of the Dutch East Indies government [5-6]. These buildings aim to expand their power while carrying out government and business administration in the colonies [7]. In general, the architecture of the Dutch East Indies period was called Colonial Architecture which refers to Neoclassical and Modern architecture.

The early development of colonial architecture in Indonesia began with the development of cities in the Dutch East Indies. Batavia as the center of the Dutch East Indies government in Indonesia was developed like cities in Europe. Then followed by other big cities on the island of Java such as Bandung, Semarang, Yogyakarta, and Surabaya. The development of colonialism supports by the opening of plantations throughout the Dutch East Indies. Plantations on the island of Java began to open in the middle of the 19th century under the Cultivation System. This system made farmers much disadvantaged the location of plantations expanded [8].

The Dutch East Indies government established various buildings and facilities for its colony lands. One of them is the plantation office, rail transportation, and others. The architecture that developed originally terms Indische Architecture or Indisch Architecture. This architecture developed before the wave of the turbulent modernization era. Indies architectural style here means a mixture of local or local architectural styles of European architectural styles [9].

This architecture developed starting from the outskirts of Batavia and over time spread to other areas of the city [10]. Its development also colored the architecture development in other big cities in the Dutch East Indies, such as Surabaya, Medan, Bandung, and others. The emergence of this style is in line with the spread of a culture called "Indische Culture". This term uses to distinguish between the emerging culture and the local culture of the entry of immigrant culture through the power of the colonial government. This culture is unique because it is a mixture of European, Local, and Chinese cultures.

Indische architecture began to develop with more diverse styles. The architecture, which dominates by traditional architecture, begins to be heavily influenced by European architecture. This Indisch architectural style reached its peak with the arrival of the 36th Governor-

General of the Dutch East Indies named Herman Willem Daendels (1808-1811). Although in a short time, Daendels brought many changes to the architecture development by bringing Neoclassical influences in Europe to the Dutch East Indies. This influence is called "Empire Style" in general. This Empire Style refers to the architecture that developed in France and the Neoclassical style [11]. In other words, Neoclassical influences entered and were brought directly by Dutch architects to Indonesia.

This style entered the Dutch East Indies and adapted to the local climate and building materials. This style is not only in residential houses but has spread to government buildings and other public buildings that call "Indische Empire Style". The architectural style brought by Daendels is still used by other buildings until the emergence of the influence of modernization in the 19th and 20th centuries [12-13]. One example of a building initiated by Daendels is the State Finance Building (Gouvernement Hotel) on March 7, 1809.

This building serves as an office and residence for Daendels. The building with a lion statue in its front yard was designed by J.C. Schulze and construction continued during the Governor-General Du Bus in 1826 and was completed in 1828. It consists of 3 (three) floors, and there is the main building and an additional building. This magnificent building now occupies by the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Indonesia.

Approaching modern times, the term Indic architecture is rarely used. The term architecture that widely uses refers to the Neoclassical architectural style, and Nieuwe Bouwen (new buildings) have sprung up to color big cities in Indonesia [14]. One of the buildings that use this Neoclassical style is the Bank Indonesia Building, Jakarta. It now functions as a museum and tourist spot (Fig. 2).

The building that functions as the De Javasche Bank Head Office in Batavia, has a different look. Designed by the Bureau of Architects Eduard Cuypers and Hulswit in 1909, several buildings for this bank outside Batavia design by the same architectural bureau. The number of emerging buildings colored the development of big cities throughout the Dutch East Indies.



Figure 2. Bank Indonesia Museum Jakarta

(Source: sejarahlengkap.com)

3. METHOD

The method used in this study is a descriptive qualitative method [15]. This method looks at field evidence in the form of facts on the influence of Neoclassical and Modern. The data in the field combines with secondary data in the form of pictures, photographs from articles, and books show this influence on the development of architecture in Medan.

The first stage of this research is data collection, namely survey preparation and going into the field of primary and secondary data. Collect data by making a list of what data needs in the research. The next stage compiles the existing data by categorizing or marking the data with convinced codes to distinguish them from one another. After the data is collected and references are also collected, the next step is the data analysis stage which is carried out by prioritizing historical aspects in the embodiment of the building. The next stage is drawing conclusions and suggestions as the final part of the research process.

Overall, this research focuses on Neoclassical buildings as research objects and local content as part of the learning process in the field of cultural education [16]. Furthermore, the next focused on the development of Modern Architecture after the Neoclassical Architecture period. These two architectural styles analyze with the object of the study of buildings in Medan as evidence of the influence brought by the Dutch in coloring the development of architecture in Indonesia.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The city of Medan is the largest city of Sumatra, Indonesia, and has a population of +/- 2.5 million people. Since the Dutch colonial, this city period knows as a business city and visited by many traders from abroad such as England, America, and others. The colonialism that was so strong on the island of Java of the Dutch facing several local wars there did not look the same in the city of Medan and its surroundings.

The city chooses by the Sultan of Deli to move its capital from Labuhan Deli to Medan in 1879 and followed by the transfer of the Residency of East Sumatra from Bengkalis Riau to Medan in 1887. Since this business and trade city has become a city with a government that has a mayor and is directly responsible to the Governor-General in Batavia. The situation made the city livelier and began to develop. The opening of tobacco and other plantations has made this city the target of plantation companies. One of them is Handles Vereeniging Amsterdam (HVA) which locate on Suprpto street, Medan, and is now the plantation office of PTPN IV (Fig 3). This building was built and designed

by Dutch architect Hulswit & Cuypers and has a Neoclassical style.



Figure 3. Handles Vereeniging Amsterdam (HVA)

Another building that has a Neoclassical style in Medan is the Deli Proefstation which was built in 1913-1916. With the opening of plantations around the city of Medan, an independent research institution need to research the plantation crops of this area. The establishment of this institution was initiated by the Deli Maatschappij company as the largest company at that time. The Neoclassical style sees in the facade of the building uses a lot of classic elements. This office locates in the North Sumatra Governor's Office complex on Diponegoro Street, Medan (Fig 4).



Figure 4. Deli Proefstation

Furthermore, Neoclassical buildings also see in the residences and offices of the Residents of East Sumatra following the move of the capital of the Residency of East Sumatra in 1887. The building displays a classic impression on the facade of the building, and the roof is in the Renaissance style. This combination is evidence of eclecticism in the building by taking prime elements with the Renaissance and mixing and matching them to produce a different look (Fig 5). The building is located on Imam Bonjol street and is now functioning as a Foreign Bank Office.

From the object of the study, it can see be that the influence of the Indisch Empire Style can be seen in these buildings. The rise of the Neoclassical style as a style that represents the triumph of Western Architecture implements as part of the Indisch Empire Style [9].



Figure 5. East Sumatra Residential House and Office

It can see be from the use of classical elements as the primary display or the main facade that shows columns with the characteristics of European Classical Architecture. The use of classical columns also influences Eclecticism as an answer to the desire to repeat the glory of Western Architecture. Eclecticism here means a business or activity that combines certain styles into a definite harmonious style. It is seen in Neoclassical Architecture.

With these situations and circumstances, the development of buildings in Medan in the 19th-century was colored by the Neoclassical influence that entered through colonialism and became the color of the development of Medan at that time. Some things that prove the Neoclassical influence are:

a. Symmetrical Building

Symmetrical buildings are the hallmark of Neoclassical Architecture. The characteristic comes from the architect who lived during the Renaissance, the Italian architect Andrea Palladio (1508-1580). This Neoclassical building tends to be symmetrical to show the grandeur of Greek and Roman architecture. An example is La Madeleine in Paris, France (Fig 6).



Figure 6. La Madeleine di Paris

(Source: lxrobba.wordpress.com)

b. Classic Column

The use of Greek and Roman columns is mandatory in Neoclassical buildings, the Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian that orders from Greece, the Tuscan, and Composite from Rome. These five orders often use as column elements in Neoclassical buildings as an effort to commemorate the former glory of the classics. For example, the boundary wall building in Berlin, Germany, named Brandenburg (Fig 7).



Figure 7. Brandenburg, Berlin

(Source: id.wikipedia.org)

c. Classical Elements of the Facade

The building with an elongated size also uses classical elements on its facade, especially the front view along the building's facade. It indicates that classic bases are significant and must be present in the building envelope, especially the facade, for example, the Merdeka Palace, Jakarta, Indonesia (Fig 8).



Figure 8. Merdeka Palace, Jakarta

(Source: www.suara.com)

5. CONCLUSION

Neoclassical architecture has a place in the hearts of the bourgeoisie in the 18th and 19th centuries. Its brilliance in the classical period wants to repeat while showing capital power from European businessmen at that time. It makes this architecture have a place and become a style that colors the world's big cities both in Europe and America. Its role in education can be seen from the existence of this style until now and is generally used by important buildings. This proves that knowledge of the history of architecture is needed in education.

The appearance of this classic-like city calls Neoclassical because its appearance is an attempt to create a new image on the building, so it is no longer the same as the ancient Greek and Roman classics in its application. But this architectural wave was not only in Europe and America. Its influence began to penetrate the Asian region along with colonialism by European nations at that time. Medan is one of the cities a derivative government from the Dutch East Indies, and influence by the city development policy by the regulations applied by the central government of the Dutch East Indies. The Neoclassical style is one of the architectural styles in the city of Medan. It proves that there is a direct influence on the development of western architecture in Indonesia.

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