

CONCRETE ATTRIBUTE OF CULTURE ON KAYIK PUBLIC PLACE: WHEN SIMPLICITY RULES

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the attribute of concrete culture which leads to place making process of kayak. As one of traditions open public places which are still used by rural people in Pagar Alam District in South Sumatra kayak offers multifunctional water based necessities. Physical examination by direct observation on 24 units of kayak at kampung Muara Sindang, Pagar Alam Municipality, South Sumatrawere carried out in April and Mey 2010. The Study suggest that kayak built by simplicity, using stream water from mountain which irrigated to the kayak sites, built by cheap and used material make it easy to be built, effortless maintenance and create the emotional bonding to users. The most material used for raw materials such as bamboo, wood, used zinc, stone and used plastics are substances that available in huge in surrounding the village thus it make local people easily find and use it as building material. By this phenomenon, it can be said that it physical material of culture contribute place making process of kayak.

KEY WORDS : Place making, concrete attribute, culture, materials.

1. INTRODUCTION

According to Amos Rapoport (1969), environmentshaped and influenced by primary factors and modifying factors. While primary factors use to symbolized by intangible attribute of culture, modifying factors are reflected by the concrete attribute such as climatic condition (the physical environment which makes something impossible and encourages others) and by method of construction, material available, and the technology (the tools for achieving the desired environment). This paper, thus aimed to examines how kayak as an open public place tangibly shaped. *Kayik* is taken from the Indonesian Malay words, 'ke' and 'ayik' which means "going to the place, where water are available to fulfill daily necessities". Kayik built in the pond called *pauk*. The owner of *pauk* use to build the kayak site by help of other residents. One kayak built, people are allowed freely to use the sites. Since the activities in Kayik tend to be centralized, kayak become community gathering places. Such activities like bathing, washing, defecation and fishing entail other

social activities commonly taking place in any urban public spaces such as greeting others, chatting and meeting people, sharing experiences, etc (Afgani and Jusan, 2011). The activities in kayak is completely depend on water. Water source are trench or small river from hilly area, irrigated to the pond then finally channelled to paddy fields (Afgani, Jusan and Ismail, 2012).

The phenomenon of water bases public space is an unique daily activities in remote area in some part of Indonesian rural context. The occurrence still can be seen in Padang Pariaman (Lukito, 2002, Kartikawening, 2001) which called *Tapian Mandi*, in Bali which called *Pancoran* (Contiuou, 2008). Sustainable element of kayak elaborated by Afgani, Jusan and Ismail (2011).

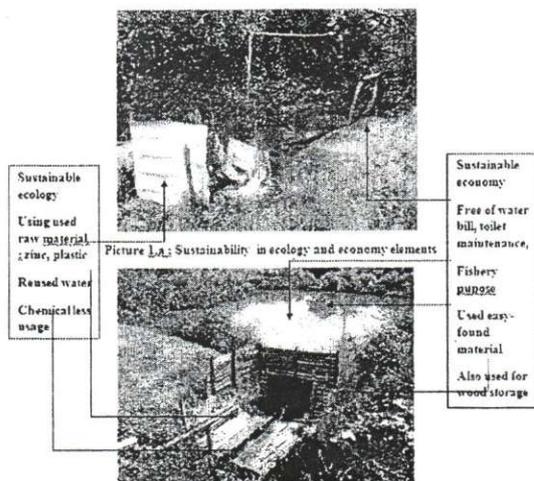


Figure 1. Sustainable elements of kayak.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The field survey was conducted at kampong Muara Sindang, Pagar Alam, Indonesia on April and May 2010. Accompanied by a local people, 24 kayak were physically examined on how it works, how it was built and the materials used.

3. DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

3.1 The materials for kayak

Table 1 illustrates the 24 kayak which used for several function such as purposes of bathing, cleaning, washing, and toilet are made and built by very simple materials include of wood, used zinc, bamboo, guni sacks, stone, and PVC pipe.

Table 1. Materials used for kayak units

Materials of kayak	Function for bathing and washing			
	wall	Floor	Roof	Shower
PVC pipe	-	-	-	6 (25%)
Ruber pipe	-	-	-	5 (20%)
Used zinc	7(28%)	-	2(8%)	-
Used zinc and plastic sack	-	-	-	-
Bamboo only	4(16%)	3(12%)	-	13(52%)
Plastic / sack only	1(4%)	-	-	-
Natural stone	-	-	-	-
Wood	-	17 (68%)	-	-
Cement	-	5 (20%)	-	-
Asbestos	3(12%)	-	-	-

Table 2. Materials used for kayak with function of toilet

Materials of kayak	Function for toilet			
	Floor	Wall	Roof	Disposal waterway
PVC pipe	-	-	-	1(4%)
Ruber pipe	-	-	-	-
Used zink	-	8 (32%)	-	-
Used zink and plastic sack	-	2 (8%)	-	-
Bamboo only	-	3 (12%)	-	17(68%)
Plastic / sack only	-	1 (4%)	-	-
Natural stone	2(8%)	-	-	-
Wood	4(16%)	-	-	-
Cement	3 (12%)	-	-	-
Asbestos	-	1(4%)	-	-

Table of 1 and table 2 explain materials used for kayak sites are cheap and easy materials. It also easy to be found at surrounding of the village. For kayak with toilet function it is found bamboo is the most used for sites. 68 % bamboo used especially for disposal waterway. 12% used for separator between bath space and toilet. Other materials are used for shower also PVC pipe (25%) and also rubber pipe (20%). for kayak with function of bathing and washing (52 % bamboo used for shower, for floor (12%) and wall (16%). Wood also used for 68 % of floor. While only 12 of kayak floor cemented. Materials such us plastic and asbestos very less used. Only 4 % used for wall of kayak. Some picture bellow show how the material used for floor, shower, wall, hunger of clothes and space separator. All the materials mostly can be acquired easily found at village area.

Bamboo

Bamboo is the most used material for kayak used for bathing and washing so do for function of toilet. For kayak with used as toilet, 68 % of disposal waterways use this material and bamboo also used for 52 % for shower. For wood, 68% most of this material used for floor of kayak which built on the pauk pond or pauk side.

Only 20% of kayak for bathing and washing function which cemented and 12 % of toilet floor cemented.

For shower purposes other material such us pvc pipe (25%) and rubber pipe (20%) also

used. Bamboo is the materials easily found and free. Local people only need to go forest and cut bamboo and bring it home.

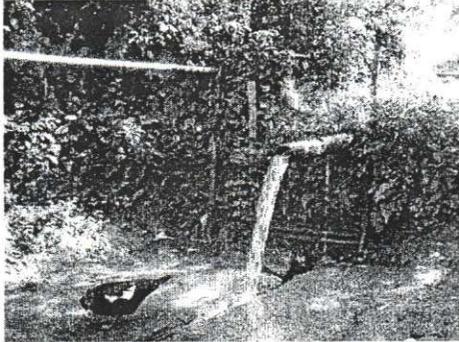


Figure 2.Bamboo Used for Shower and Clothes Hunger

Stones

Not many kayak built used natural stone for sitting site, only 8% found. Compared to other materials such as wood and bamboo, stone is less maintenance and give longer period of time usage.

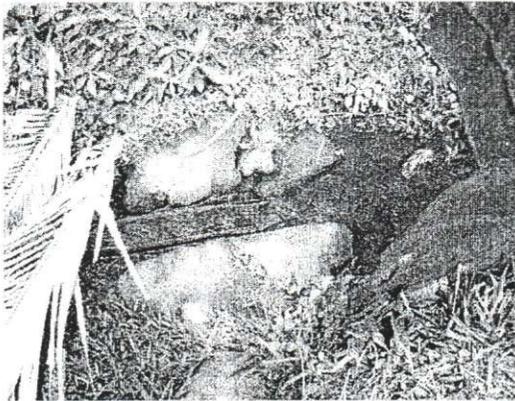


Figure 3. Natural Stone Used for Sitting Area

Used zinc.

Used zinc are found in the study area. Used zinc considered more durable tha bamboo and wood which also used as a wall for kayak.

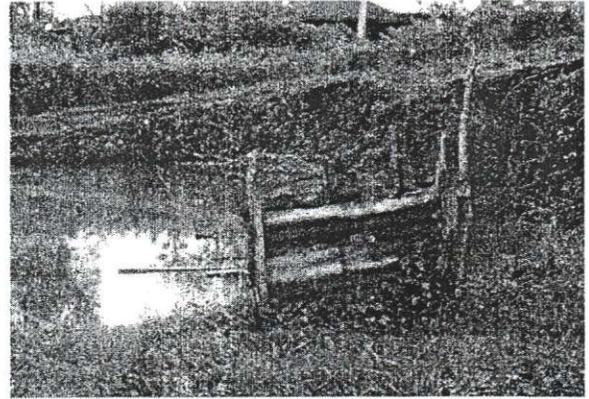


Figure 4. Used zink for wall

Observation found 32 % used zink used for toilet wall.

Wood

Wood used for floor of kayak, offer more function as bath and washing purposes, this kind of kayak attract more users. Compare to bamboo, kayak with floor made by wood will be more preferred. It strength capable to load 2-3 person in one time, also often visited to wash heavy duty clothes.

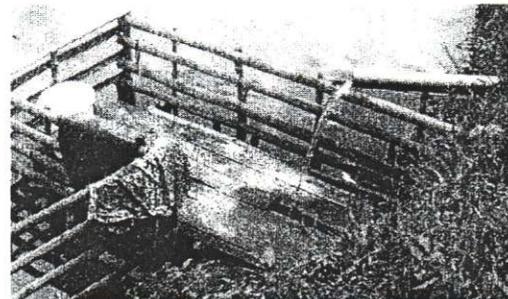


Figure 5.

Cement

Only a few number who able to build a kayak with better quality of material and cemented. During observation only 12 percent kayak built by cement and sand.

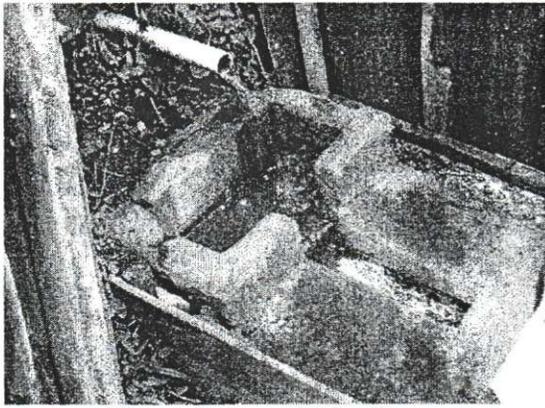


Figure 6. Cemented kayak

This type of kayak offers more sense of security and convenience compared to other. It also reduced the slip possibility for user during rainy season. It also promise more privacy when wall built moderately high.

Plastics

Figure 6 shows kayak which simply built using plastic as it used for cover /wall of kayak. It only prevent the view form bypasser.

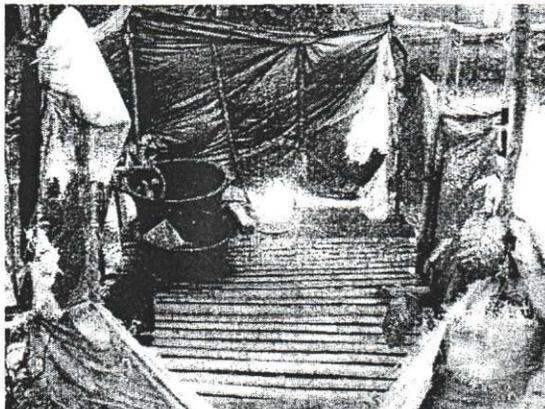


Figure 7. Plastic which used to cover site

Figure 8 show how kayak built by bamboo and use rubber pipe. This kind of kayak is very less visited. The floor which built by bamboo can't be used for group of user. Not either function of clothes washing. Only bath and house utensil activity done here.

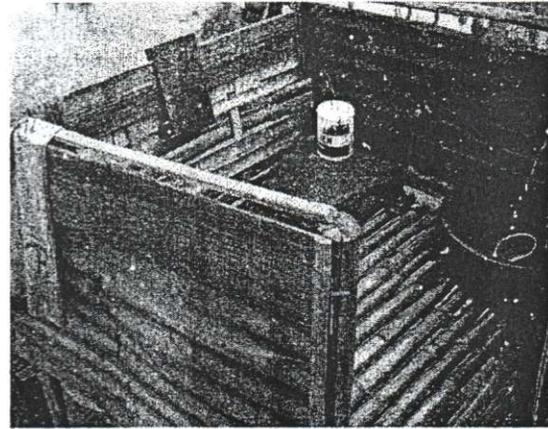


Figure 8. kayak which floor built by bamboo is less visited by women

For category of kayak for its function, the researcher classified categories according to its uses and necessities fulfillment to several class shown in table 3.

Table 3. Categories according to function

Function of kayak	no.	%	Descriptions
For bath only	-		Not found in this category
For bath and washing house utensil	3	12(%)	Very less found in this category. Floor made by bamboo.
For bathing, washing house utensil, and clothes	4	16(%)	Used to found at kayak which built by wood or floor
For bathing, washing house utensil, clothes and also for toilet function	14	56(%)	The most kayak which found at the sites and also has a multifunction necessities fulfillment
For toilet function	3	12(%)	This kayak found with special function, only for toilet, it doesn't visited by group.

Source : Field survey, 2011

Table 3 describes function of kayak found in the study area. From 25 kayak observed and analyzed, we found several phenomena related to kayak function. First, it didn't find a kayak with function only for bath purpose. The multifunction of kayak at least are for bath and house utensil washing. It is due to the built floor material. If floor built by cement or wood it is capable to offer more function such as bathing, and wash both for clothes and

house utensils. These multiple function will attract more users to visit this type of kayak as compared to others which were only used for less function. When women come to kayak, sometime they also bring clothes and house utensil in the same time, kayak which built by bamboo cannot be used for clothes wash. It lead to users to find kayak which its floor built by cement or wood. It due to bamboo floor can't be used to hit and some time punch the heavy clothes to the floor. Also this kayak which floor built by bamboo use to located on water not in the pond side. While multifunction kayak which offer bath, wash and even toilet used to built in side of pond of pauk (56%). It also found kayak which only built for toilet function (12%). Also foundkayak which only has bath and wash purposes as 12 %.

If properly observed, accordingly, the simple design of kayak at study area also offer same function as modern bathroom design. The facilities of bath room, toilet, separator room, hanger, and waterway disposal also offered by kayak.

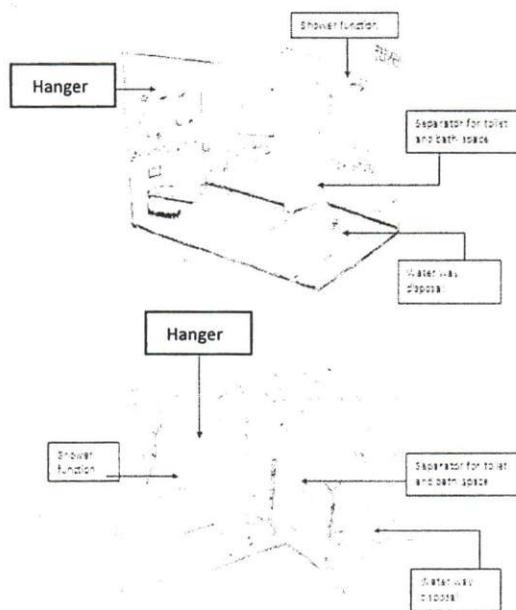


Figure 9. The similar function of kayak to the modern toilet and bathroom

While 150 respondents asked about relation between the availability of easy and cheap material as the factor which generate the

process of place making of kayak, they recognize that availability of cheap and easy-found material contribute to the place making process of kayak. In their responds , 73 % agree, 17 % very agree, and rest 10 % responds with neutral answer.

4. CONCLUSION

The simple material used for kayak enable the process of building a kayak unit seems easy. The field survey suggest that easy materials for kayak building such as stone, used zinc, used plastic, wood and bamboo are substances that can be easily found with effort less way to be make it available in the study area. While bamboo tress planted in surrounding of village, it freely to be taken without any charge. Also wood and natural stone can collected from hilly area of forest nearby. Without involvement of modern technology, build a public place with the availability of easy-found raw materials will contribute to process of place making a public place like kayak. both for toilet and bath purposes.

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