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 kayik. As one of traditions open public places which are still used by rural people in Pagar Alam District in South Sumatra kayik offers multifunctional water based necessities. Physical examination by direct observation on 24 units of kayik at kampung Muara Sindang, Pagar Alam Municipality, South Sumatrawere carried out in April and May 2010. The Study suggest that kayik built by simplicity, using stream water from mountain which irrigated to the kayik 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 kayik.

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

1. INTRODUCTION

According to Amos Rapoport (1969), environments shaped 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 kayik 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 kayik site by help of other residents. One kayik built, people are allowed freely to use the sites. Since the activities in Kayik tend to be centralized, kayik 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 kayik is completely depend on water. Water source are trench or small river from hilly area, irrigated to the pond then finally chanelled 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 kayik elaborated by Afgani, Jusan and Ismail (2011).
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 kayik were physically examined on how it works, how it was built and the materials used.

3. DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS
3.1 The materials for kayik
Table 1 illustrates the 24 kayik 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 kayik units

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Materials of kayik</th>
<th>Function for bathing and washing</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>wall</td>
<td>Floor</td>
<td>Roof</td>
<td>Shower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PVC pipe</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6(25%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruber pipe</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5(20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Used zinc and plastic sack</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bamboo only</td>
<td>4(16%)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>13(52%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic / sack only</td>
<td>1(4%)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural stone</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>17 (68%)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cement</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5 (20%)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asbestos</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table of 1 and table 2 explain materials used for kayik sites are cheap and easy materials. It also easy to be found at surrounding of the village. For kayik 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 kayik 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 kayik floor cemented. Materials such us plastic and asbestos very less used. Only 4 % used for wall of kayik. 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 kayik used for bathing and washing so do for function of toilet. For kayik 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 kayik which built on the pauk pond or pauk side.

Only 20% of kayik 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 kayik 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 than bamboo and wood which also used as a wall for kayik.

Figure 4. Used zinc for wall

Observation found 32% used zinc used for toilet wall.

Wood
Wood used for floor of kayik, offer more function as bath and washing purposes, this kind of kayik attract more users. Compare to bamboo, kayik 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 kayik with better quality of material and cemented. During observation only 12 percent kayik built by cement and sand.
This type of kayik 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 kayik which simply built using plastic as it used for cover /wall of kayik. It only prevent the view form bypasser.

Figure 7. Plastic which used to cover site

Figure 8 show how kayik built by bamboo and use rubber pipe. This kind of kayik 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.

Table 3. Categories according to function

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

Source: Field survey, 2011

Table 3 describes function of kayik found in the study area. From 25 kayik observed and analyzed, we found several phenomena related to kayik function. First, it didn’t find a kayik with function only for bath purpose. The multifunction of kayik at least are for bath and house utensil washing. It is due to the build 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 functions will attract more users to visit this type of kayik as compared to others which were only used for less function. When women come to kayik, sometime they also bring clothes and house utensils in the same time, kayik which built by bamboo cannot be used for clothes wash. It lead to users to find kayik 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 kayik which floor built by bamboo use to located on water not in the pond side. While multifunction kayik which offer bath, wash and even toilet used to built in side of pond of pauk (56%). It also found kayik which only built for toilet function (12%). Also found Kayik which only has bath and wash purposes as 12%.

If properly observed, accordingly, the simple design of kayik 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 kayik.

4. CONCLUSION

The simple material used for kayik enable the process of building a kayik unit seems easy. The field survey suggest that easy materials for kayik 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 trees 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 of public place like kayik, both for toilet and bath purposes.

REFERENCES


