

## Conservation of Cultural Heritage Architecture in the Simpang Lima Area, Bandung

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**ABSTRACT :** One of the oldest roads in the city of Bandung, namely Jalan Asia Afrika, is part of Jalan Raya Pos, where at the eastern end is the Simpang Lima Area. The Simpang Lima area is an important node in the city of Bandung, known as the east gate (Kaca-kaca Wetan). However, in the Simpang Lima area, the existing buildings have been contaminated with various building styles so that currently only a few buildings remain which are included in the cultural heritage category. It is necessary to study the preservation efforts related to architectural forms in the Simpang Lima area of Bandung so that this does not happen in the future more significant changes. The theory that will be used in this study is the theory of the conservation approach and also through the cultural heritage building theory approach. A conservation approach as well as cultural heritage will be carried out to conduct a study of buildings in the Simpang Lima area of Bandung in order to be the first step to maintaining this area as a cultural heritage area and to be maintained in the midst of the development of this area. In this study, it was found that in the Simpang Lima area of Bandung there are only a few cultural heritage buildings that are still sustainable and in general are still in the same condition as when they were built, namely the Pencil Building, the Vigano Building, and a shopping building. Commercial areas in this area can also be developed by taking into account conservation elements, as well as residential areas which can be developed in the future to be more in line with cultural heritage areas so that they can become new tourist areas based on cultural heritage tourism.

**KEYWORDS** - Conservation, cultural heritage architecture.

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### I. INTRODUCTION

**Research Background :** The city of Bandung has grown rapidly since the colonial era, namely the era when the regency capital was moved from Krapyak to a location which is located in the center of the Bandung Regency area, namely what is now known as the town square. This square developed concurrently with the construction of Jalan Raya Pos (*postweg*) by Daendels across the north side of this square. At first, Jalan Raya Pos was 11 kilometers north of Krapyak, the capital of Bandung Regency at that time. Daendels ordered the 6th regent of Bandung at that time, namely RA Wiranatakusumah II (1794-1829) to build a new Bandung capital around the road. Daendels famous saying is "*Zorg, dat als ik terug kom hier een stad is gebouwd*" which means try, when I come back here, a city has been built. Other elements that were built were two pairs of city gates called Kaca-kaca which were built in the western part of the city, precisely in the Andir area, and in the eastern part of the city, namely in the Simpang Lima area. In subsequent developments, the city of Bandung developed rapidly along with the entry of Dutch architects into Indonesia such as CP Schoemaker with a distinctive art deco style building, Maclaine Pont with a modern Dutch Indisch architectural style, F. Albers with an international modern architectural style and others. These buildings were heavily influenced by modern Dutch architectural styles such as the Amsterdam School, De Stijl, Neuwe Bowen, including those from outside the Netherlands such as Frank Lloyd Wright. The poor health conditions in the old city of Batavia prompted Governor General Herman Willem Daendels (1808 - 1811) to move the government and military center to the Weltevreden area or the Gambir area and its surroundings. However, the situation in this area was getting worse until in 1916, Hendrik Freek Tillema proposed to Governor General Johan Paul van Limburg Stirum (1916 – 1921) to move the capital of the Dutch East Indies to a cool mountainous area. Of the several regions that were included in the nominations, the city of Bandung was chosen to set aside the cities of Malang in East Java and Yogyakarta in Central Java. Thus, the city of Bandung in the Dutch colonial era is very interesting to study because it left important architectural historical traces, especially areas passed by postal highways such as the Simpang Lima which was the eastern gate of Bandung City in the past.

**Problem Formulation and Research Objectives :** One of the oldest roads in the city of Bandung, namely Jalan Asia Afrika, is part of Jalan Raya Pos, where at the eastern end is the Simpang Lima Area. The Simpang Lima area is an important node in the city of Bandung, known as the east gate (Kaca-kaca Wetan). The design of the building in the Simpang Lima area has a distinctive character in responding to this east gate node. However, in the Simpang Lima Area, the existing buildings have been contaminated with various building styles so that currently only three buildings remain which are included in the cultural heritage category. By changing the character of the buildings in the Simpang Lima area, their historical traces can be erased. Therefore, a preservation study is needed related to architectural forms so that in the future there will be no more significant changes."What conservation efforts can be made in building the image of the Simpang Lima Bandung area as a cultural heritage area?"

This research has the following objectives:

1. Understand the principles of conservation of negative mass architectural heritage in the Simpang Lima area of Bandung and the aspects behind them, including structuring concepts related to their environment.
2. Finding the architectural peculiarities of cultural heritage buildings in the Simpang Lima area of Bandung through searching for potentials that are relevant and can be developed in the present.

**Excellence and Benefits of Research :** This study will strengthen architectural theory based on architectural preservation in building urban identity. The application of this research can be shown in building architectural design theory that is based on the phenomenon of the preservation process that occurs in conservation areas, especially in the old city area which has undergone a process of development of the surrounding area, such as in Simpang Lima City of Bandung, which has a unique and historical distinctiveness compared to other areas, not only seen from the physical side of the building but also from the point of view of the meaning of the area in relation to the spatial actors. It is hoped that the findings obtained can be used for the development and utilization of architectural arts as a basis for establishing Indonesian urban identity.

1. It is hoped that it can provide insight to practitioners and academics, by reintroducing forms of architectural works that have aesthetic values. This research is expected to provide insight and input to the development of science and technology. It is hoped that the principles used in architectural preservation in old and important areas will be known.
2. It is hoped that it can add insight into conservation knowledge and study its implications which can be used as teaching material for history and architectural theory or as material for further research. Can add to the treasury of data collection as material in subsequent research and development activities for both the government and the world of education.
3. It is expected to support aspects of tourism development and preservation of cultural heritage, and the possibility of developing them in architectural designs in the future.

**Novelty :** Not many studies have been conducted on the preservation of the Simpang Lima Bandung area so this study can be used as a reference. The study in Bandung was more focused on the Chinatown and square areas while in the Simpang Lima area it was still very limited. In the past, Simpang Lima Bandung became an important area because it became the eastern gateway to the city of Bandung, especially if it was through the old Jalan Raya Pos route which was built since the 18<sup>th</sup> century, namely during the Daendels era. The condition of Simpang Lima has shown a lot of dynamics of change so that it seems to have lost important traces of its past. This study is needed in re-development of place identities especially to support tourism in the city of Bandung.

## **II. RESEARCH METHODS**

**Research Stages :** This research was conducted with a qualitative approach. A qualitative approach is carried out with an analytical comparative study to understand the phenomena or aspects underlying architectural preservation. The variables used in the analysis process are shapes, floor plans, facade-ornamentation, and placement. The analysis of this research was carried out in an argumentative descriptive manner to explain the typo-morphology of the architecture in relation to the preservation aspect. In general, the research steps undertaken are:

1. Examine matters related to the background of the colonial architecture of the old city center of Bandung including history, culture, geography through literature studies, observations, data collection on the object of study (observation and interview methods). Examine matters relating to the phenomena that affect the architecture

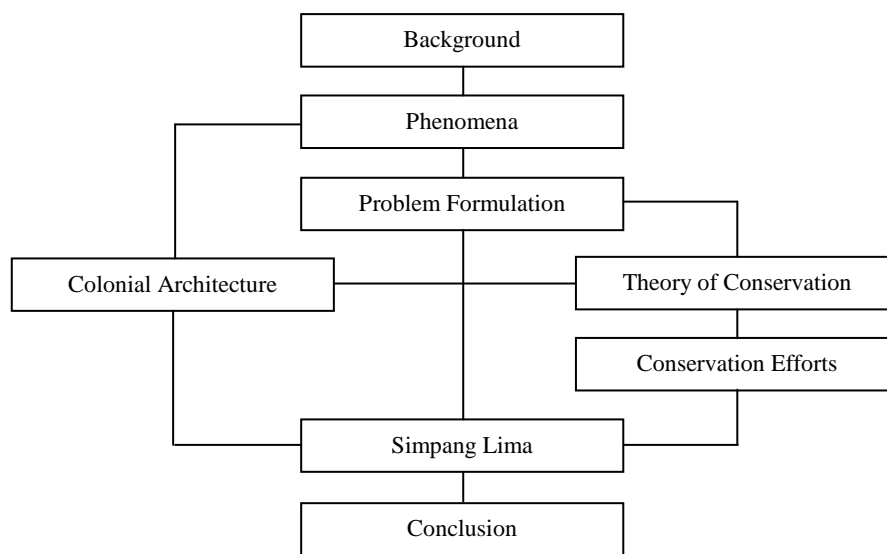
2. Examine the architectural design principles to look for design elements of the architectural type through a typomorphological study. The variables used are architectural elements namely, spatial plans, mass placement, figures-facades-ornaments, technology-construction-materials. Examining the relationship between Simpang Lima architecture and its preservation aspects including its design elements through typomorphological studies.

3. Identify potentials that can be developed to build architectural theory in a conservation context.

Data collection can be done with the following steps: Early literature study; Develop research design; Select informants and resource persons; Exploring and assessing the condition of the research area; Choose the area and object of research; Setting up research equipment; Make observations; Doing documentation; Complete literature.

**Research Object :** The objects in this study are buildings located at the Simpang Lima Bandung area node where at that node there are five buildings where three buildings are cultural heritage buildings and two buildings are not included in the category of cultural heritage buildings. The cultural heritage buildings in question are: (1) Pencil Building, (2) Vigano Building, and (3) Shopping Building.

Framework



### III. FOCUS OF CONSERVATION EFFORTS

**Pencil Building Conservation Efforts :** The Pencil Building, which is located at the corner of Jalan Ahmad Yani and Jalan Gatot Subroto Bandung, is one of the buildings that has been designated as a class A cultural heritage building by the local government. This building was built in 1918, as evidenced by a plaque affixed to the wall of the building that reads "this building was built in 1918". It is not known until now who the architect who designed this building. The pencil building is called because of the shape of the roof which resembles a sharpened pencil. If you look at the year the building was founded, namely in 1918, this building has a modern colonial architectural style. This can be seen from the plan of the building at an asymmetrical angle, the use of mobile terraces that are no longer used and the sun protection fins visible. While the shape of the roof still uses a roof shield with a centered orientation at the corner of the building, as well as the loss of the use of Greek columns.



Figure 1: The Old Pencil Building  
Source: www.google.com



Figure 2: Current Pencil Building  
Source: author's documentation

Initially this building served as the business premises and offices of Handel Mij Groote and Scholtz, an agent for Dunlop tires and Shell lubricants. But now this building has changed ownership to become a place of business called Danareksa. Functionally, this building still has the same function, namely as a place of business or office. In terms of shape, even though this building is more than 100 years old, its shape is still maintained despite minor changes. The same goes for the materials used. Changes that occur can be seen in:

1. The shape of windows and doors where initially there were vertical fins on the windows but now they have turned into one whole part which is equipped with iron bars as an effort to factor in building safety;
2. The main door which used to be located at the corner of the building, has now moved to the side of the building towards Jalan Gatot Subroto;
3. There is also the addition of a canopy on the windows and doors to ward off sunlight entering the building;
4. Maintenance of the building is carried out by means of painting which is carried out periodically.

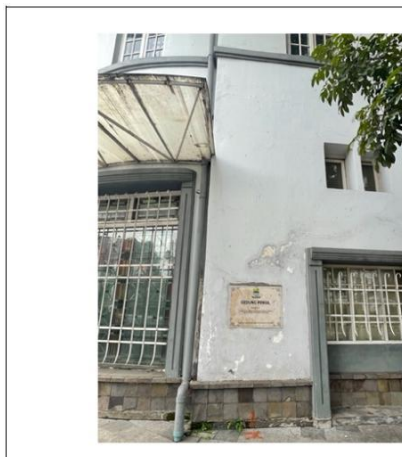


Figure 3: Door and Window of Pencil Building  
Source: author's documentation



Figure 4: Door and Window of Pencil Building  
Source: author's documentation



Figure 5: Entrance into The Pencil Building  
Source: author's documentation



Figure 6: Canopy Addition to The Pencil Building  
Source: author's documentation

The pencil building as one of the class A cultural heritage buildings that still exists today in the Simpang Lima area of Bandung is still preserved and must be maintained as *alandmark* the cultural heritage area of Simpang Lima and also the eastern node of the post highway.

**Vigano Building Conservation Efforts :** The Vigano Building was built during the Dutch colonial period. In articles *Groot Bandoengin* 1923, at first this building functioned as a pharmacy named *De Voorzorg*. Over time, the function of the building has changed to a bar, motorbike community, restaurant and now the building is

closed and will be sold. The Vigano Building was founded in 1910 by the famous Dutch architect, Eduard Cuypers. Just like the pencil building, this building has a modern colonial architectural style, where the building is located on a street corner, the building plan is more varied and seems asymmetrical, there are no terraces around the building, there is no use of Greek columns, towers on corners of the building nodes and also the use of roof shields.

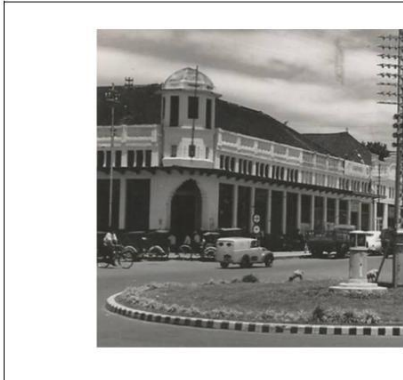


Figure 7: Old Vigano Building  
Source: www.google.com



Figure 8: Current Vigano Building  
Source: author's documentation

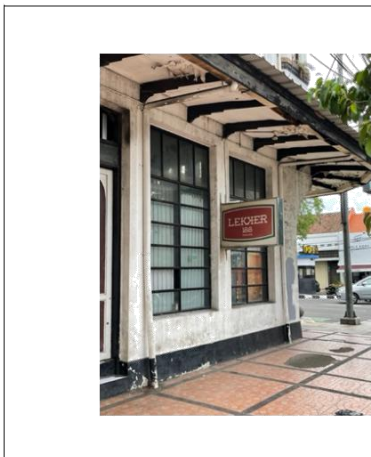


Figure 9: Current Condition of The Vigano Building  
Source: author's documentation



Figure 10: Current Condition of The Vigano Building  
Source: author's documentation

This building, which is more than 100 years old, does not have many significant changes, although some parts appear to have changed. Some of the changes that occur in the physical building are as follows:

1. The shape of the roof on the tower from a cone changes to a dome;
2. Shape of windows and doors;
3. Changes in roofing material from tiles to green asbestos. Adaptations have been made to the Vigano building in the context of conservation efforts, but more utilization and revitalization are needed in an effort to maximize the building's conservation efforts. This can be done as a form of adjustment to the new function in order to improve the Simpang Lima Bandung area as a cultural heritage tourism area.

Restoration needs to be done to this building considering its current condition is not well maintained. This can be seen from the peeling paint of the building, damaged and leaking ceilings, and wood materials such as weathered doors. In addition, the placement of a large billboard placed on the roof of the Vigano building is considered inappropriate, considering that this building is a building with historical value and a cultural heritage building. The existence of these billboards does not only affect the aesthetics of the Vigano building and also the

intersection of the Simpang Lima area of Bandung, but also their weight can affect the strength of this building which is more than 100 years old



Figure 11: Asbestos Roof of The Vigano Building  
Source: author's documentation

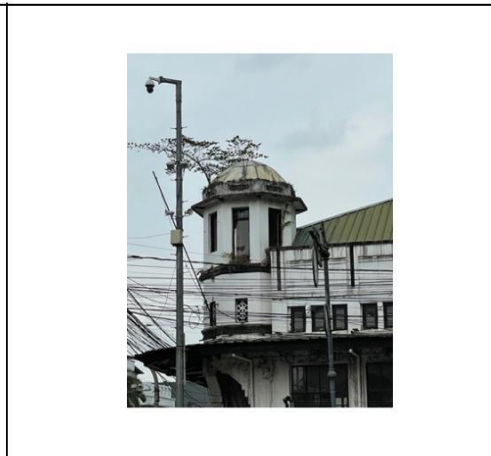


Figure 12: Roof of The Vigano Building Tower  
Source: author's documentation

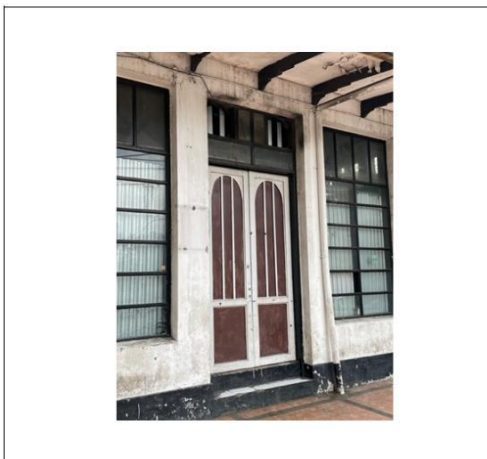


Figure 13: Door and Window of The Vigano Building  
Source: author's documentation

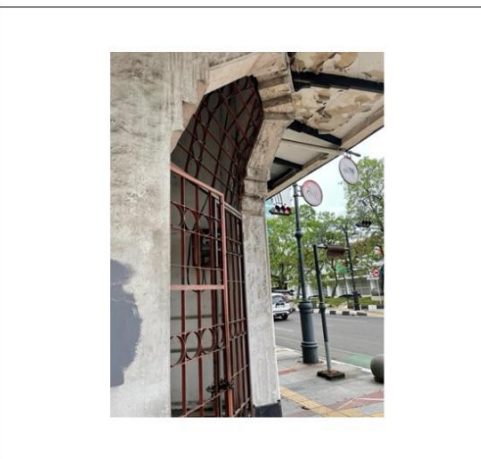


Figure 14: Trellis Addition to The Vigano Building  
Source: author's documentation

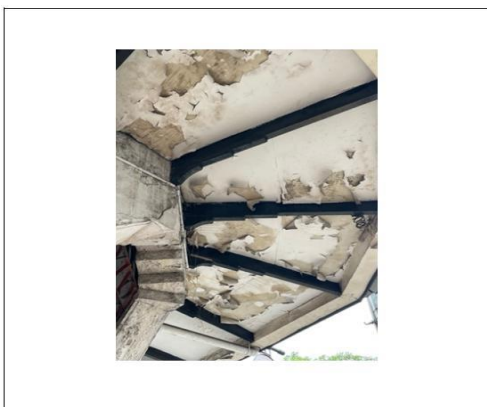


Figure 15: Damaged Ceiling in The Vigano Building  
Source: author's documentation

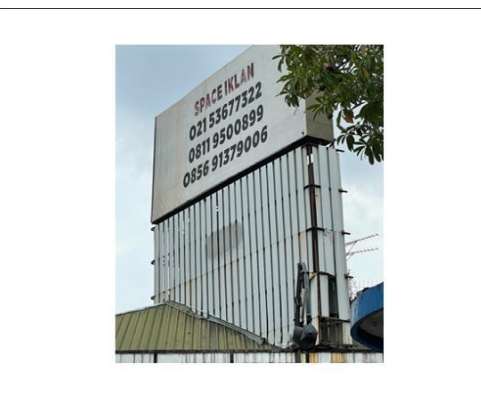


Figure 16: Billboards on The Vigano Building  
Source: author's documentation

**Conservation of Shop Buildings :** The name of the shopping building at one of the Simpang Lima nodes is unknown. Currently the building is in closed condition and will be sold. As with the Vigano building, the condition of this building is not well maintained with walls that have peeled off and other parts such as damaged ceilings. There is not much data regarding the building related to its existing condition, but it is suspected that the building is still in the same condition as before



Figure 17: Shops in The Simpang Lima Area  
Source: author's documentation

**Other Buildings :** Singer Building, “finally in 1930, a building with an Art Deco style was built by FW Brinkman on Jalan Asia Afrika, at the corner of the Simpang Lima area. The building, which is known as the Singer building, is the first and only Singer brand sewing machine repair shop in Indonesia.” This quote seems to be a memory for the people of Bandung. Bandung is honored to have the building. The uniqueness of the building lies in its style which is a blend of West Javanese culture with modern European culture. In the history of world cultural affairs, the Singer building has been presented as an example of a unique and important art deco building style in the development of Indonesian modern architecture at the 1st World Art Deco Congress in Miami, USA in 1991.



Figure 18: The Singer Building  
Source: author's documentation

In 1992, due to economic interests, personal interests and the lawlessness where during the New Order the mayor's power was dictatorial, this building was torn down. At that time, the Bumi Putera Joint Life Insurance 1912 (AJB Bumi Putera 1912) intended to establish *Bandung Business Centre* (BBC) beside the Singer building. Atelir 6 Architects from Jakarta designed the high-rise building in a style adapted to the style of the Singer building because it was realized that the Singer building is a cultural heritage building that is preserved and protected. However, AJB still wants the Singer building to be demolished to make way for a parking lot and park. Now the Singer building is just a memory and is replaced by the current high-rise it is called Wisma CIMB Niaga. Law Number 5 of 1992 concerning cultural heritage objects which was passed in March 1992 does not seem to be able to become a legal umbrella in order to maintain the Singer building as a cultural heritage building. The same thing happened to the other Simpang Lima area nodes where there was a building that currently functions as an office. Even though it is not a tall building, the facade of the building is not in harmony with the area as a cultural heritage area

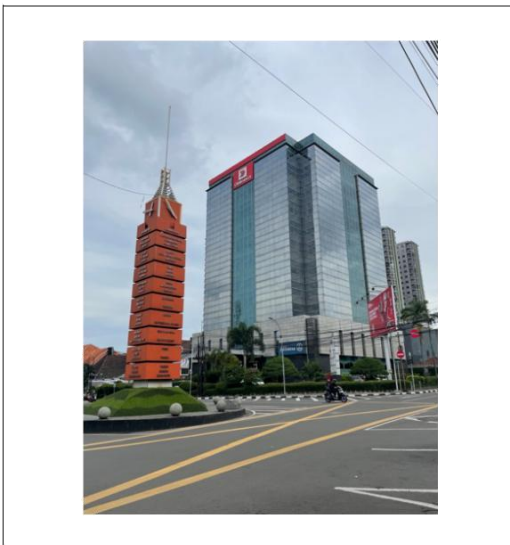


Figure 19: The CIMB Niaga Building  
Source: author's documentation



Figure 20: The Grapari Telkomsel Building  
Source: author's documentation

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research above, it can be concluded that several things related to conservation efforts are as follows:

1. The Pencil Building
  - a. The shape of the building is still significantly maintained today, but there are minor additions in the form of a canopy and some minor changes such as windows and doors;
  - b. The current function of the building is still as an office where previously it was an office or place of business;
  - c. The current building materials are still the same and need regular maintenance;
  - d. The sustainability and existence of this building needs to be maintained.
2. The Vigano Building
  - a. The shape of the building is still significantly maintained today, but there are slight changes to the roof of the tower, the shape of the windows and doors and the roofing material;
  - b. The function of the building has undergone many changes from the pharmacy until it is no longer functioning (sold), therefore adaptation of the building's function can be carried out for the sustainability of this building if one day it will function again and a building function can be selected that can increase tourism in this area by while retaining its element of sustainability;
  - c. The condition of the building that is not maintained at this time requires a revitalization and renovation in order to maintain the resilience of the building by age;
  - d. The existence of billboards is considered detrimental to the sustainability of the building and can affect the strength of the building and damage the value and aesthetics of the building, therefore it should be removed;



- e. The sustainability and existence of this building needs to be maintained.
3. The Shop Building
  - a. The shape of the building is suspected to be the same as the previous condition and must be maintained;
  - b. It is necessary to use the building so that this building can function again and become a tourism potential for cultural heritage areas;
  - c. The condition of the building that is not maintained at this time requires a revitalization and renovation in order to maintain the resilience of the building by age;
  - d. The existence of billboards is considered detrimental to the sustainability of the building and can affect the strength of the building and damage the value and aesthetics of the building, therefore it should be removed.
4. The Wisma CIMB Niaga Building
  - a. The condition of a permanent high-rise building does not allow it to be changed or demolished;
  - b. It is advisable to make adjustments to the facade of the building so that it blends better with the surrounding area, as well as the use of the building's boundary line (GSB 0) as an example of the Ibis Style hotel in Braga which still maintains the cultural heritage building on the front (Sarinah) and also the Boromeus Hospital.
5. The Grapari Telkomsel Building  
It is the same with the Wisma CIMB Niaga Building where this building is permanent, but it can still be harmonized with environmental conditions by renovating the building's facade with a modern colonial or art deco architectural style.

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