

## Conservation of Cultural Heritage Architecture in Alun-Alun Area, Bandung

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**ABSTRACT :** The city of Bandung has developed since the Colonial era, when it was the district capital moved from Krapyak to a location in the middle of Bandung Regency. In subsequent developments, the city of Bandung grew rapidly along with the influx Dutch architect. In 1916, Hendrik Freerk Tillema then proposed to Governor General Johan Paul van Limburg Stirum to move the capital of the Indies The Dutch went to the cool mountainous areas and the city of Bandung was chosen. But this effort not implemented plus the defeat of the Netherlands by Japan in Java. Thus the City Bandung in the Dutch colonial era is very interesting to study because it left traces important architectural history, especially the area that passes through Jalan Raya Pos such as the side north of Alun-Alun Bandung which has been the center of Bandung City in the past until now. One of the old roads in Bandung, namely Asia Afrika, is part of Jalan Raya Post, which is in the center, precisely on the north side, across the current city square known as Bandung City Square. Building design in the Alun-Alun Area The city of Bandung has a unique character in its response to the city center and structure specific square... Currently the Bandung Square Area seems to have experienced changed several times, as did the buildings around the square. With changes in the layout of the square and the buildings in this area, it will erasing traces of history. Therefore, related conservation studies are needed with its architectural form so that further shifts and changes do not occur. This research seeks to understand the principles of architectural heritage conservation colonial period in the Bandung Square Area and its aspects the background, including the concept of arranging the square in relation to its environment. So it is hoped that the uniqueness of the architecture in the Bandung City Square Area can be recognized through searching for potentials that are relevant and can be developed in the present. Study This will be very useful in understanding the form of architectural design development synchronic and diachronic and their reflection in the present and future. The architectural approach through architectural studies can be approached with theory, typomorphology, transformation, with an understanding of architectural value preservation., This research carried out with a qualitative approach with analytical comparative studies to understand phenomena or aspects underlying architectural preservation. Variable used in the analysis process are the shape, floor plan, facade-ornamentation, as well as placement.

**KEYWORDS :** Conservation, preservation, colonial architecture, alun-alun Bandung, city center Bandung

### I. INTRODUCTION

**Research Background :** The city of Bandung has developed since the Colonial era, namely when the district capital was moved from Krapyak to a location in the middle of the Bandung Regency area, namely in the Alun-Alun area. This square developed at the same time as Daendels built Jalan Raya Pos which crossed the north side of this square. Initially, Jalan Raya Pos was 11 km north of Krapyak, the capital of Bandung Regency at that time. Daendels ordered the 6th Regent of Bandung, R.A. Wiranatakusumah II (1794-1829) to build the new capital city of Bandung around this road. Daendels' famous saying is: "Zorg, dat als ik terug kom hier een stad is gebouwd" (Please, when I come back here, a city has been built). Another element that was built was two pairs of city gates called glass, in the west and east of the city. The west gate was built in the Andir area and the west gate was built at the intersection of Lima. In subsequent developments, the city of Bandung developed rapidly along with the entry of Dutch architects such as C.P. Schoemaker with an art deco architectural style building, Maclaine Pont with a modern dutch indisch style, .F. Albers with international modern style, and others. These building works are heavily influenced by Dutch modern architectural styles such as the Amsterdam school, De Stijl, Nieuwe Bouwen, including those from outside the Netherlands such as architect FLWright. 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 region then got worse. In 1916, Hendrik Freerk Tillema then 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. From a number of regions included in the nomination list, the city of Bandung was chosen. From the description above, it is clear that the city of Bandung was in the prewar period. Bandung was chosen as the main alternative, beating out the cities of Lawang and Malang in East Java, Candi in Semarang and Yogyakarta in Central Java, and the city of Bogor in West Java. Thus, the city of Bandung in the Dutch colonial era is very interesting to study because it left traces of important architectural history, especially the area that passes through Jalan Raya Pos. One of the areas that Jalan Raya Pos passes through is the Alun-Alun Bandung area where the main square is 1 the center of Bandung City. During its development, this square has undergone several changes, both in terms of layout and the surrounding buildings, which form a single unit in the Bandung Square Area. Therefore, this research was carried out to examine the Bandung Square Area in relation to the conservation of this area to restore the square to its previous order and function.

**Problem Formulation and Objectives:** One of the old roads in Bandung, namely Asia Afrika, is part of Jalan Raya Pos, where at the middle node it passes through the main square area. The square is an important node in the city of Bandung where the 0 kilometer point is also located in this area. The building design in the Alun-Alun area has a unique character in addressing this central city node. Currently, the square area appears to have undergone several changes, both in terms of the layout of the buildings and the existence of the surrounding buildings. Therefore, preservation studies are needed related to the architectural form so that no further changes occur. Based on this study, there are several research questions:

What conservation efforts can be made to build the image of the center of Bandung City as a city square?

This research has the following objectives:

1. Understand the principles of conservation of colonial architectural heritage in the square area and the aspects behind it, including environmental planning concepts.
2. Discover the uniqueness of architecture in the Bandung Square Area through searching for potentials that are relevant and can be developed today
3. Understand the concept of square layout and the concept of square arrangement related to conservation.

**Excellence and Benefits of Research :** This study will strengthen architectural theory based on architectural preservation in building the identity of city squares. The application of this research can be shown in building an architectural design theory based on the phenomenon of the preservation process that occurs in conservation areas, especially in old city areas which have undergone a process of development of the surrounding area, such as in the Bandung City Square, which has historical uniqueness and distinctiveness. compared to other areas, not only seen from the physical side of the building but also from the meaning of the area and the layout of the square which is related to the spatial actors. It is hoped that the findings obtained can be used for the development and utilization of architectural art as a basis for forming Indonesian urban identity. Therefore the results in this study:

1. It is hoped that it can provide insight to practitioners and academics, by reintroducing architectural works that have aesthetic values. It is hoped that this research can provide insight and input into the development of science and technology. It is hoped that the rules used in preserving architecture in old and important areas will be known.
2. It is hoped that it can increase insight into the knowledge of preservation 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 collections as material in subsequent research and development activities for both the government and the world of education.
3. It is hoped that it can support aspects of tourism development and cultural heritage preservation, and the possibility of developing it in architectural design in the future.

**Novelty :** There have not been many studies regarding the preservation of the Bandung City Square Area, so this study can be used as a reference. Studies in Bandung City are more focused on conservation buildings but not on the formation of conservation areas and structures.

## **II. LITERATURE REVIEW**

**Architectural Conservation Study :** Conservation is an initial concept in preserving or preserving historical objects which then develop in urban environments that have historical value and rarity which become the basis for conservation action. Conservation in architecture cannot be separated from its cultural significance cultural so that conservation is an effort to maintain a place in the form of land, a building area or a group of buildings

including the area (Antariksa, 2008). Based on the international agreement, the Burra Charter in 1981, it was agreed that conservation is the process of managing a place (place) for cultural meaning (cultural significance) it contains are well preserved. Place defined as a site (site), areas, buildings and the like, groups of buildings and the like together with their contents and surrounding conditions that have a relationship with each other. Meanwhile, in terms of cultural meaning (cultural significance) has the meaning of beauty, history, knowledge value or social value for past, present and future generations. Some of the agreements in the Burra Charter are as

follows:

- Conservation is based on respect for the original condition of a place and as little physical intervention as possible in the building, so as not to change the historical evidence it has.
- Conservation should utilize all scientific disciplines that can contribute to research and safeguarding the place.
- Conservation of a place must consider all aspects related to its cultural meaning without emphasizing only one aspect at the expense of other aspects.
- An appropriate conservation policy for a place must be based on an understanding of the cultural significance and physical condition of the building.
- Conservation requires the maintenance of a suitable visual setting such as shape, scale, color, texture and building materials. Any new changes that would have a negative impact on the visual background must be prevented.

Every historic building or work must remain in its historical location. The transfer of all or part of a building or work is not permitted, unless this is the only way to ensure its preservation.

**Cultural Heritage Study :** Based on Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 11 of 2010 concerning cultural heritage, cultural heritage is material cultural heritage in the form of cultural heritage objects, cultural heritage buildings, cultural heritage structures, cultural heritage sites and cultural heritage areas on land and/or in water that need to be preserved its existence because it has important value for history, science, education, religion and/or culture through the determination process. Cultural heritage buildings are built structures made from natural objects or man-made objects to meet the needs of walled or unwalled and roofed space. According to UNESCO, cultural heritage means what happened to humans at that time this and pass it on to future generations, in other words cultural heritage is something that must be continued from generation to generation from generation to generation because it has value so its existence should be maintained and preserved. Cultural heritage can be tangible culture where cultural heritage takes physical form, such as buildings, monuments, books, statues, artifacts. Apart from that, cultural heritage can take the form of intangible culture or non-physical cultural heritage such as culture, folklore, traditions, customs, language, knowledge, natural heritage (cultural heritage in natural form) such as the natural environment including rare flora and fauna, biodiversity, geological elements such as mineralogy, geomorphology and paleontology.

Based on Law Number 11 of 2010 concerning Cultural Heritage, there are several efforts that can be made to maintain a cultural heritage building, namely as follows:

- Utilization namely the utilization of cultural heritage for the greatest benefit of the welfare of the people while maintaining its preservation.
- Revitalization namely development activities aimed at regenerating important cultural heritage values by adjusting the function of new spaces that do not conflict with the principles of preservation and community cultural values.
- Adaptation namely efforts to develop cultural heritage for activities that are more in line with current needs by making limited changes that do not result in a decline in its importance or damage to parts that have important values.

**History of Alun-Alun Bandung :** Alun-Alun Bandung was built around 1811, at the same time as the capital of the Dutch Colonial Government was moved from Krapyak (Dayeuhkolot) to Cikapundung. The construction of the government capital at that time, including government supporting facilities and infrastructure such as the ruler's residence (pendopo), post office and Jalan Raya Post, became the starting point for the formation of the square. During the Dutch East Indies era, all four sides of the square were lined with rows of banyan trees which became the icon of the square at that time. There is a fence around the banyan, so people call it waringin brackets or fenced banyan. In the middle of the square there is a pair of banyan trees, one of which was planted on May 1 1909, to coincide with the birth of Princess Juliana, daughter of the Queen of the Netherlands, Queen Wilhelmina. During the same period, every night the Alun-Alun was like an impromptu market. Performing arts

is a favorite entertainment for city residents. Not to mention the football matches which were often held between 1900-1905 and 1914-1921. Bandung Square has undergone several renovations. In the decade from 1950 to 1960, Bandung Square was decorated with various types of flowers. In 1973, Alun-Alun Bandung was beautified with the presence of a fountain which for 10 years became the icon of Alun-Alun Bandung.

### III. FOCUS ON CONSERVATION EFFORTS OF ALUN-ALUN BANDUNG

**Concept of Alun-Alun :** Alun-Alun used to be a royal property and was used to carry out official royal ceremonies. The square is also a place for practicing Yudha war rehearsals for royal soldiers, the venue for the event contest And conveying the king's word of command to the people. The square is a symbol of Javanese democracy where residents gathered and had dialogue with the regent in ancient times. In certain areas, the square is part of the Keraton or Palace area, for example the North South Square of the Yogyakarta Palace.

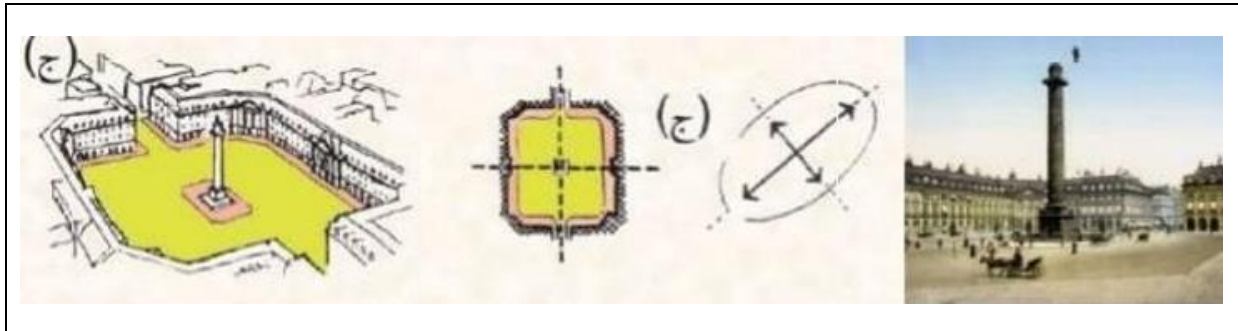


Figure 1: Concept of Alun-Alun

#### Changes of Alun-Alun During Many Periods

**First Phase During 1800-1919 :** At this stage, Alun-Alun is used by local residents as a place to carry out many activities and does not yet have the same street furniture elements because it is in the form of an empty open field, the only lighting that is available is in the surrounding buildings. There are no pedestrian paths in the square during this period so that residents can walk freely on the fairly wide roads without having their rights taken over by vehicles. The current period of the square has a square shape like the shape of the square in the beginning. Likewise, the typology of the Alun-Alun is as a public open space in the form of an open grass field which the people of Bandung use as an open space with various activities carried out.

#### Functionally, the town square in this period had 2 main functions, namely:

- Administrative: Bandung Square in this period was the center of government which was used by the community to fulfill summons or listen to announcements or see a show of force in the form of a display of soldiers from the local ruler.
- Socio-Cultural: Bandung Square is active where the function of the square at that time was diverse, from sports activities, trade, community interaction, rest and also community recreation. Community activities and activities in the square are limited to the initiative of local authorities.

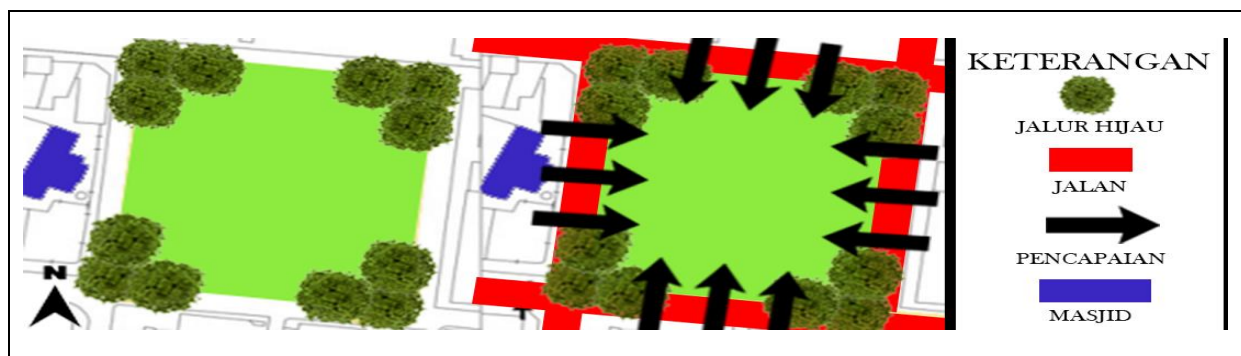


Figure 2 : First Phase of Alun-Alun (1800-1919)

Source : author's sketch

**Second Phase During 1920-1959 :** The Alun-Alun in this period was a green open space, an open field located within the scope of the local government area. In this period, Alun-Alun Bandung had slight changes to its street furniture elements, namely the addition of a guardrail around the square, which had 4 entrances on all four sides. In this period, Alun-Alun Bandung had a typology Public open space in the form of an open grass field which the people of Bandung use as an open space with various activities carried out.

**Functionally, the town square in this period had 2 main functions, namely:**

- Administrative: Bandung Square during this period did not experience changes in terms of its administrative function, namely that it was the center of government which the people used to fulfill summons or listen to announcements and also see displays of strength in the form of displays of soldiers from local authorities.
- Socio-Cultural: The nature of the active open space that Bandung Square had at that time had various kinds of activities carried out, with the addition of physical elements in the form of fences around it, this functioned to prevent traders from entering the area inside the square.



Figure 3 : Second Phase of Alun-Alun (1920-1959)  
Source : author's sketch

**Third and Fourth Phase During 1960-1969 :** In this phase, the landscape arrangement is still square in the form of open fields and fields. Currently, the square is a field that functions as a place for multi-purpose social activities (playing ball, ceremonies, traditional activities, etc.). There is an additional fence around the square for the reason that traders are not allowed to enter the area inside the square. There are 4 entrances that can be accessed by visitors from the north, south, west and east sides. The north and south circulation routes function as trade routes.

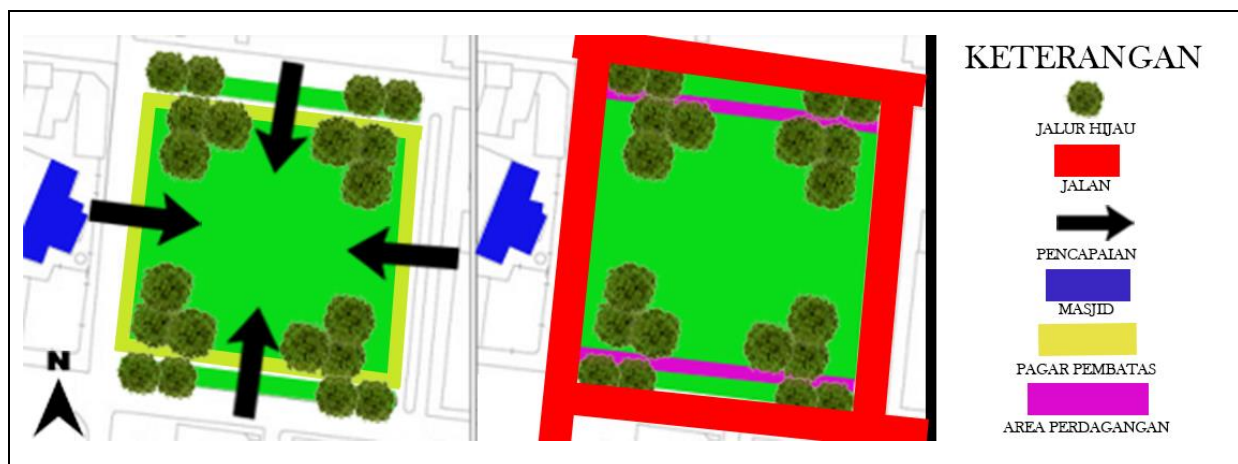


Figure 4 : Third Phase of Alun-Alun (1960-1969)  
Source : author's sketch

In fourth phase, the Alun-Alun is a field that functions as a place for multi-purpose social activities (playing ball, ceremonies, traditional activities, etc.). There was a widening of the circulation route which was originally a trade route, changing its function as a motor vehicle parking route and transportation terminal within the city. The northern and southern circulation routes have changed their function to become motor vehicle parking lanes and transport terminals in a city that originally functioned as a trade route.

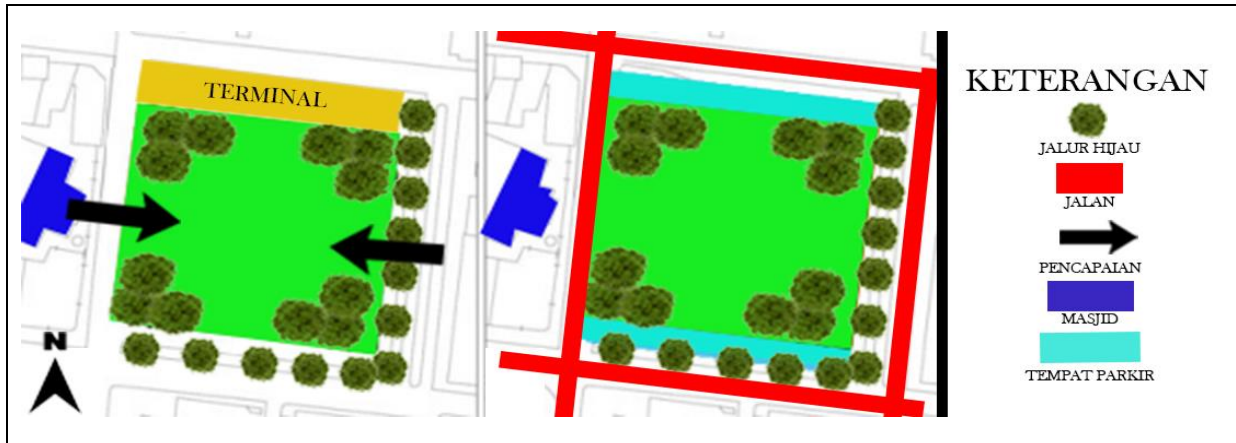


Figure 5 : Fourth Phase of Alun-Alun (1960-1969)

Source : author's sketch

**Fifth Phase During 1970-2001 :** Alun-Alun Bandung changed its function, from being a city public space to becoming a park city. It is a park that is used as a place for activities. Symmetrical landscaping. The division of softscape elements in the form of green plants and hardscape elements in the form of paving. Due to the change from what was originally a field into a city park, it was equipped with garden furniture to support community activities. Accessible by pedestrians via the west and north sides only. A bridge was also added in front of the Great Mosque which provided new access for visitors who wanted to go directly to the square at that time. Pedestrian dimensions are increasingly being reduced due to the addition of parking lanes. Square shape with symmetrical landscaping and central axis. Greenways and parkways, because at that time the square had landscape elements that were organized and clear between pavement and paving.

**Functionally, the town square in this period had 2 main functions, namely:**

- **Administrative:** Shifting the function of the square which was originally a public space. The city has now been replaced by a city park. In which case, city parks are more used as a place for social interaction, recreational, educational activities and other city-level activities. So in this period, the function of the square was more directed towards a socio-cultural function.
- **Socio-Cultural:** Even though the dimensions of the square are getting smaller due to road widening and other things, the original shape of the square is still the same today, namely a square. This gives visitors a spatial experience, that the square is a public space in the city in the form of a field.

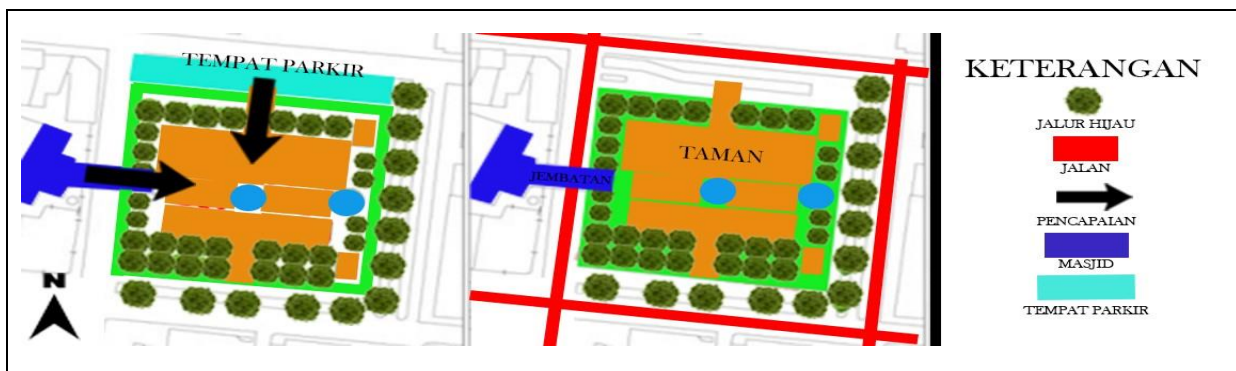


Figure 6 : Fifth Phase of Alun-Alun (1970-2001)

Source : author's sketch

**Sixth Phase During 2002-2013 :** Switching from a city park to a plaza with a percentage of pavement elements more dominant than the amenity elements that are passive gardens. This stage of Alun-Alun Bandung has landscape elements on the south and east sides in the form of large trees. There are lots of lights and there are lots of chairs kept on the sides of the small square garden and pool. In the area outside the square there is a pedestrian which is used as access to enter the square. This year the shape of the square is a trapezoid. In 2002 the name of the city park in the square was changed to a plaza, where this plaza was the result of combining the Great Mosque with the square by eliminating the road on the west side and removing the bridge accessing the Great Mosque to the square, so that the square is now a plaza from the Great Mosque building. Functionally, the

**Alun-Alun in this period had 2 main functions, namely:**

- Administrative: At the beginning of 2002, the function of the Alun-Alun was now replaced by the Grand Mosque Plaza. The Grand Mosque Plaza is more used as a place for social interaction, recreational, educational activities and other city-level activities. So in this period too, the function of the square was more directed towards a socio-cultural function.
- Socio-Cultural: In 2002 Alun-Alun Bandung, which was originally a city park, has now become part of the grounds of the Bandung Grand Mosque, making it the Plaza of the mosque. Bandung Square itself, according to its current designation, is a passive park in the sense of a park that accommodates passive recreational activities, including walking, sitting, resting and so on.

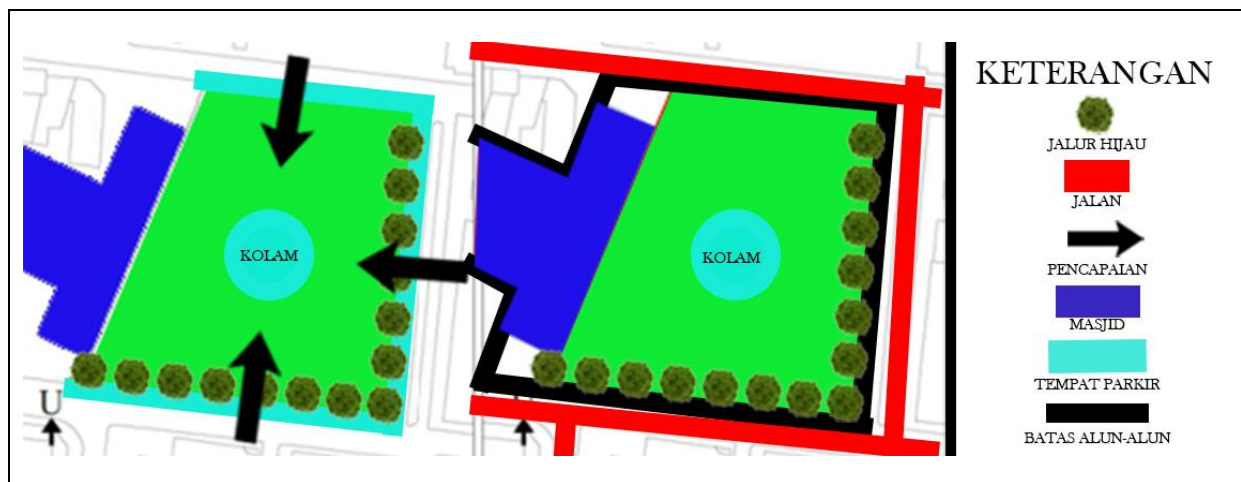


Figure 7 : Sixth Phase of Alun-Alun (2002-2013)

Source : author's sketch

**Last Phase During 2014 Until Present :** In mid-2014, the Bandung city government renovated Alun-Alun Bandung with a new concept, a concept where Alun-Alun Bandung prioritizes maximum functionality compared to the function of Alun-alun itself at first. The form which in the previous period was a passive garden, this time has changed drastically, returning to the original form of Alun-Alun Bandung, namely in the form of an open field covered with synthetic grass, but this time it is equipped with many existing facilities, such as a flower garden area in the south. the square, a children's play area in the northern part with a city bus stop nearby in a refurbished condition, and a reading park area which is still under construction in the eastern part of the square.

**Functionally, the town square in this period had 2 main functions, namely:**

- Administrative: At the beginning of 2002, the physical form of managing the open space of the square underwent changes, where the change was to combine the courtyard of the Great Mosque with the square so that the square became the plaza of the Great Mosque without eliminating the function of the square as a public open space and Administrative functions no longer exist.
- Socio-Cultural: With the new form of Alun-Alun Bandung it has returned to being a field open, the socio-cultural function of a square increases again. Where the people of Bandung can return to using Alun-Alun Bandung with various activities, from family picnics, children playing, holding year-end closing events, even just taking photos. So it can be concluded that the function of the square, which was based on the concept of an open field and used by the community as an open space with various activities in it, has returned and been applied to the new Alun-Alun Bandung.



Figure 8 : Last Phase of Alun-Alun (2014-present)  
Source : author's sketch

#### IV. CONCLUSION

The changes that occurred in Alun-Alun Bandung were caused by developments over time, so that a change in form is made which automatically changes the function within it. These changes are viewed from the aspect of form and function, the square experienced 7 stages of change from 1800 to 2014. In the first and second stages, the square was an open field only covered with grass and at this time the square functions administratively. In the third and fourth stages, the square narrowed, but it was still a field covered with grass, and functioned administratively and socio-culturally, because it began to be used for trade. In the fifth stage, the square, which was originally a field, has now turned into a city park and is used for social and cultural activities. In the sixth stage, the square underwent another change, which was originally a city park, now it has become a plaza, which is part of the courtyard The Great Mosque is still fully functional socially and culturally. In this final stage, namely the seventh stage, the square with a new concept changes to a new square shape, namely a trapezoid, as well as its more human function, namely a place for socializing.

**For preservation efforts of Alun-Alun Bandung can be done in various way, such as:**

- Returning to using a roof typical of the archipelago, namely the pyramid roof shape with 3 layers, like the origin of the main square in Bandung.
- Connecting Underpass between Jl. Asia Africa and Jl. Banceuy so that the configuration can be re-centralized so that the concept of the square in the future can be formed by multi-level layers.
- An overpass can be added to the north of the square to reduce congestion.
- Commercial areas are rebuilt taking into account the environmental context and cultural heritage buildings.

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