

# Identifying Islamic Values in The Embodiment of Makassar Traditional Houses in Barombong Coastal

Mursyid Mustafa\*, Ananto Yudono, Ria Wikantari, Afifah Harisah

Department of Architectural Engineering, Hasanuddin University, Makassar, Indonesia.

Received 11 March 2016; received in revised form 18 April 2016; accepted 03 May 2016

## Abstract

Indonesia is a country with majority Muslim population. However, in the architectural design, people was not significantly using the Islamic values and tend to be affected by western modern architecture on their house embodiment. Therefore, this research explores a house architecture based on Islamic values, by taking the case of traditional houses on the coast. The coastal areas chosen because it still has traditional houses condensed with local cultural community. Using observational techniques, interviews with selected informants and questionnaires, and supported by literature review, this research was analyzed by qualitative method. This paper aims to identify Islamic values in the embodiment of Makassar traditional houses in the Barombong coastal area, and enrich the concept of Islamic-valued on house architecture. The research findings are the embodiment of Makassar traditional houses in Barombong coastal area which are generally shaped the house terrace called as *bale-bale* and *paladang*, which are deemed to have Islamic values, like: (1) In Islam, the way to visit a house is coming from the front, instead of behind. Evidently, this way existed in traditional house, (2) Role of the *bale-bale* as an extension of the main room which can be used to interact with neighbors and the community (*hablunminannas*) and *paladang* can serve as a transition zone to screen guests before welcoming them inside the house (privacy) and guests to greet before the residents of the house is ready to receive, (3) In the tradition of building houses, already recognized the concept of space-oriented four wind directions (*sulapa' appaka*), which significantly according to the concept of Islam which require orientation to the qibla oriented home. The study concluded that with the local wisdom possessed by the Makassar traditional house on Barombong

coastal area discovered the Islamic values in its realization.

**Keywords:** Barombong coastal, Islamic values, Makassar traditional house

## 1. Introduction

Indonesia is a country with majority Muslim population. However, in the architectural design, people were not significantly using the Islamic values and tend to be affected by western modern architecture on their house embodiment. Therefore this research explores a house architecture based on Islamic values, by taking the case of traditional houses on the coast. The coastal areas chosen because it still has traditional houses condensed with local cultural community which is in accordance with statement of Rapoport (1977, 2004), Gustafson (2001), in Wan Ismail [1] where the built environment is influenced by culture, belief and past experiences of its inhabitants.

Makassar ethnicity of South Sulawesi in tradition of building their house always used a stage-house form, which is in macrocosmos view divided by three parts, lower part (*rawa balla*), the body of the house (*kale balla*), and upper part.



Fig. 1 Example of Makassar Traditional house

A common Makassar traditional house consists of bale-bale -and lego-lego, as shown in the Fig. 1. Idawarni [2] explain bale-bale as a place for socialization, play, rest and work, it's also cheap and easy to make because it does not require specific space for placing. Radja et al. [3]also examine the types and characteristics of bale bale and identify bale bale as a common space for socialization.

## 2. Method

This study uses observational method with reference to the literature. observation phase of this research was done by using interviews with people from various social strata in the study area. in addition it also conducted observations on aspects of social, cultural, and physical morphology of traditional houses in the study location. As for the results of the study will be analyzed using qualitative methods.

## 3. Results and Discussion

After conducting interviews with selected informants and distributing questionnaires and observation of social, cultural, and physical morphology of the traditional house in Barombong coastal obtained the following results:

- (1) In Islam, the way to visit a house is coming from the front, instead of behind. Evidently, this way existed in traditional house. Mustafa [4] stated that architectural interpretations of the Qur'an regarding honoring or welcoming neighbors can be explained that the courtesy visit is required to reach the house from the front and saluted the residents of the house a maximum of three times and if it does not get permission from the owner of the house, guests must go home. This way is also found in traditional Malay house as Islam-practicing country according to Othman [5] whereas a spacious main verandah or *serambi* located in front of the house as a vital design element for receiving and entertaining guests.
- (2) Role of the bale-bale as an extension of the main room which can be used to interact with neighbors and the community (*hablunminannas*) and paladang can serve as a transition zone to screen guests before welcoming them inside the house (privacy) and guests to greet before the residents of

the house is ready to receive. Hakim [6] have selected qur'anic verses and saying of the prophet regarding building and Islamic cities planning principle. A sayings of the prophet related to privacy found in traditional house is: 'O ye who believe, enter not houses other than your own, until ye have asked permission and saluted those in them: that is best for you, in order that ye may heed.' This saying of prophet parallel to the use of bale-bale and paladang as transition zone to screen guest before welcoming them inside the house, given the owner of the house some privacy.

- (3) In the tradition of building houses, already recognized the concept of space-oriented four wind directions, which is assumed to be associated with building placement orientation, or direction of the shoreline (*sulapa'* appaka philosophy) which is significantly according to the concept of Islam which require orientation to the qibla-oriented home. Akil [7] in his research explain *sulapa'* appaka philosophy are visible in the coastal cities whose topography is relatively flat.

## 4. Conclusions

In this paper, with the local wisdom possessed by the Makassar traditional house on Barombong coastal area discovered the Islamic values in its realization.

## Acknowledgement

This research is gratefully acknowledged by Department of Architecture Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Hasanuddin University, Makassar, South Sulawesi, Indonesia.

## References

- [1] W. H. W. Ismail, "Cultural determinants in the design of bugis house," *Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences*, vol. 50, pp. 771-780, July 2012.
- [2] I. Asmal, "Bale-bale as a space for social interaction," *Procedia-Social and Behavioral Sciences*, vol. 179, pp. 176 -182, April 2015.
- [3] A. M. Radja, T. Suzuki, Y. Yoshizumi, M. Kousaka, K. Yamauchi, S. Matsubara, and T. Oku, "Study on bale bale in Lae Lae Isle, Makassar, Indonesia," *Joumal Architecture*

- Planning, AIJ, vol. 77, no. 675, pp. 969-978, May 2012.
- [4] M. Mustafa, R. Wikantari, A. Harisah, and A. Muftiradja, "Kajian tekstual Nilai-nilai keislaman untuk arsitektur rumah tinggal," IPLBI, Universitas Sam Ratulangi, Manado, 2015. (In Indonesian)
- [5] Z. Othman, R. Aird, and L. Buys, "Privacy, modesty, hospitality, and the design of Muslim homes: A literature review," *Frontiers of Architectural Research*, vol. 4, issue 1, pp. 12-23, March 2015.
- [6] B. S. Hakim, *Arabic Islamic Cities: Building and Planning Principles*, Routledge ed, London, 2013.
- [7] A. Akil, A. Yudono, I. Latief, and A. M. Radja, "Application of Buginese-Makassarese culture in Makassar city, Indonesia," *International Review for Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development*, vol. 2, no. 4, pp. 68-80, 2014.