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REVEALING TRANCENDENTAL MEANING BEHIND THE *OMAH DUDUR* ARCHITECTURAL IN URUT SEWU, GRABAG, PURWOREJO, CENTRAL JAVA, INDONESIA

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ABSTRACT

Omah dudur was discovered as a typical house in Urut Sewu, Purworejo-Kebumen, Central Java, Indonesia. By this research, it was found that Omah Dudur is considered as a manifestation of universe of human, god and nature as well as a pusaka (heirlooms). believed that interrelation among the three universes will influence to the successes and failures of occupants life. As a pusaka (heirlooms) which has the power and strength of wahyu, the omah dudur spiritually should be offered by certain ritual in the regular sacred time. Methodologically, this research implies Husserl's paradigm phenomenology (1965) with the naturalistic framework of Egon G Lincoln and Guba (1985). Result of the study should be contributed to the knowledge of local concepts of typology of traditional and vernacular Javanese architecture.

Keywords: omah dudur, wahyu, contextual transcendent, pusaka.

INTRODUCTION

Omah dudur is a typical house of rural Java community at Urut Sewu regions, Purworejo and Kebumen regency, Central Java, Indonesia. Administratively, Urut Sewu, which became part of the districts Grabag, has 13 villages and surrounded by three

rivers and sea as borders. Lereng river is located on the North of Urut Sewu District, Grabag region. The Jali River is located on the East, the Wawar river on the West, and Indonesia Ocean in the South.

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Architecturally, the form of omah dudur looks like joglo lawakan (Dakung, S., et al., 1986/1987) and joglo jompongan (Slamet DS. 1981/1982; h.63; R. Ismunandar, K 1993; p. 94r). However omah dudur has its own characteristic. It combines of limas an shape, kampung and srotongan. This combination has formed six types of derivative form, namely: 1) omah dudur siji; 2) omah dudur siji-limasan; 3) omah dudur loro; 4) omah dudur loro-seselan; 5) omah dudur telu; 6) omah dudur komplit. Meanwhile, according to the occupant's social status, they are classified into the three types of: omah ndoro / Den; omah dudur for Lurah, and *omah dudur* for the farmer. The local said that *Potongan* (form) of omah dudur, as mentioned above, should be look and feel sumruweng (armature) and full karibawan (authority). The phenomenon of *sumreweng* and full karibawan on omah dudur not only occur in one or two villages, but also in all of the thirteen villages. It is because that the omah dudur has a soul. Its soul is manifested into the form of wahyu (spirits) that manggon (settled) and stayed in omah dudur (Satrio HB et al, 2016). Omah Dudur considered by the occupants as something which will give karibawan, slamet (safe), adem ayem (comfortable) and cekap sandang pangan (prosperous) to them, when they abide the agreements they stated at the time omah dudur constructed. While they will have a sengkala when they break the common sacred rules.

Transcendental phenomenon of *omah* dudur is now to be local traditional rules that conducted through the *kepungan* ritualled by *Kaum* village and *Blandong omah* dudur. Wahyu living in *omah* dudur is recognized to have spiritual powers and integrates into *omah* dudur. Further more the *omah* dudur is perceived as a *pusaka* (heirloom) that spiritually should be sacred by *jamasan* ritual and be given offerings periodically.

It is not easy to find the topic of previous research related to transcendent meaning of *omah dudur*. Generally, the previous studies focused on physical architectural forms (Josep Prijotomo, 2004; Abdul Malik et al, 2010); spatial (Geraarda Orbita Ida Cahyandari, 2012;

J. Lukito Kartono, 2005), thermal (Sastwika Prasata, 1999; L.M.F. Purwanto et al, 2006); structure (Yulianto P. Prihatmaji 2007; Maer, Bisatya W et al, 2015); and architectural philosophy (Johanes Adiyanto, 2010, 2011, 2012) with the using of rational or positivist paradigm. Many researchers paid the attentions to the physical aspects, and should be developed on the context of phenomenology (Ulumi Fauziah 2009; Mohamad Muqoffa, 2011; Tri Yuniastuti et al, 2014).

The previous study that should be noticed is what were Ngabei, Slamet and Josep done about petungan Java architecture (Ngabei Ranggasutrasna, 2008; R. Slamet Soeparno Kridosasono, 1976; Josep Prijotomo et al. 1995), the determination of good days and bad (R. Slamet Soeparno Kridosasono (1976); and the Sugiharto's findings about the magical power of the spiritual in Javanese house (Sugiharto Dakung, Although 1985/1986). in many references were found on transcendental Javanese architecture, but it seem more general. It is the important reason to the specific develop of phenomenological holistic study. On this reason, the study of omah dudur considered specific as local knowledge of Urut Sewu which is different from other areas in Java.

To reveal the mentioned local knowledge, the Husserl's

phenomenology paradigm (1965) and the naturalistic framework of Egon G Lincoln and Guba (1985) are very precise to use. Hopefully, this study will enrich the diversity of transcendental Javanese architecture tacit knowledge contribute the unique and can information for public society, local governments and the world of architecture.

PARADIGM AND METHODOLOGY

Husserl's conceptualize that transcendent aspect is an ultimate truth consisting of intentions and physical truth. Fundamentally, the discovering of theoretical concept according to the paradigm of Husserl's phenomenology tends to be idiographic (local theory). According to Lincoln and Guba, 1985, phenomenology is naturalistic... The researcher gathers naturally the empirical information by himself and at the same time he put off his theoretical knowledge By Husserl's phenomenology, researcher primarily reveals tacit knowledge hidden behind the physical things. The collected information units are then categorized into themes (Glasser and Strauss, 1967), in order to get the essential concept of local knowledge.

DISCUSSION

1. Omah Dudur

Omah dudurs exclusively belong to the queen and nobility class which is today

handed over and shared by all rural communities. In its development, potongan of dudur evolved into many types, namely: 1) omah dudur siji; 2) omah dudur siji-limasan; 3)omah dudur loro; 4) omah dudur loro-seselan; 5) omah dudur telu; 6) omah dudur loro In all types, omah dudur komplit. consists of one or more 'dudur' as principal element. The number of dudur in each dwelling is always equipped with srotongan functioned as pawon (kitchen) in the east dudur and rest room as well as awell at behind of pawon.

The figur indicates the types of *omah dudur* in Urut Sewu, Grabag, Purworejo, Central Java can be seen below.

Physically, omah dudur performed as joglo building that is composed of a unified frame and walls. The structural frame of dudur is constructed by four pillars, called saka papat, which stand up in the middle of omah. The bottom of saka papat supported by exposed pyramidal foundation with the height of 40-100 cm. The top of saka papat composed by jahit and dedel (beam). Jahit mounted transversely in northsouth direction as dhodhog wesi / dhadha peksi. The jahit and dedel connected each other and filled by a pyramidal-curve wood-shelf ceiling forming a skull cap (kopiah) as insen and Lakar tumpang. In addition to rise the aesthetic value, lakar tumpang and insen has an important role to convince that

dudur is in mlithis (a good proportion). On the top of Lakar tumpang is the smaller overlap beam called *ontop*, which serves as the plain on which therafters are placed. The top edge of pyramidal-curve wood-shelf ceiling of lakar tumpang is duduran bajingan (bastard)/orang-orangan (dudur beam) with duduran makutho. The whole form of both duduran looks like gunungan (roof) with dudur at the bottom; and duduran makutho at the top (sunan) forming a gunungan makutho / brunjung (roof top). The bottom of supported either by brick walls or saka goco (small pillars).

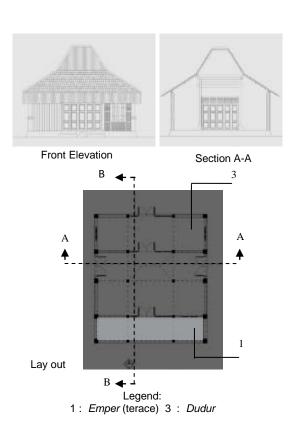


Figure 1. Lay out, Section and Elevation Of *Omah Dudur Siji* (Source: Author, 2016)



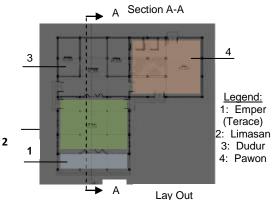


Figure 2. Lay Out, Section and Elevation Of *Omah Dudur Siji-Limasan* (Source: Author, 2016)

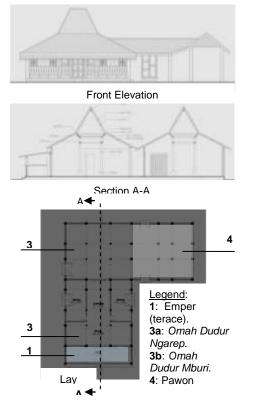
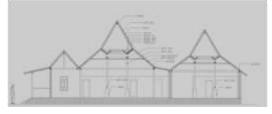


Figure 3.Lay Out, Section and Elevation Of *Omah Dudur Loro* (Source: Author, 2016)



Elevation



Section

Figure 4. Section and Elevation Of *Omah Dudur Loro Komplit*(Source: Author, 2016)

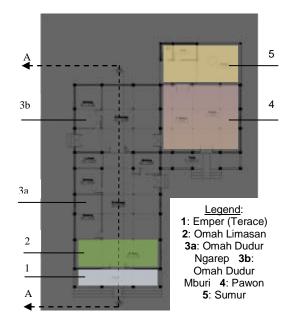


Figure 5. Lay Out Of Omah Dudur Loro Komplit (Source: Author, 2016)

Physically, *omah dudur* performed as *joglo* building that is composed of a unified frame and walls. The structural frame of *dudur* is constructed by four pillars, called *saka papat*, which stand up

in the middle of omah. The bottom of saka papat supported by exposed pyramidal foundation with the height of 40-100 cm. The top of saka papat composed by jahit and dedel (beam). Jahit mounted transversely in northsouth direction as dhodhog wesi / dhadha peksi. The jahit and dedel connected each other and filled by a pyramidal-curve wood-shelf forming a skull cap (kopiah) as insen and Lakar tumpang. In addition to rise the aesthetic value, lakar tumpang and insen has an important role to convince that dudur is mlithis the in (a good proportion). On the top of Lakar tumpang is the smaller overlap beam called *ontop*, which serves as the plain on which therafters are placed. The top edge of pyramidal-curve wood-shelf ceiling of lakar tumpang is duduran bajingan (bastard)/orang-orangan (dudur beam) with duduran makutho. The whole form of both duduran looks like gunungan (roof) with dudur at the bottom; and duduran makutho at the top (sunan) forming a gunungan makutho / brunjung (roof top). The bottom of beam supported either by brick walls or saka goco (small pillars).

2. Wahyu in omah dudur

Wahyu is a soul (*nyawa*) that spiritually overwhelm the *omah dudur*, It is convinced by the occupants as personification of Sunan Walisanga (the nine sacred guardians) and Ratu Kidul

(the sacred queen) as well as others sacred figures. The wahyu is descended down and be blessing the occupants by kepungan ritual and through glondong which is conducted at the beginning of the construction of omah dudur. When the occupants obey their faiths, then wahyu manifested on the kinds of slamet, karibawan, adem ayem and cekap sandang pangan. Otherwise, the occupants will face sengkala when they ignore what is considered appropriate to the wahyu.

a. Wahyu at Gunungan (roof)

Sunan Walisanga is the nine sacred guardians considered to have privilege of faith according to the certain Islamic Javanese Community. They are Sunan Kalijaga, Sunan Bonang, Sunan Muria, Sunan Gunung Jati, Sunan Giri, Sunan Kudus, Sunan Ampel, Sunan Drajat and Sunan Gresik (Maulana Malik Ibrahim). Trustworthy guardians live (manggon) in the gunungan (dudur roof) which are symbolized in the form of eight corners dudur and one molo as representative of the leader of Sunan. Informants said that Sunan Walisanga will present through occupants gunungan when the determined kepungan (ceremonies for salvation) and petungan omah dudur (calculating the appropriate time to start the work of contruction). According to their belief. the sacred ritual of kepungan and petungan will bring the Sunan to live (manggon)

gunungan. Because of this belief, the locals perceive that omah dudur diwaleni.

Diwaleni means that the occupants have sacred parents who protect, provide security and the fortune *karibawan, omah dudur* alive, authoritative and *sumreweng*.

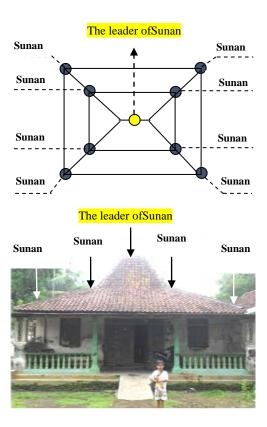


Figure 6.Sunan Walisanga at Gunungan
Omah Dudur
(Source: Author, 2016)
b. Wahyu at dhada peksi / dhodhog
wesi

One important of wahyus in omah dudur is the wahyu that overwhelm through dhadha peksi (the unique blandong's decoration). Penyungging will encrust dhadha peksi with fully carving. To gain the strength in penyungging, the occupants must be fasting for 7 to 40

days. The strength of *blandong* depend on how long the occupants do the fasting. During fasting the occupants express prayer by *rapalan* that sounds like a song.

There is no provision for designing or dhadha peksi. carving the The presentation of blandong should be appropriate and determined guidance of wahyu. Therefore, it appears uniquely and looks differently between one and others of each dhadha peksi. Completion of the manufacture of the carving cannot be ascertained, . The work of carving will stop when the occupant convince that the wahyu considered live forever in dhadha peksi. The beautiful carvings show magnitude of the force of wahyu that live in omah dudur.



Figure 7. Dhadha Peksi / Dhodhog Wesi (Source: Author, 2016, 2017) c. Wahyu at saka Lor Wetan and saka papat

The wahyu which live at saka Lor Wetan (northeast pillar) is Sunan Kalijaga. In the important events such as mantenan

(wedding day), sunatan (circumcision), the occupants serve offering (sajen) closed to where the saka Lor Wetan placed. Saka Lor Wetan is considered to have a higher spiritual value, because it is representative of Sunan Kalijaga come from the great mosque of Demak (historically it was important royal town in Java Island). Sunan Kalijaga is one of the nine guardians that asked to construct saka Lor Wetan. When Sunan completed the three of others saka, Sunan Kalijaga has precisely had the difficulty to find woods as the basic material of saka. Local legend informed that the used timbers were harvested from around Purworejo Unfortunately the every single cut of timbers disappeared again and again. Finally he decided to collect the shaving woods from other Sunan then formed and used it as saka Lor Wetan which perceived has the same power with the other saka.

The unvisible force of saka Lor Wetan is approved by the certain strange phenomenon. When someone goes to sleep around saka papat while his foot is leaning to the saka Lor Wetan, he will move to a different place when he wakes up. In addition, the sak as will deliver the lights or others signs as a marker that something will happen. Therefore, saka Lor Wetan is convinced as a sacred thing because its spiritual powers can provide a mental and physical strength to the occupants.

spiritual power is not only overwhelmed through saka Lor Wetan, but also through the three other pillars of saka papat. Its strength is indicated when saka papat no longer be used or When one of the pillars damaged. broken and considered must he replaced, the pillars should be replaced with its partner (sakjodo). Otherwise, the occupants will face sengkala. The sengkala also will happen when the occupant do cutting the saka into pieces.

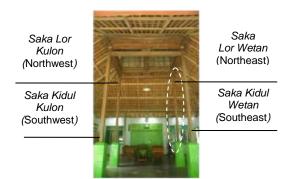


Figure 8. Saka Lor Wetan (Sourece: Author, 2016)

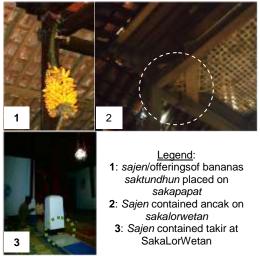


Figure 9. Sajen at Saka Papat (Source: Author, 2016)

d. Wahyu and Omah Dudur Orientation
 Spiritually, the Urut Sewu area located in the region of Southern sea kingdom with

his queen, Kencana Wungu. Therefore, the locals should respect the kingdom that proper the whole village by serving the offering and traditional praying ritual tribute to the queen Kencana Wungu or Nyi Ratu Kidul. For this reason, the orientation of *omah dudur* should be faced to the South where the Kingdom of the Southern sea located.

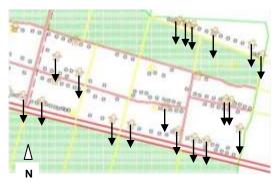


Figure 10.The Orientation Of *Omah Dudur* in Munggangsari Village

(Source: Author, 2016)

e. Wahyu in Pusering Pekarangan

The wahyu also present at *pusering* pekarangan (center of yard), inside of buried foundation and left behind when the *omah dudur* is demolished. In order to avoid *sengkala*, commonly the occupants do not plot their *omah dudur* at the *pusering pekarangan*. Sengkala is often considered as something causing the presence of pain or unlucky fate.

Informants said that there are three ways used by the occupants to avoid plotting omah dudur at the *pusering pekarangan*. The first is to make the boundary line 1-5 *badan* (bodies) from the west and rear side of yard. The size of yard is determined by figuring a diagonal line to

get the midpoint as the properly center of sengkala.

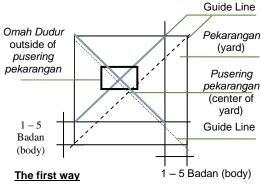
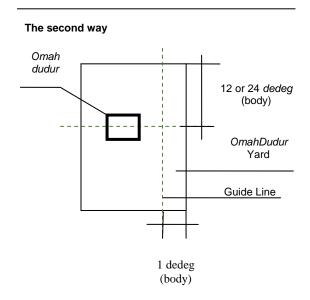


Figure 11. Technique of Placement Omah Dudur Outside Pusering Pekarangan (1) (Source: Author, 2016)

The second is to scratch the boundary of yard with the distance of 1 dedeg (the height of manto the left or right. The distance of omah dudur from the border of yard is measured 12 dedeg or 24 dedeg to the rear. The third is to make pusering pekarangan free as an unoccupied area located between two omah dudur. In this position the pusering pekarangan become the central yard.



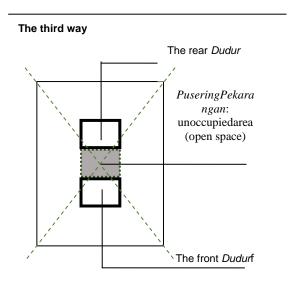


Figure 12.The Technique Of Placement

Omah Dudur Outside

Pusering Pekarangan (2)

(Source: Informant, 2017)

f. Wahyu in batur (buried foundation)

In the certain phenomenon, Wahyu is perceived as a danger thing for the occupants. It is the *wahyu* which flows through *batur* pent of building. *Batur* pent is the left former shelf of *omah dudur* that basically important to build a *Blandong*.

Informant stated that the former shelf (foundation) can bring a very dangerous sengkala impacting to the unsecure or unlucky fate of occupant's family. Furthermore, it is necessary to purge the former foundation of omah dudur in order to make the occupant save from the danger of sengkala.

3. Transcendent Meaning

a. Context

Omah dudur that located in sub urban area is conceptually environmentalism related to the presence of wahyu. The wahyu lives in nature and determine the

lucky or unlucky fate of inhabitants. In order to avoid the unlucky fate, the inhabitants are required to communicate to the *wahyu* requesting the nature in equilibrium by sacred ritual.

The first kind of rituals is *kepungan*. *Kepungan* conducted by Kaum or locals reguarly during the event of *adeg-adeg* (constructing the building) and *Mbangun* (renovation) of *omah dudur* especially when the occupants will be constructing the *batur* (foundation), *saka papat*, *dhadha peksi*, *blandar* (beam) and *sunan*.

In term of Mbangun (building renovation), ritual kepungan conducted at the beginning and end of that work. When *mbangun* started, the occupants request the presence of nyawa (soul) to stay in their omah dudur. In their opinion, *nyawa* temporarily does not stay in the house and at the same time they feel the emptiness. Further more they are necessary to recall it through *kepungan* ritual when the process of omah dudur construction completed. Otherwise, the occupants do not ask the presence of wahyu in case of shifting the location because of the wrong plotting of omah dudur toward the pusering pekarangan.

Requesting and avoiding the wahyu are important to be implied along constructing process of omah dudur, so that the occupants obtain the keslametan (safety), karibawan (authority), adem

ayem (comfortable) and cekap sandang pangan (prosperous), in addition to get aesthetically the feeling of *mlithis* (looking good and smiling).

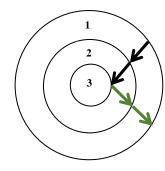
b. Omah dudur as Pusaka

The lucky and unlucky fates have encouraged the occupant to have some obligations to maintain the respect for the sanctity of wahyu. Ritual of mundimundi is one of the ways that used to be implied by the occupant for delivering their honor to wahyu living in the house. How to honor the wahyu is to do ngadusi (bathing) and make an offering consisted of various kind of flowersin addition to avoid prohibitions. Ngadusi omah dudur (wiping the part of saka papat with water and rice straw) is similar to jamasan pusaka (bathing the valuable relic) that should be conducted regularly in Suro month

The offerings of various flowers which contained in Takir and ancak were placed at the bottom of saka Lor Wetan, while ancak placed at the top. The offerings regularly serve on Jumat Kliwon (Friday kliwon/sacred Friday). Fundamentally, the ritual is always in conjunction with the construction process to avoid the wrong doing as ngrajangngrajang (cutting) and masah (smoothing) saka papat or changing the shape of dudur into limasan, srotong or others.

Omahdudur is considered as a relic and treated like any other heirloom attached

to the metaphysical belief of the certain Java community that has an invisible power.



Flowing process of in constructing omah dudur. Wahyu -omahdudur-occupants.

Flowing process of wahyu in mundi-mundi ritual: occupant, omahdudur-wahyu

- 1 Wahyu.
- 2 Omahdudur.
- 3 Occupants

Figure 13. Flowing Process Of Wahyu (Source: Scheme figuring from local expalanation, 2017)

CONCLUSION

Omah dudur in Urut Sewu is considered by locals as a valuable relic that spiritually consists of invisible power living in the house and influencing to the lucky or unlucky of occupant's fate. The wahyu in the form of pengelus (spirits) derived from Sunan Walisongo, ratu Kidul. The kinds of lucky fate are: keslametan (safety), karibawan (authority), adem ayem (comfortable) and cekap sandang pangan (prosperous). They influence to the good performance of omah dudur physically looks to become mlithis (good looking and smiling). Otherwise, the occupant can face sengkala (constraints, sickness. poverty and death), when they do violations, in

addition to influence the physical performance of *omah dudur* to be looks cloudy.

Wahyu living in omah dudur provides two important meaning that influences to: 1) determine the physical position or orientation of it toward the universe and; 2) maintain local tradition that omah dudur as a relic should be honored and that the wahyu which overwhelm the omah dudur can encourage the occupants to keep the good ethics in their daily life by regular sacred rituals such as jamasan, mundi-mundi, offerings various kind of flowers.

Hopefully the result of study can contribute to increase the number of phenomenological traditional architecture research in order to construct theoretical concept based on a tacit knowledge. Otherwise it is recommended to transfer this findings into others *omah dudur* located at outside Urut Sewu for completing the former result.

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