

# DUTCH COLONIAL ARCHITECTURE AND CITY DEVELOPMENT OF MAKASSAR<sup>\*)</sup>

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## ABSTRACT

Indonesian old cities as the sites of government, trading, and ports have been established before the arrival of the Europeans. The form and pattern of settlements which served as the centres of the hinterlands were influenced by Indian or Hindu and afterwards by Chinese and European cultures. Makassar has been the dominant trading centre in Nusantara Archipelago. Its strategic location on South West peninsula of the sprawling island of Sulawesi gave it excellent access to the busy sea lanes of Java Sea, the Makassar straits, the Celebes and Banda seas and hence to many local trading networks as well as to the crucial long distance trade with India, China, and ultimately with Europe. The history of the city of Makassar began with the fort which was turned into the site of government, military and trade after the destruction of the Somba Opu fort. Despite of its similarities, there were principal differences with cities in Java which were also established in the same period .

**Keywords :** Makassar urban and architecture history.

## INTRODUCTION

Hindu influence in the traditional settlements in Java, can be seen from the plan of centre of Majapahit Kingdom 16<sup>th</sup> C in East Java, with its cosmic axis oriented northward (towards the sea) and southward. The main elements were the palace, the courtyard, and the temple which served as religious facilities.

The courtyard had plural functions: as an open space socially functioned as a gathering place during festivities, religious ceremonies, and militarily functioned as a place where soldiers practiced.

Courtyard with twin bayan (*beringin*) trees symbolizing welfare was functioned as a place where social justice was done and where kings could held dialogue with their subjects.

The pattern expressed elements of religious, popular, and social justice which have existed before. After the arrival of Islam, the pattern of centres of settlement remained unaltered, except the site of the mosque which was oriented towards the *kiblat* (direction of Mecca) hence on the west side of the courtyard.

Kings' relatives and assistants lived in palaces or region *kabupaten* (regency), while other subjects lived around the administrative centre creating a structure following socio-economic and socio-cultural categories.

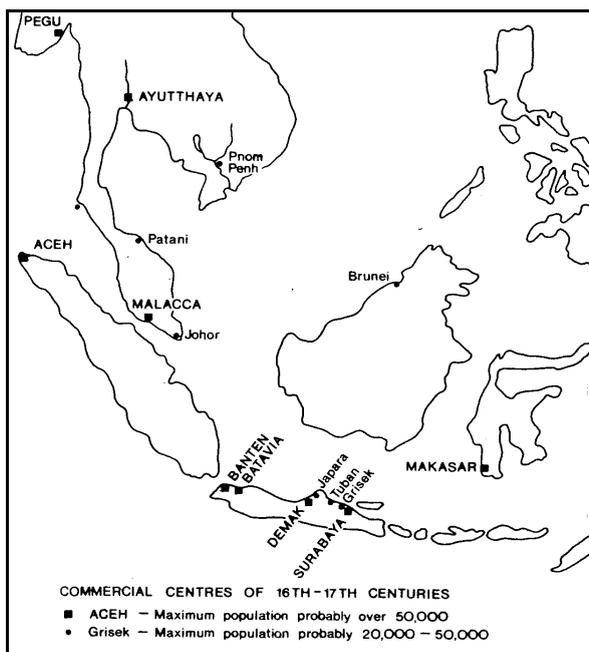
This triad of mosque - regency (*kabupaten*) - town square (*alun-alun*) was maintained during the Dutch period, even during the construction of new centres, but this time they were built for Dutch own benefits. This can be seen by sites of the residence of the Dutch governor, residents, *resident-assistants*, or colonial administrators which were always located around the *alun-alun* facing the palace or the kabupaten which always occupied by natives, so control can be maintained efficiently. Not far from the city centres the Dutch always located the military barracks.

Cities provide one of the best opportunities to study the complex interactions between various social groups, as they formed both the nuclei of the political structures, and also the point of connection between trade networks. Consequently, it was in cities and in particular ports, that differing ethnic communities and

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social classes come into closest contact. The construction of new elements around the fort expanded the fort even further. Each developed following different history and process, as a result their patterns were different history and process as a result their pattern were different. The following section will demonstrate in brief the history of urban development and its architecture which will be divide into four periods: before Dutch colonization, early colonial, colonial, and late colonial periods.



### PRE-COLONIAL MAKASSAR - Before Dutch Colonization Period -

Before the Portuguese conquered Malacca in 1511, the trading ports of Macassar (Makassar) were already bustling. In that time, trading relations were conducted not only between islands within the Nusantara, archipelago such as Java, Kalimantan and the Moluccas but also with Malacca, Siam and Pegu (now in Myanmar). The fall of Malacca caused the arrival of the Malay from Malacca, Johor, and Pahang to Makassar, probably due to the pressure from the colonizing power who embraced different religions.

The Makassar Fort was one of nine others which stood along the coast facing the Makassar strait. The forts were erected by the twin kingdom of Gowa-Tallo to protect its areas from harassment coming from the sea.. At the north end was the Tallo Fort by the mouth of the Tallo River, while on the other end was the

Barombong fort, about 2.5 km south of the mouth of Garassik River (now Jeneberang) Apart from the nine forts at the coast there were two others in the interior. The first one was the Kale Goa about 4 km from the coast by the Jeneberang River, the other was the Anak Gowa Fort 2km south-west the first one. According to the map in Bulbeck's "The Landscape of the Makassar War" (1990) (figure 1), Kale Gowa Fort was located around the tomb of Syech Yusuf and the Katangka Mosque. Based on the same map there was another fort which was located away from the coast about 2 km from the Makassar Fort. The map shows that before the Dutch controlled Makassar the Portuguese had established a separate quarter which now administratively became Kecamatan Mariso on the centre-west. Aside from the tomb of Syech Yusuf, the tombs of the kings of Gowa and Tallo, the Katangka Mosque and the ruins of the ruins of the Somba Opu Fort, there was no archaeological remains left from these sites.

### URBAN PATTERN DURING THE EARLY COLONIAL PERIOD -Early Colonial Period-

After spending all of its resources, the Dutch under Admiral Speelman could conquer and destroy the Somba Opu Fort, the biggest fort in the area. The Dutch choose the Makassar Fort as its head quarter, probably due to its natural location considered more appropriate as the port. The early history of Makassar, including its city development and architecture was started by massif, perhaps even total, reconstruction beginning in 1613. To honour Speelman, the fort was named Rotterdam, following his place of birth.

The Dutch colonial settlement in Makassar, was similar with other places in Indonesia which, begun from within the fortress-walls (*intra-muros*). That kind of living arrangement actually is an expression of human instinct to protect one's life from external threats since the first time there was human bands. The Rotterdam fort demonstrated European cultural influence; its architecture resembled medieval Architecture. The fort which served to protect its inhabitants from sporadic attacks by the natives, had the shape of irregular-quadrangle almost trapezoid. Its longest side was its west side. On each corner there was a bastion with the shape of parallelogram like the tip of spear. The



outer walls directly without overhang roof creating a triangle plain on the upper part wall, very typical Dutch architecture. All units within the fort was multiple-storeys. Aside to made more efficient use of the limit land, from the upper floor one could see the surrounding without feeling trapped, the halls had defence purpose, to observe external threats (figure 3, 4, 5).



**Fig 3.4.5. Fort Rotterdam and environs in early 20<sup>th</sup> C (above), a unit which was Speelman residence (middle) and interior of a top floor of a unit in the fort (below).**

Geographical, political, social and economic factors all determine regional development. Similarly, Makassar later developed faster after its fall to Dutch hands. Life was centred on the

fortress and the fortress became the main element, which dominated, massive, and had a strong seventeenth century character. The second element grew on the northeast side of the Rotterdam Fort, which Speelman called as "the settlement for traders with housing for strangers and newcomers," or known as "Negory Vlaardingen." The occupants of this area were a mixed of Eurasians, Chinese, and natives who converted to Christianity.

The element, which shaped the structure of settlement pattern as the third element in the centre of Makassar area, was the cohesive native populations in the north of Vlaardingen in an area called Kampong Melayu. This name is taken from the name of its occupants, the Malay, which was kicked out from the Makassar area because the Dutch easily manipulated them, along with the Bugis.

The Dutch as the rulers gave them an area at the north of Vlaardingen, which at that time was called Bulukeng and was still a forest.

Sociologically this third element was shaped either due to their astuteness or Dutch trickery. Their delocalisation in the border area or periphery served as "living fence" which fortified the Dutch area from the harassment by the Makassar native people from the north. The daily life situation in the Kampong Melayu can be seen at figure 6.



**Fig 6. The daily life situation in the Kampong Melayu (van de Velde 1845)**

The establishment of the settlement at the south of the fortress at the time, socio-culturally can be included in the third element. The fourth area developed later and that was why it was called Kampong Baru (New Kampong) on the coast. This area was inhabited by natives, other Asians and christianised freed-slaves who worked for the Dutch and usually called as Mardijkers. Each elements including the fort, even though architecturally different one from

the other, had the same pattern including the existence of a centre inside. Each element had mixed occupant with fence all around, housing for families including their followers and slaves. The phenomena of living in socio-cultural-economic and ethnic group of the population in the city, was similar with other archipelago Dutch colonial city, especially in the coastal area. Figure 7 shows the plan of Fort Rotterdam and the surrounding area in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. It can be seen on that map a garden in the top north-east, which supplied fresh vegetable to the city population, especially for those who lived in the Fort Rotterdam.

As mentioned above, the tricky resettlement of Malay people in the border area or periphery served as "living fences" the Dutch area from the harassment by the Makassar from the north. To defend from the native people revolt from north-east side, they built a smaller fort crossed diagonal to the vegetable garden named Vrydenburg. For the transportation and communication, there were a canal connecting both forts.

The place where the fort used to stand is used by BNI Bank in the north of Karebosi Square today. The map shows the pattern of the Vlaardingen European exclusive settlement as well. It looks like middle ages cities, with the coast line tree smaller streets, crossed perpendicularly by two other streets.

## COLONIAL AND LATE COLONIAL PERIOD

The war between Bone the other traditional indigenous Kingdom in Sulawesi and Makassar was more and more often after the death of Arupalakka an aristocrat (pro Dutch) Buginese leader. The conflict made the Dutch's position more stable. Although the Makassar agglomeration expanded, the structure did not become different. The middle age pattern with its straight street with building stuck together without front or side court, still exist. The condition of Vlaardingen, the European exclusive settlement was better with better stone and brick construction. But the indigenous living condition Kampong Baru and Kampong Melayu mentioned above as the third element of the town was always in bad condition.

The Dutch begun to leave the *intra-muros* living and built many important buildings such as a church, a hospital (hospital Pelamonia today

in Jln. Jen. Sudirman) and governor's residence (Regional Police Office Jln. A. Yani today). The Fort did not have defensive and security functions. Koningsplein which means "King square" know renamed Karebosi a wide square is looks like an *aJun-aJun*, but it has different town centre pattern than in Java which always an composite of triad of elements: mosque-kabupaten (regent's official residence and office)-town square (*alun-alun*). Koningsplein until today neither has a city mosque nor a *kabupaten*.

The function of Koningsplein was more military practice and training with its shooting range facility, and other ceremonial purpose. In the north-west of the Koningsplein there was a platform for execution of death sentence.

Around of the Koningsplein city square, were built many important buildings such as Court Office, Dutch exclusive club (*societeit*), church, hotels and later cinema etc.

A hundred meter in the north-west of the *alun-alun* there were the *asisten-resident* official house. Not faraway in the east of the *asisten residen's* residence there was the prison. Chinese and European cemeteries were located in the north east of the Koningsplein with a periphery side of the city, and some native cemeteries spread around their housing in the north and east out side of the city (figure 7).

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> C, Vlaardingen grew as a central business district of Makassar, occupied by Chinese population and meanwhile Hogepad (Jl. A. Yani) was become an administration area. The eastern side of Koningsplein was developed as a housing area with "Garden City" concept, houses rounded with yard. In the 1906, Makassar was inaugurated as a Municipal (*Stads gemeente*). Around 1930s until the end of the Dutch colonial, the role of Makassar city as the regional administration, business and military centre and harbour become more important, marked by the construction of administration buildings, business offices, shipping agencies, offices, banks, hotels, theatre, shops, sport facilities etc.

## DUTCH COLONIAL ARCHITECTURE

The phenomenon of the *extra-muros* after *intra-muros* (living inside the fort) in Makassar Dutch colonial was identical with Renaissance era. The architecture of early buildings after the "leaving fort movement" were totally influenced

by European classical such as the governor's official residence, with Doric-Greek colons mouldings with wide front-yard (figure 8).



Fig 7. Plan of the Fort Rotterdam and surrounding in 17<sup>th</sup> C and administrative plan of today.



Fig 8. Governor house with Doric-Greek colons and mouldings with wide front-yard.

The architecture of Grand Hotel Which was one of the biggest most important and best hotel in the city, was also dominated by European style influenced its Roman arches and Renaissance balustrade (figure 9). The Catholic church on the west side of Koningsplein is in modern-eclectic but strongly influenced by the Gothic architecture (figure 10).



Fig 9. Architecture of Grand Hotel one of the biggest, important and best hotel in the city (demolished).

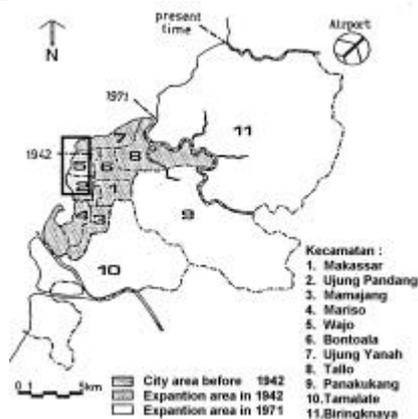


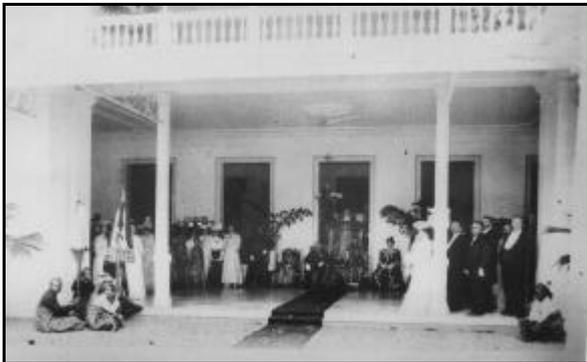
Fig 7. Plan of the Fort Rotterdam and surrounding in 17<sup>th</sup> C and administrative plan of today.



Fig 10. The Catholic Church (renovated).

Although the European influences were dominated these buildings and Dutch colonial architecture generally, but its important to remark that the tropical climate aspect is always considered in Dutch building design. It can be seen clearly in the big-sharp angle roof, good ventilation, high floor to ceiling distance.

The front or back side terrace found in the most Dutch colonial buildings has multiple function : corridor, intermediary outside-inside space of the building and heat isolation. This is also an important aspect of tropical buildings. The *assitant residents* official's house also had Europeans style influence, but in this case tropical-Java aspect was also dominant with its terrace along of frontal part. This terrace is identical which *peringgitan* in *Joglo*, Java construction (figure 11).



**Fig 11. The *assitant residents* official's house (demolished)**

With always pays big attention to the tropical climate, the development of the Dutch colonial architecture in Makassar, Dutch colonial developed parallel to 1920s in Europe modernism.

The design of the KPM the Royal Dutch Shipping company agency in Makassar was in mix architecture, modern Art-Deco and classical Byzantine with its monumental dome. Regretful, this beautiful building has been demolished for the port development program in the last four years (1997). The KPM office in Makassar (figure 12) was designed by Ir. F.J.L. Ghijsels a well known Dutch architect, frequently utilizes elements such as grilles which had has ventilation function, leaded glass windows.

These functional building elements were formed and combined with many other concrete geometrical forms, composed a typical Art-Deco style decoration. The facade has strong vertical lines with tall, narrow windows placed in facade in order to prevent direct sunlight shining

through them. The overhanging, horizontally accentuated ridge pieces gives a counterbalance to vertical indentation. Other Dutch colonial architecture of a park, offices and banks in the business centre, as a school and china town can be seen in figures : 13, 14, 15, 16.



**Fig 12. The KPM agency's office in Makassar (demolished)**



**Fig 13. Musical stage in the park (demolished)**



**Fig 14. China Town (disappear)**



**Fig 15. Dutch-China School (in very bad condition)**

### CONCLUSION

It is interesting to note that Makassar, which represents outer Java cities, its city center. It has a big difference with traditional Java cities center that has not city mosque and kabupaten. It may be because the Sulawesi traditional kingdom settlements doesn't have *alun-alun* – mosque and palace or *kabupaten* in their administrative center. But the socio-ethnic and the socio-culture group settlements formed a "mosaic" around the fort was a general growth urban colonial phenomena in the 19<sup>th</sup> C, especially in Java coastal cities. The architecture of Fort Rotterdam was an early Dutch colonial building strongly influenced by medieval and also the urban pattern around the fort. In the city planning, Dutch always considered the anthropological aspect to what they provide for. In case of Makassar for example, they placed the Malay population group in the northwest of Vlaardingen an exclusive European residence area to protect them from indigenous harassment from northeast. The Malayan were easier to control than the Makassarese and there were strong ethnic population sentiments.

The Dutch colonial architecture in Indonesia is an example of unique mix of west and east tropical and traditional country. The Dutch is very sensitive with the tropical climate. In Java and as well as in Makassar, there were many Dutch colonial architecture which clearly seen in very good in ventilation and natural day lighting in mix European early modernism and traditional architectural influence. It is regretful that many cities in Indonesia and also in Makassar lost many Dutch colonial architecture heritage. People does not respect architecture and historical values anymore and demolish many

Dutch construction. The later generation will lost the history and especially the history of the development of architecture.

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