

Review of Traditional Javanese Concept Chair Furniture Design at Pecel Solo Restaurant Surakarta

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ABSTRACT: *The choice of furniture design will influence the aesthetics of the space and user satisfaction in carrying out their activities, one of which is a restaurant. In order to develop tourism in a city, cultural elements need to be created that will attract tourists. For example, the city of Solo is one of the cities that brings many elements of Javanese culture. The research method uses descriptive research obtained by conducting field observations. The data was analyzed qualitatively, and the advantages and disadvantages of furniture were identified and reviewed from the perspective of lifestyle and local wisdom. The object of the research was the Pecel Solo Restaurant in Surakarta. Teak wood is often used in furniture, artwork, and accessories because the material is durable, sturdy, and resistant. The chair furniture discussed includes lounge chairs, dining chairs, and lounge benches. The three chairs have their uniqueness by highlighting local wisdom. Apart from that, the choice of furniture is also influenced by the lifestyle of local residents. The residents in question are Javanese who have lived in Surakarta long. Some of the furniture used at the Pecel Solo Restaurant does not meet ergonomic standards for its function as dining chairs.*

KEYWORDS -Furniture, Javanese, Lifestyle, Local Wisdom, Traditional

I. INTRODUCTION

As part of the interior elements, furniture influences the space's aesthetics and user satisfaction by providing closeness and sensual consumption (Ukabi&Gurdalli, 2021). Choosing a classic or modern furniture design is a variable that interacts with the interior space, giving rise to a special or specific impression, experience, and meaning for someone when entering the room (Dewi, 2020). In this research, classic furniture is referred to as past or ancient furniture that has passed a long time and is accepted by users today. According to Dewi (2020), furniture that has reached artistic maturity or a level of artistic maturity cannot be added or subtracted further in the development of its design.

According to Ukabi&Gurdalli(2021), restaurants describe a socio-spatial structure for humans to express themselves. Restaurants are usually used for eating out, parties,school or work breaks, and even tourist and hospitality activities. The existence of restaurants that bring cultural elements will help the development of tourism in a city. According to Sunarmi(2007), Java is one of a number of places or islands that contain natural diversity and richness. Java's natural potential supports practice, artistic creation, and culture. The potentiality of nature combined with its people's intellectual, emotional, and spiritual intelligence has been proven to give birth to various works of art and culture, including the art of construction.

The city of Surakarta, or better known as Solo, is rich in culture, so it has been designated as one of the cultural centers in Central Java. The city of Solo is also nicknamed the Spirit of Java because of its role in preserving customs and culture in social life. Some of the preservation of Javanese culture is reflected in the buildings and interiors, one of which is Pecel Solo Restaurant.

II. RESEARCH METHOD

The research method used is descriptive research obtained from the results of field observations. According to Muhadjir(2002), the descriptive method is carried out by collecting data from field observations, documentation/sketches, and literature studies related to the object of study. Observations of traditional Javanese furniture design concepts at the Pecel Solo Restaurant were carried out to collect data directly at the restaurant location to determine the original condition of the furniture. Researchers collected data through the documentation by taking photos of furniture using a smartphone and recording information and data obtained in the field.

The data collected was then analyzed qualitatively to identify advantages and disadvantages in furniture design. Qualitative research is descriptive, highlighting the research process and utilizing a theoretical basis to match the facts in the field. Then, based on the data obtained, researchers studied furniture design from several points of view, such as Lifestyle and Local Wisdom.

III. PECEL SOLO RESTAURANT

Pecel Solo Restaurant is located on Jalan Prof. DR. Supomo, Mangkubumen, Banjarsari District, Surakarta City. The restaurant, built in 2013 and officially opened in 2015, has a Modern Colonial architectural style, which is one of the attractions for customers. This restaurant also became famous because the owner gave it a traditional Javanese touch, which can be seen in the choice of furniture. Not only the furniture in this restaurant but also the artwork and accessories are made from teakwood.

Apart from selling traditional Javanese food at the Pecel Solo Restaurant, classic Javanese traditional furniture influences the atmosphere and leaves an impression on the visitors.

IV. TRADITIONAL FURNITURE DESIGNS

Furniture is one of the standard serving equipment that must be present in a restaurant. The furniture includes the dining table, dining chairs, and cutlery supply cupboard (sideboard). The restaurant furniture criteria are comfortable to use, practical, and adapted to the type of service and type of guests. Furniture design will generally adapt to the interior concept proposed for a building. In this research, the objects used are chairs used in a restaurant that uses a traditional Javanese concept.



Figure: *Pecel Solo Restaurant (Ground Floor Outdoor)*
Source: Valencia Audrey, 2024

At the Pecel Solo Restaurant, the furniture used, such as tables, chairs, cabinets, and many works of art and accessories, uses teak wood. According to Hendrassukma(2011), wood is a natural material that can be renewed from nature. Wood material can be processed into new shapes that produce new functions when it is no longer used. Several types of chairs are used in this restaurant to suit the area. For example, in the dining area, there are general dining chairs, and then in the relaxing area, there are lounge chairs, one of which is the chair on the 2nd floor indoors.



Figure:*Lounge Chair*
Source: Valencia Audrey, 2024

As in general, lounge chairs have different shapes and sizes from ordinary chairs. This Lounge Chair is quite low, 25-35 cm from the floor surface. With the height of this chair, there is a possibility that the user's feet will touch the fairly low part of the table. The backrest of this chair is equipped with woven rattan, the aim of which is to make users feel comfortable with the flexible feel of the rattan woven. The elevation of the seat and backrest of the chair is quite slanted according to its function for relaxing. This chair has a unique armrest shape, namely a semicircular shape with a curved section to support the arms. The shape looks like a wheel with the support on the curved part towards the chair legs.



Figure:*Dining Chair*
Source: Valencia Audrey, 2024

This chair is the same size as most dining chairs, but what is interesting is that the backrest is more sloping than most dining chairs. This chair in the semi-outdoor area can be categorized as a lounge chair. Apart from the slope of the backrest, this dining chair has an armrest that is quite long according to the seat's dimensions. The shape of the armrest of this chair is different from the previous lounge chair; a bold concave shape adorns the chair and becomes a point of interest. The shape of this chair seems to provide grandeur with a high backrest, a firm armrest shape, and chair legs that curve slightly outwards.

Unlike previous dining chairs, this chair's backrest has 10 long slats. The value 10 is often associated with large numbers, fulfillment, and perfection. Based on the Javanese philosophy of life, ten or *sedoso* is a symbol of perfection and God's will. Therefore, the dramatic shape of this dining chair seems to reflect grandeur and perfection.



Figure:Lounge Bench
Source: Valencia Audrey, 2024

The Lounge Bench is located in the semi-outdoor area on the 2nd floor of the restaurant. This type of chair is often called a Javanese bale-bale, which is like a place to rest and is used for sitting or sleeping. The seat of this chair is wider than most chairs, which is around 60-100 cm. In Javanese homes, this chair is usually placed in the living or family room to gather while enjoying a meal. The details of this chair lie in the shape of the carved legs and the armrest and backrest. This Lounge Bench has a fairly faded color visible on the backrest. Because this chair has quite high dimensions compared to the table in front of it, the chair user who eats must lean more forward. This is an inconvenience for users when using this chair as a dining chair.

V. LIFESTYLE AND LOCAL WISDOM

In Javanese culture, there is a philosophy of life that says *alon-alon asal kelakon*. This philosophy influences the Javanese lifestyle, in sharp contrast to the busy and fast-paced lives in big cities. They themselves live simply and humbly. The Slow Living lifestyle that most people in Java have is reflected in the devices or equipment they use daily. The furniture used in Javanese houses is mostly used for gathering and chatting. The Javanese philosophy that is also widely used is *manganoramangan sing penting kumpul*, meaning that eating or not eating, the important thing is gathering. This philosophy is closely related to the culture of the Javanese people, who like to socialize, gather, and help each other (Tandywijaya, 2020)

The choice of furniture used at the Pecel Solo Restaurant each reflects local Javanese wisdom, one of which is the lounge chair design. Based on the five Lounge Chairs in the restaurant, it can be seen that the same craftsman designed all five. All of those use teak wood with unique armrests and chair leg shapes. The curved shape of the lounge chair is reminiscent of the shape of a rickshaw, which is traditional transportation in Java. This inspiration was taken and then processed into a lounge chair in a restaurant.

VI. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Based on the results of a review of the chair furniture design at the Pecel Solo Restaurant, its function as a dining chair is sufficient. Each chair has its uniqueness and point of interest that makes customers feel comfortable, plus the restaurant atmosphere is close to Javanese culture. Teak wood in almost all restaurant furniture will continue to be a mainstay because Javanese consider this material durable, sturdy, and highly resistant.

The disadvantage of the chair furniture is that several elements of the chair design are less ergonomic in size and shape, so it should be used as a dining chair. However, as a restaurant that also functions as a place to relax, several areas in this restaurant are quite good at placing chairs according to the area. For example, lounge chairs are often found in the semi-outdoor area on the 2nd floor, where customers can relax while smoking and eating. Meanwhile, dining chairs are commonly found on the 1st-floor and 2nd-floor indoor areas.

From the conclusions above, it can be suggested that cafe managers consider the harmony of form and function of the chairs and table furniture used so that customers can comfortably carry out several activities in the restaurant.

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