

Re-Designing Gateways as City and District Boundaries in Jakarta using the Betawi Ornament Concept

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ARTICLE INFO

Keywords: Gateways, Local Culture of Betawi, Architecture

Received : 21, July

Revised : 23, August

Accepted: 25, September

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ABSTRACT

A gateway is a form of gate that marks the entrance to an area and often has an esthetic design to reflect the unique characteristics or local culture of that area. Currently, the gates in the DKI Jakarta area do not reflect Jakarta's main symbol, which is the characteristics or local culture of the Betawi people. That's why lecturers and students from the UKI Architecture Study Program held a Community Service activity with the theme "Green Action 37: Re-designing the City and District Gate in Jakarta Using the Betawi Ornament Concept." The method involves selecting one area in DKI Jakarta, namely the administrative city of North Jakarta, then conducting a survey to that location and taking measurements, drawing the existing conditions, and finally producing a Re-designed Gate image as a City and District Boundary.

INTRODUCTION

A gate is a large entrance to a home's yard (road, garden, etc.) that serves several functions, including the following (Sabtalistia et al., 2022):

1. Street decoration.
2. Boundary markers that also serve as esthetics for an area.
3. Makes it easier for people to know the location or whereabouts of that person.
4. Provides a characterization of a place.

The word "gapura" itself comes from Sanskrit, specifically "Gopuram," which means "gateway to the city" (Angga et al., 2023). The diversity of gate building manifestations on the island of Java can still be seen today. (Sosial et al., n.d.).

Beside being applicable to a building or structure, architecture can also be applied to a gate by incorporating and integrating the characteristics or local culture of a region in Indonesia (Anggapa, 2024). Some gates are made permanently, while others are made non-permanently. However, creating a good and permanent gate does require a significant amount of cost and consideration of a design that is appropriate for the community environment, in line with the current era of development (Bentar, 1987). DKI Jakarta is the capital of Indonesia, divided into 1 district and 5 cities, including the Thousand Islands, South Jakarta, East Jakarta, Central Jakarta, West Jakarta, and North Jakarta (Dimova, 2017). Currently, the condition of the gates in the areas within DKI Jakarta varies, requiring a complete renovation of the gates by adding a distinctive feature or local culture, namely ornaments from Betawi culture, thus providing a clear and uniform identity in every area within DKI Jakarta.



Figure 1. Gate Designs in Several Areas of DKI Jakarta

That's why lecturers and students from the UKI Architecture Study Program held a Community Service activity with the theme "Green Action 37: Re-designing the City and District Gate in Jakarta Using the Betawi Ornament Concept." Community Service activities are regularly held by lecturers and students of the UKI Architecture study program every semester (Workshop et al., 2021). With the hope that this Community Service activity, themed "Green Action 37: Re-designing City and District Gates in Jakarta Using the Betawi Ornament Concept," will serve as a design proposal to the DKI Jakarta Provincial Government, with the expectation that it can be implemented and adapted in each respective area.

IMPLEMENTATION AND METHODS

The implementation method for the Community Service Program titled "Green Action 37: Redesigning the Gate as a City and District Boundary in Jakarta Using the Betawi Ornament Concept," which was carried out by lecturers and students from the Architecture Study Program, Faculty of Engineering, Universitas Kristen Indonesia, is as follows:

1. Selecting one location as the pilot project for the Community Service Program titled "Green Action 37: Redesigning the Gate as a City and District Boundary in Jakarta," namely the North Jakarta Administrative City.



Figure 2. Border Location: Koja District and North Jakarta Administrative City Area

2. Hold a coordination meeting for the Community Service Team, including students, to discuss matters or preparations for coordinating with the District Head in Koja District, North Jakarta Administrative City.
3. Conduct a re-survey and redraw the current existing conditions of the proposed location.



Figure 3. Survey Location

4. Hold a coordination meeting with the Sub-District Head, represented by the Sub-District Secretary and their staff, to gather information regarding the necessary elements for the gate redesign and obtain input on the revision of the draft drawings that have been created.



Figure 4. Discussion of the Draft Gate Redesign

5. Hold a discussion with the Community Service team to discuss design ideas until the finalization of the design based on input provided by the Sub-district Secretary and his staff.
6. Conduct a presentation on the Re-design of the Gate as a City and Sub-district Boundary in Jakarta Using the Betawi Ornament Concept, which was held offline at the Koja Sub-district Office, North Jakarta Administrative City, and attended by the Deputy Sub-district Head, Sub-district Secretary, and their staff, following the rundown prepared by the team.



Figure 5. Presentation of the Gate Redesign Image at the Koja District Office, North Jakarta Administrative City

7. Submit the gate redesign image documents as a city and district boundary in Jakarta using the Betawi ornament concept to the DKI Jakarta Provincial Government, with the hope that the redesign proposal can be implemented and adapted in each region.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

On Tuesday, August 26, 2025, at 11:00 WIB, lecturers and students held a presentation on the Re-design of the City and District Gate as a Boundary in Jakarta Using the Betawi Ornament Concept, which was conducted offline at the Koja District Office, North Jakarta Administrative City, and attended by the Deputy District Head, District Secretary, and their staff.



Figure 6. Presentation of the Redesigned Gate Image at the Koja District Office, North Jakarta Administrative City

In the Re-design of the Gate as a City and District Boundary in Jakarta Using the Betawi Ornament Concept, including the following:

1. Location

In re-designing the Gate as a City and District Boundary in Jakarta Using the Betawi Ornament Concept, lecturers and students chose one area in DKI Jakarta as a pilot project in DKI Jakarta, namely at the Koja Fire Department, Pasar Ular Street, and Mangga Street, Koja District, North Jakarta Administrative City.

2. Main Architectural Form

The gate roof retains the traditional Betawi house shape (saddle roof with distinctive ornaments), combined with the iconic triangular roof silhouette of the Tugu Church, creating an impression of integration between local culture and colonial history. The gate pillars feature typical Betawi colors (green, yellow, orange, brown) to reflect the cheerfulness and openness of Betawi culture.

3. Typical Betawi Ornament

Ondel-ondel is still used as a cultural icon on both sides of the gate (the Betawi mascot), and it can be made more artistic with a modern style to make it look monumental. One form of ornamentation found in Betawi architecture is Gigi Balang. It is an inverted triangle shape arranged in a row, made of wood on the fascia board of traditional Betawi houses, symbolizing strength, solidity, and authority. (Aulia, 2021). Additional gear tooth ornaments (Betawi motif on the listplank) on the roof to strengthen local identity. Betawi batik elements can be applied to the side panels of the gate pillars.

4. Elements of the Tugu Church

The silhouette of the church tower is incorporated into one of the gate pillars, possibly in the form of a relief or 2D carving that blends with the pillar. Small church bell ornaments could also be added in the middle (as they are already in your design, but made to more closely resemble the shape of the Tugu Church bells). The characteristic white color of the Tugu Church could be an additional accent on the main part of the gate.

5. Writing & Identity

The center of the gate still displays the writing: "WELCOME TO KOJA SUBDISTRICT, NORTH JAKARTA ADMINISTRATIVE CITY"

6. DKI Jakarta Logo and North Jakarta Logo

The addition of the North Jakarta logo next to the DKI Jakarta logo as a symbol of North Jakarta Administrative City.

The results of the redesign by lecturers and students, as presented, are as follows:



Figure 7. Results of the Gate Redesign at the Koja District Office, North Jakarta Administrative City

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of the gate redesign as a city and district boundary in Jakarta, using the Betawi ornament concept developed by lecturers and students from the UKI Architecture Study Program, were well received by the Koja district, the North Jakarta administrative city. This activity ended with a group photo and the presentation of a plaque to the Sub-district Head represented by the Deputy Sub-district Head as an appreciation for being given the opportunity to carry out community service activities.



Figure 8. Group Photo and Presentation of Plaques

This activity is also planned to be submitted to the DKI Jakarta Provincial Government. It is hoped that this design proposal can be implemented and adapted in each respective area.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The author expresses gratitude to the Almighty God, for His blessings that allowed the Community Service activity titled "Green Action 37: Re-designing the City and District Gate in Jakarta Using the Betawi Ornament Concept" to run smoothly and successfully, enabling it to be compiled into an article. The author would also like to thank:

1. The Institute for Research and Community Service (LPPM) of Indonesian Christian University for funding this activity.
2. To the Sub-district Head, Deputy Sub-district Head, and Sub-district Secretary in Koja Sub-district, North Jakarta Administrative City, thank you for providing the opportunity for the lecturers and students of the Indonesian Christian University Architecture Study Program to conduct community service activities in Koja Sub-district.
3. To all staff at the Koja Sub-district Office, thank you for your support and cooperation.
4. To the entire team of lecturers and students from the Indonesian Christian University Architecture Study Program, thank you for your cooperation and teamwork, which made the activity a success.

Thank you to all parties who cannot be mentioned individually for their prayers and support, which allowed the event to run smoothly.

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