

The Architectural Decodification of Twin Towers: An Investigation into Cultural Communication and Related Symbolism Unrecognized by the Surrounding Community

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Abstract

The people of UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya often hear the word "Twin Towers". In English, Twin Towers means towering towers or places. Most of the UIN Sunan Ampel community argues that, "in essence, the twin tower symbol symbolizes UINSA students are expected not to master religious knowledge only but if possible other sciences such as science etc." based on interviews conducted by researchers about understanding the value contained in the design and space of twin towers. This research is descriptive and qualitative. Twin Towers UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya is the subject of research. Data was collected through interviews, documentation, and several book and journal references. Interviews were conducted to find out how students understand the value embodied in Twin Towers space and design and to gain a better understanding of Twin Towers space and design in a cultural context. As a result, we will know more about the motifs, symbols, and cultural values reflected in the architecture and interior decoration of buildings, as well as the use of architectural language that describes religious or regional identities. The results of this study show that researchers found a lot of philosophies that need to be practiced by the people of UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya in addition to balancing between general science and religion. That is, it is expected that the entire community of UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya will participate in promoting culture and religious values and culture because the Twin Towers Design combines elements of Indonesian culture, such as Javanese architectural motifs and modern elements.

Keywords: Twin towers, space, culture

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1. INTRODUCTION

"Twin Towers" is a term often used by the UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya community. Twin towers is the English term for towering towers or places. Based on interviews conducted by researchers about understanding the value contained in the design and space of the Twin Towers, they found that most of the people of UIN Sunan Ampel argued that, "in essence, the twin towers symbol symbolizes UIN students are expected not to master religious knowledge only but if possible other sciences such as science etc." The purpose of this study was to find out the hidden meaning of Twin Towers design and space in a cultural context. according to the title of the research paper.

The research objective of this study is that researchers hope readers can Understand how the people of UIN Sunan Ampel understand the values contained in the design and space of twin towers, understand the hidden meaning of the design and space of twin towers in the cultural context, including motifs, symbols, and cultural values reflected in the architecture and interior decoration of the building, as well as the use of architectural language that describes regional or religious identity, and understand the relationship of values contained in the design and space of twin towers with other values. By using the object of aesthetic research of twin towers UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya: space exploration and design in a cultural context, this research can enrich the repertoire of sociological studies, especially those related to social reality around UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. In addition, it can be considered to know the hidden meaning of the space and design of twin towers in a cultural context, which includes motifs, symbols, and cultural values reflected in architecture and decoration. It is hoped that the results of this study will help expand the understanding of the UIN Sunan Ampel community and improve the behavior of the campus community that may not be in accordance with the meaning of twin towers, which are considered as pillars in the behavior of the campus community

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Sunan Ampel State University Surabaya (UINSA) is located at JL Ahmad Yani no. 117 Surabaya and has two towers. A total area of 17,792 square meters was used for the construction of two towers of Sunan Ampel UIN. The nine floors of the building located on the veranda of the UIN campus look magnificent from the highway. These twin towers, in addition to the rectorate building, have 25 lecture halls that can accommodate 24 graduate program students, with attractive lecture facilities. The building for the main hall and amphitheater is located between towers one and two.

In Uin Sunan Ampel, *twin towers* are used to develop scientific concepts. The scientific concepts mentioned above aim to build a scientific structure in which religious and general knowledge are aligned with the characteristics and research objectives of each discipline. However, both must be able to work together, understand, be open, and respect the Qur'an and hadith. In addition, the integration of religion and secular knowledge is depicted in the emblem of Uin Sunan Ampel, which emphasizes local customs and self-improvement as a way of promoting the organization.

This is in line with the cultural culture in UINSA which is still attached to the pesantren culture. Religious science and general science that go hand in hand with the building, also means that the pesantren and university education systems can go hand in hand and make the State Islamic University. So that it does not leave the cultural culture of pesantren and scientific studies since it can still be accepted by universities.

2.1. Twin Tower Design

Space is a major element in interior design. Human beings with all their physical and psychic features enable them to respond, respond to various forms and processing of space, as well as their influence on their intellectual and emotional. The human micro cosmos (the inner side of man) communicates with the macro cosmos (the natural world) by imitating the five senses. The impression of space is received by humans mainly through the sense of sight, because the eyes have the ability to observe an object and are assisted by other senses such as hearing, smell and so on so as to evoke a certain emotional impression or image for his soul.

Based on interviews conducted by researchers to several students of UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya about how the people of UIN Sunan Ampel understand the value contained in the design and space of *Twin Towers*, we get some information, including:

- According to M. Dafa Raihansyah (IAT), "the two towers are symbols of education and religion in the context of Islam, the number 2 has a deep philosophical meaning considering the importance of pairing or duality in the Quran and Islamic tradition, the existence of the 2 towers reminds that the importance of combining science and religion in the educational process."
- According to Elfira (IAT), "The point is that the twin tower symbol symbolizes that uinsa students are expected not to master religious knowledge only but can only other sciences such as science etc."
- According to Adam Rozak (KPI), "The venturi philosophy in my opinion uinsa accept then make good use of all forms of new science that emerge from time to time."

Here it can be concluded from the knowledge of the people that their understanding of the twin towers is, In Islam, the two towers serve as symbols for education and religion. The number two has philosophical significance because pairing or duality is very important in the Quran and Islamic tradition. The existence of two towers reminds how important it is to combine religion and science in the educational process.

3. METHODS

This research is qualitative research and is descriptive. Obek of this research is the twin towers of UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Data was collected through several book and journal references, interviews, and documentation. Interviews were conducted to find out how students' understanding in inferring the value contained in the space and design of the twin towers. By understanding more deeply about the space and design of twin towers in a cultural context. Thus, we will get more information about the motifs, symbols, cultural values reflected in the architecture and interior decoration of the

building, as well as the use of architectural language that describes regional or religious identity.

Objek of this research is the twin towers of UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. This research is based on the desire to know the hidden meaning of space and design of *twin towers* in a cultural context so that researchers can expand community understanding and improve the behavior of the UIN Sunan Ampel community that may not match the meaning of *twin towers* which are considered as pillars in campus community behavior. as indicated by the title of the research paper.

Data was collected through several book and journal references, interviews, and documentation. Interviews were conducted to find out how students' understanding in inferring the value contained in the space and design of the twin towers. Documentation is a data collection technique that involves collecting notes, images, videos, or other materials that can provide information regarding the desired source. Documentation can be done directly on site or by using existing materials.

4. RESULT

In the cultural context, Twin Towers State Islamic University (UIN) Sunan Ampel Surabaya has many interesting and dignified aspects. Twin Towers UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya combines cultural values with modern architecture as an important building on campus.

1. Cultural Inspiration

Twin Towers UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya gets inspiration from Indonesian culture, especially Javanese culture, because the shape of the building uses Javanese art motifs. This can be seen from the following:

- **Perpatt motif:** perpatt motif is a characteristic of Javanese art. This is seen in the design of the twin towers, which have the shape of beams linked to each other. The building looks strong and sturdy thanks to these architectural beams, which show the rich value of Javanese culture.
- **Building shape:** twin towers are based on the shape of Javanese buildings, which usually have stacked or clothed structures. Two structures in contact with their shape show harmony between two interconnected elements, like two hands supporting each other.
- **Color and textur:** the use of colors and textures derived from traditional Javanese building materials, such as natural stone and red brick, strengthens its connection with local culture. The dimmed colors and narrow texture add aesthetic value and cultural distinctiveness to the design of the twin towers.
- **Open space:** twin towers prioritize the concept of open space that is characteristic of Javanese households. The spaces are intertwined and connected creating a sense of family and unity on campus.
- **Garden fence:** garden fences that use Javanese art motifs, such as stairs and perpatt, add cultural value around the twin towers. These fences form a park area where students and people from the surrounding community gather and interact.

In this concept, Twin Towers UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya successfully combines Javanese culture with modern architecture, becoming an interesting and vibrant franchise of culture on campus.

2. Cultural Settlement Space

The twin towers building of UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya is a place to promote Indonesian culture and culture. Special spaces, such as the library and art gallery, help students develop cultural interests and passions. Cultural residential spaces in twin towers buildings have an important role in promoting and developing Indonesian culture and culture among students and the community. Here are some aspects and facilities contained in it:

- Library space: Twin towers library serves as a place where students can gain further knowledge and grow their interest in reading with materials related to Indonesian culture and culture. The library provides a variety of resources and books focusing on local, national, and international culture, as well as Indonesian history, culture, art, and traditions.
- Art galleries: Twin towers have art galleries that display fine art and other types of art. It became a place to promote student artwork and local cultural settlements. Here, students can learn to create and refine their own artwork as well as get inspired by other artworks.
- Seminar and workshop rooms: twin towers have seminar and workshop rooms that can be used to hold events related to Indonesian culture and culture. In this place, people from settlements, students, and cultural experts can work together and share knowledge about Indonesian culture. Events such as discussions, presentations, and art demonstrations can be held in this space to increase cultural understanding and interest.

The design of twin towers that touch each other has a rich symbolic. The connection between these two buildings illustrates the intertwined relationship between culture and science. Twin Towers touching each other have rich symbolization and have several important concepts related to the relationship between culture and science. Here are some aspects of the relationship between these two buildings:

- Social and cultural relations: the design of twin towers that touch each other shows the relationship between different cultures and societies. These buildings serve as centers of education and learning that connect cultures and disciplines. Here, students have the opportunity to learn about Indonesian traditions and customs as well as know how these things relate to the knowledge taught on campus.
- Integration of science and culture: the design of twin towers shows that in learning and development, science and culture are interconnected. Through the cultural settlement spaces present in both buildings, students gain an understanding of how culture and science support and strengthen each other.
- Architecture and culture: the design of twin towers UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya shows that architecture can be a tool to combine culture and science in one harmonious concept. Taking into account the relationship that exists between

these two buildings, architects can create spaces where students can communicate and interact between culture and science.

5. DISCUSSION

Knowing the hidden meaning of space and design of *twin towers* in a cultural context so that researchers can expand community understanding and improve community behavior UIN Sunan Ampel which may not be in accordance with the meaning of *twin towers* which are considered as pillars in campus community behavior. as indicated by the title of the research paper. Twin towers that we know as a symbol of achieving the noble ideals of higher education. These two towers are firmly grounded on the premise that religion or science grows and develops at a time. Both always adjust to the character and special objects owned without negating one of them is indeed the right opinion and has been worldwide as the integrity of twin towers.

In addition *to twin towers* are used to develop scientific concepts. The scientific concepts mentioned above aim to build a scientific structure in which religious and general knowledge are aligned with the characteristics and objectives of the study there are many hidden meanings of the space and design of *twin towers* in a cultural context that includes motifs, symbols, cultural values reflected in the architecture and interior decoration of the building, as well as the use of architectural language that describes regional or religious identity, Among others:

- cultural inspiration (perpatt motifs, building shapes, colors and textures, open spaces, and garden fences).
- Cultural settlement rooms (library rooms, art galleries, seminar rooms and workshops).
- Relations between buildings (social and cultural relations, integration of science and culture, architecture and culture).

Twin towers UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya is a building that has become an icon of the campus and the city of Surabaya. The Twin Towers design combines elements of Indonesian culture, such as Javanese architectural motifs and modern elements. As a learning center building, Twin towers UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya is a place to promote culture and religious and cultural values. Thus, it is hoped that the entire community of UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya will participate in promoting culture and religious and cultural values.

6. CONCLUSION

Twin towers that we know as a symbol of achieving the noble ideals of higher education. These two towers are firmly grounded on the premise that religion or science grows and develops at a time. Both always adjust to the character and special objects owned without negating one of them is indeed the right opinion and has been worldwide as the integrity of twin towers.

However, it turns out that after conducting more specific research on the space and design of *twin towers* in the context of culture, researchers found a lot of philosophies that need to be practiced by the people of UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya in addition to balancing general science and religion. That is, it is expected that the entire

community of UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya will participate in promoting culture and religious values and culture because the Twin Towers Design combines elements of Indonesian culture, such as Javanese architectural motifs and modern elements.

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