

# Prospect for Establishing Tourism Based Design Concept with Nature - Culture Approach on Musi River Front (Case Study: Chao Phraya and Xitang River Front)

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**Abstract:** The uniqueness of Palembang city lies in the presence of Musi River which is centered on the city's core that divides and makes two parts of urban area, namely ulu and ilir. The people of Palembang have a strong relationship with Musi River due to the axis of life from social, economic factors to the center of government which is located on the Musi Riverfront that gives views or perceptions to people from outside who anchored to the city and gave it the nickname "Venice of The East". However, the existing utilization of the Musi Riverfront area is still not optimal because it is still facing social, environmental and regulatory problems. Therefore, a study was conducted on the prospect of a tourism-based design concept with a nature-culture approach using Hamid Shirvani theory to produce an ideal concept in developing the existing Musi Riverfront that could synergizing between culture, nature and regulation. Regional planning for the Musi River riverfront area is carried out based on tourism which is the driving force to revives the area and collaborated with the Nature-Culture approach which restores the ecology of the riverfront area while elevating the identity and local culture of Palembang as a river city.

**Keywords:** Musi River front, Urban area, Recreation, Nature-Culture.

## 1. Introduction

The city of Palembang, South Sumatera, is one of the cities that has a historical track record that describes the growth and development of the history of the Republic of Indonesia in the eyes of the world. the Nickname of Palembang City as the City of Venice cannot be separated from a prejudice related to natural conditions and physical facilities that resemble other river-based cities [1]. The identical characteristics have these similarities because the city of Palembang with its water space is very dominant in the social life of the people of Palembang. People are very important and depend on the river as the axis of their life. The location of Palembang City, which is at the mouth of the Musi River, made Palembang grow into a trading city that controlled the traffic of the three inland areas of the Palembang Sultanate.

However, the utilization of the coastal area of the Musi River

is still not optimal because it is still facing social and environmental problems. The development of the coastal area of the Musi River which is relatively slow and seems neglected can also be interpreted that the government has not yet found a problem-solving solution that is able to adapt in balancing the identity and regulation of the coastal area. In this case, the lack of public awareness and participation in maintaining the sustainability of a healthy built environment and from the government side which still has not provided regulations and sustainable solutions in responding to the phenomena that occur, from which an idea is proposed that can be a middle ground between the development of historical identity. as well as local culture and development of regulations governing the development of regional sustainability.

"Nature and culture are never separated," stated the Director General of ICCROM (International Center for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property) a congressional session discussing cultural and natural diversity in the context of the Biodiversity Framework. Global Post-2020. "We view nature through the lens of our culture and culture would not exist without our nature." The world and our environment, he explained, must be understood as a holistic entity in which all elements are interrelated [2].

Nature and culture meet in many ways that include values, beliefs, norms, practices, livelihoods, knowledge, and language. As a result, there is reciprocity between cultural systems and the environment, with shifts in one often causing changes in the other. Culture can be understood as the system by which people interpret the world around them. These meanings and interpretations vary most in relation to nature, with the most striking links often found in traditional, resource-dependent communities. Ecological knowledge also gives rise to socially embedded norms and rules. It regulates human interactions and behavior with the natural environment, and often co-evolves to sustain humans and Nature. They often take the form of co-ownership rules governing the use of resources from forests to fisheries. These rules define access rights and

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appropriate behavior, and maintain the productivity and diversity of socio-ecological systems – which are ultimately in the best interests of society [3].

From the statements above, it can be concluded that although in terms of natural and cultural studies they have their own approaches, processes and solutions to problem solving, from the point of view of the bond between the two elements, they are highly interrelated and influence each other. Regional planning for the Musi River coastal area is carried out based on tourism which is the driving wheel that revives the area and is collaborated with the Nature-Culture (nature and culture) approach which restores the ecology of the coastal area while elevating the identity and local culture of Palembang as a river city. The benefits of this study are expected: 1. The development of the Musi River coastal area with a tourism-based approach "Nature-Culture" can be used as a solution for developing and structuring environmentally friendly spatial designs that animate and accompany community activities in a sustainable manner. 2. Assisting designers in determining the basic criteria and limitations in certain scopes related to the involvement of designers when designing in river coastal areas. 3. Re-awakening the public that how important the role of ecology and culture on riverbanks is in influencing daily life and activities for humans, the built environment, river ecosystems and the river itself.

## 2. Theoretical Framework

### A. Understanding the Definition of River Front

The definition of a river front area as stated in the Regulation of the Minister of Public Works No. 63/PRT/1993 are as follows: "Border area is an area along the right and left of the river, including artificial rivers that have benefits for maintaining the sustainability of river functions" [4]. According to the eco-hydraulic concept, a river border can be defined as an area that accommodates semi-aquatic, amphibian, and land ecosystems along the left and right of the river (including artificial rivers and former rivers) which have important benefits for maintaining the sustainability of river functions as a whole. integral as an ecosystem component of a watershed or river basin [5].

### B. River Border Arrangement in Urban Areas

The arrangement of river borders in urban areas is stated in PP 38/2011, where the existing condition of the river is considered to have the "status quo" and is gradually issued in accordance with the regulation on the width of the border. In this case, the status quo is considered that no construction or construction of new buildings is allowed, it is not permitted to develop buildings (made multi-story), vacant border land plots, and others [6]. The use of river border areas for the urban category is as a green open space and as the lungs of the city as well as the addition of ecological conservation [7]. In developing the river space and its banks, there are four structuring principles, namely:

- There should be no buildings on rivers and river banks
- River border with open space

- River border with configuration settings for traditional houses
- Above or outside the building without adjustment in a safe condition [8]

### C. River Front Management and Restoration

The principles of Comprehensive River maintenance with eco-hydraulic concepts, namely:

- Watershed reforestation in upstream rivers
- Land use planning
- No need for traversing, drainage or embankment construction
- Natural retention component is maintained
- Maintaining natural polder inundation areas
- Develop a conservative pool [9]

### D. The Role and Benefits of Ecology in Urban Spatial Planning

Ecology is a science that studies the relationship between organisms and their environment or the study of the influence of environmental factors on living bodies. Ecology only studies what exists and what happens in nature without conducting experiments. Reforestation in urban areas certainly has reciprocal benefits for the built environment. The following are the benefits of reforestation in urban areas:

- As the lungs of the city
- As environmental regulator (micro)
- Creator of the environment (ecological)
- Natural balancing (adaphis)
- Protection (protective)
- Beauty (aesthetics)
- Health (Hygiene)
- Recreation and Education (educational)
- Socio-political economy [10]

### E. The Role of Tourism on the River Front

The river has become a medium that integrates travel, both long and short distances, trade and hunting. Rivers also played a role in the Industrial Revolution and many of the transportation innovations that are still used around the world today. Rivers and their manipulations developed by humans have allowed them to evolve from agricultural produce to recreational opportunities. The consideration of tourism opportunities and potential is divided into 3, namely: First, the river offers recreational possibilities and aesthetic appeal for tourists or tourists. In some parts of the world, physical morphology created by fluvial systems produces stunning natural landscapes to attract local and foreign visitors. Most rivers provide serenity, beauty and interesting history that appeal to local reactionists and foreign tourists alike. Second, the river is also used as a transportation corridor. Navigable rivers are very valuable spatial assets in any part of the region or country for the transportation of raw materials and manufactured products. However, in a post-Fordist economy, where services are becoming more important than the extraction and manufacture of primary resources, as is the case in most developed countries, rivers take on an additional

element of trade and commerce – namely transporting tourists on tourist cruises. Third, rivers are an important resource for tourist destinations to provide drinking water and facilitate the development of intense tourism-oriented environments such as green open space. In conclusion, the river system has a complex ecosystem whose factors are influenced by many human activities, including tourism and recreation. The sustainable tourism use of the world's rivers must be monitored and managed properly in order to preserve the natural and cultural richness of this unique ecological system for present and future generations [11].

#### *F. Tourism as a Unity of Urban Elements*

City tourism can no longer only be seen as a separate activity, focused on a well-defined tourism area, where relatively passive visitors consume carefully designed tourism, visitors are not only looking for places that are considered tourism but more than that, what they perceive as real life in the city, a place where overlapping tourism and recreational activities are expected to be a part of life [12]. This is the focus that leads to the implementation of three themes about everyday life and creative tourism experiences, namely: First, in revealing the built environment and sense of place are very important. The morphology of the area, with its intricate and traditional street patterns and buildings of various ages, types and styles is an interesting element, looking different – despite the insertion of a new icon by the river, combination of gentrified urban landscape and attractive consumption opportunities for visitors when combined with the presence of local people who go about their daily lives [13]. Second, although the area is not dominated by iconic buildings, history, strong cultural narratives or clearly defined routes but they (tourists) consume and enjoy despite some considerable effort in placemaking to be made in the case of riversides [14]. This configuration frees visitors to build their own narrative about the area, and explore in their own way, to exercise their imagination – to be creative. Ordinary tourism with the quality of everyday life in the area means that they are heterogeneous [15] and open to have different interpretations based on experiences experienced. Third, slum tourism that is developing in developing countries can be an alternative solution regarding building, shaping and reviving ungentrified inner areas in the suburbs and suburban centers [16].

#### *G. Community Perception of River Front Restoration*

According to this study clearly shows that restoration is very valuable and highly respected by the people living in the vicinity of the restored river. In the research, it is explained that the community's interpretation of the activities carried out is dominated by enjoying nature, with the interpretation of the benefits that are caused to the social community, namely the success in connecting recreation and ecology, then the benefit of nature itself is to improve the existing ecological quality. From this it can be concluded that the word "restoration" interpreted by the community is closely related to the improvement of nature/ecology as well as the provision of public facilities to support natural tourism activities [17].

#### *H. River Front Issues on Urban Existence*

Developments in urban areas and human activities have changed the appearance pattern of urban landscapes and directly or indirectly affect the river water environment in urban areas. Landscape Development Intensity (LDI) is used as the factors of each dimension as an independent and general explanatory variable. The explanatory variables are social and economic factors, construction factors, and environmental factors. In a very rapid urbanization process, the higher the level of watertight surface and the intensity of infrastructure construction, the worse the water quality. ISR control requirements and guidance are proposed from the planning and design levels. Therefore, increasing the rate of forest cover or Forest Coverage (FRC) is also the key to improving river water quality. First of all, we must pay attention to the formation of natural spaces along rivers and increase the level of forest coverage [18].

#### *I. River Front Restoration Design Stages Developments*

In designing or designing a riverfront space that maximizes the potential of the existing one, proper planning, strategy and approach are needed to get the best design execution results. Based on there are several stages used in the design process, namely starting by considering Process, Design Strategy and Design Tool. Process Space is carried out with the intention of determining certain criteria or morphological characteristics in a river. Design Strategy describes how to respond to river processes in the design of riverside spaces. This stage describes the approach or attitude that designers adopt to water in rivers. Design Tool is a stage The individual design steps used at the site are identified using plans, literature, discussions and visits, then abstracted in the form of a transferable design tool and described in a schematic or plan section [19].

#### *J. River Front Area Design Considerations*

Riverside urban design method with a sustainable approach (Sustainable Approach). Study/research needs are based on various factors, namely:

- Deteriorating condition of urban rivers
- Riverside landscape design background
- Improvement of the eco-situation
- Ignorance of historical context
- Weakening the local economy.

The principle of riverside development:

- Showing the river bank as the front door
- Displays the history of the river
- Activate riverside
- Limiting obstacles/obstacles and connecting to the river.
- Engaging the Community/visitors with water.
- Connect seamlessly along the riverbank and into the surrounding environment
- Improve and enhance the environment
- Use of high quality architectural materials and sustainable engineering practices [20]

### 3. Research Methods

Data content analysis is qualitative that selected with reference to the analysis of documents that are relevant and in accordance with the research objectives. This technique is usually used to study textual material and can be applied to various forms of communication media including public documents such as annual reports or development plans [21]. Qualitative research relies heavily on theoretical studies and the understanding or interpretation of each individual researcher [22]. The proposed design concept is the formation of a combination of literature studies and precedent studies. The proposed design concept data that is formed will be described in detail through the aspects contained in Hamid Shirvani's theory, namely in designing an urban area there are things important things that are taken into consideration to create an ideal urban environment. According to in his book, he divides 8 elements in the urban design process, namely: Land Use, Building Form and Massing, Circulation and Parking, Open Space, Pedestrian Path, Activity Support, Signage and Preservation [23].

*This study also presents 2 precedent studies, namely:*

The Chao Phraya River is the main river in Thailand with a length of about 372 kilometers. This object selected as study case because based on urban development on the coast which tends to have the same existing, cultural and social context as the object of research. The river is an important existence for Thai people, both in terms of social, cultural and religious, so that the closeness and dependence of Thai people is very strong. The river-equivalent line area is experiencing urban scale development where there are river-oriented building constructions.



Fig. 1. Chao Phraya River, Bangkok City, Thailand

Xitang River is a water city crossed by nine rivers. The city stretches in eight sections, connected by ancient stone bridges. This object selected as study case is because the development of urban patterns in coastal areas that have the context of cultural identity and the application of ecology or greenery around rivers that tend to be balanced. The river-equivalent line area consists of functions that are used as residential areas, tourist areas and green open spaces. The collaboration of these factors is able to move and turn on the activities of the community on the coast of the river.



Fig. 2. Xitang River, Tiongkok City, China

### 4. Result and Discussion

#### A. Land Use Analysis of Chao Phraya and Xitang Riverfront

The border area of the Chao Phraya River is dominated or classified into a mixed zoning that accommodates various functions that automatically affect the development of green open space and minimal river ecology. The Xitang River border area is dominated by the function of green open space with several points as functions of old settlements that are maintained and inhabited by the community.

Proposed Design Concepts:

1. Land use planning in river border areas with status quo (not yet built or neglected) is used as a green ecological conservation area/green open space.
2. The part of the border that has been built in the context of old historic settlements and tourism is maintained in an effort to make a living and protect the identity of the river border area.
3. The functions that will dominate in the design of the river border area are the functions of tourism, old settlements and green open spaces.

#### B. Building Form and Massing Analysis of Chao Phraya and Xitang Riverfront

The area of the Chao Phraya River border area to the urban area has a variety of forms and concept principles. In this case it is not tied to a particular ism. It is also affected by the irregular spatial configuration of the late order. Meanwhile, the Xitang River border area has a different building size scale with the surrounding urban area buildings which tend to have a larger building size scale intensity. The building in the border areas more directed to the traditional concept while behind the border area it is more directed to the modern building.

Proposed Design Concepts:

1. The shape of the building will adapt to the surrounding urban environment where the dominance of urban buildings is traditional buildings and historic /conservation buildings.
2. The scale of the building will tend to be the same scale as traditional houses in the surrounding urban area by not building tall buildings so as not to cover the overall urban view.

#### C. Circulation and Parking Analysis of Chao Phraya and Xitang Riverfront

Both river border areas on a macro scale can be reached from various sides of the city via primary/main roads that will lead

to neighborhood roads. On a micro scale, the coast of the Chao Phraya River does not have a fixed circulation configuration setting due to the irregular growth of the river's urban configuration, while the coast of the Xitang River on a micro scale has a clear urban configuration that is influenced by firm land use so that direct circulation to the river does not go through obstacles.

Proposed Design Concepts (Circulation):

1. Design a space that is able to respond to macro circulation which is directly integrated with the primary or main road to facilitate the achievement process.
2. Provide T.O.D (Transit Oriented Development) points as a transition from macro circulation that connects or delivers visitors to the coastal design area.
3. Apply a clear circulation configuration in the area leading to the river border (areas outside the GSS) and then create a natural circulation in the GSS so that there can be direct interaction between the community and the river (areas included in the GSS).
4. Involving circulation that brings local communities to create social interaction.

The Chao Phraya River border area is used as a parking space to support activities on a city-wide scale at several GSS points, while the Xitang River border area is fully utilized for the function of settlements and green area conservation/open space.

Proposed Design Concepts (Parking):

1. Designing an adequate parking system (providing various kinds of parking for all actors in the area) outside the GSS line to maintain and develop optimally the green ecology of riverbanks.
2. The GSS Area section provides a bicycle parking area and the like, while the types of vehicles such as cars and motorbikes will be transferred outside the GSS to optimize the design site area which is focused on ecological restoration.

#### *D. Open Space Analysis of Chao Phraya and Xitang Riverfront*

There are several points of open space on the coast of the Chao Phraya River. However, the open space created is a yard of certain building functions that are less integrated with the surrounding urban environment. In the case of the Xitang River, each area function is specially configured according to the regional function. In this case, the function of the settlement is separated from the function of green open space but still maintains its integration with the surrounding urban area. This allows for a region to dedicate the application of a particular concept. This coast applies the concept of ecological conservation.

Proposed Design Concepts:

1. Designing a city-scale open space that can be used by the community to carry out or hold social interaction activities.
2. Designing an open space capable of transitioning into an integrated urban area.
3. Making open space a tourism concept that people can

enjoy in their daily lives.

4. Strive for the concept of green ecological restoration which is the lungs of the city.

#### *E. Pedestrian Path Analysis of Chao Phraya and Xitang Riverfront*

The coastal pedestrian path of the Chao Phraya River can be integrated with urban areas. However, at some points it still does not meet the standards due to the mixing of various functions that affect the gap between underdeveloped and developed areas. However, this becomes more interesting due to the formation of a dynamic pedestrian pattern that mixes various factors if it can be executed properly. In the case of the Xitang River pedestrian path, it becomes a safe and comfortable means to pass which is a transition from the river border area to the urban area. Completeness of facilities in the form of sidewalks, crossings, lighting, signs, guardrails.

Proposed Design Concepts:

1. Designing pedestrian components completely and interactively for pedestrian path users.
2. Utilizing the elements of diversity in the coastal area as a daily tourist attraction to serve as a pedestrian path concept.

#### *F. Activity Support Analysis of Chao Phraya and Xitang Riverfront*

In the coastal area of the Chao Phraya River there is a zone to support activities carried out by the community. Supporting activity zones exist on the entire coast of the river but are still within the scope of the building footprint not yet covering an area scale that tends to be or have individual characteristics. In the case of the Xitang River coastal area, it has a supporting activity zone that is centered on green open spaces carried out by the community to carry out social interaction activities, but because it is too focused on green open space, the area does not have the stimulus of other activities such as shops or kiosks that can add to the attraction of visitors.

Proposed Design Concepts:

1. Zone activities will tend to be grouped into 3, namely public and semi-public zones, and semi-private which are integrated with each other.
2. Coastal areas will be more oriented to the function of the public zone while still confirming the spatial boundaries of the function zone by adhering to the concept of intangible boundaries by utilizing buffers in the form of natural elements and traditional buildings so that the area still has the impression of one unit.
3. Activity function zones will support each other so that they become a stimulus that animates activities in the river coast design planning area.

#### *G. Signage Analysis of Chao Phraya and Xitang Riverfront*

On the coast of the Chao Phraya River, the signage formed is dominated by areas that have carried out further development, such as recreation/tourism areas. Undeveloped areas tend to have minimal signage with irregular patterns that affect the visual intensity of the area. In the case of the Xitang River coast,



this coast has a signage formation that leads to local cultural traditions in the form of red lanterns. The formation of traditional city morphology that has survived until now can also be seen as signage that symbolizes the historical identity of the region.

Proposed Design Concepts:

1. Signage or markers are designed sufficiently and as necessary so that they do not affect the visuals formed in the area.
2. Signage or markers that are local cultural traditions can be maintained or reappointed to reinforce regional identity.

#### H. Preservation Analysis of Chao Phraya and Xitang Riverfront

On the coast of the Chao Phraya River, conservation efforts are carried out from the scale of the building to the area on the river coast. Historic buildings such as places of worship, traditional settlements in the form of houses on stilts that function as houses and floating market functions receive special government treatment for their conservation. Meanwhile on the coast of the Xitang River, preservation efforts are carried out not only on the scale of the building to the area but also involve the preservation of the natural / existing environment on the river coast. Traditional settlements along with architectural objects in the form of floating houses/stilts, temples, and bridges are treated with special protection. Proposed Formation of Design Concepts: The buildings found in traditional residential areas located in urban areas along the river border are maintained as an effort to preserve local cultural/historical identity.

Proposed Design Concepts:

1. Buildings located in traditional residential areas located in urban areas along riverbanks are maintained as an effort to preserve local cultural/historical identities.
2. Utilizing the elements of diversity in coastal areas, especially in the preservation of traditional urban settlement areas which are integrated with new designs so as to create a tourist attraction.

### 5. Conclusion

Based on the analysis research on the formation of the design concept criteria for the Musi River coastal design based on tourism with a nature-culture approach, it has prospects that can be achieved and are divided based on theoretical aspects of Hamid Shirvani namely:

- a) Land use as a regulatory approach that periodically limits the development and construction of construction in river border areas and is refocused on the development of green open space areas based on river ecology conservation, the impact of which can be felt by the community and the environment itself.
- b) Circulation and parking as an approach that periodically changes the mindset and dependence on the achievements of the community and visitors in reaching the river border which is conceptualized as friendly to pedestrians, which

is expected to reduce the use of private vehicles and switch to public transportation.

- c) Building form as an approach that sustainably maintains and strengthens the identity of the river coast through preservation/development based on traditional buildings in the area. The formation of traditional-based buildings will provide its own characteristics that revive the atmosphere/impression of the local historical tradition in the area.
- d) Open space as a sustainable approach that has a social impact which increases public awareness regarding the importance of protecting the environment and physically providing beautiful natural scenery as well as tackling environmental problems.
- e) Pedestrian path as an approach that increases the original value of the existing coastal river area in pedestrians tracing the area along the river coast which contains ecological and cultural elements through natural structuring patterns (can synergize between nature and culture).
- f) Activity support as a sustainable approach that combines the daily activities of the community with aspects of tourism, nature and culture. With this, the role of the river coast in the urban sphere will increase community activities that affect the provision of facilities/facilities in the area to carry out social interaction activities, learning through urban-scale spatial planning which symbolizes the identity of the coastal river area based on local traditions and the originality of the existence of river ecology.
- g) Signage as a preventive approach that minimizes excessive physical symbols in the river coastal area so as not to affect the visual formation patterns both internally and externally that exist on the river coast.
- h) Preservation as a conservative approach that maintains, restores and revives natural and cultural aspects as river coast identities, namely in the form of community life patterns, traditional values, historical artifacts in this case in the form of buildings to the scope of traditional community settlement patterns, until the last one is a source of income. inspiration or influence from the formation of the culture itself, namely the existing coastal ecology of the river.

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