

Article

# Identification of Supporting Architectural Ornaments of the Old City Semarang Site

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**Abstract:** The Old City of Semarang is an important part of the Semarang Old Town area, which is also designated as a Cultural Heritage Site. This area features distinctive European architecture that has adapted to the tropical climate of Semarang. This uniqueness gives the Old City buildings different characteristics and styles, depending on the period or year of construction. This study aims to explore and preserve the historical character of the Old City area by preserving supporting architectural elements, such as staircase ornaments and floor patterns. The research method uses descriptive qualitative analysis, by depicting the conditions in the field based on data obtained from observation and research. Overall, the results of this study show that the architectural elements of the supporting buildings in the Old City of Semarang reflect specific styles from different periods. In the 18th century, buildings in this area used the Rococo style. In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, Neo-Classical style was adopted. The early 19th and early 20th centuries saw the use of Neo-Renaissance style, while in the 20th century, the buildings in this area showed influences of modern architecture.

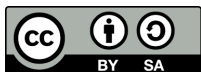
**Keywords:** Architectural Styles of the Buildings, Supporting Building Ornaments, The Old City of Semarang Site.

## 1. Introduction

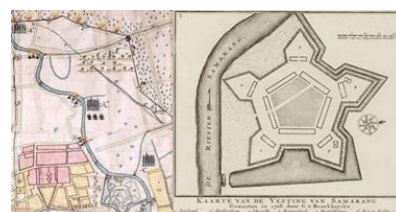
The Old City of Semarang is often referred to as "Outstadt" or also called "The Little Netherlands." This site features an ancient fortress that was once used as a military center. This aligns with the architectural style and characteristics from the period of early Renaissance city planning. Generally, city layouts from this era were designed in the shape of a five-pointed star, eight, or nine points. Cities during this time still served as places of refuge, which is why they were built with fortifications. The outer sections of the city were used as defense strongholds against enemy attacks (Ashadi, 2016).

The estimated position of the de Vijfhoek military fortress and the map of the Old City of Semarang are referenced from the book 'Tillema 'Kromobelanda' (1922), which features a basic pentagon-shaped layout. The buildings were constructed using stone and red brick, with each corner serving as a lookout point to monitor enemies. The five corners are named after cities and villages in the Netherlands: Zeeland, Amsterdam, Utrecht, Ramsdonk, and Bunschoten. Some of the construction took place during the Dutch colonial era, so the buildings generally exhibit architectural styles influenced by colonial architecture (Nadya & Ikaputra, 2020).

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**Figure 1** Layout of Ferrara City, Italy, Renaissance Period

Source Source: <http://www.medievalists.net>



**Figure 2** Map of Semarang in 1741

Source: GAHETNA in the National Archive

This Old City site is a cultural heritage building with a variety of architectural styles and distinctive characteristics. The purpose of this research is to highlight the historical character of the area and revitalize the Old City site by preserving the ornamental elements of the buildings, particularly the stairs and floor patterns, which display unique and diverse forms in each building. Therefore, this study aims to emphasize the distinctive features of the buildings through detailed architectural elements, creating an identity for both the individual buildings and the overall area.

## 2. Literature Review

According to Law No.11 of 2010, objects, buildings, or structures can be proposed as Cultural Heritage Objects, Cultural Heritage Buildings, or Cultural Heritage Structures if they meet the following criteria:

1. They are 50 (fifty) years old or older;
2. They represent a style or era that is at least 50 (fifty) years old;
3. They have special significance for history, science, education, religion, and/or culture;
4. They hold cultural value for strengthening the national identity.

In the Strategic Area Development Plan outlined in the Regional Regulation of Semarang City No. 5 of 2020 concerning the Semarang City Spatial Plan (RTRW) for 2011-2031, the Old City area in North Semarang Subdistrict has plans for building preservation and conservation, revitalization of building functions and usage, and the development of an integrated tourism system within the Old City Area. With this regulation in place, it is hoped that the city government and cultural heritage advocates can further explore the arts and diverse cultures in Semarang. It is also hoped that this preservation effort can serve as a means to prevent damage to Cultural Heritage Buildings. (Kriswandono 2014).

The Old City of Semarang consists of four sites that represent the historical journey of Semarang from the 15th century to the early 20th century. These four sites are Kampung Kauman, Kampung Melayu, Kampung Pecinan, and Oudestad. Oudestad is the Europeschebuurt, or the European district, which was a former walled area built by the VOC in the same year as the Geger Pecinan incident, in 1741



**Figure 3** Delineation of the Old City of Semarang

(Source: Decree of the Minister of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia No. 682/P/2020)

As an area that has been designated as a national cultural heritage site based on the Decree of the Minister of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia No. 682/P/2020, the Semarang City Government has made efforts by establishing the Cultural Heritage Expert Team (TACB) responsible for documenting each building in the city. In addition to TACB, the Semarang city government has also formed the Old City Area Management Agency (BPK2L), which is tasked with recording each cultural heritage building in the Old City area, related to Semarang's self-registration as a World Heritage City to UNESCO (Dwisiwi & Agustin, 2021).

Buildings in the Old City of Semarang, with a history of over 50 years, consist of both cultural heritage buildings and non-heritage buildings. The total number of cultural heritage buildings has been established in the Mayor of Semarang's Decree No. 640/395 of 2018 on the Designation of Cultural Heritage Status for the Old City Area of Semarang. The delineation and distribution map of the cultural heritage buildings in the Old City of Semarang is as follows:

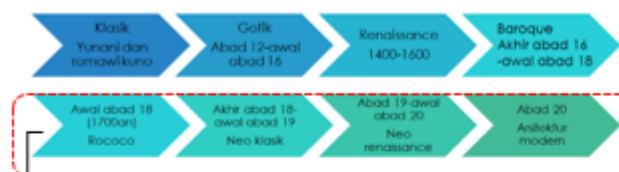


**Figure 4** Delineation of the Old City Site of Semarang (Oudestad)

Source: Decree of the Mayor of Semarang No. 640/395 of 2018 on the Designation of Cultural Heritage Status for the Old City Area of Semarang.

The architectural style of the Old City of Semarang reflects a mix of various colonial influences, primarily from the Dutch Colonial period, with elements from other European movements such as Renaissance, Art Deco, and Art Nouveau. This blend of styles was adapted to the tropical climate and local culture, creating a unique fusion seen in the Old City's buildings and infrastructure. The various periods of architectural styles are generally as follows:

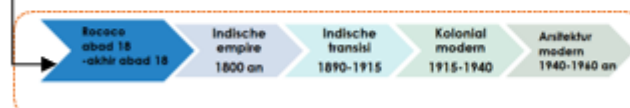
#### 1. Architectural Style Period:



**Figure 5** Architectural Style Period

Source: *History of Colonial Architecture Development in Indonesia - Construction Plus Asia*

#### 2. Architectural Styles in the Old City of Semarang:



**Figure 6** Architectural Style Period of Indonesia (Old City of Semarang)

Source: *Architecture Timeline of Important Historic Periods (thoughtco.com)*

When these architectural styles arrived in Indonesia, they became known as the “Indische style”, which is divided into three distinct periods. The image above represents the periods of architectural styles in the Old City of Semarang, specifically the three Indische periods. This indicates that European architectural styles were modified and adapted to the local conditions, specifically the tropical climate of Indonesia or, more specifically, Semarang. Generally, the architectural styles that influenced the Old City of Semarang include:

1. Rococo Style (Early Development)
2. Indische Empire Style (1800s)
3. Indische Transition Style (1890-1915)
4. Indische Modern/ Colonial Modern Style (1915-1940)

The dominant Dutch Colonial influence on the buildings in the Old City of Semarang includes the Art Deco, Arts and Crafts, and Dutch Colonial or Empire Style. The Dutch Colonial style that developed during the transitional period (1890-1915), such as Art Nouveau and Nieuwe Bouwen designs, also influenced the design of several buildings in the Old City.

During this period, Dutch Colonial design had already undergone adaptation to the tropical climate and environmental conditions. In addition to the styles of the transitional period, these buildings were also influenced by the Dutch Colonial or Empire Style, which was the main design style during the Dutch colonial era, as well as the Dutch Classical Colonial and Late Georgian styles, which were popular in the Netherlands at the time.

There was also some Chinese influence during the transitional period of Chinese settlement, which can be seen in certain building elements (Santoso & Santosa, 2013). Some examples of interior design styles, particularly in staircase elements, include:

1. Renaissance

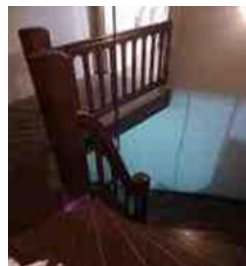


Spanish Renaissance Staircase  
Style from the 1800s

Italian Renaissance  
Staircase of the  
1800s

The Renaissance revival in Spain and Italy during the 1800s can be found in several buildings in the Old City of Semarang, such as the Mandiri Building, D.H. Zikel & Co, D.H. Genie Atelier, TK. Fatima, SD Marsudirin, and Susteran St. Fransiskus R.K. Meisjesweeshuis, among others.

2. Arts and Crafts



The staircase design above is an example of the Arts and Crafts style. The stairs and railings are made entirely of wood, with the wood grain still visible. This staircase has a simple appearance and lacks decorative elements. This style, which emerged in the late 1860s to 1925, was inspired by the writings of John Ruskin and the ideals of artists who wanted to honor the work of their hands (YosinTjia Devi & Pandu Setiawan Andreas, 2013)

3. Art Nouveau



Art Nouveau, also known as "New Art," was an art movement that began in Paris in 1890. This movement is characterized by the use of curved or organic shapes inspired by nature. The style became popular in the late 19th century and was generally used for ornamental elements in staircases (Art-Nouveau-Tp.Pdf, n.d.).



### Examples of Design Styles Applied to Floor Patterns:

#### 1. Empire Style



Marble flooring was widely used in the Empire Style, pioneered by Daendels. It is noted that the most popular flooring materials at that time were granite and marble. Marble was commonly used in luxurious buildings and public areas, and the color typically used was gray. This natural color was a characteristic of the Dutch Colonial Classical style, which exposed the materials themselves to create natural hues (Santoso & Santosa, 2013).

#### 2. Arts and Crafts



The 20x20 cm tile floor pattern, arranged symmetrically to form a motif (inspired by natural shapes such as plants, flowers, and vines), is another example of the Arts and Crafts style. The arrangement of these tiles in a diagonal pattern, with a 45-degree angle, reflects the style's emphasis on simplicity and hand-crafted beauty. This floor design style was widely used during the peak of the Arts and Crafts movement from 1860 to 1925 (Santoso & Santosa, 2013).

#### 3. American Beaux Arts Style



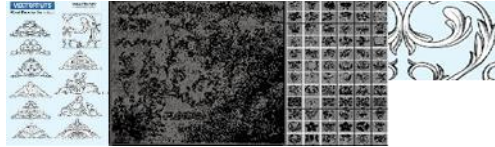
Terracotta tiles were used during the American Beaux Arts style period, which tends to adopt elements of American Classicism. According to Chalmer and Sorrell, terracotta flooring was one of the alternatives in vintage flooring styles. This floor design style was influenced by both European and American Classic styles (Tejo & Wibowo, 2014).

#### 4. Art Deco Floor Motifs



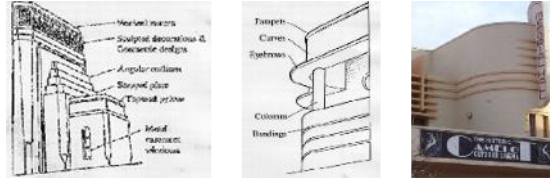
According to Calloway in his book *The Elements of Style*, Art Deco floor designs typically feature materials such as terrazzo, ceramic tiles, synthetic materials, parquet, and carpets. These designs often include geometric patterns or floral motifs with borders. Commonly, the tiles used are 20x20 cm in size, with geometric or floral patterns, which are characteristic of the Art Deco style. This style emphasizes stability and precision, which can be seen in the repetition of patterns, with similar floor designs across different areas (Santoso and Santosa, 2013). Art Deco was a design movement that became popular from 1920 to 1939, influencing decorative arts, architecture, interior design, industrial design, and visual arts. In some ways, it is a fusion of various styles and movements of the early 20th century, including Constructivism, Cubism, Modernism, Art Nouveau, and Futurism. The movement reached its peak popularity in the 1920s (TANDAL & EGAM, 2011). Art Deco is categorized into different styles, particularly in architecture, with four main types:

## 1) Floral Deco



This type of Art Deco design features curves and flowing lines, often accompanied by floral or leaf motifs. The decorative elements in this style evoke a sense of organic movement, with stylized flowers and plants that add a naturalistic touch to the design.

## 2) Streamline Deco



Streamline Deco emerged in the 1930s and is characterized by sleek, curving lines and long horizontal forms. This style emphasizes the idea of speed and movement, with smooth, aerodynamic shapes often used in both architecture and product design. It evokes a sense of modernity and efficiency.

## 3) Zig-Zag Deco



Zig-Zag Deco is known for its sharp, angular lines and repetitive zigzag patterns. This style embraces bold, geometric shapes and creates a sense of rhythm and harmony through repeated forms. The geometric precision in this design reflects the era's fascination with modernity and industrial aesthetics.

## 4) Neo-Classical Deco



Neo-Classical Deco incorporates classical motifs, such as geometric forms, faces, or objects inspired by ancient art. This type of Art Deco blends traditional elements with modern design, resulting in a fusion of historical and contemporary styles. It often includes stylized depictions of figures or classical decorative elements like columns and friezes.

Each of these Art Deco sub-styles contributed to the broader aesthetic movement, which celebrated both modern industrial progress and luxury, producing distinctive and elegant designs that continue to influence architecture and interior design today.

### 3. Proposed Method

The method used in this research employs qualitative analysis based on the identification of cultural heritage buildings in the Old City of Semarang, carried out through the following stages:

1. Observation and visual documentation;
2. Interpreting the physical condition by examining the morphology of detailed elements and regulatory aspects;
3. Drawing conclusions and providing recommendations as part of efforts to control and preserve the ornamental elements for the future.

The research variables analyzed include:

1. The shape and motif of the buildings,
2. The period or era of the buildings.

The technical analysis is broadly divided into two parts: Stage (1) Literature review, focusing on theories related to building periods and architectural styles. Stage (2) Field research, which includes initial observations, discussions, and interviews with sources, documentation, and literature studies. In this stage, data related to the scope of the study will be collected, then classified and categorized before being analyzed (Wahyuddin S et al., 2023).

#### 4. Results and Discussion

The results identification of Architectural Styles and Ornamentation in the Old City of Semarang is diverse and includes various influences from colonial architecture, such as the Renaissance, Baroque, and Dutch Colonial styles. Key elements of these styles are visible in the decorative features of buildings, including:

1. Renaissance Influence: Symmetry, classical columns, arches, and the use of detailed moldings and cornices.
2. Baroque and Dutch Colonial Influence: Decorative ironwork, intricate carvings on doorways and windows, and the use of local materials like wood and stone to adapt the European designs to the tropical climate.
3. Art Nouveau and Art Deco: Curved lines, organic patterns, and the incorporation of modern materials such as glass and metal in decorative elements, particularly in staircases and flooring.

These architectural and ornamental styles not only reflect the cultural and historical journey of Semarang but also contribute to its distinct identity as a city rich in colonial heritage and artistic expression.

Here are some buildings that have been identified for their supporting ornamental elements, used as samples in this research:

1. Rococo Period (1700s)
  - 1) Immanuel Church (Blenduk Church) - Protestant Church of Indonesia West

This church is one of the most iconic buildings in Semarang, showcasing Rococo influences through its ornamental decorations, intricate plasterwork, and elegant curves typical of the period. The design reflects the grandiosity and ornate detailing that characterized the Rococo style.

- 2) Ikan Bakar Cianjur Restaurant

This building, while serving a modern function, incorporates Rococo-inspired elements in its architecture, such as delicate ornamental carvings and decorative motifs that draw from the Rococo aesthetic.

These buildings represent key examples of how Rococo influences have been applied in different contexts, from religious architecture to commercial spaces, in the Old City of Semarang.

**Table 1 Rococo Period (1700s)**

No.	No. RTBL	Building Name	Year (Style Period)	Material	Function	Documentation - Stairs	Documentation - Floor
11.	16.	GEREJA PROTESTAN INDONESIA BARAT IMMANUEL (Blenduk) Jl. Letjen. Suprpto No.32	1753 1894 • Rococo Period	• Front and Side Stairs, and Attic Stairs - Wood Construction, • Indoor Stairs to 2nd Floor - Spiral Iron, • 1st Floor - Tiles, Terrazzo, and 2nd Floor - Wood	• Protestant Church Worship Center		
14.	19	RUMAH MAKAN IKAN BAKAR CIANJUR d.h. Pengadilan Negeri Semarang untuk Timur Asing d.h. Gudang mesiu d.h. Rumah Pendeta Jl. Letjen. Suprpto No.19	1760s • Early Indies Building, very similar to old Dutch houses from the 18th century • Rococo Period	• No stairs, 1 floor	• Rebuilt as a pastor's house, the building has changed functions several times. Since 2005, the building has been used as a Cianjur Grilled Fish Restaurant and is in good condition		

Source: Analysis and Data Processing by the Author, 2025


## 2. Indische Empire Period (1800s)

Here are some buildings from the Indische Empire period that have been identified for their ornamental elements, used as samples in this research:

- 1) Yayasan Kanisius Pusat:
- 2) TK. Fatima & SD Marsudirin Susteran St. Fransiskus R.K.
- 3) Bank Mandiri:
- 4) Monod Diephuis
- 5) St. Joseph Catholic Church and Pastorate

These buildings are significant examples of the Indische Empire period's impact on Semarang's architecture, demonstrating a blend of European classical styles adapted to the tropical environment.

**Table 2 Indische Empire Period (1800s)**

No. RTBL	Building Name	Year (Style Period)	Material	Function	Documentation - Stairs	Documentation - Floor
1.a	Yayasan Kanisius Pusat Jl. Letjen. Suprpto No. 54	1870 • The architectural style of the building is influenced by Neo-Renaissance, rooted in 17th-century Dutch architecture. • Indische Empire Period	• Wooden Staircase Construction • 1st Floor - Tiles, renovation with ceramic replacement • 2nd Floor - Plywood construction with tile	• Franciscan Sisters' complex, converted into the Kanisius Foundation Central Office.		
1b.	TK. Fatima & SD Marsudirin Susteran St. Fransiskus R.K. Meisjesweeshuis Jl. Ringgowsito No. 8	1732 • The architectural style of the building is influenced by Neo-Renaissance, rooted in 17th-century Dutch architecture. • Indische Empire Period	• 1st and 2nd Floors - Combination of Ceramic and Tiles • Sisters' Area - Main Staircase Still Wood • Staircase 2 - To the Dormitory, Wood • Staircase 3 - To the Attic, Iron • Plain and patterned tiles	• The school became the precursor to schools under the Marsudirini Foundation. • Services to the community were also expanded to healthcare by establishing the Pantj Sivi Maternity Home. The Franciscan Sisters' Education Building was constructed to provide education for orphaned children		
33	Bank Mandiri d.h. Bank Exim d.h. Nederland SCHE Handel Maatschappij (NHM), d.h. Societeit de Amitica d.h. Kantor Pimpinan VOC, "Residentie Bureaux" Jl. Mpu Tuntular no. 19	1824 • Indische Empire Period	• Concrete Staircase Construction • 1st Floor - Polished Marble • 1st Floor Corridor - Tiles • 2nd Floor - Various patterned tiles	• Previously, this building was used to enhance trade activities, shipping, shipbuilding, fishing, agriculture, and manufacturing industries.		
94	Monod Diephuis d.h. kantor Dagang Oei Tiong Ham Jl. Kepodang no. 11 -13	1882	• Concrete Staircase Construction • Red and green tiles, size 20x20cm	• Handling all types of production goods from Java, including kapok, cocoa, vegetable oil, and copra, but the main focus was sugar. In addition, Monod was also a broker for Saha, opening branches in Amsterdam, The Hague, Batavia, and Surabaya.		
102.a.	Gereja Katolik St. Yusuf dan Pastoran Bangunan Lonceng, Pastoran Kataketik Jl. Ronggowarsito no. 9-11	1875 • Neo-Geotic Rational Style	• Staircase 1 - Composite concrete and wood construction • Staircase 2 - Wood construction • Staircase 3 - Wood construction • Granite flooring, size 40x40cm • Original teak wood flooring	• St. Joseph Gedangan Catholic Church is the first Catholic church in Semarang and the oldest in Central Java.		

Source: Analysis and Data Processing by the Author, 2025

## 3. Indische Transisi Period (1890-1915)

Here are some buildings from the Indische Transisi period (1890-1915) that have been identified for their ornamental elements, used as samples in this research:


- 1) D.H. Zikel & Co D.H. Genie Atelier
- 2) Rumah Tinggal Keluarga Tasripin
- 3) Spiegel Bar & Resto, D.H. N.V. Winkel Maatschappij. H. Spiegel
- 4) Multi Jaya D.H. Semarangsche Automobiel Mij. Ny. Meneer
- 5) Percetakan Saka Aksara
- 6) Gedung Marba








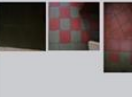




- 7) Kantor Telkom/Galeri Kreatif
- 8) Kota Lama Pool and Resto
- 9) PT Djakarta Lloyd
- 10) Pabrik Rokok Praoe Lajar
- 11) Rumah Tinggal & Usaha Dan Deretannya D.H. Notaris Kantor Des Wildejl. Gelatik No. 11

These buildings are significant examples of the Indische Transisi period, which marked the blending of European colonial architectural styles with more modern, functional elements adapted to the tropical climate and evolving urban needs of Semarang.

**Table 3 Indische Transisi Period (1890-1915)**

No. RTBL	Building Name	Year (Style Period)	Material	Function	Documentation - Stairs	Documentation - Floor
3	d.h.Zikel & Co d.h. Genie atelier Jl. Letjen. Suprpto No. 3x	19th Century • Two-story building in the Indies style	• Wooden Staircase Construction • Plain and patterned tiles	• Originally built for Genie purposes (military corps specialized in engineering), it is now used as a restaurant.		
4	Rumah Tinggal Keturunan Taspirin	19th Century • Two-story house in the Neo-Classical landhuis style with a verandah and a row of Doric columns, dating from the late 19th century.	• Wooden Staircase Construction • 1st Floor - Original marble, replaced with ceramic • 2nd Floor - Wooden material, still preserved	• Residential House		
9.	Spiegel Bar & Resto, d.h. N.V. Winkel Maatschappij. Hspiegel Jl. Letjen. Suprpto No. 34	1895	• Stairs: Wooden Construction • 1st Floor - Plaster • 2nd Floor - Plywood with tiles	• A general store selling various luxury goods, now used as a café.		
10.	Multi Jaya d.h. Semarang Automobiell Mij. Ny. Meneer Jl. Letjen. Suprpto No.39	1900	• Stairs: Wooden Construction • Ceramic flooring (building raised during renovation to prevent tidal flooding)	• A dealer of various bicycle and motorcycle brands, as well as various car brands made in Europe and the United States, now used as an office for machinery equipment and a residence		
11	PERCETAKAN SAKA AKSARA	1890-an	• Back Stairs: Wooden Construction • Front Stairs: Spiral Iron • 1st Floor Material: Terrazzo • 2nd Floor Material: Wood	• A printing company that served the needs of plantation/trading companies regionally and internationally, now used as retail shops.		

No. RTBL	Building Name	Year (Style Period)	Material	Function	Documentation - Stairs	Documentation - Floor
13	GEDUNG MARBA d.h. Kantor P.T. Kapok Indonesia Cabang Jawa Tengah d.h. De Zikel Jl. Letjen. Suprpto No.33	• The architectural style of the building is influenced by the Renaissance style.	• Ceramic flooring (renovation)	• A modern general store, de Zikel, and the office of an import-export company and general trading, now used as a law office.		
25	KANTOR TELKOM/GALERI KREATIF d.h. Koloniale Petroleum Verkoop Mij. d.h. Javasche Bank Jl. Letjen. Suprpto No. 7	1908 • Designed by Hulsuit-Cuyper in 1908 in the Neo-Classical style.	• No stairs, only 1 floor • Marble flooring	• Originally the office of Javasche Bank, designed by Hulsuit-Cuyper in 1908, now serves as the Telkom Gallery Office		
28	KOTA LAMA POOL AND RESTO d.h. PT Panca Niaga d.h. Geo Wehry & Co (bangunan bagian dari) Nederlandsche Handel Maatschappij Jl. Letjen Suprpto No.22	1908	• Front Stairs: Concrete with Iron Railings • Back Stairs: Wood • 1st Floor: Plaster; • 2nd Floor: Plywood, Plain and Patterned Tiles, and Ceramic Combination	• Previously a trading company and warehouse, now used as a restaurant.		
34	PT Djakarta Lloyd d.h. Stoomvaart Maatschappij, Nederland, dan Konsulat Norwegia Jl. Mpu Tantular no. 23	1870	• Concrete Staircase Construction • Overall flooring: Tiles	• Originally a shipping company that served direct passengers between the Netherlands and the Dutch East Indies via the Suez Canal		
42	Pabrik Rokok Praoe Lajar d.h. N.V. Het Semarang Veem d.h. Maintz & Co Jl. Merak no.15	1955	• Front Stairs: Concrete Construction (renovated) • Back Stairs: Steel Construction (renovated) • 1st Floor: Ceramic with land elevation of the building around 1.5m (renovated) • 2nd Floor: Original plain red and green tiles	The Praoe Lajar Cigarette Factory building was repurposed from the office of N.V. Hett Semarang Veem in 1955. The building also once served as the headquarters of the company Maintz & Co.		
76	Rumah Tinggal & Usaha dan deretannya d.h. Notaris Kantor Des Wilde Jl. Gelatik no. 11	-	• Stairs: Concrete construction (renovated) • Stair Railings: Iron • Stair Flooring Material: Ceramic (renovated) • 1st and 2nd Floor Material: Ceramic (renovated)	• Residential House and Business		

Source: Analysis and Data Processing by the Author, 2025

















#### 4. Kolonial Modern Period (1915-1940)

Here are some buildings from the Kolonial Modern period (1915-1940) that have been identified for their ornamental elements, used as samples in this research:

- 1) PT Peln
- 2) Gedung Jiwasraya
- 3) Bank OCBC NISP d.h. Jacobson van den Berg & Co
- 4) RNI (Rajawali Nusantara Indonesia)
- 5) Bank Mandiri
- 6) Kantor Advokat
- 7) PT Rajawali Nusantara Indonesia
- 8) PT. Perusahaan Perdagangan Indonesia (PERSERO)

These buildings exemplify the Kolonial Modern period, where architecture underwent a significant transformation, incorporating modern materials, streamlined forms, and functional designs while still reflecting elements of the colonial past. The style represents a merging of European architectural traditions with modern needs and aesthetics.

**Table 4 Kolonial Modern Period (1915-1940)**

No. RTBL	Building Name	Year (Style Period)	Material	Function	Documentation - Stairs	Documentation - Floor
17	GEDUNG JIWASRAYA (d.h. NILMI – Ned.-Indische Levensverzekering en Lijfrentemaatschappij) Jl. Letjen. Suprpto No.23-25	1916 • The building, designed by the prominent Semarang architect H. Thomas Karsten through the firm Karsten, Lütjens, and Toussaint in 1916, combines the concept of colonial urban environment with local elements, replacing the previous building that showed the influence of the Empire Style (Neo-Classical).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stair Material: Concrete (original building still preserved)</li> <li>Railing Material: Wood (original building still preserved)</li> <li>1st Floor Stair Material: Original red terrazzo</li> <li>2nd-3rd Floor Material: Ceramic (renovated)</li> <li>4th Floor Material: Combination of plain colored tiles</li> </ul>	• The Dutch East Indies Insurance Company, now a vacant building.		
18	PT PERUSAHAAN PERDAGANGAN INDONESIA (PERSERO) (d.h. Kertanaga (d.h. Borsum) – Borneo Sumatra Handel Maatschappij)	1938 1881 • J. F. L. Blankenberg, who was assigned in 1938 to design the Semarang office in European style, designed the (Borsum) Semarang building. It stands at an important location and replaces the previous building that was in the Neo-Classical/Empire Indies style.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stair Construction: Concrete (original and still preserved)</li> <li>Stair Railing: Lile Wood (original and still preserved)</li> <li>Stair Flooring Material: Marble (original and still preserved)</li> <li>Walls: Marble (original and still preserved)</li> <li>1st Floor Material: Marble now crystallized (original and still preserved)</li> <li>2nd Floor Material: Plain grey tiles (original and still preserved)</li> </ul>	• Originally, this building was used as a trading company, then transitioned to a banking office, and is now used as a restaurant and rental building.		
27	Bank OCBC NISP d.h. Jacobson van den Berg & Co Jl. Letjen. Suprpto No.5	1925 • The building was renovated in the third decade of the 20th century and shows the influence of Modernism.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are no stairs, only 1 floor.</li> <li>Front Floor: Marble</li> <li>Middle Floor: Ceramic &amp; Patterned Tiles (renovated)</li> <li>Back Floor: Plain grey tiles (original and still preserved)</li> </ul>	• Originally a trading company, it later became a bank and is now used as a café.		
30	RNI KARTO SAPTO ARGOPIRO & NOTARIS BURYANTO (d.h. de Semarangse Handelsvereniging (Kamar Dagang dan Industri Semarang) pernah menjadi kantor the Royal Java-China-Japan Line di Semarang. Jl. Letjen. Suprpto No	1920-an • Early Modernism Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stair Flooring Material: Terrazzo (Original and still preserved)</li> <li>Stair Construction: Concrete (Original and still preserved)</li> <li>Stair Railing: Wood and iron (Original and still preserved)</li> <li>1st Floor Material: Plain tiles with a color combination (Original and still preserved)</li> <li>2nd Floor Material: Plain tiles with a color combination (Original and still preserved)</li> </ul>	• Originally an export-import company, bank, and industry, now used as a law office.		
33	PT Peln (d.h. Koninklijke Paketvaart Maatschappij (KPM), Java-China-Japan Lijn (LCJ), and Koninklijke Nederlandsch-Indische Luchtvaartmaatschappij (KNIL) Jl. Mpu Tantular	1891	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Main Staircase Construction: Concrete (Original and still preserved)</li> <li>Front Stairs: Wooden Construction (Original and still preserved)</li> <li>Back Stairs: Wooden Construction (Original and still preserved)</li> <li>1st Floor Corridor Material: Originally marble, then covered with ceramic and plain grey tiles</li> <li>2nd Floor Material: Original 10x15 ceramic tiles and plain grey tiles (Original and still preserved)</li> </ul>	• Served inter-island shipping in the Dutch East Indies.		
82	Kantor Advokat – (Rumah Mekan Pringpewu) (d.h. Semarangische Administratie Maatschappij (Pringpewu) Jl. Kepodang no. 36	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Front Stairs Construction: Concrete (original and still preserved)</li> <li>Back Spiral Stairs Construction: Iron/Steel (original and still preserved)</li> <li>Side Stairs Construction: Wood (original and still preserved)</li> <li>1st Floor: Patterned tiles, granite, and plain tiles</li> <li>2nd Floor: Wood and plain tiles</li> </ul>	• Originally a law office building, now used for restaurant or dining activities		
83	Bank Mandiri (d.h. Bank Bumi Daya (d.h. Nederlands-Indische Handelsbank Jl. Kepodang no. 32-34	1930s • Styled with influences of Tropical Modernism, featuring a style that shows a close connection with the local climate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Front Stair Construction 1st Floor: Concrete (original and still preserved)</li> <li>Front Stair Construction 2nd-3rd Floor: Wood (original and still preserved)</li> <li>Stair Railing 1st Floor: Iron and wood (original and still preserved)</li> <li>Stair Railing 2nd &amp; 3rd Floors: Wooden construction (original and still preserved)</li> <li>Side Stair Construction: Concrete (newly renovated addition)</li> <li>Side Stair Railing: Iron/steel with a pattern (newly renovated addition)</li> <li>Terrace: Ceramic and plastering (original and still preserved)</li> <li>1st Floor: Patterned tiles and Granite, now crystallized (original and still preserved)</li> <li>2nd Floor: Plain tiles (original and still preserved)</li> <li>3rd Floor: Wooden flooring (original and still preserved)</li> </ul>	• The building was originally used as the office for the Nederlandsch-Indische Handelsbank.		
84	PT Rajawali Nusantara Indonesia	• Building with Art Nouveau style influence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staircase 1 Construction: Wood</li> <li>Staircase 2 Construction: Steel</li> <li>1st Floor Front: Original patterned tiles</li> <li>1st Floor Back: Original plain tiles</li> <li>2nd Floor: Original wood</li> </ul>	• This two-story building was the office of a company that is part of the Cei Tong Ham group, now used as a café.		

Source: Analysis and Data Processing by the Author, 2025





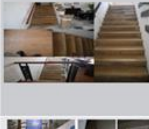


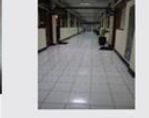
### 5. Modern Architecture Period

Here are several buildings from the Modern Architecture period that have been identified for their ornamental elements, which are used as samples in this research:

- 1) CV. Sima Gadung Ragam
- 2) Rumah Makan Sate dan Gule Kambing B29
- 3) Gabungan Koperasi Batik Indonesia (GKBI)
- 4) Gedung Keuangan Negara (Gedung Papak)

These buildings exemplify Modern Architecture, characterized by the use of modern materials like concrete, glass, and steel, and a design philosophy that focuses on functionality, simplicity, and the elimination of unnecessary decorative elements. Modern architecture in Semarang reflects the broader global shift towards new construction techniques and aesthetic simplicity.

**Table 5 Modern Architecture Period**

No. RTBL	Building Name	Year (Style Period)	Material	Function	Documentation - Stairs	Documentation - Floor
12	CV. Sima Gadung Ragam Jl. Letjen Suprpto No.35	• Influence of Renaissance with simplified details, transitioning to Modernism.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stairs: Wooden Construction (still preserved)</li> <li>Stair Flooring Material: Original wood (still preserved)</li> <li>Terrace Floor Material: Plain grey tiles</li> <li>1st Floor Material: Ceramic (renovation)</li> <li>2nd Floor Material: Original wood (still preserved)</li> </ul>	• An office of a Dutch trading company, now used as a business and residence.		
14	RUMAH MAKAN SATE DAN GULE KAMBING B 29 Jl. Letjen. Suprpto No.29	1962	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are no stairs, only 1 floor. The floor has been updated (renovated).</li> </ul>	Restaurant.		
36	Gabungan Koperasi Batik Indonesia (GKBI) d.h. Mirandolle, Voute Jl. Mpu Tantular no. 29	20th Century 1950s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Main Staircase Construction: Concrete</li> <li>Flooring: Terrazzo</li> <li>Railing: Wood</li> </ul>	• Building of the Indonesian Batik Cooperative Union.		
104	Gedung Keuangan Negara (Cedung Papak) d.h. Kantor Kabupaten Semarang Jl. Pemuda no.2	1950s Styled with Neo-Classical/Empire influences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stair Construction: Concrete</li> <li>Railing: Iron</li> <li>1st Floor: Ceramic (renovation)</li> <li>2nd Floor: Combination of granite flooring</li> <li>3rd Floor: 30x30cm ceramic tiles</li> <li>4th Floor: Vinyl flooring with a wood pattern</li> </ul>	Fully utilized as a State Financial Building.		

Source: Analysis and Data Processing by the Author, 2025

## DISCUSSION

The discussion of this research activity are as follows:

1. Composition of Architectural Styles in the Old City of Semarang based on the survey results:

**Table 6 Composition of Architectural Styles in the Old City of Semarang**

Rococo in the 1700s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 buildings</li> <li>9.7% of the building data</li> </ul>
Indische Empire in the 1800s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 buildings</li> <li>16.1% of the building data</li> </ul>
Indische Transition from 1890 to 1915	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11 buildings</li> <li>35.5% of the building data</li> </ul>
Modern Colonial from 1915 to 1940	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8 buildings</li> <li>25.8% of the building data</li> </ul>
Modern Architecture Post-1940	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 buildings</li> <li>12.9% of the building data</li> </ul>

Source: Analysis and Data Processing by the Author, 2025

2. Several ancient or original designs were found on railings with staircase designs nearly identical to those from the 18th century. The floor patterns in the old city buildings generally resemble the designs and motifs from the 18th-19th centuries. The common architectural styles used include Renaissance, Arts and Crafts, Art Nouveau, and Colonial Modern designs.
3. Original floor designs in several buildings are still found and have been well-maintained, remaining sturdy and in good condition. Most of the original floor patterns consist of plain grey tiles, patterned tiles, and marble, with styles such as Art Deco, Arts and Crafts, and Dutch Colonial or Empire Style. The replacement of ornamental materials with newer or modern styles is generally due to damage, and to support the building's security and aesthetics, the owners replace the materials.
4. It is hoped that through this research and the identification of buildings, both government officials, heritage building enthusiasts, and the public will become more familiar with, aware of, and attentive to the uniqueness and cultural characteristics of these buildings. It would be ideal if the cultural heritage elements and distinctive styles could be preserved and protected.
5. Further, more detailed research is encouraged to enrich knowledge and deepen the subject matter. It would also be beneficial if regulations regarding the replacement of materials could encourage the use of materials that align or resemble the original architectural design, particularly for government-owned buildings. This would help preserve the historical record and architectural development periods, making the history more recognized, understood, and preserved. Thus, this research could serve as an inventory document or a summary of the architectural development history of the city.

## 5. Conclusions

Based on the findings, it can be concluded that while this study offers initial insights into the analysis of interior ornamental designs in Semarang's Kota Lama, there remain considerable gaps and limitations that require further investigation. In particular, more comprehensive research is needed to identify and document the detailed typologies of ornamental designs found in interior spaces—especially in relation to staircases and floor patterning.

This research is expected to serve as a foundation for further academic discussion and exploration. Moreover, it aims to contribute to the archival documentation and inventory of cultural heritage assets in the region. Such efforts are essential for enriching the collective understanding of Semarang's architectural history and heritage. It is also hoped that this study may inform future policies and conservation strategies aimed at preserving the cultural and historical identity of Semarang, particularly within its historic urban fabric.

### Limitation

This study presents several notable limitations that should be acknowledged: The scope of the research was limited to a small number of building samples, which may not comprehensively represent the architectural diversity of the area. The analysis of ornamentation styles was conducted at a general level, without in-depth classification based on specific stylistic categories. There is a potential discrepancy between the style of interior ornamental design and the architectural style of the building, which may vary depending on the design period or era. The availability of literature and references related to detailed ornamental design is limited, which posed challenges during the analysis process. Many



original ornamental elements have been replaced with modern styles. This is primarily due to factors such as building age, structural damage, change of function, and the scarcity of similar design references.

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