

# **PRESERVATION OF ART STYLE IN INTERIOR AND ARCHITECTURE CULTURAL HERITAGE BUILDINGS: A CASE STUDY IN HOTEL KARTIKA WIJAYA & HOTEL NIAGARA MALANG**

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## **ABSTRACT**

*Kartika Wijaya Hotel and Niagara Hotel-Malang are two heritage buildings, which are well managed to preserve their historical building that, has been established since 1891. We can find good harmony and variety in interior elements and design styles, such as Colonial style, Art Nouveau and Art Deco style. The purpose of documenting this heritage building that has different design styles is for those who needed. The data will be classified according to the period of the development of the buildings and characteristics of existing styles. The research objective on Kartika Wijaya hotel building and art styles is to preserve historic buildings in Indonesia, through documentation of interior elements and architectures, and to conducted a study of the interior and architectures elements, interior design ornaments, that founded in historical Kartika Wijaya Hotel and Niagara Hotel in Malang, whose the existence needs to be preserved.*

**Keywords:** *historical building, colonial style, art nouveau style, art deco style*

## **INTRODUCTION**

Indonesia and cultural matters comprises of all kinds of tribes and cultures; this heritage is unique and become the pride of the nation. Of course, these cultures are not formed by itself , but mostly influenced by other large cultures who came to Nusantara, and West Culture ( entered in 16th century, Europe Culture brought by the invading of Portuguese and Dutch). Chinese culture and Indian culture also entered the archipelago, among others, through trade and through the spread of religion. These cultures melted into one with the indigenous or acculturated culture of the archipelago.

The Portuguese and the Dutch first came to Indonesia in the 17th century that aims to monopolize the spice trade, and then set up the VOC (Verenigde Oostindische Compagnie). VOC gave monopoly rights to trade and colonial activities in the area by the Dutch Parliament in 1602. Its headquarters are in Batavia, now Jakarta. Dutch colonization occurred for 3.5 century and lasted until mid of 20th century. Then, Netherlands was defeated by Japan in 1942.

Dutch colony influenced Western in Indonesia, such as the government system, political, social, economic, technological, urban planning, language, literature, arts and culture, engineering and interior architecture. In architecture and interior areas, lots of heritage buildings were build by the Netherlands using typical Western styles emerging in Europe at the time, such as Art Nouveau and Art Deco styles. Western forces have adjusted and adapt to tropical climate in Indonesia. Those types of buildings can be found in various cities in Indonesia, such as Jakarta, Surabaya and Malang. In some big cities in Java, many areas that still have the old town area.

In Malang, within 2 hours from Surabaya, Dutch heritage buildings was in the territory of Batu-Lawang, which is a cool area, so that the legacy of historical buildings in this region are located in resort area like villas or hotel . Old Netherlands buildings that have functions and historical are very important for the history of this nation. Here are examples of some historical buildings in major cities of Java island, which has an old -style Western / European buildings. Old Western-style buildings in Jakarta, old European-style buildings, among others in the area of the Old City located in the area of Menteng. In Bandung, this place can be seen in Braga and Surabaya.



Figure 1 Kunskring Palais, Jakarta.  
(Source: [http:// www.google.co.id](http://www.google.co.id))



Figure 2 Majapahit Hotel, Surabaya,  
(Source: [http:// www.google.co.id](http://www.google.co.id))



Figure 3 Kartika Wijaya Hotel, Batu-Malang  
(Source: [http:// www.google.co.id](http://www.google.co.id))

The Buildings above apply West / Europe architectural and interior style, where the existences of the buildings were the legacy of the development from Dutch occupation era in Indonesia. Preservation of old historical buildings can be done in various ways, such as not changing the function of the building, renovates the building and the easiest is done by documenting those buildings. Not many of these historic buildings are well documented. The purpose of holding documentation of historical buildings is to publicize them, and so that people can do research on them.

Handinoto (1996) stated that, the Dutch colonial architecture in Indonesia after 1900 is a specific form which is an adaptation of modern architecture that developed in the Netherlands with tropical climatic conditions in Indonesia. There are also several Dutch colonial architecture using traditional local traditional elements, then applied in Architecture/ Interior details and have typical looks in Indonesia - Dutch colonial architecture.

Handinoto (1996) also outlines that the rise of Dutch architecture starts from a Neo - Gothic architect, PJH. Cuypers (1827-1921) which was followed by the architects Nieuwe Kunst flow (Art

Nouveau style of the Netherlands). Art Nouveau is an international movement and art style, architecture, applied especially in the decorative arts that culminated in the era of the 20th century (1890-1905). Art Nouveau name is French for “new art”. This style is characterized by organic shapes, such as floral motifs, plants, and also forms a curved flowing. Art Nouveau style and approach has been applied to the paintings, furniture, graphic design, craft, textile, sculpture, and also into the interior architecture. This is in line with the philosophy of Art Nouveau that art should be part of everyday life.

Indis ancient building was established at the Dutch Colonial Government time. Indies building was built in the 19th century until the mid 20th century in 1940. Sukawi (2009) reviewed that Dutch buildings form and traditional homes by Berlage were called the Indo Europeesche Bouwkunst, on the other hand, van de Wall was called *Indische Huizen* (Indies house).

## METHODS

Qualitative methods were used with historical approach and interdisciplinary approach with anthropology, sociology, architecture and design. Historical approach was done through to the two hotels, those were Karta Wijaya hotel in Malang and Niagara hotel in Lawang, both were located at Jawa Timur. Historical approach and interior design were observed at Karta Wijaya hotel, and the historical development and art deco style were observed at Niagara hotel.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Modern urban experts generally agreed that buildings and historical districts can increase an image and identity of a city. The existence of historical buildings able to shape up local values in the form of architectural history which can give distinct image for a city (Johana, 2004). Kartika Wijaya Hotel (fig.4) is one of the historical hotels located in Malang. The constructions were pioneered by the Sarkies brother, hotelier from Armenian in 1891 as a resort villa for the family built in European architecture style.



Figure 4 Kartika Wijaya Hotel, Malang  
(Source: Sri Rachmayanti, 2014)

The Kartika Wijaya building also known as Jambe Dawe building is a historical building from the Dutch Colonization era. First established in 1891, this building function as a resort villa for the Sarkies family, built in traditional European architectural style. The function changes following its

further development, once into a residential then into a Japanese army basecamp, an armory, Indonesian army base and soup kitchen, Dutch army base, military hospital and lastly as a hotel. With the various transition of this building, especially related to its functions also caused changes in its architecture. However, the form of the main building is still maintaining its original form for its heritage conservation reasons. Some of the interior design style that can be found in Kartika Wijaya Hotel building is *Art Deco* style as well as European style architecture which can be found in the facade of the building. Tropical colonial style can be seen in walkways openings and the window openings. The roof and pillars found in this hotel similar to buildings in Switzerland, which make this hotel also nicknamed as *Klein Switzerland*/Swiss miniature (EastJava Traveler, 2009).

Hotel built in 1918 by Brazilian Fritz Joseph Pinedo as the architect who lived in Indonesia during the Dutch colonization era. Niagara Hotel was first designed as a private family villa for a wealthy Chinese businessman Liem Sian Joe during the Dutch Indies era said the present hotel manager Ongko Budihartanto. Niagara Hotel is the tallest building in Malang, even in East Java and known as the first building completed with elevator. This building is 35m high and was built in 15 years. The ceramic wall and floor material with Art Deco and Art Nouveau style were imported from Belgia. The floor was made from coloured terazzo, moulded directly in its location and all the materials were imported product.



Figure 5 Floor pattern with Art Deco style, Lobby Area  
(Source: Sri Rachmayanti, 2014)

The antique ASEA brand elevators were Swedish product made in 1900. The wood materials used for windows, doors, ceilings and so on were made of first class teakwood. During that period, Lawang and the surrounding areas were mostly used for resorts because of its cool air, comfortable and quiet area. Futhermore, Budihartanto explained that in 1920, Liem Sian Joe immigrated to the Netherlands and so the villa was entrusted to the heirs.

After the revolution, the function of the building itself evolved from villa to residential place for a few families. Then in 1960, Liem Sian Joe heir sold the building to Ong Kie Tjay, a Chinese businessman lived in Surabaya. The families lived in the 'flats' were soon left the place and it was then Baba Ong started to renovate the old building. In 1964, the function of the five floor building once again evolved from villa to hotel and known as the Niagara Hotel. This hotel occupied 26 rooms. The present general manager of the hotel, Budihartanto is none other is the son as well as the heirs of Ong Kie Tjay (Noertjahyo, 2009).



Figure 6 Front Façade of Niagara Hotel, Lawang, Malang  
(Source: Sri Rachmayanti, 2014)

The Niagara hotel has high art and historical value which not many hotels in Indonesia have. Inside the hotel, so many beautiful details from the Art Nouveau and Art Deco era can be found. In terms of architectural style, as a whole, the building can be recognized for its European Victorian style.

Art Deco style flourished almost at the same time with International style, in which both of these styles used modern shape form such as trapezium, zig-zag, and geometrical shape and so on. The geometrical shapes produced were considered related with the rhythm of jazz music (Pile, 1995). Although many different opinions regarding this particular style, most of them considered Art Deco as part of elegant and stylish modernism, with many source of influences such as African primitive art, Ancient Egypt art and the Mayan art from Mesoamerica. Also, more modern influence among others is technology, such as aviation, electricity, radio, naval ships and skyscrapers buildings (Hillier, Bevis & Escritt, 1997). These design influences are usually shown in fracsination, crystal and decorative cubism form and futuristic form. Art Deco style can also be recognized from its materials used, such as steels, iron/metal and glass as well as other material such as aluminium, varnish, wood carving and so on.

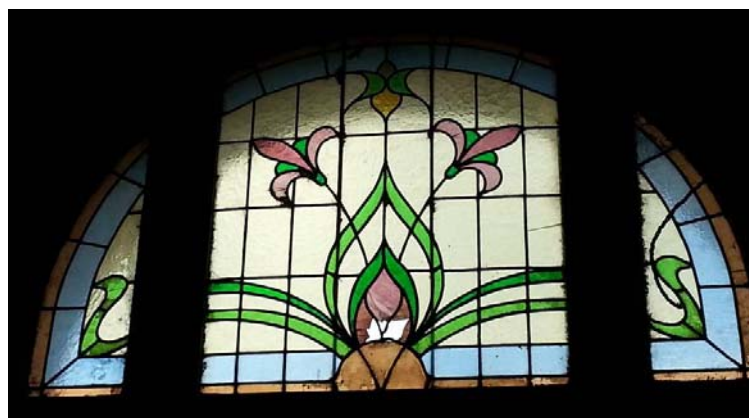


Figure 7 The Stained glass design of Niagara Hotel with its Art Nouveau style.  
(Source: Sri Rachmayanti, 2014)





Figure 8 Art Nouveau motifs, Sandblasted glass window, Niagara Hotel (Source: Sri Rachmayanti, 2014)



Figure 9 Art Nouveau motifs, Sandblasted glass elevator door, Niagara Hotel (Source: Sri Rachmayanti, 2014)



Figure 10 Art Nouveau motifs, floor pattern Niagara Hotel (Source: Sri Rachmayanti, 2014)



Figure 11 Art Nouveau motifs, floor pattern Niagara Hotel (Source: Sri Rachmayanti, 2014)



Figure 12 Art Deco motifs, floor pattern Niagara Hotel (Source: Sri Rachmayanti, 2014)



Figure 13 Art Deco motifs, floor pattern Niagara Hotel (Source: Sri Rachmayanti, 2014)



Figure 14 Art Deco motifs, wood paneling Kartika Wijaya Hotel  
(Source: Sri Rachmayanti, 2014)



Figure 15 Art Deco motifs, wood paneling Niagara Hotel  
(Source: Sri Rachmayanti, 2014)



Figure 16 Art Nouveau ceramic motifs Niagara Hotel  
(Source: Sri Rachmavanti, 2014)



Figure 17 Art Nouveau ceramic motifs Niagara Hotel  
(Source: Sri Rachmavanti, 2014)

At the beginning, Niagara Hotel was built as a family villa, Art Nouveau design style were mostly used to decorate the ceramic wall and big sandblasted glass windows especially in the lobby and coffee shop area as well as sandblasted glass in the upper windows and doors. The floor pattern in lobby area has a very unique and sophisticated detail, using Art Deco style pattern. In those details, it can be seen rectangular geometrical pattern as well as circular pattern in a very simetrical form. Unfortunately, the recent renovation of reception counter pay less attention to the surrounding style and design which make the whole room uncohesive in design style and color composition.



Figure 18 Reception Lobby, Niagara Hotel  
(Source: <http://www.satyawinnie.com/2014/05/hotel-niagara-lawang-malang.html>)

On the contrary, the Kartika Wijaya Hotel lobby are more preserved and well maintained. The reception desk as well as the back wall of the reception area is still using the old furniture and materials. The lobby interior has classic ambiance with Art Deco details which can be found in the windows glasses, stained glass in the back of reception area and in the wood panel details, 140 cm high.

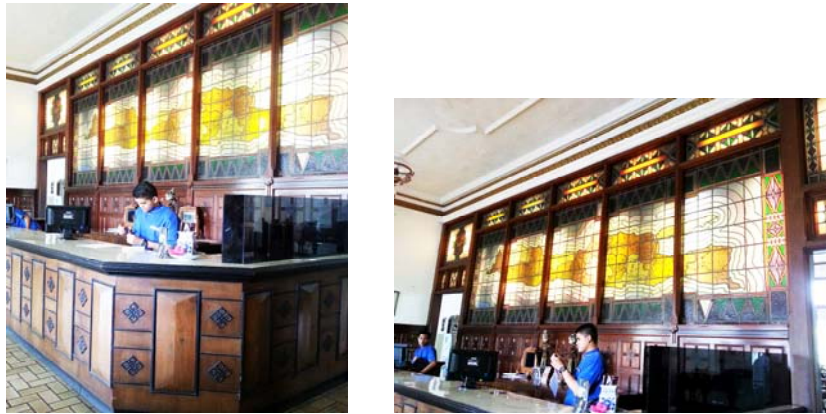


Figure 19 Reception Lobby, Kartika Wijaya Hotel  
(Source: Sri Rachmayanti, 2014)

The ambiance in the Hotel Niagara coffee shop has the classic impression with many Art Nouveau details that are still well preserved and are still the same with the one from 100 years ago, consisting of classical building with many big stained glass windows. It seems that materials made of glasses dominated the wall area especially in the lobby and coffee shop area which added openings to the rooms and allowed sun rays to burst into the room. Besides giving the light effect, stained glass windows can also become good air ventilation.



Figure 20 Classical style coffee shop with Art Nouveau interior detail  
(Source: <http://www.satyawinnie.com/2014/05/hotel-niagara-lawang-malang.html>)

Niagara Hotel corridors, similar with other buildings form of the Dutch Colonization era has high ceilings. Furthermore, in the area, it can be seen Dutch style architectural details. Art Nouveau style can be found in the floor pattern, the style itself was flourished and popular in Europe in the 19th century. This style explored new shapes using the basic form of circular and linear lines forming natural pattern such as leaves, flowers, twinnings and so on (Fahr-Becker, 2010).





Figure 21 Niagara Hotel Bedroom  
 (Source: <http://www.satyawinnie.com/2014/05/hotel-niagara-lawang-malang.html>)

Only 15 out of 26 available rooms are operated in this Niagara Hotel. While the Kartika Wijaya Hotel, Batu has 85 rooms. Discussing about the furniture and design styles, the Niagara Hotel used wood materials for the furniture with dark finished with and adopting modern classic style.



Figure 22 and 23 Kartika Wijaya Hotel bedrooms  
 (Source: Sri Rachmayanti, 2014)

Meanwhile, Kartika Wijaya Hotel's furniture used rattan materials with modern tropical style. Each and every room in Kartika Wijaya Hotel does not use Air Conditioner since the location itself in Batu, Malang already has a cool climate.

## CONCLUSIONS

The styles found in Niagara and Kartika Wijaya Hotel can be described as follows: The European Colonial style can be seen especially in the building architectural style. The interior design style of Kartika Wijaya Hotel is mostly dominated by Art Deco details, which can be seen in the Lobby area, while the other rooms had undergone acculturation with classical Javanese and modern style that can be seen in coffee shop area and bedrooms. Furnitures in the coffee shop use rattan and wood materials, the pendant lamp also has the Javanese ambience as well as some of the walls use

strong Javanese accent, such as batik textiles used as padded wall, and mirror frame decorated with Javanese style carving. Meanwhile, the bedrooms area used tropical design style, and rattan materials. The design style in the Kartika Wijaya Hotel lobby is a mixture between Art Deco, Art Nouveau and Colonial style.

Art Nouveau style can be seen in the stained glass, sandblasted window glasses, floor pattern, carving around the doors as well as details carving in the wood panel, which dominated the interior details in Niagara Hotel rooms, while the architecture itself adopted Victorian style. The conservation of this building has been done successfully.

Design forms from the Art Deco era are strongly seen in the lobby area, applied in the floor and ceiling pattern. The mixture of Colonial style can be seen in the door and window frames, while the Art Nouveau style are mostly seen in the stained glass and sandblasted glass. The floor plan, wood panel detail and wall ceramic are also adopting Art Nouveau style. The floor plan in the coffee shop and second floor up are also adopting Art Nouveau pattern style.

It is very important to make conservation and preservation in these heritage buildings especially since these buildings have very high value in art. Renovations in Kartika Wijaya and Niagara Hotel need to be done in extremely careful way to keep the originality from these historical buildings. For example, the floor tiles were replaced with the same materials and motifs as the one used in the early establishment of the building. During the process, to eliminate or reduce parts of the building especially parts that have unique or special details were not allowed. The unification with other styles were advised not to be different with the original design style, therefore the mixture will turn out well without the impression of being separated or different.

According to the Republic of Indonesia code of law, no. 11, 2010, restoration is an effort to return the physical condition of a damage heritage building and structure according to its original condition, material, form, layout and construction technic to lengthen its age. The renovation of a heritage builing as mention in point 1 must pay attention to its aunthetic materials, form, layout, style and/or it construction tehcnique, the original condition should have as minimal of changes as possible. The used of technique, methods and materials must not have damaging competence in the restoration process.

Kartika Wijaya and Niagar Hotel in Malang are both truly important cultural assets for the Indonesian. Preservation in both hotels seems occurred very well, which can be seen from the styles used is still the authentic style from the early establishment of the building. The mixture of Western style with local style such as the one in Kartika Wijaya need to be considered using materials or details that match the early adopted style which is Art Deco. On the other hand, the preservation in Niagara Hotel still captures the authentic look, only careful maintenance needs to be done to keep this historical building sustain in a longer period of time. Both hotels discussed above have undergone conservation process and this process can become an example of a heritage building conservation activities in which the process and existence are protected by the government and also an important cultural asset.

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