

Research Article

Analysis of Interior Elements of Hotel Savoy Homann Bandung

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Abstract.

Bandung is a city that has the largest number of Art Deco buildings in Indonesia, one of them being the Hotel Savoy Homann. What makes this building an interesting topic is that it remains a fully functioning hotel to this day. This study aims to analyze the adaptation of the additional interior elements within the Hotel Savoy Homann building in a way that significantly impacts the Art Deco architectural style. This study uses a qualitative research method with the building adaptation approach. The results of this study show that the Art Deco concept style is present in the additional interior elements in the building, this addition appears to be an adaptation that emphasizes the Art Deco style in these elements. It is used as a preservation method in these kinds of heritage buildings.

Keywords: Art Deco, Hotel Savoy Homann, heritage, interior elements

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1. Introduction

Art Deco refers to a decorative architectural style that became known in Indonesia in the 1920s. The eclectic Art Deco style we know today has visible influences from both modern and vernacular elements. Modern elements in the Art Deco style include patterns and designs inspired by natural and artificial forms, such as flowers and machinery. The Art Deco movement began as a reaction against the Art Nouveau style which was inspired by nature and characterized by flowing curves [1]. Compared to the Art Nouveau style, the Art Deco style is characterized by its geometric shapes, including symmetrical and organic shapes. The arches that feature in later forms of the Art Deco style are very different from those found in the Art Nouveau style. The Art Deco style was easily accepted in Indonesia because of the similarities in its decorations and carvings to earlier architectural forms in Indonesia, such as temples and traditional houses. A common feature of the Art Deco style is the technological characters that



describe speed are interpreted in the formation of curved lines (streamlines), straight lines horizontal and vertical, as well as zig-zag lines. In addition, geometric relief with stucco, Stained glass windows are also developing, including the theme of sunlight symbolizes the source for human life [2]. Form streamline consists of the formation of horizontal lines with obtuse angles, while the shape of the building with international moderne consists of many typical art deco ornament which is generally found in high rise buildings [3].

Research done by Sri Rachmayanti and their team on the conservation of Art Deco style buildings in Bandung merely discusses about the rooms of the Savoy Homann Hotel which are given the conservation status as a result of their history [4]. This study, on the other hand, will touch on the addition of interior elements in the hotel that fit the Art Deco style.

The city of Bandung is and has been a popular tourist destination for visitors from all over the world since the Dutch colonial era. Bandung is one of the cities with the largest number of Art Deco buildings in Indonesia. One of the iconic buildings that have historical value is the Savoy Homann Hotel which is located on Jalan Asia Afrika in Bandung. This hotel is still in operation and is a successful five-star hotel, no doubt due to its history and preservation. Many tourists visit this hotel to get a nostalgic atmosphere associated with the building's status as a witness to Bandung's history throughout the ages.

2. Methods and Equipment

2.1. Research Methods

This study aims to analyze, understand and discuss the adaptation of the addition/change of new elements to the original interior elements in the Savoy Homann Hotel building (2000-2003), by maintaining the original art deco style, related to the unique historical importance of the city of Bandung. Several changes to the interior have been made over the years since it was built. This is done to achieve better spatial utilization in accordance with maintaining its existence and purpose as a tourist destination for the iconic Art Deco architecture, which is related to the history of the city of Bandung. In particular, this study aims to analyze and understand how far adaptation of buildings limited by cultural heritage status can be carried out. The results of this study are expected to be indicators of adaptation of other cultural heritage buildings.

This study uses a qualitative research method with an approach to building adaptation [6]. Existing photos of the subject will be used as a reference to compare with the current conditions of the building. The data collection method had been conducted using literary and field studies. The literature review was done to collect photographs and data about the history and previous conditions of the Hotel Savoy Homann from libraries, scientific articles, and the internet. Meanwhile, field research was done to document the current architectural and interior conditions of the Hotel Savoy Homann building based on the modifications to its location, shape, scale, dimension, color, texture, material, and character. Observation is done to find new interior elements which will be compared to the fundamentals of the Art Deco style. An interview was conducted by the researchers with visitors of the hotel, approximately 40 people, and the hotel staff, approximately 5 people. The participants of the interview had previous knowledge about the history and modifications of the building. The results of this interview were used to determine the extent to which the impact of the modifications could be used to improve the atmosphere of the Art Deco styled hotel.

3. Results and Discussion

Art Deco can be interpreted as a combination of several different architectural styles of the early 20th century, such as Cubism, Modernism, Art Nouveau, Futurism, and other historic styles from Persia, Syria, and Egypt. Generally, this design concept displays a mixture of soft and luxurious colors and the addition of attractive ornaments.

The ceiling of the lobby at the Savoy Homann Hotel has been changed with the addition of an elevation in height to the ceiling. The pattern of the ceiling is in the form of a geometric curve with a cornice around it, further abstract patterns in gold are included. The shape of the ceiling is similar to the ceiling of the Daily Express Building in London with its Art Deco shape and Art Nouveau influences. The addition of a yellow hidden lamp in the ceiling gives the lobby a magnificent and sparkling impression that is in accordance with the characteristics of the Art Deco style. This adaptation of adding interior elements that strengthens the building's Art Deco identity gives the Hotel Savoy Homann a positive value.

A Garden Restaurant now sits where a courtyard area used to be in the hotel, a courtyard refers to a garden behind a building which is a common feature of buildings from the colonial era. During previous renovations, the courtyard was converted into a semi-indoor restaurant with a skylight roof. The design concept and ornaments of the



Figure 1: Exterior view of Savoy Homann Bandung, showing the distinctive tower and streamline canopies. Photo taken between 1960s/1980s. Source: Tropenmuseum TMnr 20025485.



Figure 2: Comparison of ceiling elements lobby Savoy Homann Bandung. Left: existing lobby. Photo taken 2000s. Center: revitalization results. Photo taken 2022. Right: Daily Express Building, Fleet Street, London, photo taken 1931. Source: Rudy Atjong, personal documentation, Ellis & Clarke with Owen Williams).

Garden Restaurant were inspired by the Art Deco style, one such example is that of the partitions which were influenced by the ziggurat shape. The term ziggurat refers to a multilevel structure that resembles a ladder, it is a term given to the stepped pundits of the Mesopotamian civilizations which served as an earlier version of the Egyptian pyramids. The ziggurat is a common characteristic of the Art Deco style. The addition of this feature at the Savoy Homann Hotel serves as proof of the existing effort to preserve the Art Deco architectural style of the hotel.



Figure 3: Garden Resto Savoy Homann Bandung. Left: The garden was only designed as an outdoor element without any useful activity. Photo taken 2000s. Center: function transfer results Garden Resto and backdrop ornament result of the adoption of the ziggurat form. Right: Stepped pyramid of El Castillo at Chichen Itza. Foto taken 2020s. Source: Rudi Atjong, personal documentation, James Stephen Strickland.

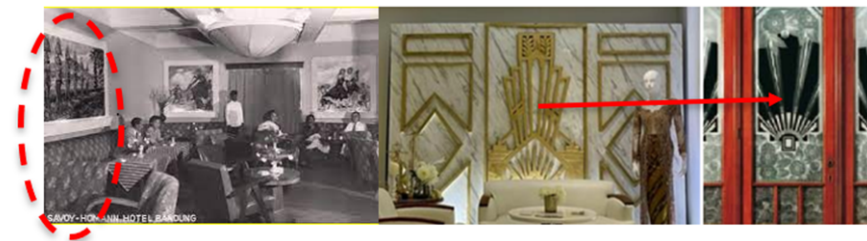


Figure 4: wall treatment ornament. Left: existing lounge lobby wall savoy Homan Bandung. Photo taken 2000s. Center: wall treatment result. with the adoption of the shape of the sunbursts. Photo taken 2023. Right: Etched, glazed cupboard doors. Photo taken 2005. Source: Rudi Atjong, Aida Andrianawati. Source: Judith Miller and Dorling Kindersley.

Another hallmark of the Art Deco architectural style is the stylized geometric shapes, such as chevrons, sunbursts, and curves. These shapes were rather modern at the peak of Art Deco's popularity. The walls in the lounge area of the Hotel Savoy Homann's lobby are covered with these kinds of geometric shapes that were made from wood and covered in gold-colored paint. The ornaments in the hotel are known for their balance between boundless creativity and harmonious contrast. Furthermore, the placement of these elements follows simple geometric rules and formats with combinations of colors, textures, and shapes. All of these things combined created an abstract look like no other. The addition of these elements did not change the main structure of the building from a conservation point of view. The only adaptations made were done so to increase the selling value of the building from a commercial stance.

4. Conclusion

This hotel has undergone many adaptations to preserve its unique design and status as an icon of Art Deco buildings in Bandung to this day. The resulting design of the building is a combination of many distinctive styles of Art Deco patterns from the past,

making it an interesting heritage structure, the study of which, will help broaden the understanding of Art Deco designs and their combinations.

Hotel Savoy Homann has made a continuous effort to maintain their status as an icon of Art Deco buildings in Bandung, which has involved the decision to make the hotel into the culturally significant building that it is today. The walls of the lounge area in the hotel utilize a modern facet of the Art Deco style, the center of the design uses an iconic chevron pattern and a sunbeam motif, whilst using a symmetrical geometric pattern on the left and right sides of the structure. The placement of these elements using the rules and format of geometry gives this design a modern and unique feel. The existence of this design does not change the identity of the hotel as an iconic example of Art Deco buildings, but rather it strengthens it. The renovations made to the building were done to help the hotel adapt to the modern world without abandoning the history that is deeply attached to the building itself. Thus, the adaptations of the interior elements in the hotel are one way to conserve the cultural heritage of buildings such as these.

Conflict of Interest

The authors have no conflict of interest to declare.

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