Research Proposal

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1. Research topic

Urban Morphology at Historical Urban Riverside Settlement Area: Rebuilding City’s Identity Through Morphology of Historical Area

2. Research Aim

To identify the morphology of riverside settlement in Palembang for the rebuilding of the city as a historical place.

3. Research Objectives

- To identify the physical and social patterns of riverside settlement along Musi river that characterized the origin character of the city;
- To investigate how place character of historical riverside area can establish the identity of river city
- To identify the interdependency between the change of urban morphology and place identity.

4. Assumptions

River is important element to be considered in both old and recent city’s development. For river city, river was the main transportation path in the past. As the development in land transportation network, river transportation is not considered as the main one. This condition leads to the declining usage and attention to riverside area, then declining quality of life at
riverside area. The character of river city which came from the riverside urban fabric is started to become destroyed and disappeared (Narita et.al, 1999; Sarwadi, 2001a, 2001b, 2002; Hanh, 2006).

Previous studies on urban morphology consider street and blocks for studying urban structure. The river has contribution in forming, strengthening and rebuilding the character of riverside area, and further can be used to support the interdependence between old urban fabrics with the new development. Furthermore, in modern context, the physical and spatial structure of historical area can promote the identity of river city. River, as well as other physical urban elements, has important contribution to the sustainability of maintaining place character of riverside area.

In addition, river still has function that land cannot fulfill especially for riverside inhabitants which inherit the riverside life, even in modern context. These people have emotional and physical bond with the riverside environment as a place for their activities. They perceive it in certain memorable meanings. As the old riverside settlement is the first origin place of city, the existence of this area also has historical value and meanings to the citizens. People should have personal attachment and perceived the existence of historical elements in this area as memory or identity.

5. Research Questions

Research questions in this study will emphasize the study of urban morphology for creating place identity of riverside settlement, and it will be divided into three categories:
5.1. Urban morphology at historical riverside area

1. What are the types of urban structure and form are found at historic riverside area based on physical properties and social value of riverside community?

2. What are the changes of building form and suburban structure at historical riverside settlement comparing orientation to river and too the land.

3. Why and how do the changes happen?

5.2. Place identity of historical riverside area and its components

1. What are the key elements of old urban structure and how do they influence the current urban structure after the changes happens?

2. How do the remaining key elements such as building, walls, square of old urban fabric promote the character of riverside urban development and rebuilding the city’s identity

5.3. Rebuilding city identity towards the use of urban morphology

1. What do people perceive about the current physical and spatial environment at the riverside settlement area?

2. Do the people have meanings towards the physical and spatial setting of old riverside settlement area?

3. How to rebuild city’s character by using the remaining key elements of historic urban area?

4. How does the urban morphology of riverside area contribute to urban policy making process to generate city’s identity?
6. Research Background

In the context of Asian cities, studies on urban morphology discussed about component and structure of urban pattern in traditional, rural and modern city context and also the process of morphogenesis in urban forming process. The studies show the rich component of Asian cities in terms of historic features, qualities, form and space arrangement, and the role of natural-cultural-social-historical-political influence in forming the city. (Pang, 2006; Wikantyoso, 2009; Widodo, 2009). A study done by Wikantyoso (1998) showed the application of the physical and social traditional pattern in determining the urban structure of Kota Gede, one of traditional cities in Indonesia. Similar with study done by Pang (2006) about Suzhou, one of traditional cities in China, the study shows the influence of social value in creating social hierarchy in urban form and structure. Meanwhile Zahnd (2008) studied more in modern context, again with social- communities’ life as basic point to form a model of modern urban development in Indonesia, particularly inland cities and coastal (beach) cities.

Generally, the classical urban morphology studies explored the inland city’s morphology, such study on Danzig (Geisler, 1918 cf. Whitehand, 2001), East Yorkshire (Whitby, 1958 cf. Whitehand, 2001), Alnwick (Conzen, 1960), Gronigen (Koster, 1998), Nantes and Renes (Ducom, 2007). Unlike river city, the inland city’s historical area characters are quite existed in modern context. In some studies, the inland city’s urban structure and morphology are used as a city’s character and they are utilized to guide the modern development in historical area by extending the city’s basic grid pattern in Valetta and Floriana (Chapman, 2006) and Suzhou, China (Pang, 2006), exploring the physical and social traditional pattern in Kotagede.
The study on river city's urban structure has not been explored deeply by scholars. Meanwhile, river determined the old city’s urban structure in the past time such, such as the main transportation network (Hanh, 2006) and building orientation (Samant, 2004; Febriati, 2008). As the land transportation dominated city’s civilization, the riverside area started to be neglected, abandoned and declined. River and the other urban elements at this area started to lose their pride, change their function, and end up with eliminating the physical and spatial congregation, as well as place identity. Based on that, there is a need to understand more on river city’s urban structure in order to maintaining the character of riverside area, and further, to improve the environment quality at riverside historical area.

Discussion on characteristic of a city could be related to how a city being perceived its identity by citizens and visitors. In relation to the citizen, study on place attachment as explored by Walker and Ryan (2008) conclude that the place attachment is a personal approach that can be used to see how people and place related one another. Place attachment deals with personal, emotional, impression of someone to a certain meaningful place(s) in his/her life. This psychological phenomena lead the place to have certain identity that distinct it from other places. The distinctive of a place contributes to place’s characters, uniqueness, and plays a role in forming city’s character or city’s identity. Physically, the character of a city also can be seen from its traditional anchor elements (Chapman, 2006; Wang, 2010). The physical and spatial structure of old and historical cities can be used to support the character appraisal as well as
design, conservation and contextual policies. Based on this, to understand urban morphology is important to maintain and conserve the genuine idea or character of a city.

7. Problem statement

Study on urban morphology is beneficial and important for urban policy making process as mentioned by James and Bound (2009). It can be utilized to look at not only the pattern and system of form and structure of a city in specific time segment but also the nature of existing spatial-building arrangement. The structure shown in this pattern comes from the process of synthesizing all activities and further it will determine the new form and structure that is suitable and appropriate in new urban design (Boblic, 1990; Wikantyoso, 1997; Hara, 2008, Sima and Zhang, 2009). Remarked by Conzen, 1960, the study on urban morphology entered the focal point of theoretical development. The importance of Conzen’s study led to deeper understanding and analysis method of urban structure and its elements that derived the character of town from the physical and social-economy process of change. While many previous studies on urban morphology use Conzen’s street, plot and block plan as basic element of a town plan, there are no studies discussing on the river as influencing element. It is obvious that river has important contribution to urban structure for the early city’s, especially river city. If the concept of fixation line of Conzens’s can be defined as any linear element that direct and eliminate the growth and forming of a city (Ducom, 2007), then river should be taken into account to be studied and elaborated in urban morphology studies of riverside area or river city.
Some major cities in Indonesia have river as a part of its territory, but not all river become the identity of city. For river city such Palembang and Banjarmasin, the river is the heart of the city, and become the identity of the city. River determines the riverside urban structure and along with the history, river contributes meaning to the city. For Palembang, Musi River is important because the historical artifacts are located at riverside area and still exists until now. While city of Solo started its origin place from Bengawan Solo riverside area (Qomarun and Prayitno, 2005), but the river does not become the main element that reflects Solo’s identity. In Surabaya, Semarang, Jakarta, Yogyakarta and Kota Gede, river is not the main element that can recall the memory of these places. Coastal and inland urban configuration is more dominated than riverside configuration.

**Table 1: Comparison The Existence of River and Its Contribution to City’s Identity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Solo</th>
<th>Semarang</th>
<th>Jakarta</th>
<th>Palembang</th>
<th>Yogyakarta</th>
<th>Kotagede</th>
<th>Surabaya</th>
<th>Banjarmasin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of river</td>
<td>Bengawan Solo</td>
<td>Kali Semarang</td>
<td>Kali Ciliwung</td>
<td>Sungai Musi</td>
<td>Kali Code</td>
<td>Kali Gajahwong</td>
<td>Kali Mas</td>
<td>Sungai Martapura</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past city's status</td>
<td>Non-royal</td>
<td>Non-royal</td>
<td>Non-royal</td>
<td>Royal</td>
<td>Royal</td>
<td>Royal</td>
<td>Non-royal</td>
<td>Royal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First origin place</td>
<td>River</td>
<td>Beach</td>
<td>River and beach</td>
<td>River</td>
<td>Land</td>
<td>Land</td>
<td>River</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present City’s type</td>
<td>In land</td>
<td>Coastal beach</td>
<td>Coastal beach</td>
<td>Coastal river</td>
<td>In land</td>
<td>In land</td>
<td>In land</td>
<td>Coastal river</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identity of City</td>
<td>Cultural and historical</td>
<td>Modern</td>
<td>Modern</td>
<td>River city</td>
<td>Cultural and Historical</td>
<td>Traditional city</td>
<td>Modern</td>
<td>River city</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Icon of Identity</td>
<td>Palace</td>
<td>Industrial and Fort</td>
<td>Business and government</td>
<td>Historical area at riverside</td>
<td>Palace</td>
<td>The history and old settlement</td>
<td>Industry and business</td>
<td>The life at riverside</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Regarding the city identity, as the fort origin place of city, the people should have emotional bonding to the riverside area. The history of the place has created the meaning to
people, and can be utilized for rebuilding city identity (Jane, 2006). The historical riverside area is city’s place assets for creating city image and identity based on its history (Inn, 2004). In order to see how people perceived the historical riverside area of Palembang, a pilot study conducted in June 2010 using questionnaire with 31 questions to 21 respondents. The questions are related to how people perceived the city in their mind, such as what city element that come into their mind when hearing the word Palembang, what is the landmark of Palembang, what is the most memorable historical place and historical area, do they recognize the traditional riverside settlement, what is the most important public space in Palembang. Based on the result, it seems that people of Palembang prefer more on the land city element as memorable identity than riverside city element. The result shows that 12 of 19 respondents mentioned that the main city corridor, Jalan Jenderal Sudirman, as the most memorable city element. On the other hand, 15 respondents mentioned Ampera Bridge as city’s Landmark. It also shows that respondents prefer more on land-historical settlement area than riverside area. There are 9 respondents answering Talang Semut, the Dutch Settlement, as the most memorable historical area, and none of them answering riverside settlement area.

From the result of pilot test, it shows that the respondents respond the riverside area in different way. It seems that the location and construction of the historical area become important point to determine people’s preference in memorizing and choosing the urban elements that create city identity. The people prefer to memorize the urban element that are located at land area and constructed in concrete/steel structure rather than the ones at riverside area and in wooden or traditional structure. This study will investigate deeper on how people attach to the physical setting at riverside historical area.
Table 2: The result of pilot study done in June 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Result (total = 21)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The first city element come into mind when hear the word of Palembang</td>
<td>Sudirman Street Corridor  (land)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The most memorable historical building(s)</td>
<td>Benteng Kuto Besak (riverside)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ampera Bridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Museum Siput</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The most memorable historical area</td>
<td>Talang Semut (land)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pulau Kemaro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City’s Landmark</td>
<td>Ampera Bridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The most memorable traditional settlement</td>
<td>7 Ulu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arab (not specify)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Malay settlement (sekanak)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The most memorable public space</td>
<td>Benteng Kuto Besak Plaza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The pride of city</td>
<td>Ampera Bridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Masjid Agung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gelora Sriwijaya</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As mentioned before, the previous Urban Morphology studies related to context of riverside area are still rare and disjointed with place character. There are also no studies which elaborate the relationship between urban morphology and people perception towards the place character of riverside area. To find the character, this study will go into the change of physical and spatial pattern of old historical. Then, to see the interdependency between the physical and spatial setting to the identity of the place, this study also will be completed by study on people perception on the physical and spatial setting of riverside area. At the end, this study will formulate some guidelines that consist of some basic considerations of modern urban development policy for riverside area.

7. Theoretical framework

Studies on place identity have relationship with the understanding on how people perceive the place. In urban context, it is related to how inhabitants or citizens or of city
recognizes the places in their city, including the location, story or history, current condition and
other form of identifiable or memorable features. The ways to understand how people perceive
the place, especially the meaning and character of the place are various, such social learning
(Wostl, et.al, 2008), the sense of community (Roger and Sukolratanametee, 2009), inhabitant
awareness (Akarca, 2009; Some et.al, 2009), resident’s satisfaction (Lee, et.al, 2008; Some et.al,

Regarding the historical area, there are some studies come out with strategies to
conserve or revitalize the abandoned historical area. Generally it can be grouped into four
strategies; adaptation (Wei and Kiang, 2009; Sevinc,2009), attractiveness promotion (Hanh,
2006), zoning (Kozlowski and Bowen, 1997) and people participation (Samant; 2004, Hanh;
2006; Tweed and Sutherland, 2007). The adaptation strategies can be used by reusing,
recombining, introducing new design or give new addition touch within historical area and
understanding the future trend of inhabitant’s life at historical area together with preserving
the traditional texture. Attractiveness promotion can be done by showing off the culture-based
living attractiveness related the historical site. In the implementation of zoning, the analysis is
based on five basic value of historical urban element; visual character value, visual association
value, structure value, functional value, and sensory value; can determine the core and buffer
zone in designing the historical site (Kozlowski and Bowen, 1997).

People participatory is used to balance the preservation and modern progress in
historical water edge area. It can increase people awareness and create comprehensive
cooperation among stake holders (Samant; 2004, Hanh; 2006). There is a strong relationship
between people’s support for conservation and level of attachment. The higher level of
attachment, the stronger the support for conservation (Walker and Ryan, 2008). It is also inevitable to use or introduce new design or give new addition touch within historical area, the role of public participation is needed to make the effort of conservation sustainable supported by public’s sensitivity (Tweed and Sutherland, 2007) and to continue the existence and character of a place (Whitehand and Morton, 2004)

As its location near to the water, the source of life, riverside area had been chosen as the first place of human civilization, including in Palembang, one of Asian old river cities (Utomo, 2006; Taim, 2002; Purwanti, 2002; Hanafiah, 2005). In the past time, river formed the river city’s urban structure based on natural condition and ancient philosophy and ruled by the ruler. For Palembang old city for instance, the natural condition of Musi river was beneficial for city’s defense strategy (Taim, 2002). The city and the Kingdom area was also ruled by some philosophies such the highland as holy land (Novita, 2002; Febriani, 2006; Nurhan, 2010; Utomo, 2006; Taim, 2002), Mandala and Batanghari Sembilan (Hanafiah, 1995, 2005). The King also ruled the place for urban-settlement pattern for local-non local citizen (Purwanti, 2002; Utomo, 2006).

In modern context, river has some important functions such as spiritual center and place for human congregation (Samant; 2004, Hanh, 2006; Novita, 1996), economic-social place (Febriati, 2008; Nugroho and Febriati, 2006; Samant, 2004), public health consideration (Schools et.al, 2008), transportation network, irrigation and place for living activities (Novita, 1996). The declining condition of riverside area is caused by transportation development and mode changing (Hanh, 2006; Adiyanto, 2006; Nugeroho and Febriati, 2006; Febriati, 2008), religious practice associated with water (Samant, 2004), Physical development (Hanh, 2006),
unplanned forming process, based on simple adaptation/reaction to the nature (Qomarun and Prayitno, 2007).

Generally, the previous studies on riverside are still engaged with riverside settlement and transformation of urban function. The pattern and characteristics of inhabitants formed typology of settlement and common space in riverside area (Narita, 1998, Sarwadi, 2001, 2001, 2002). Regarding the transformation at riverside settlement, some studies show how transportation network and new modern function contribute to the change in architecture of historic-traditional buildings at this area, and further give impact to urban space use (Hanh, 2006; Nugroho and Febriati, 2006), Architectural Style and Construction (Adiyanto, 2006; Febriati, 2008)

8. Underpinnings

The underpinnings of this study are: (1) Theory related to urban structure change, (2) Theory of Urban Morphology related to urban structure and application into urban policy making, and (3) Theory related to identity, place character, place identity.

8.1. Theory related to urban structure change

Urban structure can be seen as a part of cultural landscape in form of physical and spatial system. It is a result of continuous transformation process of social reality life over the time. The culture landscape will change over the time and this change will make urban structure change too. The role of time in this changes show the continuity and discontinuity of
existing physical and spatial system. The changes can be in three forms, total, gradual transformed or natural changes as adapt to new context (auto regulation) (Boblic, 1990)

Continuity is shown by the continuous recognition of urban fabric in existing physical and spatial system. The recognition can be continuous usage of a place both in the same function or expanded function as a result of adaptation of place in the new modern context, in other words improvement of usage. This lead to gradual changes and additional in initial urban structure, and the changes are not interrupted by the new development of reconstruction of the urban structure. Discontinuity occurs when the moment of changes does not bring any effects to the existing physical and spatial system. Furthermore, the changes do not make extension/expansion of usage of system nor physical changes of existing form (Boblic, 1990). An example of discontinuity is described by the case of Kampung Kapiten open square. It is located in front of old-historical Chinese Kapiten house that has previous function as communal space at Kapiten era (1800s). The square has been renovated in 2006, added some design of an open stage and lamp decoration. After four years, there is no special use or improvement usage of this square.

As mentioned by Karakul (2009), the culture consists of tangible culture and intangible culture. The tangible culture (physical setting) accommodates the intangible culture (activities). The Ibrahim Pasa village in Urgup is a good example to describe it. The domestic activities consist of living and working activities of villagers are accommodated by the spatial and physical structure of village. The disappearance of cultural activities will led to interruption of interrelation of cultural activities and built environment. The changes in tangible structure
mean the changes in urban structure. The possibility of transformation can be resulted in no-change, change or disappear form. In relation with continuity, the continuity transformation of urban structure can be in no change and change category. Change category means that there is a spatial or architectural elements change because of change in activities. No-change category means that there is a decreasing in frequency of usage, but the style and function are still existed. On the other hand the discontinuity transformation means the disappearance of urban structure. It means that the existence of urban structure has been ignored and destroyed by the new development. The space does not give any effect on the existing physical and spatial system, and the space has no connection with the existing of urban structure.

The causes of urban change can be in various ways; shift in transportation mode (Hanh, 2004), modernization and (or) new road system (Tien et.al, 2010), increasing number of population (local and non-local), political influences (Widodo, 2009; Qomarun and Prayitno, 2007), climate change and urban density (Purwanto, 2005), historical context and planned activities (Tien et.al, 2010). The development that causes the changes are also the result of economic and social forces and a part of incremental change that can give improvement as well as deteriorate the urban area (Hall, 1997). Urban change also gives influence to landform transformation (Hara et.al, 2008). The controlled urban change that is directed to adaptation will lead to people perception of place (Ganis, 2009) and balancing between preservation and modern development (Samant, 2004).

The urban structure change can be divided into two main phases; initial and development phases. Initial phase occurs when human tried to adapt to natural condition of a
place for accommodation needs. The influence of nature environment is obvious in this phase which integrates nature with urban structure (Boblic, 1990; Widodo, 2009). In Palembang case, the palace was located in area that was surrounded by rivers. The rivers were used to protect the palace like natural canal. This defense strategy was supported by the high wall as a fence or fort wall (Hanafiah, 2005)

The development phase occurs when human faced new needs to improve their quality of life. Human tried to build a social system that regulates their life between one another, for example Mandala philosophy for territory regulation and the regulation of location for native and foreigner settlement in Palembang Sultanate era. In this phase, the changes of urban structure are influenced by three factors. The factors are philosophy of life, modernization and political reason (e.g. Chapman, 2006; Widodo, 2009). The philosophy of life includes the belief and religion in society. Modernization includes the new technology, the prediction of future trend of lifestyle and new contact with other culture or civilization. Political situation such the person who rules the development of city can also influence the urban structure. How these factors influence the urban structure change is shown in the table.3 that uses Palembang as example.

The change in urban structure can be in form of shape (Na, 2009), style and design (Wei and Kiang, 2009; Hanh, 2006), spatial pattern (Hanh, 2006); parcel/land use and landform (Hara et.al, 2008, Karakul, 2009). Furthermore, the change will threaten the authenticity of old urban fabrics (Wang,2010), increase of fragmentation of open space (Esbah et.al, 2010) as well as creating the different character of a place (Ducom, 2007).
Table 3: The Factors that Influence Palembang Urban Structure Change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Era</th>
<th>Factor Influence</th>
<th>Urban structure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sriwijaya (600s)</td>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>Higher Land as Holy Land to respect the ancestor, The royal cemetery is located at Siguntang hill, the highest place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sultanate Darusalam (1700s)</td>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>River and its tributaries as a physical boundaries for city defense strategy Higher Land as High value Land Palace (Kuto) were located at Ilir area which has higher level than ulu area Local genuine people were stayed at Ili area, since they have higher social status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dutch (1800s)</td>
<td>Contact between local, Chinese and Dutch architecture</td>
<td>Adaptation of Chinese house with Limas and Dutch building style The Chinese settlement was moved to land area, not at river</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independence (1965)</td>
<td>Political Power</td>
<td>The Ampera Bridge was built using compensation fund from Japan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Derived from archival documents

8.2. Theory on urban morphology that related to urban structure and application into urban policy making

Before his theory remarked the urban morphology theory among geographers, there were some previous study had been done by scholar that did basics investigation on physical structure of a townscape and the method of representation Whitehand (2001). Among his valuable findings, Conzens’ most famous concepts are (1) the tripartite of the townscape or urban landscape; plan unit, the building fabric and land-building utilization, (2) the relationship between plot and the block plan of building and (3) the advanced method of representation by detailing the boundary and dimension of the plot (Conzen, 1960). His theory on plan unit which consists of streets, plots and block plans of buildings, become the basic theory of urban element, and then developed by other scholar as shown below.
Table 4. The Development Study on Urban Elements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Findings on urban element</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conzen (1960)</td>
<td>Streets, plots and block plans of buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caniggia (1963)</td>
<td>Type of building, building fabric, basic buildings,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levy (1999)</td>
<td>Plot, street, constructed space and open space</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In relation to design control, Urban Morphology can also assist the urban policy maker and planner to present the character and continuing existence of city, strengthen the characteristics of city in city to promote economic redevelopment and urban tourism, act as Internal appraisal in SWOT analysis for revitalization effort (Doralti, 2004), determine adaptation of the new (re)development into the existing context (Chapman, 2006), generate place identity through built heritage and Innovative design of space (Gaspodini, 2001), assist in understanding the incremental change (Hall, 1997), manage the degree of control (Whitehand and Morton, 2004; James and Bound, 2009).

8.3. Theory related to identity, place character, place identity.

Definition of identity is described well by Breakswell model (1986) with theory of identity process. This theory mentioned that the forming of identity followed the development of four stages; distinctiveness, continuity, self esteem and self efficacy (cf. Ross and Uzzell, 1996). Identity is represented in physical environment (place). The disruption of the place will cause disruption of identity (Ross and Uzzell, 1996).

The identity of a place refers to persistent sameness and unity which makes certain place can be differentiate from other (Inn, 2004). According to Relph (1976), the persistent
identity consists of three components (1) the places or physical setting, (2) the activity, situation and event within, (3) the individual or group meanings that created through experiences and intention towards the place. The authenticity also contributes to identity, since it embodies in setting of place and activities within, and further it creates sense of place and noticeable identity to the place (Wang, 2010; Albert and Hazen, 2010). The local character or urban identity also can be seen from the use of spatial environment (Oktay, 2002). To sum up, the definition of identity of place can be concluded into some keywords; the possibility of transformation can be resulted in no-change, change or disappear form.

Identity of a Place is related to meaning and/or definition and based on the memory of some one’s who live/stay, or have stayed, or came a certain Place. The emergence of place identity in someone’s memory is a result of translation on interaction process between mental and physical aspect of human and his environment. Mentally, Jane (2006) mentioned that place identity arise from the power of interconnection between culture, belief or history in some one’s emotion then this emotion power crystallized within his rational power. This mental process then synergize with human interaction with surroundings (physical aspect) and produce a set of cultural landscape as an expression of a set of activities of someone or a group of people (Rapoport, 2004).

The physical and spatial setting in cultural landscape have characteristics, uniqueness and some values that differentiate it from other place (physiognomy), known as place authenticity. Next, the physical and spatial setting will get influenced from outsider, the new technology and trend, and the cycle of identity will produce a new design which also
contributes to the new identity of a Place. (Wang, 2010; Chapman, 2006; Gaspodini, 2004; James and Bound, 2009; Doralti, 2004). At the end, this built environment become an origin or a warehouse of many meanings, of mean of certain place which has its own character and link the past, present and future. Tweed and Sutherland (2007).

City Identity is defined as an effort to seek persistent and valuable things in the urban change and create them as permanent assets (Inn, 2004). Making City Identity sometimes related to place (city) marketing study. Inn mentioned that city in dealing with marketing world should have its own competitive advantage by having originality, specificity and indispensability of place assets. City image or city identity can be created based on some resources such history, culture, custom, industry, landscape, environment (Inn, 2004) and can be in form of district, path, nodes, edge and landmarks (Lynch, 1960).

The Urban morphology can promote to place identity in two contexts; the built heritage and innovative design (Gaspodini, 2004). For built heritage context, urban morphology can promote national identity, or traditions even strengthen the physiognomy of certain area in a city. While the innovative design, it contribution to the additional of uniqueness of an area, and generate new social solidarities for citizen/inhabitants. Chapman support Gaspodini’s opinion in his study on two fortified city, Valettea and Floriana. The distinctive characteristic of these two cities reflected on their urban morphology has been used to support the character in urban design as well as urban policies. The physical and spatial structure as seen on Urban Morphology provide a pattern, an order, in form of spatial form/shape and or application
technology in the existing context. Furthermore, the rebuilding place (city) image or identity give contribution to place assets making and perfect strategies for city’s marketing. (Inn, 2004)

9. Scope of study

In order to accomplish the objectives, the study will use Palembang as study site. The reason of choosing Palembang as case study is because of its historical value, its location in river city, and the existence of river (named Musi River and other tributaries) in modern living. To examine the urban structure change at riverside area, the study will use study on a series of old and recent map from the century 17th until present. The reason of determined the 17th century until present as time span is because of the availability of data, especially map, started from the era of Palembang Darussalam Sultanate era, pre independence era and post independence era.

Regarding observation area, the study will use different approaches. The scope of site for the urban morphology study is the historical urban quarters at Palembang riverside area, comprises of six old settlements: Chinese settlement (7 Ulu and 10 Ulu), Arabian settlement (10 Ulu and 13 Ulu) and Malay settlement (Sekanak and 30 Ilir). The reason for choosing the six kampongs are (1) its historical trace availability, the existence of old urban elements and the story of settlement founding are still can be traced literally and physically, (2) the specificity of ethnics for the three group of ethnics settlements, the uniqueness of architectural solution contribute to the distinctiveness of quarters, (3) these area are included in historical area based on Palembang tourism master plan (Rencana Induk Pariwisata Kota Palembang, 2007). This means
that the old urban structure in this area has been chosen to be conserved due to its historical value.

On the other side, the scope of people preferences in appreciating the most memorable urban elements will be determined by themselves. This study just limits the scope to Palembang riverside area. The respondents for people preferences study are categorized into in four groups; the riverside inhabitants, the non-riverside inhabitants, the short time visitor, and the long-term visitor. The reason of categorizing the respondents is in order to see the identity of riverside area as a comprehensive contribution to river city identity which has not only riverside but also inland side development.

10. **Significance of Study**

The study will fill the gap of knowledge on urban morphology of Indonesia river city in terms of components, transformation and development happening from time to time which have specific water culture and river character as the first place of origin of Asian cities. In the aspect of urban planning, it will be beneficial since it elaborate the change of urban structure to reveal the genuine character of river city. It is also useful to forecast the tendency of urban changes. The method to rebuild the city identity using urban morphology and people preferences will be beneficial to support the development of riverside historical area, and further it will support the conservation effort of historical area.
11. Research Design

As it is aimed to investigate the use of urban morphology in strengthening the genuine character of riverside city and rebuilding city’s identity as basic consideration of modern urban development policy in historical riverside area, so that it will explore the impacts of the morphology or the physical setting of historical riverside area as tangible aspect on the people understanding on historical riverside identity as intangible aspect. From the tangible aspect, the study will elaborate the physical urban structure forming by urban element; street, blocks, and also river in accommodating the activities and then forming the regularities in urban pattern of riverside area. From the intangible aspect, the study will elaborate the way people understanding the meaning of riverside area, experiencing the life at riverside area and memorizing and compiling these all as one identity in river city.

The physical setting of urban structure will become the independent variable, while the people experience, memory, sense of pride and preferences will become dependent variables. The physical setting change will analyzed by superimposing the maps to see the change physical-spatial structure at riverside area. The old maps were obtained by reconstructing the archival documents while the recent maps were obtained from government institution and secondary sources. The variable utilized for analyzing spatial and physical structure are the street, squares, plots, block plan, building type, building block, building size, building orientation, length of utilized space at tributaries (small rivers/canals), constructed space, open space, morphological frame, morphological regions (Conzen, 1960; Caniggia, 1963 in Hall 1997; Koster, 1998; Ducom, 2007; Levy, 1999). The variables will be analyzed by using Arch GIS 9 for spatial analysis.
The people understanding of city’s identity will be obtained through questionnaire, interview, card sorting, sketch drawing and archival documents. The variables for place character are attachment, meaning, collective memory, awareness, satisfaction, sense of pride, sense of belonging and experience use (eg. Inn, 2004; Lewicka, 2008; Jane, 2004). The questionnaire will be analyzed using SPSS for statistical analysis, while the interview, card sorting, sketch drawing and archival documents will be analyzed using nVivo for content analysis.

To achieve the objectives, the study will be conducted in seven stages as follows:

(1). Define the background, theories and concepts of Urban morphology and Place character

(2). Define the criteria for memorable, meaningful physical setting for promoting the character of a place

(3). Field survey and data collection

(4). Analyzing the physical setting and Morphological pattern using layering series of maps to see the pattern of morphological change and the tendency of change at riverside area.

(5). Analyzing the people understanding on historical riverside area identity through descriptive and statistical analysis

(6). Synthesizing the memorable urban elements and their relationship between their existence with the physical setting or morphological pattern of riverside area.
12. Expected Findings

The research anticipates that the urban physical setting can be used to (re)build river city identity, and create specificity of place character of riverside area. From urban morphology aspects, this study anticipates that the river and tributaries are still influencing the urban structure at riverside area, along with other urban elements. Their influencing can be in determining the access to building and space from water, forming the water edge construction space and the plot of riverside area. The study also anticipates that there are some riverside’s urban elements that have strong character. Their existence can become the urban reminder based on construction and style, historical value, fixed boundary and accessibility.

From rebuilding city identity aspects, this study anticipates that people have negative respond to the identity of historical riverside area. The two aspects of location and construction determine people preferences. People tend to memorize the urban elements located at land with non-traditional construction. Thus there is only a few of riverside’s urban elements that are recognized by people as the first origin place of city.

To rebuild city’s identity, the study anticipated the conclusion that in conserving the historical riverside settlement, the design should be combined with the modern design, the
construction and style. By having these, the place character of historical riverside settlement area will be recognized and responded positively by citizens.

13. Research Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stages of study</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sem 1</td>
<td>Sem 2</td>
<td>Sem 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature Review</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem Statement, Aim, Objective Formulation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methodology</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pilot study</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Data collection</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Data Input and Analysis</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Findings</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft and submission</td>
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<td></td>
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</table>
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Methodology

Urban Morphology
Physical and Spatial Setting
Change of Physical and Spatial Setting
Street, plot, block, open space, land use, canal system, building size, building orientation, constructed space, morphological frame, morphological regions
Urban reminder (Lewicka, 2008)
Aerial Photograph
Superimposed maps
Spatial analysis
ArchGIS
The key urban elements which have strong character
Test through postcard or tourism brochure
Anticipated Findings

Place Identity
People Perception towards physical and spatial setting
Change of Image, Meaning and Perception
The most memorable city element after changes
Interview
Card/photo sorting
Map/sketch drawing
Archival documents
Content Analysis
Nvivo
Statistical Analysis
SPSS

Figure 1. The Research Design Frame Work