

Defining Genius Loci of Riparian Culture: The Case of Musi River, Palembang

Abstract:

The existence of the Musi River has significance role for the history and development of Palembang City. The river as the arterial of this city since long time ago used as a transportation and trade facilities, this indirectly forms the riparian culture which is still attached to the people of the city today. However, the meaning of the river as a place began to shift along with the times, the rapid progress of ground transportation is slowly replacing the existence of river as a vital space, leading a shift in water space turned to land space. This study aimed to describe the meaning of the Musi River as a "place" for the Palembang residents. Using qualitative research methods through an approach of architectural phenomenology, "genius loci" will be traced to the existence of the Musi River. The study was conducted by refer to four variables from the theory of genius loci, namely; image, space, character, and genius loci attached to the Musi River. Preliminary findings indicate that the Musi River means as [1] trading facilities, [2] transportation facilities, [3] recreational facilities, [4] washing facilities [5] living places, and [6] fishermen livelihoods. This concluded genius loci from the Musi River is forming the economic and social space for the city.

Keywords:

Musi river, riparian culture, place, phenomenology, genius loci