

# The Place-identity of Denpasar in the 21st Century

## **ABSTRACT**

The issue of place-identity is of growing importance in the age of globalization where the homogeneity of urban development and architecture threatens the local identity of many places in the world. In Bali, this issue has long been debated and responded by the government by issuing a set of regulation to sustain the sense of place of the built environment. However, the place-identity of a particular place is in a state of constant revision as the way it is built, used and experienced changed. This paper explores the dynamic of place-identity construction of a city in constant development. Denpasar, is selected as the case study to examine how local people developed their places of living and what it means to the city's place-identity in contemporary situation. A series of fieldworks has been carried out to observe the physical development of the city to construct the map of the city. Historical analysis was done by conducting interviews in different localities in the city. Archival analysis was carried out to understand the dynamic of government policy. The place-identity of the city is constructed from similar philosophies with different practices in dissimilar location. As a result, the place-identity of the city has long been considered as a patchwork of different characteristics. Moreover, different parts of the city have been developed differently. Managing place-identities could be done by establishing a set of regulation, however a place is always being constructed and re-constructed by the inhabitants. Therefore, room for innovation should be provided.

**Keywords:** *place-identity, urban development, urban form.*