Restoring Image and Identity of Old City Kupang Through Visual Enhancement

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Abstract—**The old city in Kupang is a dense area that has multicultural ethnicity with its history. With long historical background influenced by colonialism and multicultural diversity, the old city of Kupang has strong and unique images. This paper aims to find the image and the identity of the old city area in Kupang supported by using factors in Lynch's theory of image of the city. This research using descriptive-qualitative research method and applied several data collection techniques such as field observation through walkthrough analysis and documentation. The research method has successfully identified the old city's image and identity; (1) Soekarno Street and Siliwangi Street as the path element; (2) meeting point of main streets and streets around the old city area including Soekarno and Siliwangi street as nodes element; (3) Pancasila Monument identified as landmark element. The result of this study is important as a reference to enhance the visual quality of Kupang old city by strengthening the character of the image and identity of the old city area.**

Keywords—**Image, Identity, Old City, Urban Design, Lynch's Theory.**

I. INTRODUCTION

THE old city is an area part of the city that preserve cultural heritage from different ethnics from both prehistoric and historical age. The image character of the old city area is formed by the physical visualisation form, which is easily remembered by the user [1]. The imageability characters of the city based on five elements of a regional image recognition consisting of the path, edge, district, node, and landmark[1].

Investigations carried out on the location of the five elements of the city, the Old City of Kupang has several dominant elements that form the image of the area. Firstly, the circulation path is important as the main access and route within the region. If people doubt the obscurity of this element, people also cannot recognise the image of the city as a whole[1]. Second, the nodes which act as meeting points for streets and circulation within the area. It also functions as a place where observers can access them. Hence, the node also functions to find the hierarchy of a city component [2]. Thirdly, landmarks which mark places in an area consisting of distinctively historic buildings within the old town of Kupang. In line with its function, landmarks accepted as a kind of signal, sign, and symbol for communication tools [3].

The elements become very important when people begin to find a regional image from an observable visual display of environmental elements to enjoyment image by the human sense of sight [4]. Thus, the image depicted according to the perceptions of each person will bring him back to recognise the same city area into a place identity as a cognitive basis for seeing a physical environment [5].

Kupang Old City area is a commercial trading and service area [6]. Due to this, the area dominated by shopping buildings scattered throughout the region with a classification of parts of the city of Kupang and has regional boundaries. Those are in the northern part bordering Kupang Bay, the southern part bordering the village of Fontein, the eastern part bordering the village of Bonipoi, and on the west, it borders the Air Mata (see Figure 1). This study aims to identify the elements forming the image of the Old City of Kupang, to improve the visual quality of the city.
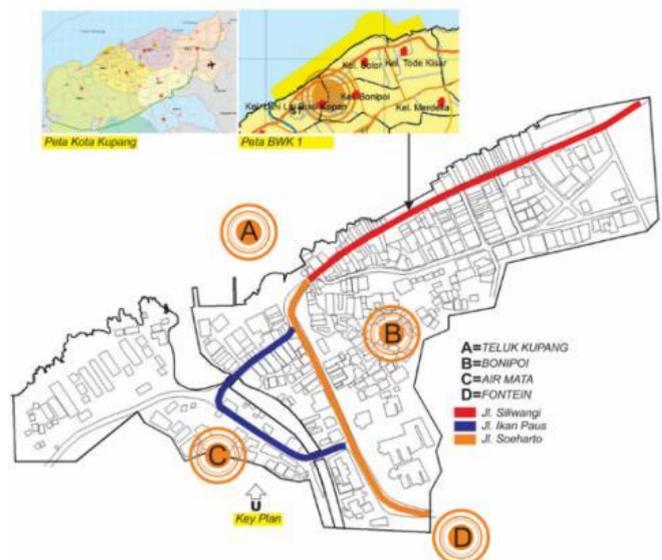

Figure 1. Orientation Map of The Old City of Kupang

II. METHOD

This study uses qualitative - descriptive research method that is useful to understand or to interpret the phenomena from information obtained around the research area both from the environment and human activities in it [7]. Data collection for this research is first, Walkthrough by doing observation and documentation; second User Perception which is used to identify the introduction of image elements in the area that are useful for determining the elements forming the image of the old city of Kupang from the People around the city.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This researchbased on the discussion of the elements forming the city image [1]. Main theory "Imageablity of City" By Lynch is used to identify the image of the Old City of Kupang. Primary data collection includes observation, documentation, and in-depth interviews The interviewees consisted of 2 types of informants, namely people who live

around the area (called group A) and people who had visited or passed through the research area (called group B). An in-depth interview aims to strengthen the results of the discussion about city image by investigating the five elements of imageability. The results discussed as follows

A. Path

In the research area, several pathways can be identified as the city's accesses (see Figure 2). Based on the observation, the traversed paths are Pahlawan street (see Figure 3), Ikan Paus street (see Figure 4), Soeharto street (see Figure 5), Siliwangi Street (see Figure 6), and Cendrawasih Street (see Figure 7). Those streets connect the research area with other surrounding areas. Street lines in this area form a street meeting in the city centre. This meeting centre forms an open space in the city centre that gives a character to the centre of the city.
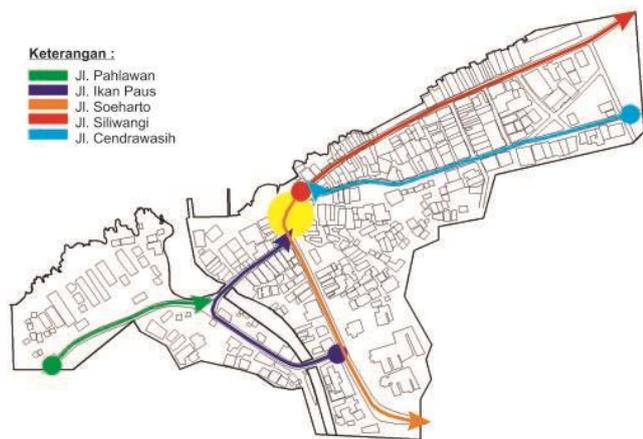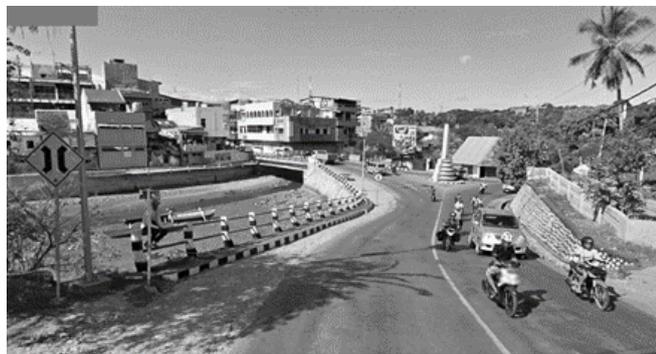

Figure 2. Key Plan of Path

Figure 3. The Path on Pahlawan Street

Figure 4. The Path on Ikan Paus Street

Furthermore, from analysing the interview result, group A (people around the research area) stated that Soekarno and Siliwangi street are the most recognisable for path in the Old

City area. Similarly, group B (immigrants or people who have visited the Kupang Old Town area), the most prominent paths in the Old City area is Soekarno street. As a result, Soekarno and Siliwangi street are the main streets that can be easily remembered by people mostly. Also, the Soekarno street and Siliwangi street connect other areas supporting by street lines within the area.

Figure 5. The Path on Soeharto Street

Figure 6. The Path on Siliwangi Street

Figure 7. The Path on Cendrawasih Street

To conclude, the path elements within the Kupang Old City area,and also followed by other interconnected streets into the whole area. Other streets in the area including the Siliwangistreet and the Ikan Pausstreet are less important in forming relationships within the Kupang Old Town area. [8] also stated that"Someone will easily identify these elements because of familiarity with environmental conditions, knowledge of history, and have motivation and needs"[8]. Furthermore, the path can be identified from the highways, sidewalks, transit lines, canals, railway lines so that the path within the Old City Area as the main streetis easily recognisable[1].

B. Edge

Edge is the boundaries between two regions, or interrelated linear intervals such as coastlines, pieces of railroad lines, edges of buildings and walls [1]. Besides that, Edges is a suburb of a district or district boundaries between one district and another [9]. Based on observation and documentation, the

boundaries that identified as the edge of the Old City area are shopping area that has dominated the Old City area (See Figure 9), the Dendeng River banks (see Figure 10 and Figure 11), and Teddy's Beach (see Figure 12 and Figure 13). Similarly, the interviewers both from group A dan B stated that the shopping area was better known as the edge of the Old City than Dendeng River and Teddy's beach. The place is well known because of the domination of shops and trade areas itself.
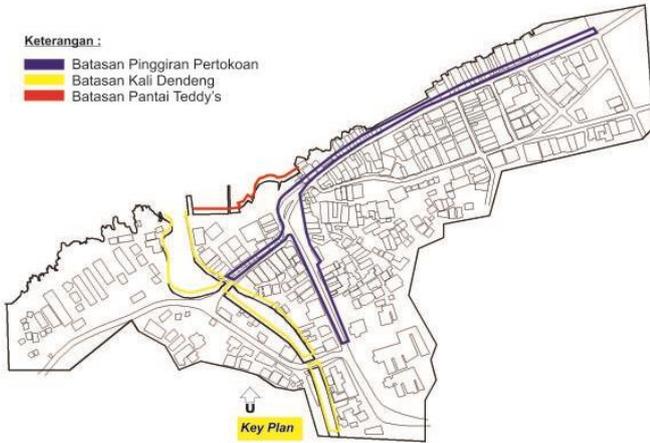

Figure 8. Key Plan of Edge

Figure 9. Edge of Siliwangi Street

Figure 10. Edge of Dendeng Driver

Figure 11. Another Edge of Dendeng River

Figure 12. Edge of Teddy's Beach

Figure 13. Another Edge of Teddy's Beach

By what has discussed in the elements of edges in the Old City Area, the dominant and recognisable boundaries are the shopping area. Then, it is followed by physical boundaries, which also located within the area, such as the boundary of Dendeng River and Teddy's Beach so that the three objects above can be said as boundaries within the region in forming the image of the region.

C. Nodes

The nodes or meeting points in the Old City area determined by the flow of pedestrian movement activity as well as the circulation of vehicles. Node 'points' can be identified as the Soeharto street crossing and the Ikan Paus street, the Pahlawan Street meeting and the Ikan Paus Street, where the Ikan Paus Street, Soeharto street and Siliwangi street meeting points are the downtown areas (see Figure 14). Furthermore, in group B who are visitors, give a similar statement that the best-known meeting point is Ikan Paus street (see Figure 15), Siliwangi street (see Figure 16) and Soeharto street (see Figure 17). Therefore, the meeting point Element in The Old City, such as the meeting point of Ikan Paus street, Siliwangi street and Soeharto street, are remembered and recognised both by the residents and migrants/visitors. The node located in the centre of the meeting of the main streets in the area also has a function as the main of all circulations within the Old City Area.
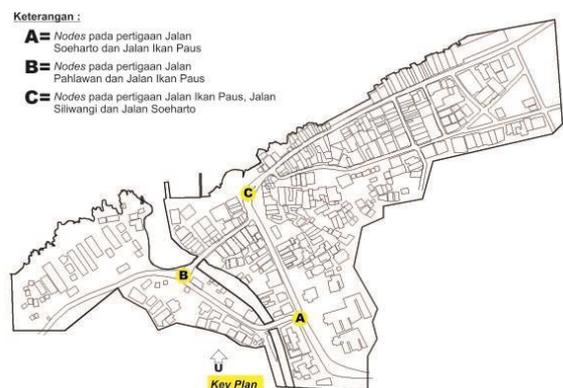

Figure 14. Edge of Dendeng River

Figure 15. Node A

Figure 16. Node B

Figure 17. Node C

As a result of the above conclusions is the introduction of meeting points within the object area. It can be the most forming area image of the nodes element that is the point of the central meeting of the Old City of Kupang, namely the meeting point at the centre of the area that meets Siliwangi Street, Ikan Paus Street and Suharto Street. Therefore, the meeting point can be in the form of boxes, train stations, plaza, and intersections; even ordinary cross streets are nodes [10].

The nodes are meeting points in the form of open spaces within the region. Road patterns that meet and connect within the region can form meeting points in the area[11].

D. District

The elements of city area images are elements that can be recognised by three aspects, namely [1]. building character, regional functions, and historical aspects within the region.Based on the results of primary data collection in the field, the most prominent city image is the character of shopping buildings scattered within the scope of the research area can recognise the introduction of regional imagery through district elements.

Similarly, two respondents mentioned that district elements in the research area consist of a trading district with many shopping buildings.Then, the district element in the context of the research area is less recognised, because the research area only focuses on the city centre.In the area, the row of the period of the buildings in the area can describe for the introduction of the image of the Old City (see Figure 18). This row of shops is easily described as an image that represents a district within the region because of its homogeneous form and related to one another within the region.
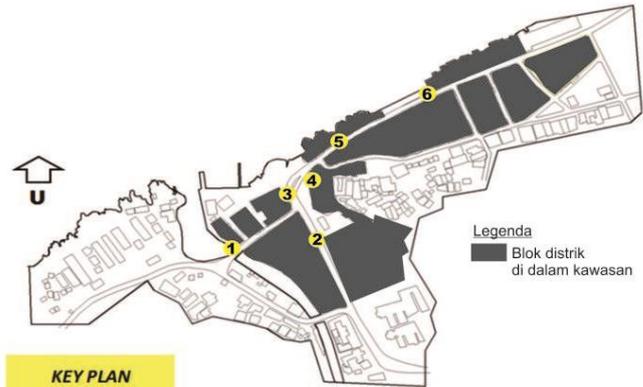

Figure 18. Map of District

Figure 19. District 1

Figure 20. District 2

Figure 21. District 3

Figure 22. District 4

Figure 23. District 5

Figure 24. District 6

Figure 25. Key Plan of Landmarks

Figure 26. Monument of Pancasila (A)

Figure 27. Nodes of City Central

Figure 28. Teddy's Beach

The result shows that the image determined by the continuity and homogeneity of facade materials, textures, spaces, shapes, details, symbols, types of buildings, uses, activities, occupants, colours, topography, and sky [10]. Thus, the character of the city image from district elements can be seen from the area that has similar perceptions in terms of character, such as physical characteristics of the building, regional functions, and historical background[1].

E. Landmark

Several objects in The Old City are easily recognisable as a landmark of the region. Also, those objects are not only recognised as a landmark of the regionbut also as an information element for the observer (see Figure 25). The object is the Pancasila monument located at the meeting point of Pahlawan Street and IkanPaus Street in The Kupang Old Town area.Furthermore, other objects are open space which located in the centre of the Ikan Paus Street, Siliwangi Street, and Soeharto Street in the Old City of Kupang. Another element is open space on the edge of Teddy's beach area. Based on the participants in group A, a landmark element that recognised as the image of the Old City area is the central area of the Old City of Kupang (see Figure 27).Pancasila monument that has historical value, and also Teddy's beach that has a temporary hawker centre in its open space (see Figure 28).
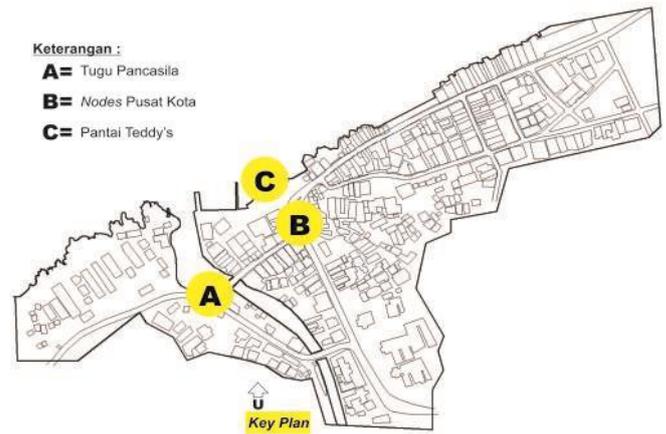
In comparison, participants in group B mostly described Pancasila Monument as the landmark image of the Old City (see figure 26). It is because the Pancasila Monument has a unique shape and strategic location between two street meetings to enter the Old City area. Furthermore, other respondents said that the city image of the landmark elements can be identified from the centre of the Old City of Kupang,

is a street meeting point in the middle of the city. And Teddy's beach is also better recognised as an ordinary hawker centre in the area.

As a result, there are two potential objects as landmarks within the Kupang Old City area, namely the Pancasila monument and the centre of the street meeting in the Old City area. The Pancasila Monument becomes important for its potential because the layout of the objects in the area have strategic points as identification of a city, especially the Old City of Kupang.

Therefore, the image formed in the area is the Pancasila monument, and the meeting centre of the city circulation is the centre of the meeting of Siliwangi Street, Ikan Paus Street and Soeharto Street. Two objects are recognised as a landmark because it also has historical meaning in the region that shaped the character of the city. The landmarks can be seen visually from a distance - a certain distance, as used for guidance of identity and even structure, functions to be used as an introduction to goals [1]. The result also shows that landmarks are objects of physical objects, which are: buildings, markers, mountains, which is easily recognised as a reference observer to recognise an environment. Landmarks usually reflect an urban orientation in the region [12].

Images that can be read or recognised from the Old Kupang city area based on the discussion above, consist of three elements that form the most recognisable image in the Kupang Old Town area. The three main elements are the path which consists of the Soekarno street, the IkanPaus street, and SiliwangiStreet, which is within theKupang Old Town area. Residents easily remember this street path because the structure of the street is the main street and access within the area. The next element is the area of node, which is the central meeting point of the Kupang Old Town area, where the nodes are the intersection between Siliwangi St., IkanPaus St. and Soeharto street. The final element is a landmark formed within the area consisting of the Pancasila Monument and the centre of the meeting point of the city circulation from the meeting of Siliwangi St., Ikan Paus St. and Soeharto's St.

IV. CONCLUSION

The five elements that form the image of the discussion above have a connection that can form the Old City area identity of each individual perception. The identity of the Old City of Kupang is created when the user or person who recognizes the image of the Old City of Kupang region is formed from a biological rhythm that connects the five elements that make up the image that is recognized so as to produce meaning for the area. City identity is an image that is formed from the biological rhythms of certain places and spaces that reflect time (Sense of Time), which is grown from within rooted by social, economic, cultural and urban society itself [1].

The rhythm produces an impression that describes the area from the main road path within the area. The paths identified within the area consist of the physical environment character conditions such as pedestrian paths, street furniture such as street lights, vegetation, area markers and buildings that are scattered around the area, street vendors lined up in shops along the regional lane and that most show their identity from the shop characters spread throughout the region. So that

from the depiction through the circulation path can describe the identity of the Old City not physically but also the local social culture with activities within the region. Furthermore, from the existing road lanes connecting to each other through a meeting point (nodes) in the middle of a city center meeting that portrays the region from the shape of the character of its trade center. From the lanes and vertices that illustrate the visual clarity of the identity of the Old City of Kupang, a landmark area is formed from the historic building, namely the Pancasila monument which is located on the street knot of the Ikan Paus and Pahlawan Street. In addition to the introduction of regional identities that are formed from the pattern of the three image elements, in general also formed from boundaries that describe the character of the area from physical appearance such as the beach and riverbanks within the region. As for also known as a trading district with a row of shops, the Old City of Kupang.

The identity of the Kupang Old City that was formed will not disappear from each individual perception. This will be inherent as long as each individual returns to describe the character of the city with a condition that he recognizes from an introduction to the elements forming the image he understands. Where it covers "a collection of memories, conceptions, interpretations, ideas, and feelings related to the conditions of the surrounding environment [5].

Figure 29. Image Mapping of Kupang Old City

Figure 30. Path of Soeharto Street, Kupang Old City

Figure 31. Path of Ikan Paus Street, Kupang Old City

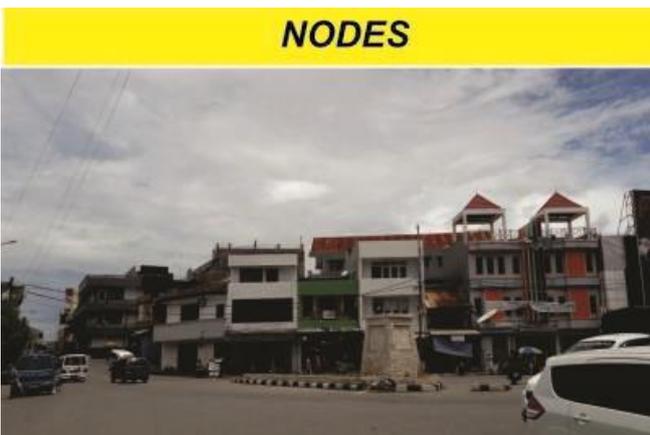Figure 32. Path of Siliwangi Street, Kupang Old City

Figure 33. Nodes View of Kupang Old City

Figure 34. Node View of Kupang Old City

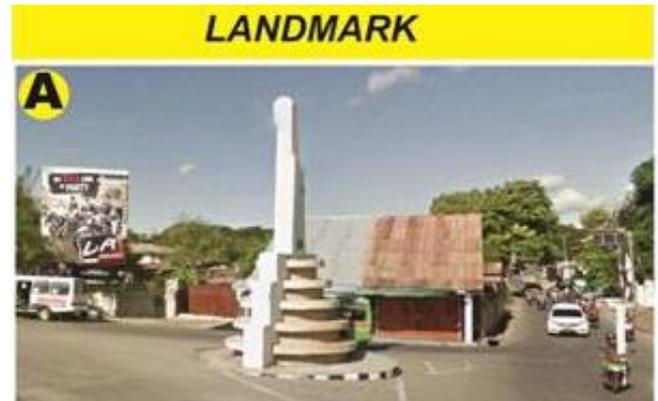Figure 35. Nodes View of Kupang Old City

Figure 36. Landmark A of Kupang Old City

Figure 37. Landmark B of Kupang Old City

So that The image of the Kupang Old City area formed from the main routes in the area which consist of Soekarno Street, Ikan Paus Street and Siliwangi Street. Additionally, the image of the area can also beidentified from the vertices of the area which is the meeting point of the three main circulation paths that form open spaces at the centre of the Old City of Kupang. Furthermore, landmarks that are buildings and open spaces at the centre of the region easily recognised by residents and visitors. Thus, three elements can be main factors to improve the city's image and strengthen the character of the Old City of Kupang.

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