

THE EXOTIC AND MULTI-CULTURAL APPROACH (The Case Study on Architectural Designing of the Amankila Hotel, Candi Dasa Village, Karang Asem Regency, Bali)

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ABSTRACT

Each architect when designing a building, wants to create a well done work. The term of well done of course means it's not only well for the designer but it's also for the user, and it gives a positive contribution to the environment. Good architecture always becomes the last goal to be achieved and it's very closed relationship to the designer. To gain the goal above, there are some ways, one of its is through the channel of exotic and multi cultural approach.

The research is a rationalistic paradigm which the arranged theoretical frameworks are deductive to the field work of domain research. The Amankila is an architecture product as the case study verified by the Exotic and Multi-Cultural Theory.

The research result show that : (i) if we take a look at the exotic of the positive viewpoint and cross culture, the Amanikila hotel design has still an appeal but it can not be change on the designer (irreversible), (ii) the designer can accommodate the exotic site and the exotic culture of environment, (iii) Peter Muller (a Germany Architect) with his experience, the cannal of exotic and multi-culture can be observed clearly and applied it on his spectacular design.

I. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Problem.

Every architect if he/she designs a building, wants to create a well done work. The term of well done of course means it's not only well for the designer it's also for the user, and it gives a positive contribution to the environment. Good architecture always becomes the last goal to be achieved and it's very closed relationship to her or his designer. To gain the goal above, there are some ways, a specific way can be done through the channel of exotic and multi cultural approach.

The architecture had been long time become a "tool" of peace, a part of an intellectual and inter-cultural evolution. Through the architecture, it can be increased the harmony among all cultures lived nearby besides it, the architecture itself have an advantage of the multiculturalism. The architect always learns from the history, the history is a flesh, a bone & the intelligence of human being. Meanwhile the nature is

the resource of sand, a rock and another material used by the architects to realize their creativity. The history and nature are a realty and universal matter and also a part of the association among them.

Something that has an exotic matter, always interesting to be learnt. And it has a long time become an intention of the writer and philosopher. Aristoteles emphasizes the exotic of its rare, and the history and geography are not too much discussing it, so that it can increase someone's sense of knowing.

1.2 The Problem of Research

Some research questions can be described below :

1. what is the essential design of Amankila Hotel at the view poin of exotic and multi culture ?
2. what is the capability of the designer in accomadating the exotic and multi-culture to design of Amankila Hotel

II. DISCUSSION

2.1 The Exotic Meaning.

The exotic word comes from the Greece having two meaning of physical and metaphysical terms. The physical meaning refers to an existence situation at a place, beyond the known important borders. It has a geophysical connotation. The more anyone is a far away looking for an exotic things, the stronger of its appeal. It's a tendency that an exotic place is a long away from the former place, and sometime looking for an exotic thing can be an obsession.

Meanwhile the metaphysical meaning of exotic has a negative connotation. In this case, exotic is believed as a mysterious thing a metaphysical power that can make someone feels a far away, turn over of intention, disorientation, always deceives & eventhough wants to destroy another person. The negative associates can be metaphorally represented through the antropomorphy to the nature of beast. Homer is the first one articulating his perspective of the negative exotic above. *The Sirens* (his important and famous poem with a drunken taste lyric), it has a powerful potency to increase the navigator imaginations which they allegorize as a beautiful girl, but it can not be found her over there, but there're only a human being of a beast eater. A Homer's allegory story that is still believed up to now & it concludes all lacks and benefit of the exotic charm.

In the context within the architecture, exotic can become a deductive & resource matter to stimulate the imagination, but other side of exotic has a nature of deceiving, turning over the intention and disorientation, If it's not done with an approach toward the future, someone must do as same as Ulyes did. He took something he is considered useful or valueble matter and finally he went away. The architectural objective is to design and build at a place where it's exist that the human being, their culture, the area and the existence material are the land to be served.

Many people are tempted of something that in the sense of architecture is

very exotic but the fact doesn't refer to a tight architectural discipline. Eventhough some famous architects those seem to be failed in designing their exotic area. Le Corbusier's building at Chandigarh, India, the government of Pakistan by Luis Khan, the American embassy in Athena by Walter Gropius and the other architects those designed In Arabic. All architects had no enough time to understand the society, climate, material and underconstruction method and technique of each country. In a simple way we can say that the architects had been failed.

Reason of the failure is the architect's depth and pride/arrogance. To build in an exotic area need inquiring deeply, to understand the essential matter of a place it takes a long time relatively to create an exotic culture to be a part of the designer. It's needed a dare decision to stay and settle and build a carrier at a exotic land. To be "another guy" in term of a different culture and spirit are very difficult and need a long time, and only a few succeed to do it. Some examples are Ralph Erskine, a British architect built his carrier in Sweden, Antoine Predock and IM Prey, French and Chinese architect that develop their carrier in America, John Utzon and Henning Larsen, both come from Denmark that conduct the best design in Australia.

2.2 The Multi Cultural Environment.

As a consequence of the rapid progress a great number of students from the development countries are sent to study abroad. The situation makes the student population both America and Europe to be various number. It could cause "the internationalism of cultural content" & stimulate the student creativity through the channel of exotic and multi culture those are not found at the previous generation.

The appeal in designing at a place a long away from the architectural collage is a key to deepen the creativity channel. A local exotic and multi cultural design project is very delight, such as an house project of Giorgio De Chirico at Greece, a tourist

village that uses a sun energy at Crete or a house for the poor people In Pakistan are samples used as an assignment In London architecture collage.

1. Benefit Gained from the Multi Cultural Experience.

Multi-cultural experience can increase designing education through two advantage series which can not be gained at the homogen student population. Firstrly is the attitude advantage and the secondly is related to a combination between the imagination composition and increasig of row material.

a. The advantage of Attitude/Behavior

- 1) the whole classes environment have a different attitude. A tolerance is getting higher and more popular. For the house owner, the attitude has to show the well image to their guest.
- 2) there is an extra effort to use a sketch and drawing language, because the foreigner tounge is not easy for the student, especially at the first month.
- 3) It's always available a constant reference for the guest student for place, name and the way how to do somethings that haven't heard yet before.
- 4) Threere is a stronger desire to cooperate among multi-cultural groups, so that the possibility to be a more compacted team at the next assigment.
- 5) There is a latent atmosphere of self confidence doing a competition in the context within creating the good image to the owner couple.
- 6) For the first weeks, the students whose learn in the exotic country will demontrate the best matter they learn at their own country the first project is always influenced by their lesson at the pass). This gives a benefit the other student knowing what's happening at another place.

b. The Advantage for Increasing the Imagination

- 1) they release their imagination from the tables and reality constrains.
- 2) Because of non presence on the relative servitude, a discovery or a solution for a specific problem is more important than the similar profit gained a problem solution at the handicaps series which has been known at their own culture.
- 3) The selective process of thinking is not leaped by the bavahior handicaps from the exotic culture, so that the activity is "lightheartedly", taking anything that's considered suitable to the goal. Someone becomes more intuitive in a culture that belongs to no one, free from the dicipline of someone culture handicaps.
- 4) A good chance will gain at the combination of some creativity channels, tangible or intangible. It can be tested through a channel named the exotic and multi-cultural channel.

In accordance with time progress, some exotic enviroments has developed its unique definition, such as a regulation that controls a lot of exotic settlement at Greece. Architect who doesn't relate to the constrains, he more emphasizes at the substabtical handicaps of exotic land (scale, topography & climate) an it's possible to be able to give a more imaginative solution to the problem today, including the contextual and iconographical problem than the proffessional associates those are at this place, that the constrain is considered to be boring and humiliate or eventhough reducing the next development.

The local architect can easily be a fictim of what we call "explorational inertia". They generally satisfy faster by the gained solution of their mind that's possible for him through "traditional prototype" they are proposed. This is a non creative thing and at the same time, it is a profif proposal or planning. The next paradox is a foreigner designer easier recieving all definite constrains, without having a mental pressure as same as the local architect did, if they want to try to cut of and generate the new code. A direct recieving on definite codes (a

series of definite constraints) can make the designer free, and waste their time more to explore their design by choosing the suitable idiomatic. The multi-cultural experience can increase the freedom to refuse, but for further the experience can increase the discipline in receiving and adapting itself, but it makes more creative at the content or substance.

Beneficiary level of multi-cultural design experience is very easy to be received. More over exotic program that's combined with a different value program which we possess, so the project can produce an institution and something new.

Although the student's interpretation aren't as good as the other person who's knowing the actual condition and they don't belong to a part of the culture. The gained profit may be enough, if we are compared with the gained profit when they are asked to handle a project of the familiar culture. At the second case, the result may be a revision only of something they have been known, meanwhile at the first case, the student is "the small archimedes" with his small discovery. Something new that's found or developed at exotic handicaps series are seem to find a world by ourselves. And we never forget it.

The designer activity at exotic situation such a creative poem when opening a historical book, and not as a historian, it's more in a such as a seeker of an imaginative illusion.

The multi-cultural experience is wider at studio, more references those can be offered, or more cultural viewpoints so there will be a chance to scan or observe through the culture. To bring a painter a beautiful place and ask him to draw at the moment, it's not a right step. He needs time to observe, day time or night, or specific season, observe at any kind of situation, then he will choose when he wants to draw. So it's as same as the poem writer, photographer or making a movie and so for the exotic and multi-culture if we see from definite distance, it needs an absolute freedom to create the best design.

The advantage combination gained from the exotic and multi-cultural training at the studio can be wider or more narrower, it's around the site and topography, the material

usage and the attitude of detail regarding for the sake of urban, regional and social item.

c. The Benefit gained through the channel

1) Inclusivity via Exotic

a). The Site

The exotic site at the exotic country, the site and place could really be unknown, can create a surprise and beside it also can create an sophisticated imagination for some thing that has not been known yet. Although the movie and slide of the exotic can help, but it's only a written word, the chosen poem the direction hand writing or a sociological discovery those can give the best influence to a imagination. It's better if the student can see directly through the heart eyes of exotic environment to be designed.

b) The Material

a part of multi-culture that can give a benefit is the material search. To define the nature material, the local substance couple may not technically known by the students. The creativity will appear if they realize that not all wall thickness have to be 6-8 inches, meanwhile there are another thickness for the other material. The searching may result a new interpretation, revision, or other way in seeing the project of a cultural different eyesight or from the practical design that's known.

c) The Detail

There is no a studio instructor that can communicate the detail importance except it's through the designing experience of exotic place. The detail scope is an area to appreciate a cultural excess that has been technically achieved. If the exotic detail is investigated deeply, it might be cause a appearing of an high cost (if it's applied at the present time), so the next proposal is to create a new-better adjustment as a problem solution proposal. At the detail scope, the contemporary architecture offers the best part, that is a matter of exotic and the traditional part.

d). The History

If an exotic and multi-cultural approach are combined with the effort to

understand the history or involve the environment of historical importance, so the project will increase its value added and it could result something called a multiple. There is no special way to define the exotic project characteristic, because it depends indeed on instructor's creativity imagination and intuition. Someone can combine the site and culture, the society's history and civilization, the unclear situation & paradox. The program can be manipulated so it's sound exotic and abstract for the real site or aexotic area and the exotic function of instructor's imagination.

III. The Project Options : Exotic vs Real Ingredients

The exotic project and multi culture can posses unusual form, with some projects mixture that's real exotic, meanwhile the other mixture is pragmatic and universal indeed. A semester of studio can have a little different between the exotic & realistic. Some options are :

1. We can posses an real exotic site with the need of a very familiar exotic (tourism environment at an unusual site, and with unknown material)
2. We can posses a well known site with the exotic function and in the context within a intellectual frame work (the outerspace creatures generally are not known).
3. We can combine both of it.
4. We can posses a real exotic site and the real exotic function based on the real site or the imagination site from the lecturer.
5. We can have an exotic chace and multi culture of surrounding area, a metropolist area of a plural and democratic country where all kind of migrants from all ethnics, culture and minority groups compared with a dominant group.

The advantge of a variative option depend on directing and the lecturer's goal. A

positive influence of every single possibility must be done by sharpening level of the imagination at the visual & physical sense, to open the student's intellectual & horizon in the context within exposing some social variant problem, in involving and making solution of a real problem. They believe personally that in a good balance will occur at the combination above. Exotic project & multi-culture are balanced by a real building problem an whole one, at the regional need or urban importance.

The best training is an example that's given as a resort project or a second housing building/rest room & an intellectual relaxation at Athena. And the interesting item is the place never becoming "a city" it's stuck at the middle of the contaminated city For the planning, we must build all ways of accessibilities above a steep rock at a the cliff island. The share training can bring all issues dynamic of the city environment ans territorial significant, meanwhile we seek or give a chance to do an improvisation and smart steps to the construction method and the architectural solution.

The catagory of exotic project and culture in surround city is an assignment, is an important thing because it involves all human resources in the process, including the school traditional relationship with the surrounding location. It's easy enough looking for a suitable location for the project In USA. At arround the exotic city angles can show very strange (eventhough very wild).

A succeeded project is designing for the community centre for the Greece society in Dallas, Texas. The project has a posibility to integrated in an architectural complex (in a small of Greece culture & their civilazation) and the other, such as ; developing the existance church, dwelling place for senior community, the school, the hospital, the library, gymnasium, and typhical cafe of the Greece society. The student has recieved a lecture of Greece through the lesson, reading some Greece literatures and their music. The historical precedent is analyzed by Grece vernacular architecture, the typology

of Greece mountain housing, the temple of mount Athos. The international dimension and multi-culture of the project appeared, because the project is designed not only by the American student but it's also by the Turkey one and three muslim students of Libanon, Jordania & Brahrain. The students did not only produce a full challenge design an new one. It also involved themselves in a cultural issue versus their own culture, but they also possess a chance to involve themselves in an issue an ethical problem in foreign country.

IV. It's Need a Deeper Involving at the Exotic Projects

We agree that's needed a definite measurement for involving of the exotic project and multi-culture in an architect carrier. Besides the multi-cultural problem, mixed misunderstanding and immitial form hadn't understood yet as a rival of substance. Someone will always learn another culture, architecture if he wants trying to understand the other architecture. We fully believe what George Seferis (1999) said when somebody translates the other language, so he will understand his own language better. Even we also agree to a physical "exile" at exotic culture in a country offered by Sirent. Tightening hardly in an "odyssean mast", (the desire to practice the architecture in own country), we have a chance to appreciate our architecture we possess well, as long as the distance and a new input of architecture and exotic culture give a chance for us to evaluate our architecture better. This is not new idea, it can happen at all arts. Some best criticsers wrote their critique of their country, as same as the novelists who wrote something away from their country. Lived in the context within foreigners (Gertrude Stein, Henry Miller and Earnest Hemingway). We can not legalize wholly that a advice given by Walter Gropius to Ricardo Legorreta. We trust that there is a need to a more/real powerful opening but it's measured. And a further research in the context within : (i) a studio project as long as in the school, (ii) a participation at the international competition (they give the best chance, and the young

architect can sharpen their design capability), (iii) the real life and working at the exotic place for definite period) with a goal to come back to their own country and practicing the architecture.

The proposal is not a theoretical matter, they had paid in many cases where the architects are divided by their creative design. An exception for somebody who has done a dedication because of a specific reason or the other wants to conquer/defeat the born people. Most of them has a substantial note of multi-culture and a taking over exotic. And it's not accidently that the most creative architects are the product of multi-cultural architectural education, but they are involved in the international competition or spend a lot of time abroad.

III. THE CASE DISCUSSION

3.1 General Issue.

Through the exotic channel and multi-culture, the architecture creativity can be increased by trainings. The training advantage can be gained by a vernacular architecture and through a visual resource, and gained of every non valuable practice.

To be able to understand deeply on the channel meaning, it will be discussed the case of *Amankila* Hotel situated at Manggis Village, Karangasem Regency Bali.

The hotel is a *Aman* hotel network in Bali, it lays down on an hill at the edge of Bali southern coast and faces directly to the Indonesian sea, it means a exotic site. Beside it, Bali itself is a place that had an unique exotic value, an attractive Balinese culture and Balinese traditional architecture based on Hindu religion. All are a combination between the exotic site & the exotic cultural environment. Meanwhile the function to be designed (a resort) is function that can be found at the other place.

The hotel is designed by a Germany architect named Peter Muller who has stayed for a long time in Bali. He had previously designed the Hyatt Bali Hotel at

Sanur. Oberoi Hotel at Kuta, Amandari hotel at Ubud. With his experiences, the multi cultural channel can be observed clearly.

2. The Discussion of *Amankila* Hotel Planning

The hotel site is situated at a gulf that is flanked by two hill. The site topography is hilly and steep, and faces directly to the Indonesia ocean. It's a potential item that can be used in planning, especially for a resort.

To gain a comfortable & a maximum view usage in design, the rooms are set up in the form of bungalow, arranged according to the steeping site topography. The rooms are connected to the other facilities with a pavement flying bridge.

To be able to express the Balinese traditional architecture, the architect accommodates the shape of *bale meten bebandungan* that is modified and using a special material according to Balinese traditional architecture regulation such as ; the thatch for the roof, the wood for pillar, and the brick or clay sand for the wall. The entire shapes perform an image of a simple clean and nature matter because the ornament and traditional decorations are not too much used.

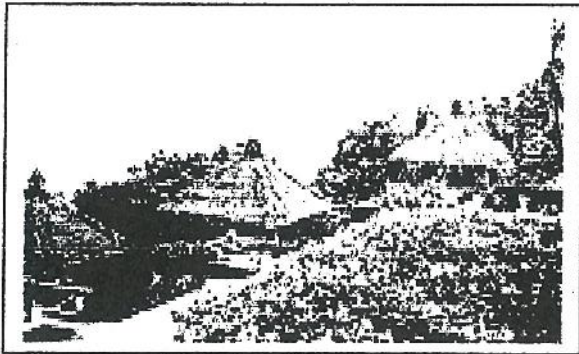
An amazing expression at the hotel design is the setting up of the swimming pool that is arranged in three levels where the water lets to overflow from the upper level to beneath. It's an allegory that the water flow directly to ocean spreading it below (In a sort term : it's able to create a remarkable situation). This specific design is possible because of the steep site condition and faces directly to wide ocean. Based on the original design, the architect seems to accommodate the maximum site potential and also awaken us/the observer's heart of the mighty of nature.

To be able to catch the maximum view the building is accidently put higher from the

ground. It looks like a Balinese building is put over the table or a plat form, so each building is possible to have a maximum view (the height flat form is adjusted in such a way so each building is not hidden by others). The logical consequence is that the designer have to make a pavement connecting each building following the plat form height. The building complex at this area seem to be as a huts in around a dense trees and with a background of a greener hill.

All design indicate that the architect emphasized at the user's comfortable, meanwhile the facades are still tried non dominant so the condition existed in the middle of greener hill is still felt. From the design, the architect seems to be able to catch the nature of Balinese condition and it's expressed in term of a modified Balinese traditional architecture without losing its panorama. This could be possible because the architect has stayed for along time in Bali and designed some Hotels too in the same area. Regional building codes that regulate the architecture in Bali has been also applied well.

If we take a look deeply, it seems the architects at the pass time are also very sophisticated in choosing the erotic sites, such as the temples location in Bali, almost are placed at the exotic site. The temple of *Uwuwatu* is situated at a peninsula, from the middle of temple we can see the sea and the white cliff and we are lucky, we can see the swimming turtle down. The other is the temple of *Tanah Lot, Ulun Danu dan Besakih*, all have a very potential of exotic site. The potential of site above is as same as to genius local, that is spirit of place (Harg, 1979). But anyway, the most important thing actually are we able to develop the potential site, because from the site the designers can develop their imagination to create something. Inkless (1998) emphasized that in designing and architecture, the three factors are important but the environment/location is the most important one, even the exotic site.



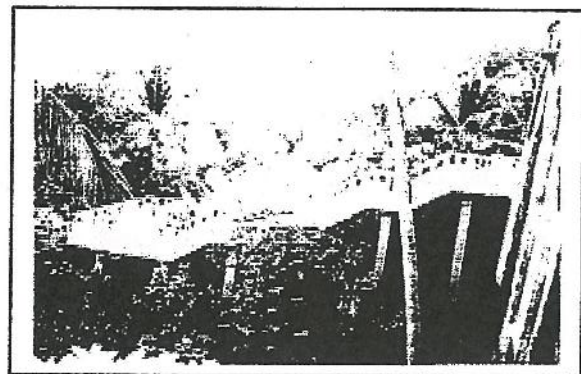
The cottage of Bale *Bebandungan* are chosen as the multi culture approach on the design of resort at *Amankila Hotel*, as mention above, every cottage have a view of deep blue Indonesian ocean.



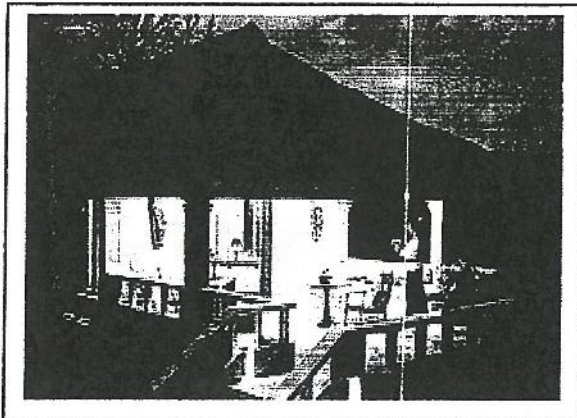
The front office and Lobby of *Amankila Hotel*, has a simple form. It's derivate of the shape of Balinese Traditional Architecture. So it's logic if the material and its detail according to the characteristic of Balinese one



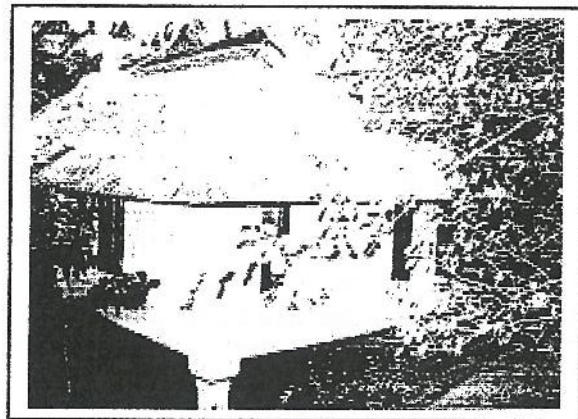
It's possible for the designer to set up a terrace swimming pool at an exotic site and steep. Some one who swims at the pool feels that swims at the middle of the ocean, because the swimmer can see the wide ocean from the pool.



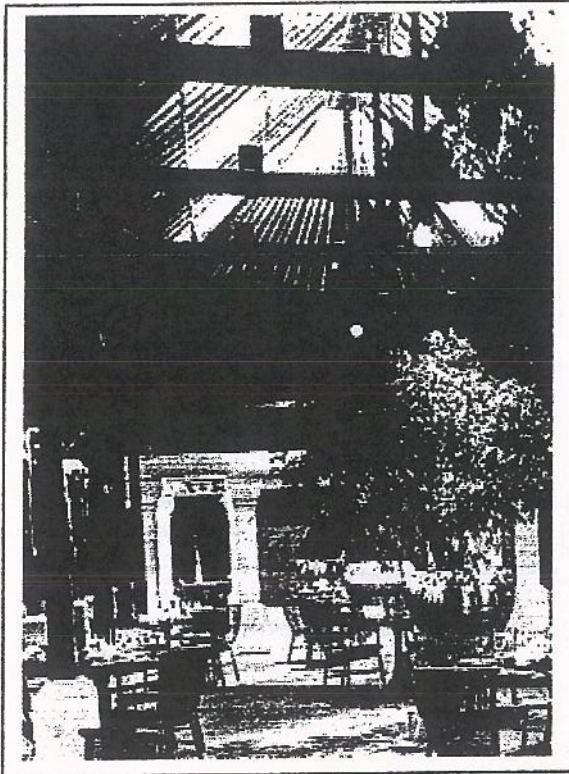
The pavement that connecting the rooms and the other facilities are designed flying because the condition of steep exotic site. The impact is the guest can see a beautiful panorama from the top pavement when they step down.



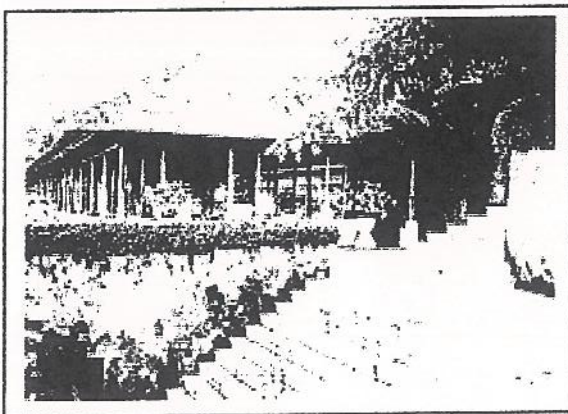
An expression of a bungalow at night with the supporting of remarkable illumination. The shape is modified from the *Bale Meter*.



The building is designed flying to chase a maximum view for all bungalow, and the bottom are let open to get naturally.

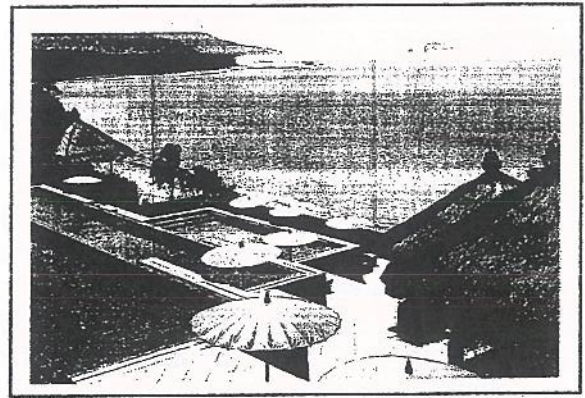


The restaurant of Amankila Hotel and its expression of Balinese taste. The architect uses *sakas* mean the Balinese traditional pillar that supported all building weight. For upper part of building, as the concept of Balinese traditional architecture, the plafond is exposed where the beauty is gained from the wooden rafters (*iga-iga*) that's constructed in a row neatly. And as the accent, the *tada-paksi* that mean a wooden lion curving supported the vertical wooden pillar.



The steps at main entrance & the restaurant are the main accessibility for the both. For avoiding the clumsy image, the retaining

wall has a function as planter box, so it can give a natural touch at this area.



The swimming pool is arranged in three levels where the water lets to overflow from the upper level to beneath. It's an allegory that the water flow directly to ocean spreading it below.

III. CONCLUSSION

From discussion above it can be resumed a conclusion below :

1. if we take a look at exotic of positive viewpoint and cross culture, Amanikila hotel design has still an appeal but it can not be changed on its designer (irreversible), He emphasized at the physical and metaphysical exotic. He also discuss the nature of multi-culture on the educational tendency at present time and the exotic element to a studio. The multi culture is an asset/capital that posses an advantage to develop the attitude. Some design handicaps (site, material and detail) become clearly if it took a look at the exotic view point. The category of exotic design training that presented well is the Author's experience.
2. the designer can accommodate the exotic site and the exotic culture of environment.
3. Peter Muller (a Germany Architect) with his experience, the cannal of exotic and multi-culture can be observe

clearly and applied it on his spectacular design.

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*) CURRICULUM VITAE



I Gusti Ngurah Tri Adiputra was born in 27 of May, 1962 at Klungkung, Bali. He got his graduate at the architecture dept. University of Udayana Denpasar, 1988. Then he continued his study at University of Gajah-Mada, Yogyakarta from 1996 up to 1998 with the similar concentration. Recently he is a government employee of Kopertis VIII for the Dwijendra of University