

Harmony and Modernity: Reinvention of Limpapeh Motif at Rumah Gadang in Contemporary Textile Design

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ABSTRACT

Objective: This study explores the reinvention of the Limpapeh House Tower motif in contemporary textile design, focusing on the integration of traditional Minangkabau elements with modern symbolism that reflects current social dynamics. **Method:** The design process involves a comprehensive understanding of the philosophical meaning of the Limpapeh motif, followed by the introduction of abstract patterns representing the disruption of traditional values in the face of modern challenges. The study also examines the use of contrasting colors and asymmetrical compositions to visually symbolize the tension between tradition and modernity. **Results:** The reinvention of the Limpapeh motif into a contemporary textile design produces works that are not only visually striking but also culturally significant. The contrast between the traditional symbolism of balance and stability and the abstract elements reflecting social disruption highlights the evolving cultural and social landscape of Minangkabau society. This process creates a space for reflection on the preservation of cultural values amid modern change. **Novelty:** This research contributes to the preservation of Minangkabau culture by presenting the Limpapeh motif in a dynamic, modern form. It also serves as a tribute to the symbolic power of the Limpapeh as a cultural pillar, while opening new avenues for interpretation and exploration in contemporary design.

INTRODUCTION

The Limpapeh motif on Rumah Gadang depicts stability, balance, and strength. This decorative motif is an important symbol in Minangkabau culture, symbolizing the harmonious relationship between humans and nature and the social values that are upheld in Minangkabau culture [1]. In Language Minangkabau, Limpapeh means "pole buffer" Which become center balance in the structure of social and family life [2]. This motive is very closely related with the architecture of Rumah Gadang, the traditional Minangkabau house, which functions as a symbol strength and continuity in tradition. As a very significant element in life public Minangkabau, Limpapeh Also reflect role important Woman as pillar main in guard harmony and balance infamily and society.



Picture 1. "Limpapeh" House Tower"

Source: Pinterest 2024

However, in middle wave modernization and globalization, values traditional start face challenge in maintain its existence. Public Minangkabau, like as it is Lots culture other, faced with on dilemma between preserving traditions and facing the demands of a fast-paced and changing modern world. By Because That, reinvention motive Limpapeh through design textile contemporary become very relevant as a way to preserve and reintroduce the philosophy the in context Which more dynamic and in accordance with the challenges of the times modern.

Study This aiming for explore implementation motive Limpapeh in contemporary textile design, adding abstract elements that depict tension between tradition and modernity. The added abstract patterns serve to depicts the disruption and disorder in modern life that often contradictory with values stability and the harmony that represented by It's too late.



Picture 2. "Pattern Abstract"

Source: Pinterest 2024

Several recent studies, as expressed by Gustu Rahma Deni in [2] show how motives This plays a role in modern textile design, which not only maintains the meaning philosophically, but Also reflect change social Which happen in life Minangkabau society. Deni highlighted that contemporary design provides a place for interpretation new from traditional symbols in facing the change social.

In addition, a study by [1] also discussed how elements Minangkabau culture, including the Rumah Gadang and Limpapeh motifs, are maintained and even transformed in the context of cultural tourism that connects values traditional with the needs of the tourism industry modern.

RESEARCH METHOD

Method in study This divided become three stage Which each other related, started from exploration, design, until presentation work in contemporary art context [3]. Each stage focuses on creating textile designs that are capable of describe harmony between tradition Minangkabau and dynamics modernity.

1. Exploration

Stage exploration focus on collection reference And research deepabout motive Limpapeh And meaning philosophical Which contained in inside [2]. Researcher exploring the history and philosophy of the Limpapeh motif which symbolizes balance,

strength, and the important role of women in the Minangkabau social structure. This exploration involves visual analysis of the form, symbolism, and traditional application of the Limpapeh motif on textiles, architecture, and other cultural objects. Researchers also identified elements- modern elements to be added to the design, such as abstract patterns and symbols disruption Which describe tension between tradition and modernity.

2. Design

The design stage is built based on the acquisition of important points from the formulated analysis results, continued with visualization of ideas in the form of alternative sketches, then the best sketch option is determined as a reference for the design or technical drawing that is useful for the realization [4]. Design Stages design involving draft and creation visual beginning from motive Limpapeh that has been modified with abstract elements. In this stage, the process design sketches and compositions are done by considering elements of color, shape, And contrast between two world – traditional And modern. Technique design Which used is a combination of geometric motifs which is stable with free patterns and not regular that describes modern dynamics. Researchers explore various alternatives in compile elements the, try for still guard essence from Limpapeh however opens up space for new interpretations that are more relevant to the context. contemporary.

3. Embodiment in Context Art Contemporary

Stage This aiming for interpret work design in context art contemporary, connecting traditional cultural heritage and the development of art modern. Researchers assess how the modified Limpapeh textile design can communicate with modern audiences, as well as its relevance in social life and current culture. In the context of contemporary art, this work is seen as a manifestation symbols that reflect traditional values that remain alive despite changes era. Besides That, element abstract Which added add dimensions new in understanding about connection between tradition and modernity.

With follow steps this, study this no only produce works of art that are aesthetic but also carry important messages regarding cultural transformation which is relevant to modern times. This work invites reflection on the role of tradition in facing the challenges of the times and how design can be a medium for guard cultural heritage in the world Which keep changing.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Artworks that raise the theme of Limpapeh as a metaphor for Bundo Kanduang have often been found in various forms, techniques, and materials that reflect Minangkabau cultural values. In this case, Limpapeh is often interpreted as a symbol of protection, shelter, and honor represented by the figure of a mother or Bundo Kanduang in Minang society [2]. Results design textile Which adapt motive Limpapeh House Tower with the addition of abstract patterns creates a work that is full of visual tension, which illustrates the dynamics between tradition and modernity. For example, in the

design that attached, the Limpapeh motif remains the main element, reflecting stability and harmony that is closely related to family values and Minangkabau culture. However, this motive not left to stand alone. As time goes by, design This enriched with element abstract Which illustrate disruption and uncertainties that are present in modern life. Here are some discussions main from the design results:

1. Balance between Tradition and Modernity

Limpapeh Motif, which traditionally depicts unity and stability in Minangkabau families and society, presented in a design with a composition Which strong and symmetrical. Draft This focus on philosophy that every element in society has an important role in creating harmony. However, around the motif Mainly, there are abstract patterns that depict movement and irregularity. Pattern This abstract, consisting of irregular lines and free forms, reflects the conflict between strong traditions and the modern world full of rapid change and uncertainty. This shows how society is now often faced with on challenges in maintaining balance between values long and demanding era.

2. Tension Visual between Stability and Disruption

Picture Which included show How elements This each other interact. Use color The red in this motif contains a rich and symbolic meaning. The color red symbolizes honor, strength, and dignity and reflects spirit and courage. In addition, red is also a symbol of love, affection and close family ties. In the context of spirituality, the color red has the power of protection. Overall, the use of red in Minangkabau traditional clothing not only functions as an aesthetic element, but also reflects deep cultural and philosophical values in the lives of the Minangkabau people.

3. Integration Aesthetics and Meaning Social

Design This No only aiming for create work aesthetic but also convey message social Which in. Tension visual between two element This create a dialogue about the role of culture in everyday life. In in the context of contemporary art, this design illustrates how artwork can become means for respond and to criticize condition social Which There is, while still maintain connection with root culture. Presentation motive Limpapeh together abstract elements not only enrich the visuals of the work but also provide space for a reflection on how society is now at a crossroads between safeguarding tradition and adapt to the world Which keep changing.

4. Meaning Visual "The Limpapeh Nan Now"

Limpapeh is description a woman who behaves weak soft, full polite polite, and full of words with manners. Limpapeh butterfly oriented big with Name Latin *Attacus atlas*, which was used by Minangkabau artists as allusion For Minangkabau women. Therefore that, the woman who has move on adults in Minangkabau will become overflowing the big house that will inhabit House big. Limpapeh also plays a role important in matter education and care his descendants, because the Minangkabau people follow the bloodline mother. In overall, Limpapeh describe Minangkabau women who have role central in family, education, and preservation mark culture, with still maintain inherited manners and etiquette in tradition they [5].

In this design, the reinvention of the Limpapeh Rumah Gadang motif is combined with elements abstract in design textile contemporary succeed convey message visual Which in-depth about the tension between tradition and modernity [1]. The Limpapeh motif, which has long been a symbol of female leadership in Minangkabau society, it remains guarded in design This as core from structure social and culture. However, with enter pattern abstract in around him, design This reflect dynamics social modern that occurs in this era. Visual tension between structured and random elements describes conflict between traditional values Which strong and change social Which fast.

This design also explores thoughts on how traditional cultural values can endure and adapt with change era, without lost its essence. By blending traditional and contemporary aesthetics, this work suggests that Art, especially textile design, can be a medium for depicting social conditions. as well as role Woman in maintain harmony in life family and society in this era.

This design makes an important contribution to the discourse on contemporary art, No only as work aesthetics, but Also as tool For convey messagerelevant social [5]. The abstract elements in this design convey thoughts or freedom that have been taboo for women, especially in Minangkabau. This design is intended to invite women to dare to explore the outside world, and not only act as housekeepers and educate children. This design illustrates that although women are basically gentle and polite, it does not rule out the possibility for women today to try new things that certainly do not deviate from existing norms and customs.



Picture 3. “Results Motive “Combination”
Source: Vanesha Miswar Document 2024



Figure 4. “Current Spleen”
Source: Vanesha Miswar Document, 2024

The challenge of incorporating traditional architectural elements into modern mosque design is well-documented. Asfour Asfour [4] highlights the tension between the simple forms and lack of decoration characteristic of modern architecture and the more ornate traditional elements of mosque design. This is particularly pronounced in the West, where mosque design often draws on diverse international references depending on the vision of local Muslim communities [4].

In the context of textile design, researchers have explored ways to incorporate traditional motifs and techniques into contemporary products. Alimin et al [2] describe a community project in Indonesia that utilized textile waste to create home accessories, demonstrating the potential to blend traditional and modern elements. Similarly, Rani et al [1] note that women artists have used embroidery, textiles, and needlework as feminist materials and techniques, blending them with contemporary mediums [1].

Suryandari Suryandari [19] recommends that the results of research on hybrid symbols in contemporary mosque architecture in Indonesia be applied to future mosque designs, highlighting the importance of balancing tradition and modernity. Susanto et al [20] also emphasize the role of local materials in shaping the character of contemporary interior design in Indonesia [20].

The reinvention of traditional motifs in modern textile design is a topic of interest across various cultural contexts. Doble et al [7] examine the incorporation of Romanian traditional motifs into contemporary clothing, while Hasdiana et al [3] discuss the development of Karawo traditional textiles in Indonesia. An and Jang An & Jang [3] describe the use of M.C. Escher's tessellation technique to create textile patterns inspired by traditional Korean icons [3].

The use of local, organic materials in architecture is another area of research relevant to the task. Susanto et al. Susanto et al [20] highlight the potential of wood as a local material that has become part of Indonesia's cultural identity, transitioning from vernacular to contemporary design [20]. Sari et al [20] also note the importance of modernizing the textile industry in Indonesia to support its continued growth.

Technological advancements have also influenced the integration of traditional and modern elements in textile design. Hardy et al [10] explore the use of illuminated LED-yarns in costume engineering, while describe the development of polymeric optical fiber jacquard fabrics with dynamic pattern display capabilities. Widiyono et al [21] discuss the use of cocopeat bio-textiles for land reclamation in Indonesia, demonstrating the potential of traditional materials in contemporary applications [21].

The preservation and promotion of traditional textiles are also important considerations. Suhud [18] examines the attention-interest-search-action-share (AISAS) model in the context of traditional textile exhibitions, highlighting the cultural significance of Indonesian textiles like batik. Shin and Westland Shin & Westland [16] emphasize the need to maintain traditional principles while blending them with modern digital technologies to develop affordable fabrication techniques [16].

The interaction between tradition and modernity in clothing design is also a subject of research. Hall [9] investigates how the contemporary reinvention of Japanese clothing

embodies the process of tradition and modernity, while Cvetkovska [5] analyzes the symmetry of patterns in Macedonian traditional textiles. Ae-Ran and Kwan [1] describe the development of textile pattern designs using the tessellation technique and iconography from Jeju's Hyojemunjado [1].

The integration of traditional and modern elements in textile design is also evident in the development of local products. Waty discusses the use of airbrush techniques to modernize Karawo batik design in Indonesia, while Nairi [14] explores the industrialization of tie-dye techniques with natural dyes in the Tunisian textile sector. Manurung et al [13] examine the internationalization of batik through the integration of Japanese Harajuku culture [13].

The textile industry in Indonesia plays a significant role in the country's economy, contributing to employment and exports. Prayuda [15] highlights the environmental and economic impacts of post-consumed textile waste management in Bandung City, while Henryanto [11] the importance of enhancing entrepreneurial organizational strategies and supply chain management to improve the competitive landscape of the textile and apparel sector in Indonesia [11].

The integration of traditional craft practices and modern technologies in textile design is also an area of research. Kgatuke et al [12] explore the role of textile craft practice in the development of e-textiles, highlighting the potential for interdisciplinary collaboration [12].

CONCLUSION

Fundamental Finding : This design represents a visual conflict between two distinct worlds: the structured traditional world and the uncertain, rapidly changing modern world. By placing the solid Limpapeh motif at the center of the design, surrounded by abstract patterns, the work symbolizes how traditional values, though still relevant, must confront the challenges posed by a modernizing society. This reinvention highlights the evolving role of women in Minangkabau society and their adaptability to contemporary changes. **Implication :** These findings emphasize the ongoing importance of Minangkabau cultural values in the modern era, suggesting that tradition and modernity are not mutually exclusive but can coexist and inform one another. The design encourages reflection on the intersection of cultural preservation and progress, offering new perspectives on gender roles and societal changes. **Limitation :** However, the design's abstract nature may limit its accessibility to some audiences, as the symbolism and message may require deeper cultural and contextual understanding. Additionally, the tension between tradition and modernity may be interpreted differently by various individuals based on their own cultural backgrounds and experiences. **Future Research :** Future studies could explore how other traditional motifs from Minangkabau culture can be reinterpreted in contemporary design, examining their relevance in the face of ongoing social change. Additionally, research into how different audiences respond to such cultural reinventions could offer further insights into the role of design in cultural preservation and evolution.

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