



XII International Forum

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Aversa / Capri, 12,13,14 June 2014

Revitalization of Port Area as an Effort to Preserve the Identity of the City Comparative Studies: Clarke Quay-Boat Quay Singapore Albert Dock Liverpool and Sunda Kelapa Jakarta

Ari Widyati PURWANTIASNING,¹ Ashadi HADIWINOTO,² Luqmanul HAKIM³

⁽¹⁾ Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, Universitas Muhammadiyah Jakarta, Jakarta, Indonesia

arwityas@yahoo.com

⁽²⁾ ashadihadiwinoto@yahoo.co.id

⁽³⁾ hakeem_mn@yahoo.com

Abstract

Literally, revitalization has been regarded as an understanding of an activity or an effort to vitalize back an area within city or part of the city which was vital before. An area need to be revitalized because this area had been suffered or has degradation in infrastructure, utilities, as well as socially and economically. The process of revitalization of this area includes improving physical, economic and social aspects. Revitalization approach must be able to recognize and exploit the potential of the environment (history, meaning, unique location and the image of the place) that supports the local wisdom of an area or region. An effort of revitalization will support the identity of the city.

An activity of an area's revitalization as well as building's revitalization should be applied through a variety of aspects from physical and non-physical. In this case, physical aspects will include building form itself and its infrastructure, and non-physical aspect will be related to social, economic and culture of the community who live within surrounding area. It is intended to deliver positive impact for the surrounding area, particularly to enhance the quality of the environment and the community as well.

In the theory of revitalization which has been related to urban planning, revitalization could be categorized as a highly complex activity. In the implementation of revitalization, it is not only related to buildings, but also related to the area and the surrounded environment which will be linked to urban planning.

This paper is a comparative analysis between the three case studies in the application of revitalization concept for port area which has been known as an icon as well as an identity of the city. Case study of Clarke Quay-Boat Quay Singapore has been conducted as a succeeded case study of revitalization for port area in Singapore. On the other hand case study of Albert Dock Liverpool has been conducted to represent as an old area which has been designated as grade 1 of conservation area in Liverpool. And finally, the third case study is Sunda Kelapa Port in Jakarta, as an old town of Jakarta which had been designated as a conservation area in Jakarta. As a conclusion, it will be delivered a characteristic of three of port areas as an identity of the city.

Keywords: revitalization, port area, preservation, identity of the city

1. Introduction

In the activity of conservation either area's conservation or building's conservation, there are some terms to be underlined as follow: conservation, preservation, adaptation, conversion and revitalization.

Either revitalization or conservation, both of them have the same objective. Those activities have aimed to conserve and preserve historical sites/ areas or historical old building which become an icon or an identity of the city. Although both of those activities have the same objective, they are also having different concept in the understanding and the implementation. If the concept of conservation will be implemented to an object such as old buildings for example, on the other hand the concept of revitalization will be implemented not only to old buildings but also to historical sites/ areas. Literally, revitalization has an understanding as an activity to re-vitalize a function of an area which is lack of utility and not livable anymore.

Purwantiasning in her research about Conservation and Economic Development (2004) stated that conservation can be defined as a breathing life into old buildings, especially those that have the character of historical and has a meaning for a city. This surely cannot be left without any effort to preserve it. But the old buildings will not only require preservation efforts without referring back to the original function of the respective historical masterpiece. To this old buildings need to be breathed a life, thus that the figure of concrete is no longer like meaningless blister plant, but could be kept alive and give each image in accordance with its character.

Rypkema and Tiesdell (1996) in their book about revitalization of old buildings in cities, alleging that the old historic buildings mostly does not have adequate utilities so that the building is not feasible and does not have a value in accordance with their respective functions. The weakness in most of the old buildings in the end causing the buildings not functioned as it should be. With all those problems, revealed various efforts to revive old buildings in some countries that have historic building legacies. One example is in United Kingdom especially in the city of Liverpool, the town that has a lot of old buildings. From this background, then the research was started so that the success of the city of Liverpool, one of the cities in the United Kingdom which has many old buildings may be adopted by Indonesia, as a country which also has many old buildings were abandoned. Certainly can always remember about a statement that a great nation is a nation that always appreciates its legacies of history.

Furthermore, Purwantiasning in her article about "Aplikasi Konsep Konservasi Pada Kawasan Bantaran Sungai Studi Kasus: Clarke Quay" – "An Application of the Concept of Conservation on the River's Banks, Case Study: Clarke Quay", has discussed that the areas of conservation which have been regarded as an old historical sites with lack of utilities and not livable anymore, could be revitalized as a new place with new function. This effort will support the condition of social, economic and culture of the area. And as a result the succeed implementation will improve the quality of the environment as well as the quality of the human being within the area.

Revitalization is not only an activity which has been oriented to the physical solution, but also has an aim to enhance the economy of the community as well as their culture. To implement the activity of revitalization, there are some parties who need to be involved, because it will not work by government's fund only, the roles of the community and their involvement are important as well. It should be underlined that the involvement and the roles of community will become main component of the activity of revitalization.

Basically, the activity of area's revitalization in Indonesia has begun since 2001 which has been regarded as a sustainable program by central government which had delivered a stimulus fund to the local government. By delivering the program from central government, local government should be encouraged to enhance and improve the condition and the quality of historical sites within their city and could maintain their city as an identity of the city.

2. General Definition of Conservation and Preservation

In the 19th century, a jurist of the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, JJA Worsaae said that, "*Big nation is a nation that does not just look at the present and the future, but would like to turn to the past in order to see their passed historical journey*". Similar to the speech above other expression emerged which confirmed by philosopher Aguste Comte with his tagline "*SavoirPour Prevoir*", which means studying the past, see the present, to determine the future. Looking at the past that expressed by looking the physical existence of ancient building is certainly not only by seeing the figure of physical building solely, but the value of its history which attached to and wrapping it as a culturally meaning. Because the appearance of this meaning-wrapper can joined to determining the identity for urban area functioned in the future.

However, the problem that arises is how close we will be able to understand the term "Conservation", which is now has undergone a change comes up with a new term, "Old-Historical Building". In fact the

term conservation and preservation itself, has been used with various meanings. Preservation is a type of intervention aims to protect and repair of historic buildings, and in general the preservation term is widely used in America (USA). Similarly, the Conservation is an action to keep intact to as much as possible of the existing historic building's elements, one of them is with the traditional repair method, or with synthetic materials and current technology, and the term of conservation is more widely used in the UK and Australia (Larsen, 1994). With its diversity of understanding, finally other opinions appearing regarding about the preservation term as an effort to create or bringing back something where exactly as the original state without any change, including efforts to prevent the destruction, while in conservation term, conservation is an effort to conserve old building, efficient the usage and set the direction of development in the future. Even in the Burra Charter, conservation definiton may include all maintenance activities and in accordance with local conditions and situations and may also include teh act of: preservation, restoration, adaptation, reconstruction and revitalization (Purwantiasning, et al, 2013).

3. Illustration of Revitalization

Revitalization in Indonesia could be defined as an activity to preserve cultural heritage without doing any changes. For example, the activity of revitalization in Indonesia could be shown in the revitalization of Prambanan Temple in Central Java. As one of impact from natural disaster in 2006 – earthquake – the revitalization of Prambanan Temple was aimed to restore the authenticity of the cultural heritage of Prambanan Temple and to strengthen the structure which could be accounted in historical aspect, archaeological aspect as well as the technical effort in preserving a cultural and historical heritage. On the other hand, Borobudur Temple also one of historical temple which had been revitalized, but these days Borobudur Temple had degraded in quality, thus Borobudur needs to be revitalized again. Local government as well as Central Government have concerned with this condition, because Borobudur Temple has been regarded as the biggest Buddhist Temple which has high historical value. The potential spiritual value of Borobudur Temple and the surrounding environment have encouraged government either local or central to get some funding from many sources either from local or international who concern about historical heritage

The activity of building or area revitalization could be implemented through some aspects from physical or non physical. Physical aspect will cover the form of the building itself including the infrastructure within the building and non physical aspect will be related to social aspect, economical aspect and cultural aspect from the community who live in the surrounding areas of historical site. It is aimed to give positive impact to the area itself and surrounding area, particularly to improve the quality of the environment as well as the community. Thus could be concluded here, that the activity of revitalization should be related to the role and involvement of the community itself. The needs and interest of the community could be delivered into this activity. The program itself could be combine one to another within community development program through revitalization program.



Fig. 1: Complex of Fatahillah Museum which is regarded as a part of Jakarta Old Town. This area is one of designated conservation area which had been chosen by government as an object for revitalization of historical heritage.

Source: Private documentation, 2013

4. Revitalization of Historical Site

In the theory of revitalization, revitalization cannot be separated from urban planning. Related to urban planning, revitalization could be defined as a complex activity which should be related to some

aspects and parties. In the implementation, revitalization is not related only to the building, but also related to the surrounding area and environment within it. In the implementation of revitalization, it should carry out through several stages and will require certain period of time. It because in this activity will need some different thought and understanding in some aspects. Stages in revitalization will cover some important things as follow:

1.1 Physical Intervention

Physical intervention is an initial physical revitalization activity and will be implemented in stages, will cover the improvement and enhancement of the quality and physical condition of the buildings, green line, transportation system, signage and open spaces within historical site. Referring to the statement that image of the area is related to visual condition of historical site, thus this physical intervention will be needed to attract visitors. Issue of environment particularly sustainable environment become an important matter, thus this physical intervention should concern about environmental context.

1.2 Economical Rehabilitation

Revitalization which has been initiated with the process of urban artefact rejuvenation should support the process of economical rehabilitation activity. The improvement and enhancement of physical area in short period should accommodate economical activities either informal or formal (local economic development). These economic activities should enhance the value of urban area. In the context of revitalization, there should be delivered mixed use function within historical sites which will support the activities of economical and social within area (new function or new vitality).

1.2 Social Revitalization

The successful of revitalization could be indicated by the environment itself, the environment should become an interesting place to be visited, the environment should be a liveable place for the community surrounding historical area. It is not about a beautiful place after revitalization, but it is about how the place becomes an identity of the city which could bring positive impact to improve the quality of life for the community either social life of the community or economical life of the community.

Ridwan Kamil in his article has stated that an area could be revitalized if the place has some reasons as follow:

- a. Degradation of economical activity
- b. Degradation of spatial and physical quality of the buildings
- c. Degradation of the image of the historical area
- d. Lacking of area's infrastructures

5. Case Study of Clarke Quay and Boat Quay

Boat Quay and Clarke Quay is one of several conservation areas in Singapore. This area has been designated as an area of conservation since many years ago. Today the area of Boat Quay and Clarke Quay become place of interest for tourist either domestic or international. This area had been changed from an old port area to be an interesting commercial and business area in Singapore.

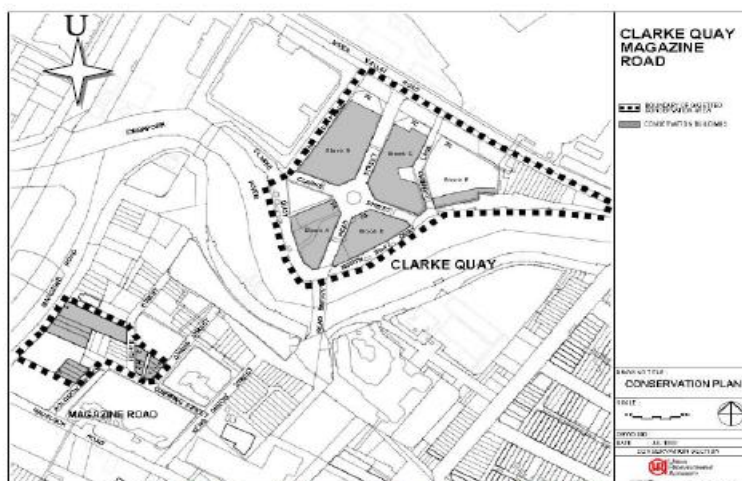


Fig. 2: Map of Clarke Quay and Boat Quay area. This area had been designated as conservation area in Singapore

Source: Urban Redevelopment Authority, 2013

Condition of this area before revitalization was very bad; Singapore River was a dirty river which supports the lacking of infrastructure of this area. Boat Quay and Clarke Quay used to be a port area which had many fishermen's boats and local traders. This condition had made the river full of economical activities and the condition of the buildings all the way Singapore River was very bad. The buildings were lack of utility, the areas were lack of infrastructure, and the buildings were almost completely destroyed. This condition had encouraged government to see the potential of this historical site as port area. By delivering revitalization program, the area of Clarke Quat and Boay Quay had been changed dramatically; the improvement of building appearances, the quality of economical aspect, social aspect as well as cultural aspect had been improved gradually.

The activity of revitalization within Boat Quay and Clarke Quay was based on conservation consideration from Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) which has a specific criteria and requirement to decide which buildings of areas that feasible to be preserved or conserved. An area could be designated as an area of conservation if the area has some criteria such as specific character, historical value; the area will contribute in enhancing and improving the quality of the buildings as well as the surrounding area.



Fig. 3a, 3b, 3c: The condition of Boat Quay and Clarke Quay before revitalization
Source: Urban Redevelopment Authority, 2013



Fig. 4: Colourful buildings within area of Clarke Quay
Source: Private Documentation, 2013

Based on the above requirements, the area of Boat Quay and Clarke Quay had been designated as a conservation area, because this area have specific historical value and this area could be regarded as a combination of several cultures from Chinese, Indian, and Malay. It has been shown in the form of the buildings within area. As a result of the revitalization of this area, this area becomes colourful and livable, and become an interesting place to be visited as a tourism place.



Fig. 5a, 5b: Buildings within area of Boat Quay, the buildings used to be warehouse of port area, but today those buildings had been revitalized become new function as bars, restaurants, and cafes.
 Source: Private Documentation, 2013

6. Case Study of Albert Dock Liverpool

Different country should have a different ambience and different environment. As the biggest port area in England, Albert Dock in Liverpool will represent the succeeded of the implementation of revitalization concept in England. As one of several designation area of conservation, Albert Dock in Liverpool has a specific character to be observed. As we recall, this port area has been known as a place that Titanic had been berthed many years ago before sinking.

Generally, city of Liverpool after World War II had been faced by destroyed environment including housing, business district and the city center as well. Within 1950s and 1960s, Liverpool had been encouraged to redevelop its city center and the neighborhood particularly housing for the community which is feasible and affordable such as flats. After the highly development within city within 1950s and 1960s, Liverpool had been declined economically and socially within 1970s and 1980s, it because the economical recession. This condition had affected the city of Liverpool. Liverpool became abandoned city in the past 1980s and become the highest unemployment city in England.

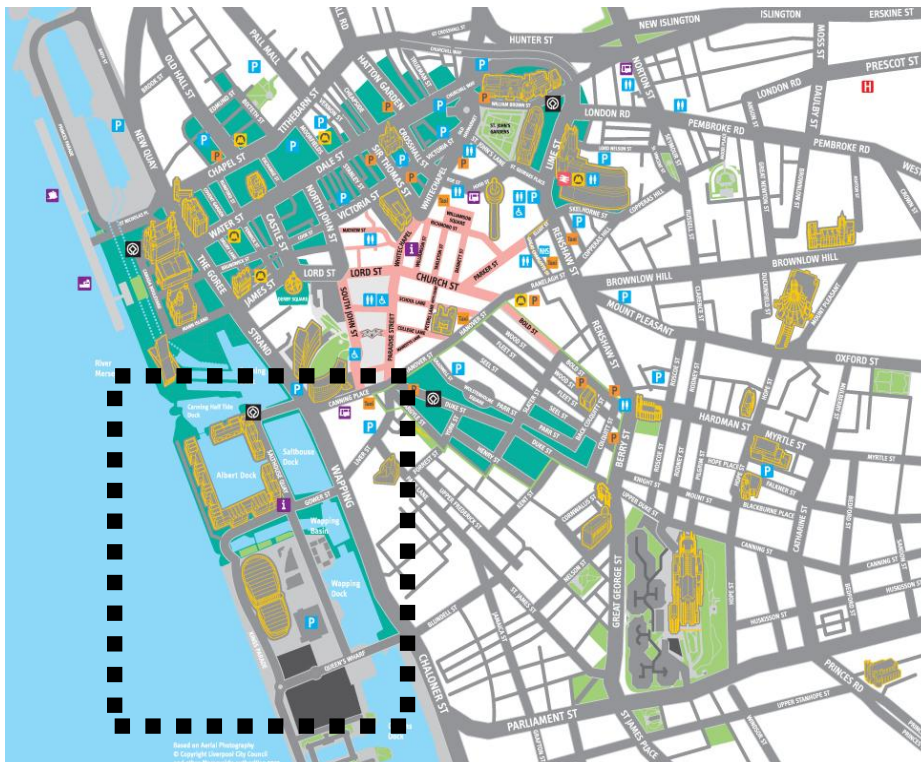


Fig. 6: Map of Albert Dock area. This area had been designated as conservation area in Liverpool
 Source: <http://www.myliverpoolconference.com>, 2013

On the other hand, in the same year 1980s, area Albert Dock which has been regarded as dock and warehouse area in Liverpool had been designated as a historical area by local and central government. The activity of revitalization in Albert Dock area has been implemented in stages. New function within area which covers leisure (bars, restaurants, cafes), business (rental offices, shops), residential (rental apartment, hotel) and entertainment (museums, gallery) had been delivered. This concept has a similar concept with port area in Singapore-Boat Quay and Clarke Quay. Central government had seen the potency of the area and develops it as a commercial area. By delivering a concept of revitalization within area, the historical site of Albert Dock will not altered and remains the same atmosphere without changing the character of the buildings and potency of the surrounding area.



Fig. 7a, 7b: pictures of old Albert Dock in 1930s and 1980s, left picture shows the condition of Albert Dock which full of fisherman boat, crowded and the buildings look like abandoned buildings. And the right picture shows the face of another side of Albert Dock area.

Source: <http://www.chesterwalls.info/gallery>, 2013

It has been stated that area of Albert Dock has been part of Liverpool's landscape for over 160 years and remains a key feature of Liverpool's world-renowned Waterfront. Several old buildings within area of Albert Dock and Waterfront had been designated as a Grade I listed old building status in 1952 in Liverpool and become a conservation area in 1976. Those buildings had been transformed with new function in the early of 1980s and had been developed into the most popular tourist attraction and place of interest for domestic and international tourist. The changing of Albert Dock and the surrounding area will encourage most of private sectors to invest their fund. This condition will improve and enhance the quality of the area as well as the community within the surrounding area of Albert Dock. The historical and architectural importance of the Albert Dock become a special character of Liverpool City. This area of Albert Dock remains the same as an identity of the city of Liverpool. Tourist either domestic or international will feel the ambience of the Albert Dock as a former port in Liverpool.



Fig. 8a, 8b: Today's pictures of old Albert Dock, left picture shows the view of Albert Dock which still remains the same character of red bricks and red pillars, this row of building consist Tate Gallery, Museum of Maritime, Cafes, Restaurants and Bars. And the right picture shows the face of another side of Albert Dock area which consist new modern building – Museum of Liverpool which contextual with the character of waterfront area.

Source: Private Documentation, 2013

7. Case Study of Sunda Kelapa Jakarta

Sunda Kelapa, Jakarta is a part of Jakarta Old Town Area which has been regarded as a conservation area in Jakarta. Sunda Kelapa is a former name of Jakarta, is has been known as a port area in Jakarta. Sunda Kelapa was an important place because this place is a heart of Jakarta as economical activities had been centered within it.

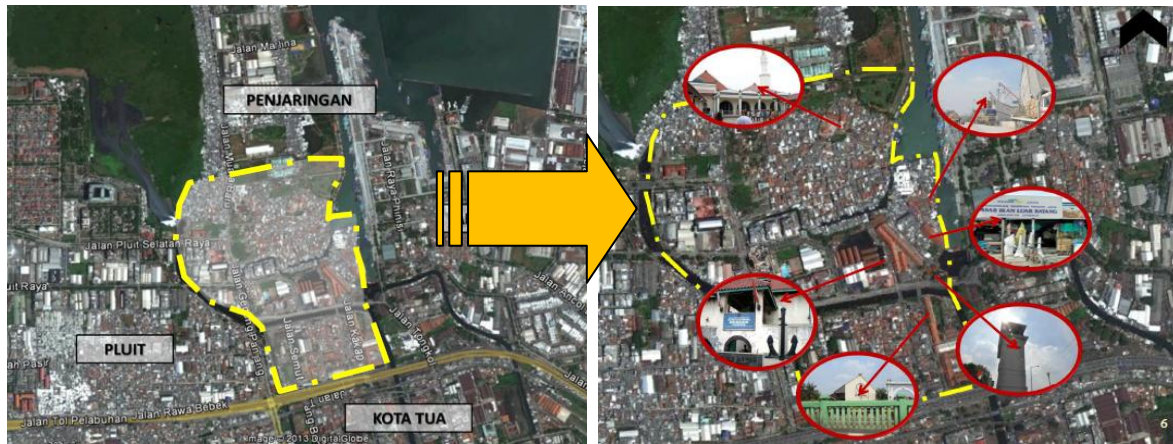


Fig. 9a, 9b: Map of Sunda Kelapa area. This area had been designated as conservation area as part of Jakarta Old Town Area. Left picture shows the area of Sunda Kelapa, and the right picture shows several old buildings within Sunda Kelapa area which have been designated as a listed old building.

Source: Google Earth, 2013

Today, Sunda Kelapa has been known as a tourism area which deliver some attraction within area. The area of Sunda Kelapa has several place of interest such as Menara Syahbandar (harbor tower), Museum Bahari (Maritime Museum), Sunda Kelapa Port Area, Galangan VOC (VOC Dock), Masjid Luar Batang (Mosque). These old buildings have been designated as a listed old buildings within Jakarta Old Town Area. The condition of these buildings are relatively bad, physically these buildings need to be revitalized. Several proposal either from private sectors or NGO who concern about historical sites had been submitted to government, but there are still no significant action has been implemented.

By presenting two case studies in Asia – Singapore and in England – Liverpool, researcher will gain more experiences to present some alternatives solution for better quality of Sunda Kelapa area. Sunda Kelapa area has many potency to be explored, thus this will become main commodity for Jakarta particularly and Indonesia generally.



Fig. 10a, 10b: Today's view of Sunda Kelapa area. Left picture shows the Museum Bahari (Maritime Museum) view from Menara Syahbandar (Harbour Tower). Right picture shows the situation of Sunda Kelapa Port with building material's freighter.

Source: Private Documentation, 2013

Several buildings within Sunda Kelapa area had been transformed into new function. For example, Galangan VOC which used to be a ship workshop, had been transformed into restaurant and cafe. And in the future, Museum Bahari (Maritime Museum) will be revitalized into new function as an outdoor cafe which still keeping the atmosphere of the museum. This building used to be a warehouse

of herbs and spices, but then to maintain the character of the building, central government had been designated and transformed the building into new function as a museum. Learning from several experiences from other countries, the revitalization of old buildings should improve and enhance the quality of the building itself economically and socially. Thus in this research, researcher will try to deliver new concept of the transformation of Museum Bahari as a commercial building to maintain the character of the building.



Fig. 11a, 11b: Today's view of Museum Bahari. Left picture shows the inner court of Museum Bahari (Maritime Museum) view from inside the buildings. Right picture shows the view of Museum Bahari's interior.
Source: Private Documentation, 2013

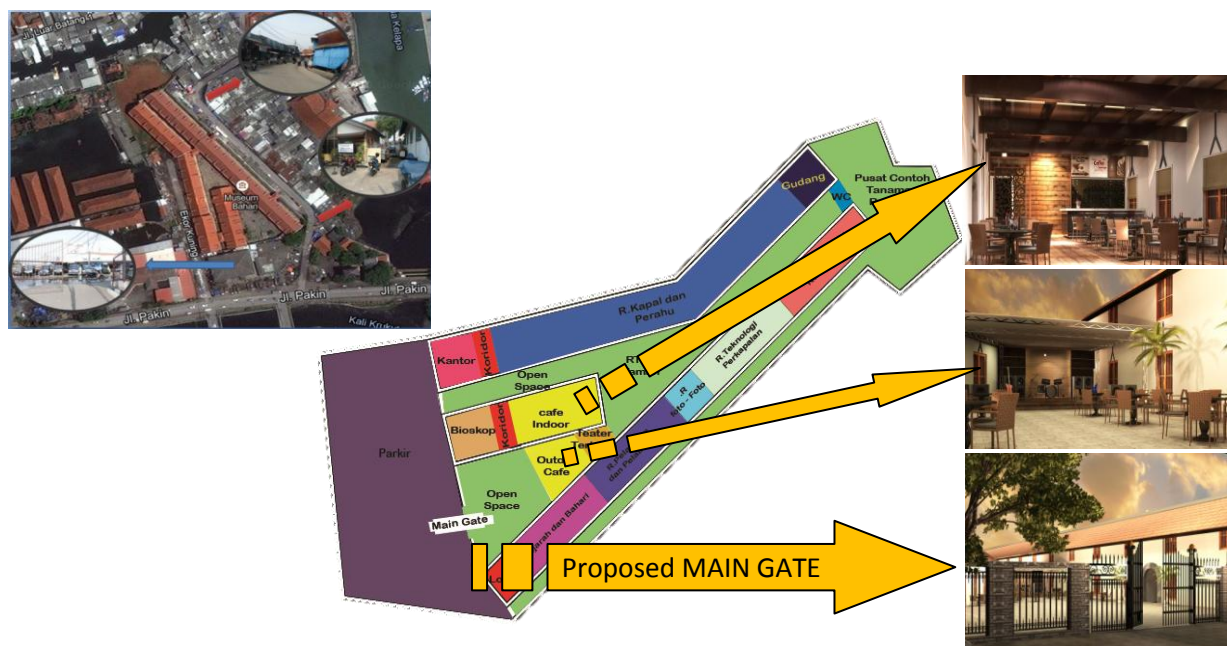


Fig. 12: Proposed revitalization program for Museum Bahari in Sunda Kelapa area. Right pictures from above to below: proposed indoor café, proposed outdoor café, proposed main gate
Source: Analysis result, 2014

Conclusion

Learning from the successful revitalization concept in England with applications in several historic cities, and learning from the above case studies, then Indonesia could adopt the above concept by applying the concept of revitalization in some areas generally and Sunda Kelapa Jakarta particularly were considered as historic areas to enhance their quality of build environment.

Acknowledgement

This research is a multi years research from 2014 to 2015 in a program of Penelitian Hibah Bersaing. This research has been funded by Kopertis Wilayah III Jakarta, Kementerian Pendidikan Kebudayaan, Indonesia

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