

## 'Raft House Surgical' As Riverin Culture Revitalization Efforts Musi River Palembang

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### Abstract

Life in Musi River whereabout ship and boat go downstream to go upstream, mother which is cleaning in batang, children which is swimming in river periphery, podium house and raft house which alongside Musi River, all of them represent part of riverin culture Musi River formed as long as history from starting form of town Palembang up to now. However its name result of culture otherwise preserve by degrees will lose totally disappeared even. This matter became the care of resident of alongside of Musi River, like resident Palembang which live in for Raft House poverty mostly, what its house lost one by one effect of physical damage.

To overcome it by government of Province South Sumatra launched the program "Raft House Surgical" as program of repairing of raft house physical exist in as long as River Musi from 13 Ulu up to 1 Ulu at 2 year of budget from local budget of South Sumatra Province in the year 2006 and 2007. Budget in the year 2006 repaired 80 raft houses and 2007 repaired 45 raft houses. Base of agreement raft house resident, Fitra NGO and Government of Province South Sumatra, repairing of raft house physical executed by self-management which aimed to increase level live the Raft House society.

**Keywords :** Musi River, Palembang, Raft House, Riverin culture

### I. INTRODUCTION

That morning tour boat with a capacity of 50 passengers began to move slowly bring guests from the 'other side' of students and lecturers from the Department of Landscape Architecture Faculty of Built Environment University Teknologi Malaysia (UTM). The plan would go to Kampung Captain in 7 Ulu, Temple Soei Goat Kung in 10 Ulu and Kampung Al Munawar in 13 Ulu, a tourist attraction in the city of Palembang. Arrived at the home of the Captain, looking paving open space and rows of lights are in front of his house but his background home 3 of the Captain himself seems not much has changed, occurred last

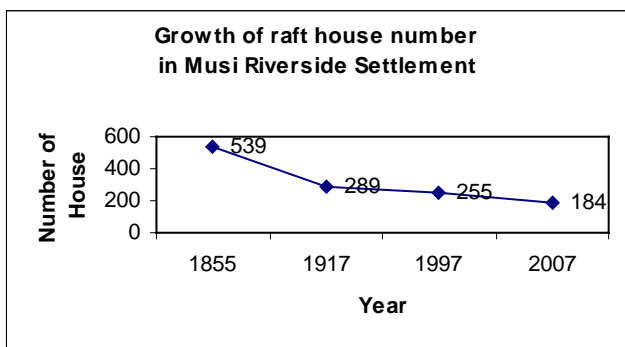
disappointment author visited in 2004, a visit in the year 2009 seems these houses remain 'unsightly', but was still eager to explain to the UTM students about the history and features such captain buildings. After the Village Captain, the ship started to leave the dock to the other attractions, the guests of the 'other side' back again engrossed in capturing the atmosphere of life in the Musi River that morning where *spid* and *ketek* (river boat transportation) around, the mothers who are washing *batang* (log collection), the children who were swimming in the river, houses on stilts and raft houses lined the banks of the river, all of which are part of the culture or the banks of the Musi River that forms riverin culture through history from the beginning the formation of Palembang city until now.

Among the Musi River on the scene that morning there are some houses that looked pretty raft house and neat with light green walls and red roofs author's attention. The disappointment which had emerged somewhat remedied with a sense of smile and remember back when in the year 2007 to help communities that raft house of physical rehabilitation program at the raft houses along the River Musi. With the help of physical rehabilitation of the raft houses by the government of South Sumatra in 2006 and 2007, also indirectly gives legitimacy of their current existence. Who previously put their existence in the gray area. This is the concern riverside residents such Musi Palembang residents who live in the house raft. Even in 1999 had no plans to make relocation as slums are considered sources of pollution riverscape and Musi River. Although the plan ultimately did not happen, but naturally also the raft house eventually disappear one by one (see graphic 1). One of the main causes of the high cost of treatment of almost all building materials made of wood. Environmental water timber would need a good durable class that does not quickly broken. While good quality timber currently hard to find and if there are very expensive. If viewed from the socio-economic, raft residents at this time most of the migrants from outside the city of Palembang (hinterland), profession in the informal sector and the low economy. With such conditions can be understood if the occupants of the raft is difficult to improve physical condition of the raft houses so that the slum conditions and some even collapsed due to severe damage and the occupants do not have the funds to fix it (see figure 1). To overcome this, non-governmental organizations in the community who care about the banks

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of the Musi (Fitra NGOs) and community banks of River Musi proposed to the government of South Sumatra to help the physical improvement of the raft house. Than petition accepted because the petition was found momentum, with the stipulation in the year 2003 as the city of Palembang Water Tourism and tourists visiting proclaimed year "Visit Musi 2008", so that local government was concerned to set up banks of Musi River region. For that was launched by the government of South Sumatra Province program "Raft House Surgical " as a physical improvement program raft existing homes along the River Musi from 1 Ulu to 13 Ulu, 2 years in South Sumatra budget years 2006 and 2007. The budget 2006 repaired 80 house and Budget 2007 repaired 45 house.



Graphic 1. Growth of Raft House Number.  
Source : Ahmad Sarwadi (1998) with little change

## II. HISTORY RAFT HOUSE EXISTENCY IN PALEMBANG

History of the raft houses can not be separated from the history of Riverine Culture riverside city of Palembang. Term Riverine Culture by OW Wolters (the Hanafi, 1993) is a culture of people who live on the banks of the river and at the same time using the river as a source of life. Riverside Cultural History (Riverine Culture) Palembang has been around since the Age of Srivijaya, but not many sources that tell about the existence of the raft house.

Culture Riverine development was evident in the reign of the Sultanate of Palembang Darussalam century approximately 17 - to 19. Sevenhoven (1823) mentions that there was at Palembang raft houses that are over-water river called rafts. This raft house occupied by only the Chinese people, people wilt and other foreigners. The settlement of foreigners in the river shows a symptom of the concept of placement at the time the river is where the foreigners who sometimes can be evicted easily if cause danger to the king.

In the Dutch colonial period (from 1824-942), Palembang Darussalam Sultanate government was no longer in power. According Sevenhoven, the rivers in Palembang growing as a means of transport that transpor agricultural produce from rural areas, whereas the raft houses more occupied by the Dutch, Chinese and indigenous populations of the rich, because living in raft very nice.

Riverside cultural retreat in Palembang increasingly apparent by not enabling the Musi River in Palembang main road with Ampera Bridge built in 1962-1963, support the Japanese war reparation funds to connect the side of Ulu and Ilir Palembang. In addition, during the modernization of the city, many tributaries are filled. Moreover, government policy is to prevent people from living on the raft and the raft started prohibited. This means that the character of Palembang as a floating city slowly but surely began to decline (Peter JM Nas, 1984).

Illegal status of the existence of enhanced raft house with exit Joint Decree (SKB) Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Transportation No. 85A in 1990 and Number. : KP. 27/AL. 106/PHB-90 of the Regional Boundaries of the Work Environment of Post and Harbor Area of Interest Environmental Palembang and Lais River and the Indonesian Government Regulation No. 33 of 1991 on the River. According to the raft, their existence must get permission from Masterharbor, such permission in the form of retribution port. This means that the house is likened to a raft anchored ship (Zuber A, 1997).

With the status of the raft house on the gray area, not much help given to bun. Attempts to move the house a raft of Musi River have been started in 1989. Even in 1999 planned raft houses along the Musi River from 1 Ulu up to 13 Ulu would be relocated and the program will be implemented gradually in the years 2000-2005. Reasons for relocation at that time will be in its retaining wall along the Musi River. Also disturbed Musi River because of slum settlements, whether at home or on the raft river. The area was also prone to diseases because of using the river as a place to bathe, wash, and discard the water. With a



Figure 1. Raft house damaged (picture no.1) and then collapsed (picture no.2). Source : Field survey, 2006

"lifestyle" like that, the row houses are now getting long raft. In fact, according to data from local government, the population tends to grow every year (Bektiati Bina, MD Asnadi CA, 2003 in tempo online, [www.majalah.tempointeraktif.com](http://www.majalah.tempointeraktif.com), May 4, 1999).

Strong rejection of the raft house residents and endeavor by the parties concerned on the banks of Musi River to fruition, the government's attitude softened region of South Sumatra, in 2002 the Government of South Sumatra Province provides home improvement assistance through a raft of Social Rehabilitation Project Slum Area ( RSDK) Raft House Special coming from the state budget funds. As many as 20 houses a raft located in the banks of the Musi river in 7 Ulu, 5 Ulu, 4 Ulu and 2 Ulu physical improvement assistance with details of the house; 3 houses on 7 Ulu, 13 houses on 5 Ulu, 2 houses on 4 Ulu and 2 houses on 2 Ulu. But the results are considered less successful because of its implementation within the category of 'tendered projects' were many deviations that become law cases.

In 2003 President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono set of Palembang as the City Tourism Water and tourists visiting proclaimed year "Visit Musi 2008" as a result the Musi river tourism priorities that will be developed to raise Riverin Culture in Musi River. For the success of these programs in 2006, the Government of South Sumatra Province provides assistance " Raft Houses Surgery" in 80 homes along the shores of the Musi River 1 Ulu up to 13 Ulu, with details of 45 houses is the physical improvement and only 35 other homes painting done. In the year 2007 the program "Raft House Surgery" continued the 45 homes there raft location until 1 Ulu to 7 Ulu , which made all the physical improvements. Program "Raft Houses Surgery " good budget years 2006 and 2007 budget funded by the South Sumatra Province.

### III. PROGRAM OF 'RAFT HOUSES SURGERY '

Not all buildings are floating along the banks of the Musi Palembang functioned as a residence but also functioned as a storehouse, stall, where it *spid* and *ketek* (like boat), kiosks oil, Pertamina gas stations. There currently are 184 raft houses scattered along the shores of the Musi River from 1 Ulu to 13 Ulu with uneven distribution and concentration in densely 1 Ulu and Ogan River crossing the Musi River (see figure 2). Based on the research Zuber A (1997) and Ahmad Sanvadi (1998), most of the status of home ownership and rental raft was aboard, only a small part of himself/herself. They come mostly from the remaining tribal hinterland of Palembang Java and China. Most people have a raft of business activities in the Musi River *spid* or *ketek* drivers, workshop, boat makers, shops and the rest of their fishing business to a street vendor and market transposition workers,

Some of the existing raft houses on the banks of the River Musi Palembang is a house with a raft of ancient buildings on the age of 100 years. These buildings have a building layout is surrounded by a verandah, guest room at the front, family room flanked by a sleeping room and on the back of the house and placed the kitchen and dining

room (see figure 3 & 4). Meanwhile, a raft houses younger age (<50 years) had a relative spatial variety (see figure 5 & 6). From the side of the house building materials of ancient rafts using the wood most 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> classes such as tembesu and unglen.

While on the other raft houses use a variety enough wood timber 4<sup>th</sup> up to 1<sup>st</sup> classes as unglen, tembesu, petanang medan, merawan, meranti, beriang and duren. The foundation and roof cover both houses of ancient rafts and other foundations are relatively similar bamboo and tin roof/ palm.

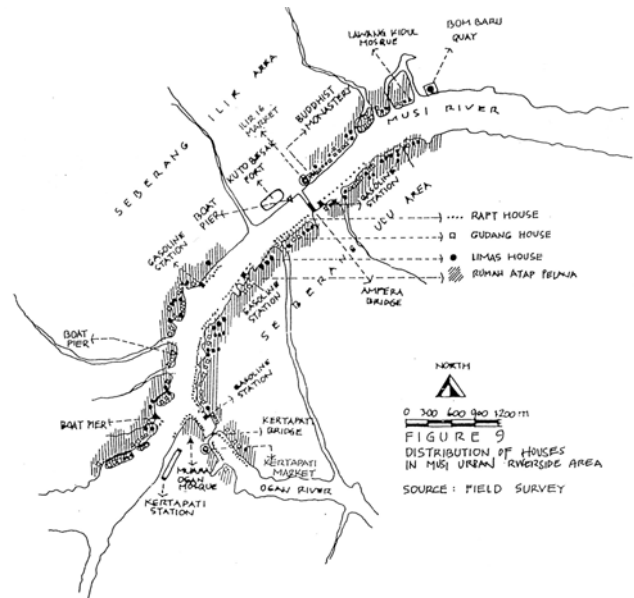


Figure 2. Distribution of houses in Musi Urban Riverside area  
Source : Ahmad Sarwadi (1998)

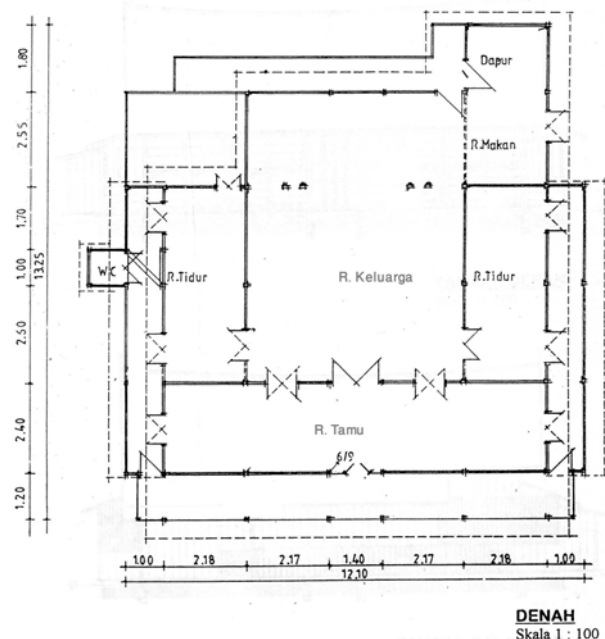


Figure 3. Raft house of Mr. Hasan 4 Ulu over the age of 100 year  
Source : Ari Siswanto (1997)

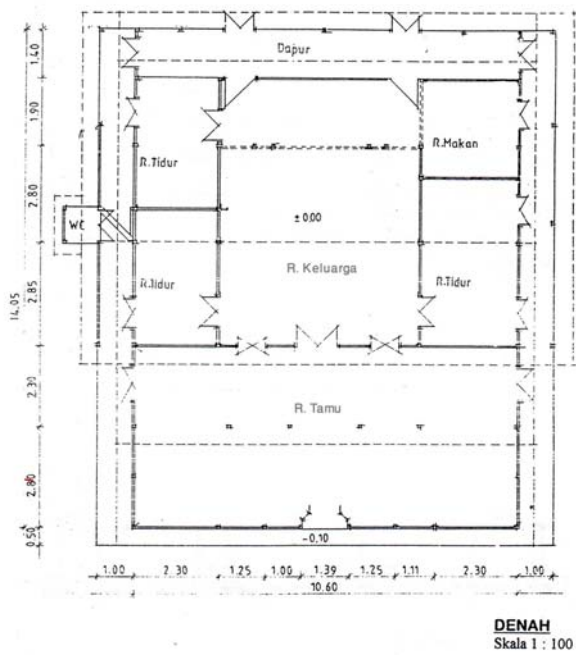


Figure 4. Raft house of Mr. Arsyad 5 Ulu over the age of 100 year  
Source : Ari Siswanto (1997)

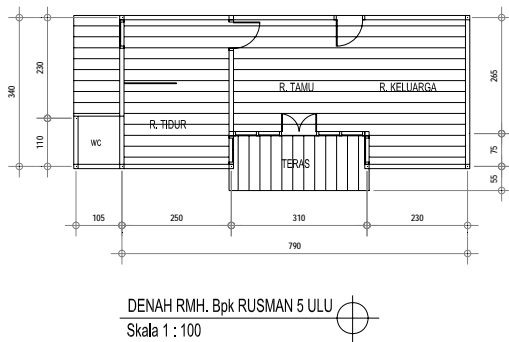


Figure 5. Raft house of Mr. Rusman 5 Ulu under the age of 50 year  
Source : Field survey, 2006

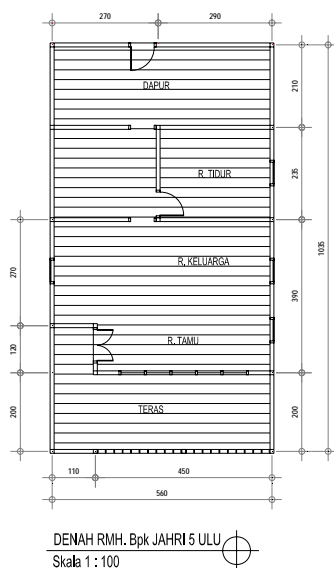


Figure 6. Raft house of Mr. Jahri 5 Ulu under the age of 50 year  
Source : Field survey, 2006

Results of physical damage to the building inventory of 45 homes on a raft in the year 2006 the building that many homes were damaged on the foundations of bamboo raft, floor beams woods, floor frames woods, plank floor and walls woods and roof boards. Foundations of bamboo, floor beam, floor frame and the floorboards as the main cause of damage submerged and wet conditions due to river water and river waves, to the wall board some damage caused by the wet conditions the water spray and partly due to weather, while the roof of the damage caused by weather and wind waves. To implement the program 'Surgical House' on the part of the government handed over to the Department of Culture and Tourism while in the raft houses represented on the Local Group Organization (CSO) Musi Riverside (see figure 7 to 9).



Figure 7. Inventory process raft houses damaged by Fitra NGOs, Provincial Public Works Department and community leaders. Source : Field survey, 2006

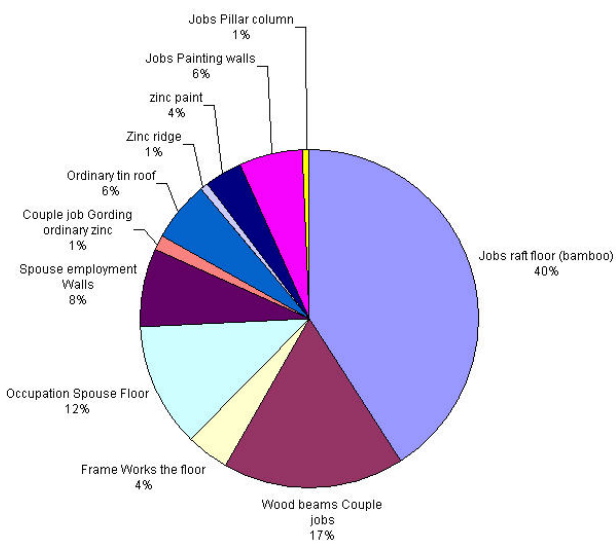


Figure 8. Raft house damaged floor.  
Source : Field survey, 2007



Figure 9. The replacement of the bamboo foundation of raft house.. Source : Field survey, 2007

Grants issued by the Regional Government of South Sumatra to help repair the raft houses in phase 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2007 to spend the funds Rp. 973,941,000,-. Of funds was spent for such work at the graphs 2. For the process be submitted to the respective residents conducted their own raft with his family, carpenter or a combination of both. Wages workmanship as illustrations; 1 house raft assumed workforce consists 1 carpenter and 2 prentice. If the standard wage workers carpenter Rp.50,000 per day and prentice Rp. 35,000 per day if the execution time of 60 days, the total wages actually Rp. 7,200,000, - but by the Chairman of Local Community Organizations (CSOs) in the offer is only Rp.5,000,000,- to Rp.6,000,000,-. This is intended to help fund a raft houses are seriously damaged. Wood materials used for the framework beam and wood floors are wood 2<sup>nd</sup> class were Kulim and Petaling woods, plank floors and walls used wood 3<sup>th</sup> class were meranti wood. The roof is still using palm roof was replaced with zinc. To damage the raft foundation was replaced with the same materiel is bamboo. Wood materials imposed from Karang Agung (Musi Banyuasin) and the bamboo comes from regions Baturaja (Ogan Komering Ulu). To oversee araft of homework done by the CSO itself, NGOs Fitra, Department of Culture and Tourism and Public Works Department Cipta Karya South Sumatra Province. Implementation period starting from November 5, 2007 and completed on December 19, 2007 or approximately 45 days.



Graphic 2. Allocation of budget for the riverside settlement of Musi River fiscal year 2007  
Source : Public Works Departement South Sumatera Province, 2007

#### IV. EVALUATION 'RAFT HOUSE SURGICAL' PROGRAM AFTER COMPLETED

Interview on the raft house community leaders Cholil October 17, 2009, said the programs 'Raft House Surgery' conducted by the Regional Government of South Sumatra are helping life raft home community banks of Musi River which is too mediocre. Because in addition to their house

repaired, they also get the side with the artisans of their own home improvement.



Figure 10. From left to right Mr. Cholil raft house community leaders, author and Mr. Ismail Alwi, ST from public works of South Sumatera Province.  
Source : Field survey, 2009.



Figure 11. One of the raft house which has been repaired.  
Source : Field survey, 2009.

He said the maintenance of the house at this raft with bamboo and wood materials is very burdensome. With the water environment quality of wood required quality timber while quite rare, and even if there were very expensive. Not to mention the problem of acquisition is also difficult, because it requires special permits if they can not be considered illegal logging. So also with the foundations of a bamboo, bamboo with good quality can last 2 years with no improvement more than that each year takes part repairs and replacement of damaged. They may not always realize is assisted by the local government budget is limited, therefore it needs a new technology by academics such as changing the foundations of a bamboo with plastic drums or other types. Of such structures is replaced with light steel or others.

In addition, he also highlighted about the status of the raft house. During this permission from the harbormaster their homes and later in the year 2002 under consideration permits transferred to Palembang Urban Planning Services

but at this time the program has not been realized. They hope the program quickly realized that there is clarity of the status of their homes.

He hoped local governments favor of the existence of community banks of Musi River. Because of all this, the fate of the existence of community banks of Musi River is very dependent on the power. If not in line with new government programs they are evicted, and vice versa, if in line with their government assisted programs. He illustrates the time of Governor Syahriel Oesman program "Raft House Surgery" is planned 3-year budget in 2006, 2007 and 2008. But it only lasted 2 years 2006 and 2007 budgets, while for the year 2008 with the change of Governor Syahriel Oesman to the new Governor Alex Noerdin program "Raft House Surgery" fiscal year 2008 was not carried out when there's raft ±80 home more to help improve them. Although such he was not prejudiced in the new governor.

Finally, he hoped to clear the status of the raft house, local government partisanship and new ways to overcome damage to the raft house, with its riverin culture of the Musi River be maintained. Meanwhile, local governments and residents in particular raft houses or inhabitants of the city of Palembang in general can use it as one of the tourist attraction that brings benefits to both.

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