

RETHINKING THE IBANIC CHURCH
(for the Iban Methodist Church, Kapit, Sarawak)

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ABSTRACT

Iban is the fourth largest group of people in Malaysia. Nevertheless, they are slightly neglected as our nation is well-known with 3 main races, the Malay, Chinese and Indian. After civilization especially after independent, the Iban people are modernized and Christianized. The increasing population, the changing position in the social structure bring the Iban to a higher social status. Iban people who immigrant from longhouse to the town centre is lacking in terms of interaction and communication among themselves. In the other hand, the indigenous identity is not thoroughly explored and revived in the modern world.

To address this issue, this thesis proposed the generation of both young and old a space to connect them, providing sense of belonging and sense of place as well as enhanced their indigenous identity in modern architecture. A church building is the most ideal place to connect the Iban people as attending mass had become part of their norm and life for a long time. The thesis at the same times aims to remain the Iban identity with the challenge to remind the young and future generation of their origins and identity.

The adaptation of cosmological approach and combination of Iban and Christianity will be the major concern in this thesis design whereby the development program will be focus on the religious and community development and the combination of both of them.

ABSTRAK

Iban adalah kaum keempat besar di Malaysia. Namun begitu, mereka selalunya diketepikan kerana bangsa Malaysia selalunya terkenal dengan tiga kaum utama iaitu Melayu, Cina and India. Sejak kemerdekaan, orang Iban telah dimodernkan dan menganut agama Kristian. Dengan populasi yang kian meningkat, kedudukan sosial mereka pula meningkat. Iban yang berpindah dari rumah panjang ke pusat bandar telah kekurangan interaksi di antara mereka. Selain itu, identity Iban kurang diluaskan dan dihidupkan semula di dunia moden.

Untuk menyampaikan isu tersebut, maka thesis ini telah menyampaikan isu untuk kedua-dua generasi satu tempat untuk mengabungkan mereka dengan perasaan memiliki sesuatu tempat selain membawakan identity mereka ke arkitektur moden. Dengan itu, gereja adalah paling sesuai untuk tujuan tersebut kerana Iban kini telah biasa mengunjungi gereja setiap minggu untuk tujuan agama. Maka, dapat dirumuskan bahawa aktiviti agama ini adalah aktiviti yang paling senang untuk merapatkan mereka yang tinggal di tempat yang berlainan. Thesis ini juga bertujuan untuk mengingati generasi muda tentang asal-usul and identity mereka.

Aplikasi kosmologi and pergabungan Iban dan Kristian merupakan perkara terpenting sepanjang thesis di mana perkembangan program bangunan akan difokuskan pada perkembangan agama dan komuniti. Pergabungan kedua-duanya pula menjadi cabang thesis ini.