



The Study of The Architectural Characteristics of 'Umah of The Sakai Tribe in Sumatra

Muhammar Khamdevi¹, Yantri Komala Dewi²

e-mail: m.khamdevi@gmail.com¹, yantri.dewi@gmail.com²
Prodi Arsitektur Universitas Matana

Abstract

The Sakai Tribe or *Oghang Daghek (Orang Darat)* live simply and depend on nature in the forest and on the banks of rivers. This tribe is one of the tribes in the Central Sumatra region that has ties to the Minangkabau Tribe. The traditional house itself is very simple, which has the characteristics of an early vernacular house in Sumatra. However, a clear and scientific study of the architectural characteristics of this house is still incomplete. What are the characteristics of the Sakai Tribe House? This research was conducted using a qualitative method approach to analyze the object of the case directly in the field descriptively. The purpose of this study is to find the characteristics of this tribal traditional house. This research resulted in the architectural characteristics of the Sakai Tribe.

Keywords : traditional house, sakai tribe, 'umah, architectural characteristics, vernacular house

Abstrak

Suku Sakai atau Oghang Daghek (Orang Darat) hidup secara sederhana dan bergantung dengan alam di hutan dan di pinggir sungai. Suku ini adalah salah satu suku yang berada di wilayah Sumatera Tengah yang memiliki ikatan dengan Suku Minangkabau. Rumah tradisionalnya sendiri yang sangat sederhana, yang memiliki karakteristik rumah vernakular awal di Sumatera. Namun kajian secara jelas dan ilmiah mengenai karakteristik arsitektur rumah ini masih belum lengkap. Bagaimanakah karakteristik Rumah Suku Sakai? Penelitian ini dilakukan dengan menggunakan pendekatan metode kualitatif untuk menganalisis objek kasus secara langsung di lapangan secara deskriptif. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk menemukan karakteristik rumah tradisional suku ini. Dari penelitian ini dihasilkan karakteristik arsitektur Suku Sakai.

Kata Kunci : rumah tradisional, suku sakai, 'umah, karakteristik arsitektur, rumah vernakular

Introduction

The *Suku Sakai*, also known as the *Pebatin* Tribe or the *Orang Darat (Ughang Daghek)*, live nomadic depending on the forest (*Rimbo*) and stay on the banks of rivers in Riau, especially in the Rokan region. Their clothes used to be in the form of vests and pants made of bark. The Sakai tribe comes from the Pagaruyung (Minangkabau) region who are trying their luck in the Riau region. They consist of two groups; *Batin Limo* and *Batin Solapan*. This tribe is led by a *Panghulu* accompanied by *Tungkek*, *Monti*, and *Antan* (Suparlan, 1995 and Isjoni, 2005). This tribe is also spread to the Malay Peninsula (*Jakun*) to Southern Thailand (*Meniq*). This tribe is widely regarded

as Proto-Malayu but in fact is still a family with the Malay tribes (Deutro-Malay) in Central Sumatra, especially in terms of language and culture. Their kinship system tends to be matrilineal called *Sumande*.

Table 1. Numbers in Sakai and Minangkabau languages (Source: Khamdevi: 2016-2021)

Numbers	Sakai	Minangkabau
<i>One</i>	Ciek/ Satu	Ciek/ Aso
<i>Two</i>	Duo	Duo
<i>Three</i>	Tigo	Tigo
<i>Four</i>	Ompek	Ampek
<i>Five</i>	Limo	Limo
<i>Six</i>	Onam	Anam
<i>Seven</i>	Tujuh	Tujuh
<i>Eight</i>	(So-)Lapan	(Sa-)Lapan
<i>Nine</i>	Sambilan	Sambilan
<i>Ten</i>	Sapuluh	Sapuluh

The house of the Sakai tribe has not been studied properly comprehensively and architecturally. Therefore this research was conducted. What are the Architectural Characteristics of the Sakai Traditional House?

Research Method

The qualitative methods were used in reviewing the architectural characteristics of the 'Umah. The data was collected in the field through observation and interviews. The samples were selected purposively (Sugiyono, 2012). They were then analyzed using the theory of architectural characteristics, namely spatial systems, physical systems and figural configurations, and style systems (Habraken, 1988). The research was conducted in Minas, Sobanga, Mandau, and Bonai. The definition of building characteristics is a study or investigation of the combination of elements that allow to achieve or obtain a classification of architectural organisms through the properties or characteristics of the building. Classification indicates an act of summarizing or trying, i.e. arranging different plantings, each of which can be identified, and arranging in classes to identify the general data and allow making connections in special cases (Vidler, 1998).

Result and Discussion

'Umah (or *Ghumah*) of the Sakai tribe is inhabited by a nuclear family. Basically or initially, the Sakai Tribe house only has one room, where the division of space into two rooms is done imaginary without walls (sometimes also marked with a wood called *Bandul*). There are the family room (*Tongah*) and bedroom (*Bilek*). Boys usually sleep outside, in the *Beding* (shelter) or in the *Balai* (customary house), or in the *Surau* (a little mosque), even today the younger ones sometimes sleep in the *Tongah* section.



Figure 1. *Beding* (Top) and *Balai* (Bottom)
(Source: Khamdevi: 2021)

Parents and unmarried daughters sleep in *Bilek*. In the past, *Bilek* usually had a stove (*Dapu Tungku*) which served as an inner kitchen. In addition, there is an outdoor kitchen outside the residential building. Above it is a storage room, especially for food and household utensils and work utensils. In front of the house, there is a stair (*Tango*) to enter this stilt house building.

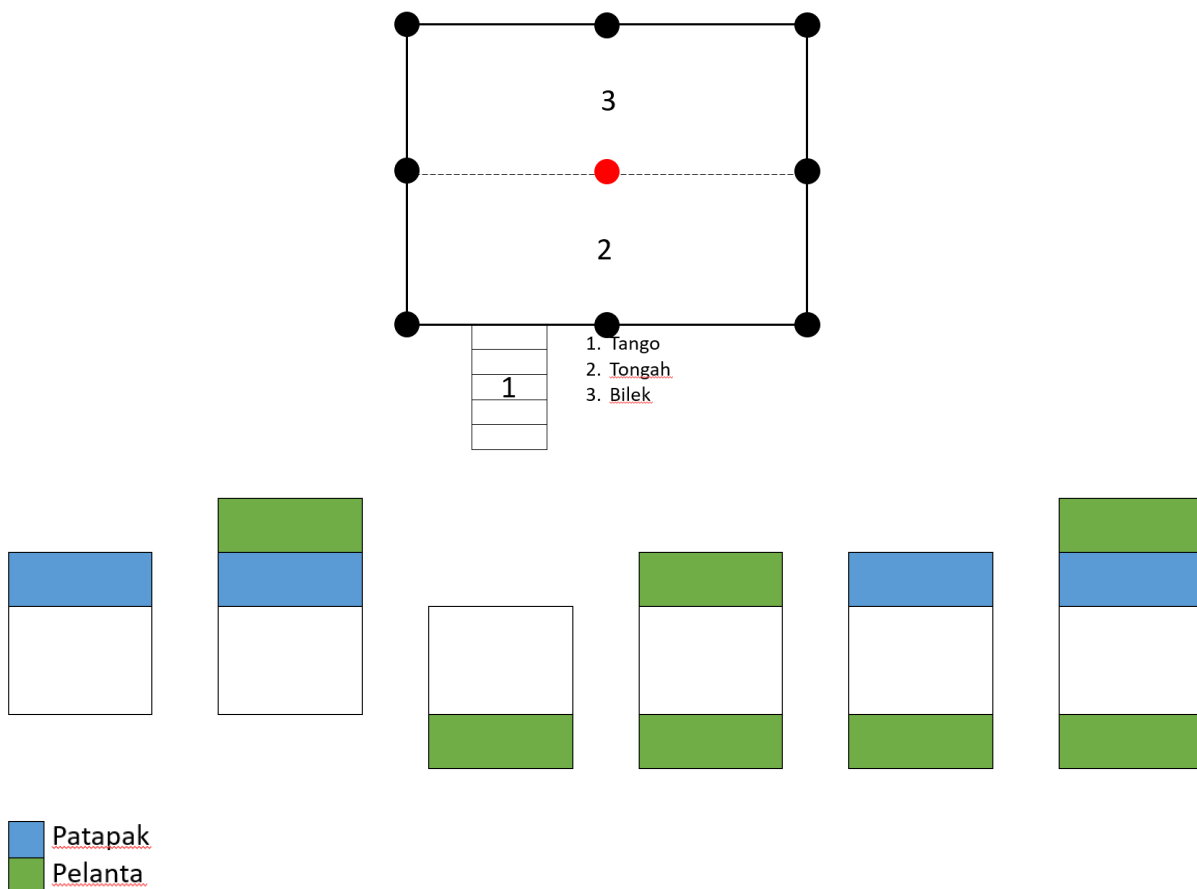


Figure 2. *'Umah's* Floorplan and its expansion
(Source: Khamdevi: 2021)

In subsequent developments, the spaces increased and were divided by walls made of *Meranti* bark or woven *Kopau* (*Rumbia* or Thatch) leaves. In the back is added a room called *Patapak*, which functions as a kitchen room. There is sometimes added another room called *Pelanta*, which serves as a veranda part of the kitchen room. In front of the house sometimes also added a veranda (*Pelanta*) to sit or receive guests.

The shape and form of this house is a rectangular building that transverse to the side. The roof (*Atok*) of this house is a gable-type roof. The posts usually use *Meranti* wood and bamboo. The floors and walls are made of *Meranti* bark or even with *Kopau*.



Figure 3. 'Umah's appearance in Minas, in Bonai, in Mandau, and in Sobanga (from top-left to bottom-right)
(Source: Khamdevi: 2021)

On four sides of the floor, there are *Bandul* woods that frame the floor. Underneath it is a girder (*Asuk Geloga*) with wooden ties (*Jiau*). The roof (*Atok*) uses *Kopau*, straw or reeds, or *Topou* leaves (which are usually used to wrap rice). The roof structure consists of battens (*Alang*), rafters (*Tutup Alang*), edge rafters (*Kasow Bosa* or *Kasow Male*), trusses (*Singo*), and ridges (*Bubung*). The structure of this house can be seen in Figure 4.



Figure 4. 'Umah's Structure
(Source: Khamdevi: 2021)

The roof (*Atok*) is shaped like a *Kajang* canoe or called *Lipat Kajang*. Some have flat ridges and some have curved ridges (*Kajang Padati*). For roofs that have a flat ridge, there is a wooden cross

on the roof which also functions to hold the roof covering. The *Tiang Tuo* or *Tiang Penunjong* is the main post in the middle or the middle-right of the building and the first post to be erected. The opening of this house is only in the front. The back door was added at a time when the family added space in the back. Natural air and light enter through the walls of the bark. Stairs have three or five steps.

Conclusion

The results of this study show the characteristics of 'Umah in Central Sumatra. 'Umah is similar to the houses of the common tribes in Central Sumatra (Malay). The following is table 2 conclusions from this study. The results of this conclusion are expected to be a guideline to preserve the 'Umah of Sakai tribe.

Table 2. 'Umah's Characteristics (Source: Khamdevi: 2021)

Architectural Characteristics		
Spatial System	Space Pattern	Tango > Tongah > Bilek
	Orientation	River or Sunrise
	Hierarchy	Publik > Semi Private > Private
Physical System & Figural Quality	Physical form	Transverse square buiding Gable roof
	Materials	Bark or Thatch Walls, Wooden or Bamboo Poles, Thatched Roofs, Rattan Ties
	Space Barrier	Bark or Thatch Woven Wall
Stylistic System	Roof	<i>Lipat Kajang</i> or <i>Kajang Padati</i>
	Column	9-12 poles 1 Main Column (Tuo Pole or Supporting Pillar)
	Openings	Rattan Tied Bark Door No windows, but porous walls between the bark
	Stairs	Odd Number of Stairs (3 or 5 pieces)

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