

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan menginterpretasikan nilai kekuasaan Kesultanan Deli yang direpresentasikan melalui elemen-elemen arsitektur Istana Maimun berdasarkan kajian arsitektur vernakular. Istana Maimun tidak hanya berfungsi sebagai pusat pemerintahan dan kediaman sultan, tetapi juga sebagai simbol legitimasi, identitas budaya, dan kekuasaan Melayu Deli. Penelitian menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan pendekatan deskriptif. Data diperoleh melalui observasi elemen visual bangunan, dokumentasi, dan studi literatur. Dalam penelitian ini, teori Bernard Rudofsky digunakan untuk mengidentifikasi karakteristik arsitektur vernakular pada Istana Maimun, sedangkan teori Michel Foucault digunakan untuk menafsirkan bagaimana karakteristik tersebut merepresentasikan kekuasaan Kesultanan Deli. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa nilai kekuasaan pada Istana Maimun direpresentasikan melalui aspek penyebaran visual, kekuasaan produktif, konstruksi pengetahuan, normalisasi, dan biopower. Selain itu, bangunan ini juga menunjukkan karakteristik arsitektur vernakular berupa adaptasi terhadap lingkungan, penggunaan material lokal, pengetahuan kolektif, serta nilai budaya yang diwariskan secara turun-temurun. Dengan demikian, arsitektur vernakular tidak hanya dipahami sebagai bentuk adaptasi budaya dan lingkungan, tetapi juga sebagai media yang digunakan untuk membangun, mempertahankan, dan melegitimasi kekuasaan melalui simbol, tata ruang, dan identitas budaya yang diwujudkan dalam bangunan. Istana Maimun menjadi representasi hubungan antara arsitektur, budaya, dan kekuasaan dalam konteks Kesultanan Deli.

Kata kunci : Interpretasi, kekuasaan, Istana Maimun, arsitektur vernakular Melayu.

ABSTRACT

This study aims to interpret the values of power associated with the Deli Sultanate as represented through the architectural elements of Maimun Palace, based on a study of vernacular architecture. Maimun Palace serves not only as the seat of government and the sultan's residence, but also as a symbol of legitimacy, cultural identity, and the power of the Deli Malays. The study employs a qualitative method with a descriptive approach. Data were obtained through observation of the building's visual elements, documentation, and literature review. In this study, Bernard Rudofsky's theory was used to identify the characteristics of vernacular architecture at Maimun Palace, while Michel Foucault's theory was used to interpret how these characteristics represent the power of the Deli Sultanate. The results of the study indicate that the value of power at Maimun Palace is represented through aspects of visual dissemination, productive power, the construction of knowledge, normalization, and biopower. Additionally, this building also exhibits characteristics of vernacular architecture, such as adaptation to the environment, the use of local materials, collective knowledge, and cultural values passed down from generation to generation. Thus, vernacular architecture is understood not only as a form of cultural and environmental adaptation, but also as a medium used to construct, maintain, and legitimize power through symbols, spatial arrangements, and cultural identities embodied in buildings. Maimun Palace serves as a representation of the relationship between architecture, culture, and power in the context of the Deli Sultanate.

Key words: Interpretation, power, Maimun Palace, Malay vernacular architecture.