



## Characteristics Of Two Original Facades (Gable and Gunungan) Of Malabero Chinese Shop House In Bengkulu City

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### ABSTRACT

Building facades convey a period of culture at the time the building was built, as well as providing the identity of a cultural group or community. Building facades and anthropology became the impetus to find out the original characteristics of the two main facades in the row of Malabero Chinese shophouses on Jalan D. I. Panjaitan Bengkulu City. This research uses the field observation method to obtain data through photographs as well as information from the surrounding community, historians, and cultural experts in Bengkulu and Malabero Chinese Village, to get a link to the facade pattern with an emphasis on building facade elements (roof, walls and building openings) through variables of Chinese shophouse facade characteristics and shop house facade indicators. Malabero Bengkulu's Chinese shophouses are grouped within the Chinese settlement (Chinese Kamp) in front of Fort Marlborough, initially having two characteristics of Chinese shophouse building styles based on their facades. The alteration of the south side of the Malabero Chinese shophouses eliminated many of the original characteristics of the original facade of the Malabero Bengkulu Chinese shophouses (gable roof). As a result, many new characteristics of the shophouse facade elements have been replaced. The shape of the roof (gunungan), the removal of the balcony, and the shape of the building openings became the characteristics of the facade face of the south side Malabero Chinese shop house (gunungan roof). This change in the facade is in anticipation of the load being responsive to earthquakes.

## INTRODUCTION

### Background

Shop houses are a type of vernacular architectural building often seen in urban Southeast Asia. Shophouses are mostly two or three storeys, with a shop on the ground floor for merchant activities and living quarters above the shop (Zhu, Jieming, Sim, Loo-Lee, Liu, Xuan, D, 2006). Shophouses are a mix of building forms that characterize the historical centers of most Southeast Asian cities (Chua, Beng Huat, and Edwards, Norman, 1992).

Chinese shophouses in Indonesia have undergone many changes and developments in their facades compared to the original facades in their native China. Initially, the geographical conditions in China were the basis. The China Sea to the south, the Pacific Sea to the east, the Gobi Desert to the north, and the Himalayan Mountains to the west. Starting from here, we can then trace how the Chinese (Tiong hoa) then applied the science of Feng-Shui to the geographical conditions in Indonesia which are of course different from China and, subsequently, to the micro-conditions of the house and its landscape. (Pratiwo, 2010).

Natural disasters, fires and political conditions that occur in a Chinatown neighborhood (Chinese Hoa - Indonesia) can be one of the causes of building changes there. Nowadays, the changes of Chinese shop houses in Indonesia are mostly caused by political factors and the advancement of the times that require better and more effective adjustments. The above reasons can still accommodate economic activities in these areas and shophouses since ancient times so it is expected to still exist today.

The facade of a building is an important element in conveying the function and meaning of a building. The façade of a building also conveys a period of culture when the building was built, as well as providing a kind of identity of a cultural group or community. Krier (2001:122)



Figure 1: Chinese Shop House Bengkulu 1890

Sumber : KITLV Leiden, 2010



Figure 2: Bengkulu Chinese Shophouse 2007  
Source: Simpang Limo, 2011

Almost the entire face of Chinatown's Chinese shop houses in major cities in Indonesia, such as Glodok, Kota Tua West Jakarta, Pasar Baru Central Jakarta, Kampung Cina Surya Kencana Bogor, Kembang Jepun Surabaya, Kampung Cina Surakarta, has undergone contrasting changes from the usual urban design of Chinatown. Here the existing Chinese shop houses have changed like many modern shop houses usually do, and with its identity from the old days as a trading center becomes more crowded in the present (Handinoto, 1999).

From the background that has been stated above, the shop houses of Chinatown Buildings in Indonesia have experienced changes and developments in the appearance of their facades. Initially, the Chinese shophouses on Jalan D.I. Panjaitan in Bengkulu City had the characteristics of a local (dominant) style Chinese (urban) shophouse facade. The occurrence of earthquakes (1914, 2000, 2007) and fires (1976, 1988, 1994, 1997) became the momentum of change and development of the facade of the building on the north and south sides which suffered damage, giving rise to the many types that exist today. giving rise to the many types that exist today. With its characteristics, the gable roof and gunung roof extend backwards and then as a swallow's nest due to differences in time, history, materials and technology as well as the needs and roles/functions at the time the shop house building here was built with its experiences that have passed through to the present. How we recognize the characteristics of the facades of Malabero Chinese shophouses in Bengkulu City is the problem of this research.

Based on the description above, the research question of Fasade Characteristics of Malabero Chinese Store House on Jalan D. I. Panjaitan Bengkulu City:

1. What are the initial characteristics of the facade of Malabero Chinese shop house (gable roof)?
2. What are the initial characteristics of the facade of the Malabero Chinese shop house on the south side (Gunungan Roof) today?

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### Definition of Façade

The façade is one of the most indispensable elements of an architectural design, and is even an important part of an architectural work because it is the first element to be appreciated. The façade is the part of a building's face that we are sure to see, often even noticed just before entering it. With the Façade we people get an idea of the use of the building space behind it.

Facades also have a deep essence as a tool to record the history of human civilization. By looking at facade designs over time, we can learn about the social and cultural conditions, spiritual life, and even the political and economic conditions prevailing at the time.

The composition of a facade plane must take into account all the functional requirements of its elements windows, door openings, roof plane. Building facades are shaped by dimensions, composition, and decoration. The composition of a facade considering functional requirements is basically related to the unity of good, harmonious and harmonious proportions, the structured arrangement of horizontal and vertical elements, materials, colors, and other decorative elements. A façade with a balanced composition will have pleasant and harmonious proportions. Other important points to pay more attention to are the proportion of openings, the height of the building, the principle of repetition, a good compositional balance, and the theme incorporated into the variations. (Krier, 2001: 122).

### Single Building Facade Element

The roof element of the building is the most important element as a building protector, especially rain or sun heat above the height of the building. The roof element uses strong materials to protect from the weather that affects it (generally using clay tiles, concrete, shingles or aluminum foil as roof coatings, with wooden or light steel frames). Architecturally, the head of the building means the crown of the building, because of its role in protecting the lower part of the building. Below, a picture of the function of the roof as the top element of the building (Bona, 2005)

The wall element is not just a barrier between the outer and inner space, the outer wall must have certain requirements, such as weather resistance, soundproofing, even more than that, the front wall can also meet mental, spiritual and aesthetic needs. Some things that affect wall elements are color, material and processed forms that will have an impact on the environment.

Windows and doors are seen as free spatial units. This element provides a better view of urban life, i.e. an opening from inside the building out of the building. The window functions as a light source for the interior space of a building, which is the effect of light penetration on the interior space. Windows are also building openings that allow us to see the scenery around the building. Apart from fulfilling functional needs, windows can also be a decorative element on the wall plane.

### Chinese Architecture in Urban Areas

Shop houses are a type of vernacular architectural building seen in urban-like areas of Southeast Asia. Shophouses are mostly two or three storeys, with a shop on the ground floor for merchant activities and living above the shop (Zhu, Jieming, Sim, Loo-Lee, Liu, Xuan, D, 2006: 13). These are the types of building forms that characterize the historical centers of most Southeast Asian cities (Chua, Beng Huat, and Edwards, Norma, 1992: 4-5).



Figure 3: An example of a row of shophouses in Kota Rasa, Selangor.  
Source: Shophouse Wikipedia, Melissa Ho Sanchez

### Design and Features/Elements

To the best of our knowledge, most shop houses are in the "Southern Chinese" Eclectic Style. The houses were mainly built between 1900 and the early 1840s. There are a number of components that identify this style, which can be recognized on the Shophouses of this style.

People of Chinese descent in Bengkulu City come from areas around Bengkulu city itself such as Muara Aman North Lebong, Masmambang Seluma, Muara Ketahun North Bengkulu as well as from Jambi and Palembang. The arrival of the Dutch in Bengkulu City after the London Treaty Agreement also brought Chinese citizens from Malacca (now Singapore) to then be placed in groups in one area around Marlborough Fort, (Nuralia, 2004: 43) also influenced the origin and dominance of the appearance style of Chinese shop houses in Bengkulu City.

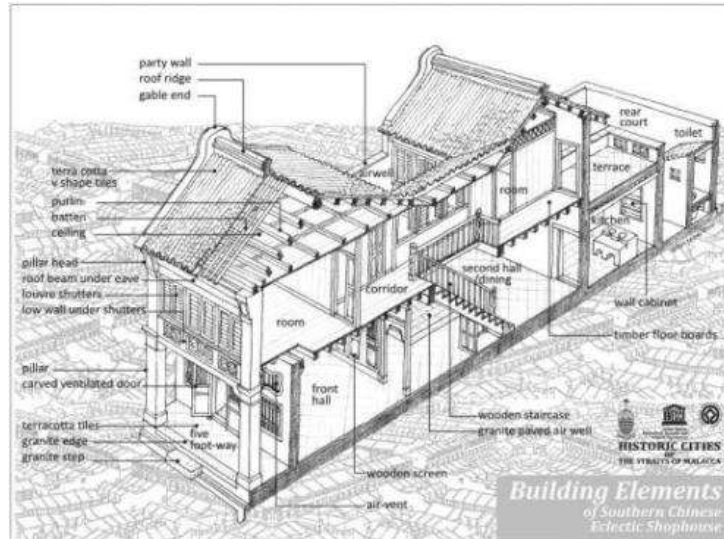


Figure 4: Side Cut of South Chinese Electic Style Shophouse Penang Malaysia  
Source: Historic Cities of Straits Of Malacca

1. Gable Roof
2. Chinese hook or roof ridge
3. Clay roof covering material
4. The dividing wall of the building ends at the top with a mountain or party wall.
5. The length of the tritisan with a sloping roof model so that rainwater seepage does not fall far into the street
6. Exposed columns on both sides (no ornamentation)
7. The top of the column is equipped with an ornament called the column head
8. On each floor there is a low wall below the window whether it is a masiv wall or a wooden barrier
9. There are ornaments in each style above the first floor beams and below the windows on the second floor
10. Colors Chinese shop houses generally follow the basic colors of traditional Chinese buildings including white, red, yellow, green, and light blue.
11. The initial materials of the Rumah Toko itself are local materials with brick walls and plaster finishing
12. The lower opening of the shop house is the main door in the center with two separate windows next to it The upper opening is a full spread window
13. The door opening is a carved door
14. The window opening is a model of shutters with ventilating lattice vents

## METHODOLOGY

Architectural facades have a profound essence as a means of recording the history of human civilization. By looking at the façade design from old photographs in sequence with clear and reliable sources, we can learn about the

socio-cultural conditions, spiritual life, and even the political and economic conditions prevailing at that time, in other words, the combination with the anthropology of the time (cross culture). In addition, the existence of some of the original shop houses can also be used as an aid for the reconstruction of the facade drawings.

## RESEARCH RESULT

### History of Malabero Chinese Village Bengkulu

Kampung Cina Malabero Bengkulu is a group of Chinese settlements that were organized when the Dutch established their colonial administration in Bengkulu Prefecture in 1868. As the activities of the previous colonial heritage (British) had long declined, the Dutch attempted to revive them by creating a trading activity in front of their headquarters in Bengkulu (Benteng Marlborough) (Siddik, 1981).

From their origin, there were two groups of Chinese in the Kampung Cina Malabero Bengkulu settlement ±1880. The Chinese from the previous Dutch colonial administration in Malacca (Singapore today) were wealthy merchants and were settled by the Dutch colonials in the western part next to Fort Marlborough (now east of Jalan D. I. Panjaitan). The other group were local Chinese from Bengkulu (Bencoolen) who came from around Bengkulu city itself, such as Muara Aman North Lebong, Masmambang Seluma, Muara Ketahun North Bengkulu as well as from Jambi and Palembang.

Based on the origin of the Chinese, the Dutch-born Chinese from Malacca have shophouses that follow the style of buildings in Malacca (now Singapore) which is identified as the Dutch Style Chinese shophouse building type (Tan Yeow Wooi and Gywnn Jenkins, 2010) with a wide front column span on the east side of the south side. Meanwhile, the Chinese who came from the dispersion in Bengkulu have shop houses that have blended with the local Chinese style from Bengkulu with balconies on the second floor.

The Bengkulu Prefecture of the past, especially on the coast, was often rebuilt due to disasters. Before the Dutch came to Bengkulu, the British (East India Company), who were already present, had twice rebuilt the city center around the center of Bengkulu Prefecture since arriving in 1685. The last great man to reorganize the city center of Bengkulu Prefecture at that time was Sir Thomas Stanford Raffles from 1818 to 1924 (Burhan Firdaus, 1988).

A century after the reorganization by Raffles, Bengkulu Prefecture was again hit by the same disaster, but this time without a tsunami. In 1914, the Chinese Kamp area, an important Dutch colonial trading center, suffered severe damage. Inexperienced with the frequent earthquakes in the Bengkulu area, the Chinese compound with its row of shop houses was the most damaged building.



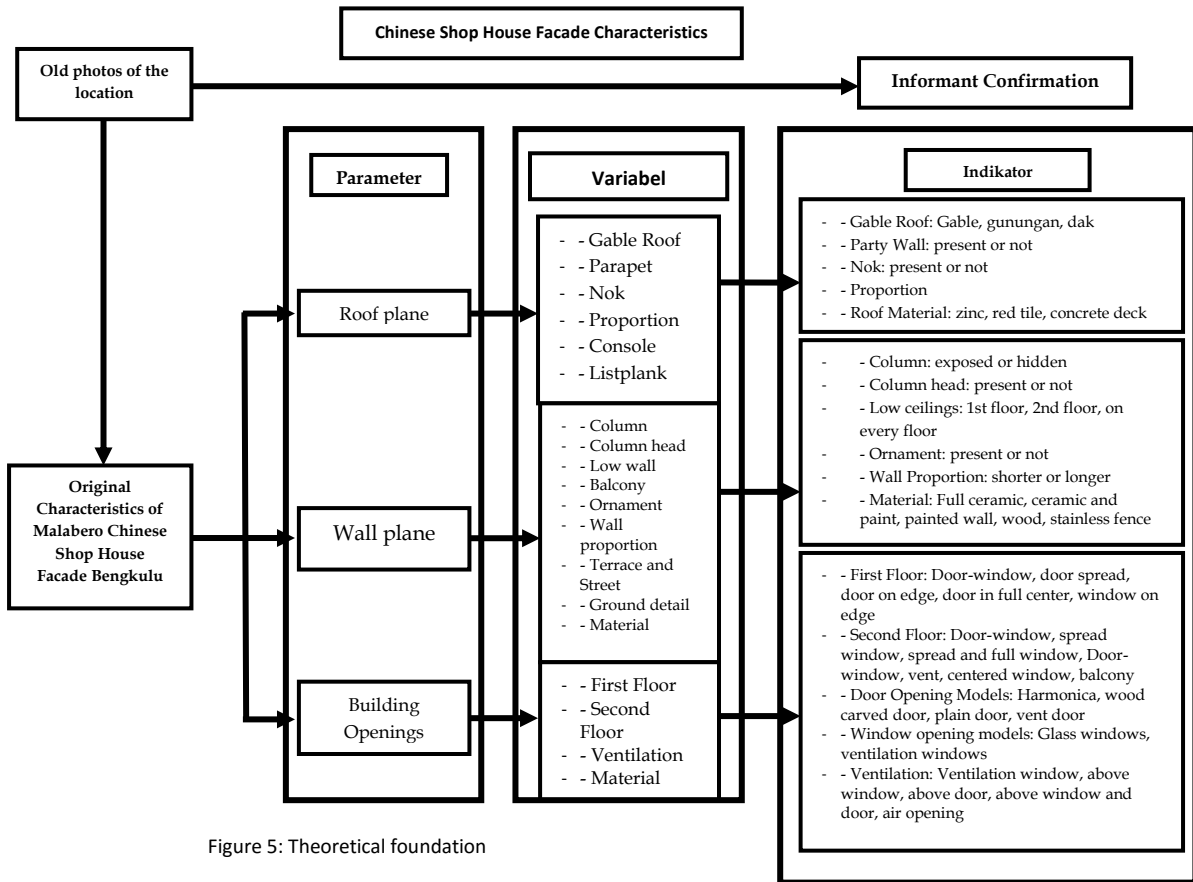
Figure 6: The condition of the Malabero Chinese shop house after the 1914 Bencoelen earthquake.

Source : Indie, Geillustreerd Weekblad voor Nederland en Kolonien ;jrg. January 8, 1919, Haarlem Holland. P. 652

Malabero's shophouses are a form of Chinese urban architecture. In Bengkulu, after being demarcated by the Dutch, the Chinese chose to build their own shophouses in the style of their original buildings. With hard and heavy materials, as an earthquake area, the Chinese here should have been more cautious especially with the experience of the locals with their residential buildings.

Bengkulu City in the late 18th to early 19th century had many types of traditional houses that existed in the Bangkulu Prefecture at that time. One of them is Rumah Panjang. Rumah Panjang Bengkulu is a traditional house that was popular when the Bugis tribe of Bengkulu mingled with the local Malay tribe in the Bangkulu Prefecture during the 18th century. With their Daeng position as the head of security in the Bengkulu Prefecture

With the concept of a shop house as a trading center, long houses were built in a row on the south side (now south of D. I. Panjaitan street) to the west. So after the remodeling, the row of Chinese shophouses in the Malabero Chinese Settlement has two building styles. After the 1914 earthquake, the north side of the row of shophouses was also damaged, but not to the same extent as the south side. With the request of the Chinese residents that their tribal building identity remain, the north side was retained in the style of an urban Chinese shophouse.



## DISCUSSION

Based on the image reconstruction through adjusting the old photos of Chinesche Camp Malabero obtained as well as adjusting with the information of informants, historians and the remains of the original buildings that still exist around the location, the following is the original character of the facade of the Chinese shop house on Jalan D. I. Panjaitan



Figure 7: The result of the 1917 renovation of the Chinese shop house in Malabero, Bencoelen.

Source: Indie, Geillustreerd Weekblad voor Nederland en Kolonien :jrg. January 8, 1919, Haarlem Holland. P. 653



Figure 8: Facade of Malabero Chinese shop house Period 1

Table 1 Original Characteristics of Malabero Chinese Shop House Facade Patterns

| Original Characteristics of Malabero Chinese Shop House Facade Patterns |                                       |  |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| Parameter   | Variabel                              | Indikator  |
| Roof Elements   | Roof Shape                            | The gable roof leads to the front of the building (Street) without curves (plain triangular model) with the same rear roof (gable).                        |
|   | Separation Wall                       | There are two positions of this dividing wall, between the roof tiles (visible) and under the roof tiles (invisible) symmetrical between the sides.        |
|   | Nok                                   | Without decoration on the local style shop house and has decoration on the Dutch style shop house  |
|   | Roof Proportion                       | The roof of the building has a longer proportional size compared to the proportional size of the length of the building wall                               |
|   | Roof console                          | Apart from the main console of the roof beam, there are also relief consoles from the column head and artificial consoles in the form of wooden poles.     |
|   | Listplank                             | A plain board without any decorative prop carving pieces.  |
|   | Vent /Peeping window                  | A shop house with a pitched roof accompanied by ventilation  |
|   | Roof Material                         | Tile made from hardened clay as a roof covering.   |
| Wall Elements   | Front Column                          | Plain to the top (Column Head) without any decoration (Local Style). Shared with neighbors<br>Ornaments on the columns (Dutch Style). Shared with neighbor |
|   | Column Head                           | Two-storey shop houses are at the end of the column, except for a row of single-storey shop houses where the head of the column is absent.                 |
|   | Low Wall Under the First Floor Window | The height of these low walls ranges from 2.5 - 3 feet (75-90 cm) from the terrace floor.  |
|   | Low Wall Under the                    | The height is almost the same as the low wall of the first floor calculated from the second floor mop.   |

| Original Characteristics of Malabero Chinese Shop House Facade Patterns |                                       |   |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|
|   | Second Floor Window                   |   |
|   | Balcony                               | Same size as the terrace  |
|   | Second Floor Balcony Guardrail        | Differences between shop house neighbors  |
|   | Wall Proportion                       | Wall projection is shorter than the length of the roof of the shop house  |
|   | Tritisan (Additional Roof)            | less than 5 shop houses, installed on the first floor wall to protect the terrace   |
|   | Terrace and Street between Shophouses | With the exception of the row of one-storey shophouses, no terraces were found.   |
|   | Ground Detail                         | All up one flight of stairs   |
| Elements of building openings   | First Floor Door                      | The position of the door is to the left of the shop house.<br>Door leaf with Single (single) or double (double) door opening type.<br>Wooden door   |
|   | First Floor Window                    | Position to the right of the door<br>Shutters, folding or removable windows with single and double openings.<br>Wooden window   |
|   | Second Floor Door                     | The position of the door is in the center of the wall plane of the second floor of the shop house.<br>Door leaf with Single (single) or double (double) door opening type.<br>Wooden door |
|   | Second Floor Window                   | Position next to the door (two windows)<br>Single- and double-opening shutters and casement windows.<br>Wooden shutters   |
|   | Ventilation                           | Ventilation on doors and windows (iron railing).<br>Ventilation vent above the second floor wall.<br>Roof vents/porthole windows.   |



Figure 9: Some types of facades (representing) Malabero Chinese shop houses  
 Period 2 south side of Jalan D. I. Panjaitan

| Characteristics of Facade Patterns of Malabero Chinese Shophouses Period 2 south |            |  |
|--|------------|--|
| Parameter  | Variabel   | Indikator  |
| Roof Elements  | Roof Shape | The gunungan roof extends to the back of the building with decorations in the form of; front cover (conch house), wind holes |

| Characteristics of Facade Patterns of Malabero Chinese Shophouses Period 2 south |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  |  | and lightning rods.  |
|  | Separation Wall                        | The roofs are lined up without being separated (connected) separated by rain gutters.  |
|  | Nok                                    | Covered by zinc / shingles without decoration.   |
|  | Roof Proportion                        | The roof of the building has a shorter proportional size compared to the proportional size of the length of the building wall.   |
|  | Roof console                           | Second floor column head console.  |
|  | Listplank                              | Propyl carving (ornamental variety) as in Bengkulu Malay traditional houses  |
|  | Vent /Peeping window                   | Wind hole / peep window on the face of the gunungan roof   |
|  | Roof Material                          | The roof covering was replaced by zinc and shingles.   |
| Wall Elements  | Front Column                           | The first floor still uses wall columns, while the second floor uses wooden poles.   |
|  | Column Head                            | Bentuk baru di atas tritisan (atap tambahan) lantai dua  |
|  | Low Wall Under the First Floor Window  | 1-1.5 feet (under 50 cm) windows and less than 1 foot (30cm) shop doors from the floor of the shop house terrace   |
|  | Low Wall Under the Second Floor Window | Become a wall covering under the second floor window (non balcony)   |
|  | Balcony                                | The same size as the terrace, only 5 rows of 38 rows of south-side shop houses remain.   |
|  | Second Floor Balcony Guardrail         | Different neighbors of closed/open shop houses   |
|  | Wall Proportion                        | Wall projection is shorter than the length of the roof of the shop house   |
|  | Tritisan (Additional Roof)             | Installed on the top of the second floor only.<br>Installed on every floor.  |
|  | Terrace and Street between Shophouses  | Some have no porch (Front window)<br>Street between shop houses is closed (4-6 are still open)   |
|  |  | <i>Ground Detail</i>   |
| Elements of building openings  | First Floor Door                       | Full opening position of the main door in the center of the wall plane of the first floor of the shop house, shop door next to the main door or between the windows.<br>Door leaf with double (double) and folding main door opening types, shop door with double, folding and loose opening types.<br>Detail of the crapyak door. Wooden door |
|  | First Floor Window                     | Position next to the main door (right-left)<br>Double-opening shutters and folding windows.<br>There are 3-4 pieces of glass in each window frame.<br>Wooden window  |
|  | Second Floor Door                      | The position of the door is in the center of the wall plane of the second floor of the shop house (balcony).<br>Door leaf with single or double door opening type.   |

| Characteristics of Facade Patterns of Malabero Chinese Shophouses Period 2 south |   |
|--|---|
|  | Crapyak door details Wooden door  |
| Second Floor Window  | Full windows on the second floor plane above the shutters. Double-opening shutters (two shutters between jambs) and folding shutters (more than two shutters between jambs). There is a total of 3 pieces of glass on each window in one window frame. Opening direction to the outside of the building (folding) |
| Ventilation  | Ventilation wind louvers and shutters above the first floor opening. Vents on the roof.   |

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Malabero Bengkulu's Chinese shophouses, which are grouped in the Chinese settlement (Chinese Kamp) in front of Fort Marlborough, have two characteristics of Chinese shophouse building styles based on their facades. Local style shophouses from Chinese residents in Bengkulu (Bengkulu Prefecture) and Dutch style shophouses from Chinese immigrants from Malacca.

The catastrophic history of the 1914 Bengkulu City earthquake has played a major role in the transformation of all of Malabero's Chinese shophouses on the south side (Jalan D. I. Panjaitan today). With the condition of the row of shophouses found to be severely damaged after the earthquake, leaving only the first floor still in a habitable condition.

The alteration of the south side of the Malabero Chinese shophouses has removed many of the original characteristics of the original facade of the Malabero Bengkulu Chinese shophouses (gable roof). As a result, many new characteristics of the shophouse facade elements have been replaced. The shape of the roof (gunungan), the removal of the balcony and the shape of the building openings became the characteristics of the facade face of the south side Malabero Chinese shop house (gunungan roof). This change in facade is in anticipation of the load to be earthquake-responsive.

## ADVANCED RESEARCH

The characteristics of the facade of the Malabero Chinese shop house on Jl. D. I. Panjaitan Bengkulu City is an architectural treasure in the form of Cross Culture Urban Design, which is a cultural fusion in the form of Urban Chinese building facades with traditional Bengkulu Panjang house facades and there are only a few cases in Indonesia.

With the knowledge of the original facade pattern of the row of Malabero Chinese shop houses on Jalan D. I. Panjaitan, Bengkulu City is expected to be a source of knowledge from the owner and the city government if they are interested in preserving one of the oldest natural heritage in Bengkulu City.

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