

# Call for Papers

## Ruang #12: Education

In 1954, V. R. van Romondt, one of the maestros in Indonesian architectural education, spoke in his inauguration speech about the importance of positioning architecture discipline in the roadmap of the nation's formal education. Architecture, for him, signified a nation's cultural development, which also served as a foundation and trigger to the development of a nation.

The various ways to dwell and the diversity of Indonesian traditional architecture reveals the richness of its culture. Specific architectural knowledge embedded in that culture has been transferred 'informally' from generation to generation. The kind of education not only teaches about technical issues, but also its meanings and values. For instance, the Balinese *Undagi*, equivalent to architect/builder, carries not only skills and craftsmanship but also the spiritual and local values – bringing the harmony between Gods, human, and nature, in crafting Balinese architecture.

Today, universities as a platform for architecture formal education, have spread around the archipelago. It is important to note that graduating from these schools do not make one an architect, but it only widen the opportunities to contribute to the architecture and urban field. The graduates need to do more phases to be a professional – another year of architecture professional degree, two years of internship and series of evaluations and administrative tasks with the national institution of architects. Such condition is already regulated by the Architects Act, that has just been legalized recently. So, what is the implication of this act for architectural education landscape in Indonesia?

Globalisation and tight competition in the market also increase the quality standards for architects. The education institutions are, then, pushed to produce future architects who is able to follow the recent trends, latest building technology and contemporary debates on architecture and urbanism to compete globally. Yet, to do so, curriculum and teaching approach should become flexible, and, to some extent, pragmatic.

Architecture discipline, on the other hand, is nothing like a hardcore science that has definite boundaries. It relies on many other disciplines to deepen its spatial understanding. The future architects also could specialize in different fields – housing, landscape, computation, or preservation. Thus, should architects educated and trained as *generalists* or *specialists*?

The previous phenomenon leads to criticism of market-oriented architecture education. Moreover, architecture education also often criticised for having a distance with local values, culture, and people. A contradiction occurs when the education system aims to deliver alumni that able contributes to solving issues in the real world, whilst the real world is rarely introduced in classrooms.

Education has huge opportunities to device new theory and ideas to address urban and spatial issues. To fill in the gaps, other forms of institutions gradually emerged and offers more critical pedagogy. Let us take regular classes of *OMAH*, *Rumah Intaran*, or *Rujak Center for Urban Studies* as examples. They are all willing to complete, as well as questioning, the root of architectural education in the formal school by bringing empirical evidence and using an interdisciplinary approach to expand the horizon in architectural thinking.

Now it is time to unravel architectural education. For talking about education means preparing the next generation. With 166 architecture schools, Indonesia has a huge potential to contribute to the local and international architectural discourse sooner or later. Thus, the curriculum should be questioned, pedagogy must be discussed, and any other educational materials must be placed on the table to be dissected and debated.

Let's talk about **EDUCATION!**

**Ruang** is an online magazine that discusses about **architecture, the city and the built environment with its discontent**. **Ruang** is interested in various perspectives to view an issue; thus, it holds an objective position by giving equal opportunity to different arguments and perspectives. There is no right or wrong, only a more rooted argument. Ruang offers various lenses to read architecture. In time, these lenses will shape our society.

Let's use **Ruang** to discuss about architecture.

## DEAR CONTRIBUTORS,

You are cordially invited to contribute your essays, photo essays, sketches, paintings or other forms of contribution to elaborate the current theme – "Education".

### **Essay**

- elaborates the "Call for Papers" or expand them according to the given trajectories.
- explains in concise and understandable sentences and words. Specific terms may require explanations in footnotes or references.
- is written in a descriptive, narrative and/or persuasive manner in an academic writing style or journalistic writing style.
- contains no more than 1500-2000 words and a maximum of 8 images.
- (if applicable) acknowledges others' intellectual properties by referencing to the authors, photographers, artists, or the name of copyright holders when quoting other works (statements, pictures, illustrations and drawings)
- (if needed) authors may utilize the "**Architectural Notes**" to articulate the concept and point of view

### **Video**

It elaborates the "Call for Papers". The work can be further explained with an essay. No restriction in duration. The file can be varies, for example, an MPEG4, AVI, WMV or link to the video source (Youtube or Vimeo).

### **Photos/Sketches/Paintings**

It elaborates the "Call for Papers". The work can be further explained with an essay. The file can be varied, for example, a JPG, GIF, or PNG in 200 dpi resolutions. If contributors wish to propose their own layout, please organise it in A5 size Indesign CS3 file (.indd) with a package of documents (include files of the photos, sketches, and paintings).

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- The contribution should not contain propaganda and offensive racial or religious issues.
- Please include personal information: a self-portrait and brief biography (approx. 150 words).
- All work should be submitted before **7 January 2018**.
- Direct your critics, suggestions and questions to [membacaruang@gmail.com](mailto:membacaruang@gmail.com)

## ARCHITECTURAL NOTES

**A Note in Architecture**, to *Ruang*, is a medium to convey information, opinion or critic in various forms of writing related to architecture, the city and the built environment with all their issues. An architectural note is written autonomously. Thus, it is not propaganda or an advertisement to architectural products, or an egocentric amusement.

In overview, *Ruang* categorises articles in four different ways of writing a note, namely:

**Empirical – theoretically** relies on the practical or theoretical research that defines an issue, the processes surround it, facts, definition, theoretical basis and the societal response.

**Ethnographic observation** persuades readers to observe a place, subject, situation or phenomenon occurs in our everydayness in architectural or urban spaces within a particular timeframe.

**Narrative** walks the readers in the author's point of view to describe the experiences or processes to unfold facts, assertions or opinions.

**Argumentative** unfolds opinions on reality by arguing the causality of an action or reaction.

These categories may also be overlapping with each other and should be viewed as a tool to open the perspective and not to be viewed as limiting it to clusters.

These categories are only instrument to help authors in directing his/her assessment to an issue related to architecture, city and the built environment. They shall not cluster and limit perspectives as the categories may overlap with each other.

*Ruang* supports a critical, honest, precise and meaningful contribution.

Ruang offers assistance to the possible contributors in developing their articles. The contributors who are willing can firstly send their abstracts. One of our editors will review and give inputs periodically to achieve a better quality text. With this process, we hope that all articles will speak in a verified perspective, factual and more readable by the readers. This offer is not compulsory. If you are interested, please drop us a note at [membacaruang@gmail.com](mailto:membacaruang@gmail.com)

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## RUANG

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