

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**ARCHITECTURAL
TRANSFORMATION OF RANTAU
MINANGKABAU TRADITIONAL
HOUSE: CASE STUDY IN PAUH,
PADANG, WEST SUMATRA,
INDONESIA**

DESY ARYANTI

PhD

February 2025

ABSTRACT

Architectural transformation reflects evolving influences, techniques, and philosophies, shaped by cultural, technological, and environmental changes from ancient times to modern urban landscapes. This study aims to investigate the architectural transformation that exists in traditional architecture. This study explores the architectural transformation of Rumah Adat Minangkabau (RAM) in Darek and Rumah Gadang Kajang Padati (RGKP) in Rantau Minangkabau with a focus on Pauh, Padang, West Sumatra, Indonesia. The Minangkabau traditional house is a symbol of cultural identity that reflects social values, customs and community adaptation to the local environment. In Minangkabau culture, *merantau* is the tradition of leaving one's homeland to seek opportunities, rooted in their matrilineal system where inheritance follows the maternal line. The division of Darek region, the cultural heart of Minangkabau, marked the starting point for migration to Rantau region. This migration transformed traditional house architecture, adapting it to the social, economic, and environmental conditions of Rantau. Qualitative research method with case study approach was carried out. The methodology used includes document review, site observations, semi-structured interviews with homeowners and cultural experts and measured drawing. The purpose of the research is to identify the architectural principles of RAM in Darek, understand the characteristics of RGKP in Rantau and analyze the differences and architectural transformations that occur from Darek to Rantau. Twelve (12) architectural principles of RAM in Darek were cross examined with twenty one (21) samples of RGKP in Rantau. The data reveals that RGKP in Rantau and RAM in Darek share nine (9) characteristics that show significant adaptation. This research makes an important contribution and efforts to preserve traditional Minangkabau culture and architecture. The study enriches an understanding of culture-based design adaptations that consider the preservation of local cultures, as well as offering recommendations for the integration of traditional elements in modern design. These findings are relevant for architectural education, planning practices and the development of culture-based tourism, with the hope of supporting the sustainability of Minangkabau architectural heritage as part of the nation's identity.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Alhamdulillah, I want to express my sincere gratitude to Allah SWT for granting me the opportunity to pursue and complete my Ph.D. journey. I am truly thankful for the unwavering guidance and support provided by my main supervisor, Dr. Othman B. Mohd. Nor, and co-supervisor, Associate Professor Dr. Sabrizaa Abd. Rashid, throughout the entire process. I sincerely thank the leaders of Yayasan Pendidikan Bung Hatta, Universitas Bung Hatta, in Padang, Indonesia, for their support and help in my studies. Dr. Syamsul Asri, Dr. Sudirman, and Nasbahry Couto, as academicians, architects, and experts of Minangkabau architecture, and Datuk Rajo Indo Langik, as a *penghulu* and one of the house owners in the Pauh sub-district, have substantially enhanced my comprehension of Minangkabau architecture, for which I am also really grateful. This appreciation extends to my fellow lecturer and my students. one of my students, was very helpful during my research process. My friend, shared his vast knowledge of traditional house tectonics, for which I am very thankful. Last, I want to thank my coworker, for her unwavering assistance with my thesis preparation. I want to dedicate this dissertation to my father, who has passed away but will always hold a special place in my heart. I also dedicate this work to my mother, who is in excellent health, and I pray that Allah SWT grants her a long life. I am grateful to my husband, for his unwavering support throughout my academic journey, and to my two beloved children, Bunga Aryadana who have always been my source of strength in any situation. Additionally, I would like to thank my entire extended family. Finally, I express my sincere gratitude to all those who have offered their support; though I cannot mention each one individually, I hold immense respect for you all.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
CONFIRMATION BY PANEL OF EXAMINERS	ii
AUTHOR’S DECLARATION	iii
ABSTRACT	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	v
TABLE OF CONTENTS	vi
LIST OF TABLES	x
LIST OF FIGURES	xiii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xvii
LIST OF GLOSSARY	xviii
 CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	 1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Background of Study	2
1.2.1 Overview of Minangkabau	2
1.2.2 Overview of Padang	6
1.2.3 Minangkabau Traditional House	9
1.3 Problem Statement	19
1.3.1 Modernization	19
1.3.2 Migration (merantau)	20
1.3.3 Changing Times Challenge	21
1.3.4 Extinction	22
1.3.5 Lack of Documentation and Notes	22
1.4 Research Objectives	23
1.5 Research Question	24
1.6 Significance of Study	24
1.6.1 Preservation of Cultural Heritage	24
1.6.2 Understanding Socio-Cultural Adaptations	24
1.6.3 Environmental and Climatic Adaptation Insights	25
1.6.4 Documentation for Urban Planning and Development	25

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

This chapter outlines a research project's initial steps and objectives focused on the architectural transformation of traditional houses in the Rantau Minangkabau region. The discussion begins by providing background information on the research, specifically examining the Pauh Sub-district of Padang, West Sumatra as a case study. Architectural transformation refers to the changes that Rumah Adat Minangkabau (RAM) experience over time, particularly from the Darek region to Rantau. The chapter emphasizes efforts to preserve the unique architectural identity of Minangkabau houses in Rantau, highlighting the principles and characteristics that define traditional Rantau Minangkabau architecture. The study identifies existing research gaps and reviews previous studies concerning the features of traditional Minangkabau houses in Darek. These identified gaps form the basis for the study's aims and objectives, leading to the development of a research problem statement that generates three specific research questions. Furthermore, the researcher elaborates on the study's limitations and scope, its significance, definitions of key research terms, and the overall structure of the thesis.

The Padang traditional house, Rumah Gadang Kajang Padati (RGKP), is a unique example of a Minangkabau traditional house in the Padang region. This house significantly differs from the Rumah Gadang found in Darek area, particularly in the design of its roof. The roofs of houses in Darek area are shaped like buffalo horns (*gonjong*), while the roofs of houses in Padang resemble ox carts (*padati*). Additionally, the spatial arrangement of the houses varies: houses in Darek area typically feature four *lanja*, while those in Rantau have only three *lanja*, resulting in smaller house sizes in Rantau compared to Darek. From a physical perspective, both types of houses share similarities in their construction materials, which primarily include wood, bamboo, and thatched roofs. However, with the introduction of zinc, many roofs have been replaced with zinc roofing. This research also examines the migration journey (*merantau*) of the Minangkabau people from Luhak Nan Tuo, highlighting the differences in house shapes between the original houses in Darek and those in Rantau, as well as the architectural modifications that have occurred over time.