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**THE BORDERS OF HISTORY: MAINTAINING AUTHENTICITY IN JAVA'S HERITAGE CITY**

*Batas Sejarah: Menjaga Keaslian Kota – Kota Warisan di Jawa*

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**ABSTRAK**

Paper ini mengkaji hubungan kompleks antara batas visual dan fisik dengan keaslian situs warisan di Jawa. Studi ini mengidentifikasi bagaimana elemen batas tertentu, seperti gaya arsitektur, pengaturan taman, dan penghalang protektif, berkontribusi pada persepsi keaslian di antara pengunjung dan konservasionis. Melalui analisis komparatif beberapa kota di Jawa, makalah ini menonjolkan peranan batas-batas ini tidak hanya dalam menjaga integritas fisik tetapi juga dalam membentuk narasi sejarah yang dialami oleh publik. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif, termasuk wawancara dengan pemangku kepentingan lokal dan pengamatan di lokasi, untuk menarik kesimpulan tentang efektivitas strategi pelestarian saat ini dan dampaknya terhadap warisan budaya Jawa. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa batas yang dirancang dan dipelihara dengan baik dapat meningkatkan keaslian situs warisan, sehingga mendukung upaya konservasi yang lebih luas dan memperdalam koneksi publik terhadap situs sejarah. Studi ini memberikan wawasan berharga bagi pembuat kebijakan dan manajer situs yang mencari keseimbangan antara tekanan pengembangan dengan kebutuhan untuk menjaga keaslian budaya.

Kata kunci: Konservasi Warisan, Keaslian, Budaya Jawa, Sejarah Urban, Pelestarian Budaya

**ABSTRACT**

*This paper examines the intricate relationship between visual and physical borders and the authenticity of heritage sites in Java. This study identifies how specific boundary elements such as architectural styles, landscaping, and protective barriers contribute to the perception of authenticity among visitors and conservationists. Through comparative analysis of several Javanese cities, the paper highlights the role of these borders in preserving physical integrity and framing the historical narrative experienced by the public. The research utilizes a mix of qualitative methods, including interviews with local stakeholders and onsite observations, to conclude the effectiveness of current preservation strategies and their impact on the cultural heritage of Java. The findings suggest that carefully designed and maintained borders can enhance the authenticity of heritage sites, thereby supporting broader conservation efforts and fostering a deeper public connection to historical sites. This study provides valuable insights for policymakers and site managers looking to balance development pressures with the need to preserve cultural authenticity.*

*Keywords: Heritage Conservation, Authenticity, Javanese Culture, Urban History, Cultural Preservation*

## **INTRODUCTION**

Authenticity in heritage areas is a multifaceted concept that encompasses both visual and physical elements. UNESCO emphasizes the importance of historical, aesthetic, social, and physical aspects in defining the authenticity of a heritage place (Mehr & Wilkinson, 2020). The physical structures, their relationships, the setting, surroundings, and functions acquired over time all contribute to the authenticity of a heritage area (Martínez, 2016). Furthermore, authenticity is crucial for validating the identity of culturally built heritage (Februandari, 2019).

Tourists seek authentic heritage experiences when visiting heritage sites, as these experiences evoke feelings of intra-personal authenticity (Nguyen & Cheung, 2016). However, the commercial gentrification of historic areas like the Guozijian in Beijing poses a challenge to authenticity, highlighting the need for updated regulations to preserve the genuine character of these places (Martínez, 2016). The concept of "constructive authenticity" is employed to analyze the spatial morphology of heritage sites, emphasizing the importance of maintaining the original characteristics of these areas (Huan-Xi, 2018).

In the context of heritage tourism, the authenticity of destinations such as the San Antonio Missions Historic District enhances the visitor experience and aligns with the trend of supporting local communities (Doganer & Dupont, 2013). Additionally, the use of augmented reality in heritage tourism can contribute to the experiential value for visitors, while information boards are regulated to preserve the cultural heritage of these sites (Han et al., 2021). Authenticity in heritage areas is a complex interplay of physical preservation, historical significance, and visitor experience. Balancing these aspects is essential to ensure that heritage sites retain their genuine character while meeting the needs of present-day visitors and communities.

The concept of authenticity in heritage conservation has garnered extensive scholarly attention, particularly as cities around the world grapple with the challenges of modernization while striving to preserve their historical and cultural identities. In Java, Indonesia, the struggle to maintain authenticity within heritage cities provides a compelling case study of the dynamic interplay between traditional values and contemporary urban development. This paper explores the visual and physical borders that define and shape the historical and cultural landscapes of Javanese heritage cities, investigating how these elements contribute to or detract from the perceived authenticity of these spaces.

Javanese cities, with their rich tapestry of history, culture, and tradition, present a unique blend of architectural styles, urban layouts, and cultural practices that have evolved over centuries. From the royal Kratons of Yogyakarta and Surakarta to the bustling historical quarters of Semarang and the colonial remnants in Surabaya, these cities showcase a diverse heritage that is both tangible and intangible. The concept of authenticity here is not merely about the preservation of physical structures but also encompasses the continuous practice of cultural traditions that imbue these spaces with meaning and identity.

Theories of authenticity, from the existential to the constructivist perspectives, provide a framework for analyzing how heritage is perceived and valued. These theories challenge the notion that authenticity is an immutable attribute, suggesting instead that it is a construct shaped by cultural, social, and political contexts. In Java, the authenticity of

heritage cities is often negotiated through the careful curation of visual and physical borders. These borders, whether manifested through the conservation of traditional Javanese architecture, the maintenance of historical urban patterns, or the adaptation of spaces to modern needs, play crucial roles in framing the heritage experience for locals and tourists alike.

This paper delves into the implications of these borders for heritage conservation, using case studies from several Javanese cities to illustrate how they are implemented and experienced. Through this exploration, the study aims to provide insights into the effective management of heritage sites, offering recommendations for policymakers, conservationists, and urban planners committed to preserving the authentic spirit of Java's historic urban centers.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

A range of studies have explored the connection between authenticity and heritage areas, particularly to physical and visual elements. Hanachi (2017) and Chen (2014) both emphasize the importance of preserving the historic fabric of cities and the need for historic authenticity in heritage areas (Hanachi & Moghimi, 2017; Chen, 2014). McGhie (2009) and Jones (2009) further delve into the construction and experience of authenticity, with McGhie focusing on the role of physical and conceptual locations and Jones highlighting the tangible and intangible relationships that underpin authenticity (McGhie, 2009; Jones, 2009). Huan-Xi (2018) and Yi (2018) provide case studies on the authenticity of specific heritage sites, with Zhao analyzing the spatial morphology of a historical urban area and Yi examining the influence of perceived authenticity on tourist loyalty (Huan-Xi, 2018; Yi et al., 2018). Martínez (2017) and Dueholm (2014) offer frameworks for assessing urban heritage authenticity and discuss the coexistence of different authenticity perceptions in heritage sites (Martínez, 2017; Dueholm & Smed, 2014). These studies collectively underscore the complex and multifaceted nature of authenticity in heritage areas and the need for a holistic approach that considers both physical and visual elements.

### **Theories of Authenticity**

Authenticity in the context of heritage conservation and tourism is a complex and multifaceted concept, with various interpretations and implications. It is a key motivator for tourists seeking unique experiences (Paiva & Seabra, 2016) and is influenced by tangible and intangible relationships with the past (Jones, 2009). The Nara Document has redefined authenticity as the credibility of information sources, rooted in specific sociocultural contexts (Kono, 2014). However, the implementation of authenticity principles in heritage conservation can be influenced by power relationships and may lead to conflicts (Xu et al., 2014). The concept of authenticity remains important but has evolved (Silverman, 2015). Different conceptions of authenticity can coexist within a tourist setting, allowing for the use of new technologies while still maintaining authenticity (Dueholm & Smed, 2014).

### **Impact of Physical and Visual Borders**

The impact of physical and visual borders on heritage is a complex and multifaceted issue. Pieris (2019) and Prokkola (2016) both highlight the role of heritage in shaping spatial

identities and the production of border heritage in tourist sites (Pieris, 2019; Prokkola & Lois, 2016). Hanachi (2017) and Andersen (2018) further explore the role of physical-visual identity elements in historical neighborhoods and the production of nationhood in borderland fields (Hanachi & Moghimi, 2017; Andersen & Prokkola, 2018). Luna (2019) and Turunen (2021) discuss the relationship between borders, visibility, and identity, with Luna focusing on the interfacial dimension of borders and archives, and Turunen examining the cultural production of border imaginaries through heritage (Luna, 2019; Turunen, 2021). McMullen (2017) provides a specific case study of the visual historical grounding of heritage tourist towns and proposes a method for defining and integrating historical walls in urban contexts. These studies collectively underscore the complex and dynamic nature of physical and visual borders in heritage, and their role in shaping spatial identities and cultural imaginaries (McMullen, 2017).

### **Javanese City Concept**

The concept of Javanese cities in border zones is a complex and multifaceted one, influenced by a range of factors. The relocation of the State Capital to North Penajam Paser and Kutai Kartanegara Regencies is a key development, with the forest city concept being a potential strategy for sustainable urbanization (Nurfatiha et al., 2024). However, the idea of a megapolitan area, including Jakarta and its surrounding satellite cities, has faced opposition due to concerns about equitable benefits (Rizal, 2020). The sustainability concept of alun-alun, a central open space, has been proposed as a model for future urban design (R. S. Rukayah et al., 2013). The challenges of managing urban villages in Jakarta, such as Tanjung Gedong Village, have led to the proposal of a green village concept (Solikhah & Fatimah, 2020). The growth of inland cities, such as Parakan in Central Java, is a significant urbanization phenomenon (Septiarani et al., 2019). The influence of Javanese cultures on city development, particularly the use of imaginary axes, is a key aspect of Javanese city planning (Wahid & Karsono, 2008). The spatial concepts of cultural heritage villages, such as Kadilangu Demak, are also important for tourism development (Suprpti et al., 2019).

### **METHODS**

The methodological approach of this study is designed to capture the complex interplay between physical and visual borders and their impact on the authenticity of heritage sites across Java. The research is rooted in a qualitative framework, utilizing multiple case studies to allow for an in-depth exploration of various urban settings within Java. This approach enables a comprehensive analysis of the factors that contribute to the perception of authenticity in heritage cities, considering both tangible and intangible elements.

**Research Design.** The study adopts a comparative case study methodology, facilitating the examination of different heritage conservation strategies and their outcomes in multiple Javanese cities. Each case study focuses on a specific city known for its unique heritage zones, with an emphasis on the role of visual and physical borders in maintaining cultural authenticity. The comparative nature of this design allows for the identification of common themes and divergent practices among the studied cities, thereby enriching the understanding of effective heritage management practices.

**Site Selection.** Four Javanese cities were selected based on their rich cultural heritage and the presence of distinct heritage zones: Yogyakarta, Semarang, Surabaya, and Jakarta. These cities represent a range of historical influences, including Javanese, Dutch, Chinese, and Malay, making them ideal for studying the interaction of different cultural elements within urban heritage settings. Selection criteria also included accessibility to sites, the extent of existing heritage conservation efforts, and the diversity of physical and visual borders present.

**Data Collection Methods** Data were collected through three primary means:

1. **Semi-structured Interviews:** Interviews were conducted with local stakeholders, including heritage site managers, urban planners, local historians, and community leaders. These interviews provided insights into the strategies employed for maintaining authenticity and the challenges encountered in managing heritage sites.
2. **Observational Studies:** Direct observations were carried out at various heritage sites within the selected cities. These observations focused on the physical layout, condition of heritage structures, visitor interactions, and the implementation of visual and physical borders.
3. **Document Analysis:** Relevant documents, including urban planning records, heritage site management plans, and previous studies on heritage conservation in Java, were analyzed to supplement interview and observation data.

**Data Analysis.** Data from interviews, observations, and documents were analyzed using thematic analysis. This involved coding the data to identify patterns and themes related to the impact of physical and visual borders on authenticity. Comparative analysis was then employed to draw contrasts and similarities between the case studies, which helped in formulating broad insights and specific recommendations for heritage conservation in Java.

## **Case Studies**

Case studies are a fundamental component of this research, providing practical insights into the dynamics of maintaining authenticity within heritage cities in Java. The use of case studies allows for a detailed examination of specific instances where physical and visual borders are employed, illustrating the complex interactions between these elements and the urban cultural heritage.

**Selection of Case Studies** The selection of specific cities as case studies was driven by several factors:

1. **Heritage Richness:** Each city chosen has a rich cultural heritage, represented through various historical periods and influences, including Javanese, Dutch, Chinese, and Malay elements. This diversity provides a broad spectrum of data concerning how different cultural influences manage and integrate their heritage.
2. **Variability in Conservation Approaches:** The cities exhibit different approaches to heritage conservation, from highly structured regulatory frameworks to more community-driven initiatives. This variability allows for a comparative analysis of strategies and their effectiveness in preserving authenticity.
3. **Urban Development Pressures:** The cities are at various stages of urban development, which impacts heritage conservation efforts and strategies. Studying

these varying contexts helps in understanding how urban pressures influence the preservation of cultural authenticity.

Case studies are particularly valuable in heritage studies because they allow researchers to:

1. **Observe Real-world Applications:** Unlike theoretical research, case studies provide insights into the actual application of conservation techniques and the real-world challenges faced by heritage cities.
2. **Capture Nuanced Interactions:** They enable the capture of detailed interactions between cultural, social, and political factors that influence heritage conservation. This is crucial in understanding the multifaceted nature of authenticity.
3. **Generate Context-specific Insights:** Case studies help in generating insights that are specific to particular cultural and urban contexts, which can be crucial for developing targeted conservation policies and practices.

**Approach to Case Study Analysis** Each city was studied through a multi-dimensional lens, incorporating historical analysis, site visits, stakeholder interviews, and review of urban planning documents. The analysis focused on:

1. **Documentation of Visual and Physical Borders:** Identifying and cataloging the types of borders present, such as architectural styles, urban layouts, and designated heritage zones.
2. **Stakeholder Perspectives:** Gathering views from local authorities, residents, tourists, and experts on their perceptions of authenticity and the impacts of conservation strategies.
3. **Effectiveness of Conservation Measures:** Assessing the effectiveness of existing physical and visual borders in maintaining the authenticity of heritage areas.

By examining these aspects, the case studies aim to highlight successful practices and areas where improvements are needed, providing a comprehensive overview of the state of heritage conservation in Java's urban centers.

The selection of case study cities in Java is a critical component of our research into the preservation of authenticity within heritage sites. This choice is influenced by a variety of factors, each contributing uniquely to the comprehensive analysis of urban heritage conservation. The cities of Yogyakarta, Semarang, Surabaya, and Jakarta have been chosen not only for their rich historical and cultural landscapes but also for their varied approaches to conservation in the face of modern urban pressures. These cities exemplify the dynamic interplay between maintaining cultural heritage and accommodating contemporary development. Table 1 below, presents the selection criteria for these case studies, detailing how each city's unique attributes contribute to the overarching research goals of understanding and preserving Javanese authenticity.

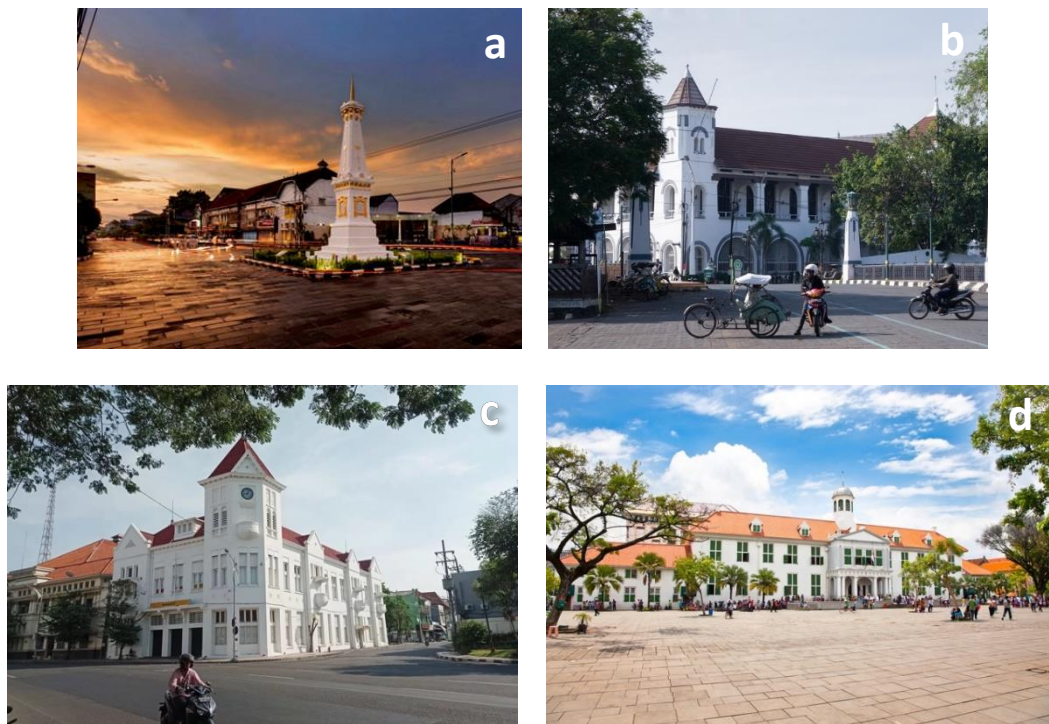
**Table 1.** Selection of Case Studies

Factor	Yogyakarta	Semarang	Surabaya	Jakarta
Heritage Richness	Rich in Javanese culture with sites like the Kraton and Taman Sari.	Colonial Dutch architecture alongside ancient Javanese structures in Kota Lama.	A mix of colonial history and modern influences, with landmarks like the House of Sampoerna	Diverse heritage including Dutch colonial buildings and significant Chinese and Malay influences.

Factor	Yogyakarta	Semarang	Surabaya	Jakarta
Conservation Approaches	Traditional conservation methods deeply intertwined with local culture.	Innovative urban renewal projects converting historical precincts into vibrant cultural hubs.	Dynamic urban planning integrating historical preservation with modern development.	Large-scale heritage management practices, reflecting a cosmopolitan approach to heritage conservation.
Urban Development Pressures	Moderate, with a focus on tourism and maintaining cultural authenticity.	High, with rapid urban development posing challenges to heritage conservation.	Very high, as a major industrial and business center with significant redevelopment.	Extremely high, being the capital city and facing intense development and urban sprawl.
Cultural Diversity	Predominantly Javanese but with increasing tourist and external cultural influences.	Historical melding of Javanese, Chinese, and Dutch cultures, providing a unique multicultural tapestry.	Strong business-oriented metropolis with a diverse population influencing its cultural heritage.	Immense diversity due to its status as the national capital, with numerous ethnic groups and cultural influences.

Source: Author, 2024

The detailed analysis presented in Table 1 above, showcases the diverse contexts and conservation challenges faced by each selected city. By comparing these varying scenarios, the study aims to identify effective strategies for heritage conservation that can be adapted to similar urban settings. Furthermore, understanding these differences aids in recognizing the broader implications for policy-making and urban planning in Java and other regions with rich cultural histories. The next sections of the paper will delve deeper into each city's specific conservation efforts, drawing on the insights gathered to propose recommendations for enhancing the authenticity and integrity of heritage sites across Java.



**Figure 1.** a). Twilight at Yogyakarta: Preserving Heritage in the Heart of Java; b). Colonial Echoes in Semarang: A Blend of History and Modernity; c). Heritage and Modernity: The Colonial Legacy of Surabaya; d). Kota Tua Jakarta: A Living Museum of History and Culture

The architectural heritage of Java's major cities is a testament to their historical significance and cultural richness. This heritage is vividly showcased in the distinct urban landscapes of Yogyakarta, Semarang, Surabaya, and Jakarta, each bearing unique marks of their past and present. The fusion of local traditions with colonial influences over centuries has resulted in an eclectic mix of architectural styles that not only define the physical skyline but also tell the story of Java's complex history. The following visual compilation, Figure 1 below, provides a snapshot of this architectural diversity. These images capture the essence of each city's approach to preserving its cultural identity amidst modern challenges, illustrating the dynamic interplay between preservation and modernization.

The depictions in Figure 1 above, are more than mere snapshots; they are a portal into the lives of the cities they represent. Each image reveals how heritage conservation acts not only as a guardian of history but as a vibrant part of the contemporary urban environment. For instance, Yogyakarta's efforts to maintain its royal traditions alongside modern development, or Jakarta's Kota Tua, which serves both as a historical archive and a bustling public space, demonstrate different strategies of integrating heritage into the urban fabric. These cities illustrate the potential of architectural heritage to enhance urban identity, attract tourism, and educate residents and visitors alike about their historical contexts. The ongoing challenge for these cities will be to continue their preservation efforts in ways that respect their past while embracing the inevitable changes brought by future developments. The next sections will delve into specific conservation strategies employed by each city, exploring how they balance these dual imperatives of preservation and modernization.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

In the context of urban landscape protection, the role of buffer zones in preserving cultural heritage sites is crucial. Strategies such as implementing gradation of protection and controlling impacts based on the distance from core sites are essential for safeguarding heritage areas, as seen in the case of Rio de Janeiro (Schlee, 2017). Furthermore, the integration of cultural heritage into smart city environments can enhance urban development by leveraging synergies between different objectives, such as sustainable transport management and cultural promotion (Angelidou & Stylianidis, 2020). Moreover, the regeneration of historic urban landscapes through bottom-up actions, like the urban seeding process in Rijeka, demonstrates how heritage assets can be revitalized by creating cultural corridors that connect various heritage sites (Acri et al., 2021). Understanding the local characters and values of Chinese ethnic settlements in areas like Chinatown in Malang provides insights into the preservation of unique heritage elements within Javanese cities (Wulandari et al., 2023).

In the assessment of heritage city structuring and preservation programs, the importance of protecting ancient manuscripts and cultural reserves within cities is highlighted as a critical aspect of heritage conservation in Indonesia (Hakim & Ahmad, 2022). Additionally, the morphology of traditional city centers in Semarang and the adaptive reuse of urban heritage areas underscore the significance of preserving Javanese city patterns and waterfront cities to maintain authenticity and cultural identity (Rukayah et al., 2016). The development and preservation of heritage zones in Javanese cities require a multifaceted approach that integrates cultural tourism, community engagement, buffer zone strategies,



smart city initiatives, and bottom-up regeneration processes to ensure the sustainable conservation and promotion of cultural heritage in the region.

To illustrate the multifaceted nature of heritage zones in Java, it is essential to explore the distinct characteristics that define these areas within different Javanese cities. Each city presents a unique narrative shaped by its historical, cultural, and architectural layers. These layers are manifest in the division of heritage zones that reflect not only the indigenous Javanese culture but also the influences of Dutch, Chinese, and Malay communities. This diversity is pivotal in understanding how each heritage zone contributes to the city's overall authenticity and presents specific conservation challenges and opportunities. Table 2 below, provides a comparative overview of these heritage zones across four case cities—Yogyakarta, Semarang, Surabaya, and Jakarta—highlighting their key characteristics and the cultural interplay that defines each zone.

**Table 2.** Heritage Zones in Four Case Cities in Java

City	Javanese Zone Characteristics	Dutch Zone Characteristics	Chinese Zone Characteristics	Malay Zone Characteristics
Yogyakarta	Predominantly features traditional Javanese architecture, such as Keraton (Royal Palace) and traditional markets. Strong emphasis on preserving Javanese culture and arts like batik and wayang performances.	Limited, mainly seen in older colonial structures integrated within the city, used now as museums or government buildings.	Small enclaves particularly in areas like Kotagede, known for silversmithing. Influences seen in the fusion of architectural styles.	Not prominently featured in Yogyakarta's heritage conservation areas.
Semarang	Areas around the Old City reflect a blend of Javanese and colonial influences, with traditional markets and residential areas preserving Javanese cultural practices.	Well-preserved in the Old Town (Kota Lama) area, featuring Dutch colonial buildings that now serve as cafes, museums, and commercial spaces.	Prominent in Chinatown (Pecinan) with distinct red and gold tones in architecture, temples, and markets emphasizing traditional Chinese crafts and foods.	Less distinct but present in cultural festivals and culinary influences throughout the city, reflecting historical trade and migration patterns.
Surabaya	Focus on modern Javanese business and residential districts, with cultural centers promoting Javanese dance, music, and puppetry.	Historical buildings in the city center, such as the House of Sampoerna, now a museum showcasing Surabaya's colonial past.	Large and active community with significant contributions to the city's commerce and culture, especially visible in the Ampel area with shops and temples.	Malay heritage subtly incorporated in coastal areas, influencing the maritime and fishing industries and local culinary traditions.
Jakarta	Less emphasis on Javanese zones, with a more cosmopolitan approach, but cultural performances and institutions still present.	Numerous examples, especially in Menteng, which houses many colonial mansions turned into government or private use.	Very influential in areas like Glodok, one of the oldest and largest Chinatowns in the country, featuring a vibrant mix of commerce, culture, and temples.	Evident in the historic port area of Sunda Kelapa, where traditional Malay culture is celebrated through music, dance, and the annual harbor festival.

Source: Author, 2024

The comparative analysis presented in Table 2 above underscores the rich tapestry of cultural influences that shape the heritage zones in Java's major cities. These zones, with their distinct characteristics, play a significant role in defining the authenticity and heritage value of each city. As seen, the preservation of these zones involves a delicate balance between maintaining traditional cultural expressions and accommodating the influences of various ethnic and colonial heritages. The interplay of these diverse cultural elements within urban settings not only enriches the heritage landscape but also poses unique challenges for conservation efforts. The following sections will delve deeper into these challenges, examining the strategies employed by local stakeholders to navigate the complexities of heritage conservation in a modern urban context.

The preservation of authenticity in heritage cities is not only a matter of conserving physical structures but also involves the nuanced understanding of theoretical frameworks that define what authenticity means in these contexts. Theories of authenticity, whether constructivism, existential, objective, or postmodern, offer different lenses through which the impact of physical and visual borders can be assessed. These theoretical perspectives are crucial in shaping the conservation strategies and urban planning in Javanese cities. Table 3 below, outlines how these theories intersect with the physical and visual elements that define the spaces within these cities, and how they resonate with traditional Javanese urban concepts.

**Table 3.** Interaction of Theories of Authenticity, Impact of Physical and Visual Borders, and Javanese City Concepts

Theories of Authenticity	Impact of Physical Borders	Impact of Visual Borders	Javanese City Concept
Constructivist	Enhances perceived authenticity by demarcating "pure" heritage areas from modern interventions.	Visual cues like traditional facades and signage reinforce the historical narrative and cultural identity.	Emphasizes the integration of modern and traditional elements, promoting a harmonious blend that respects historical layers.
Existential	Physical borders can create an exclusive space that allows for personal and deeper connections with the heritage, fostering a sense of belonging and authenticity.	The aesthetic harmony of visual elements with the natural environment enhances the spiritual and experiential quality of heritage sites.	Focuses on spiritual and psychological well-being by maintaining sacred spaces and traditional design principles.
Objective	Physical conservation efforts ensure the material preservation of heritage artifacts and buildings, considered authentic due to their age and provenance.	Maintaining original colors, materials, and designs is crucial for upholding the 'objective' historical accuracy of sites.	Preserves ancient city layouts and architectural styles, such as the Kraton (palace) which is often the core of the city's design, reflecting historical continuity.
Postmodern	Challenges the idea of static authenticity, using physical borders to highlight contrasts between old and new, thus creating a dynamic narrative.	Visual borders are used to juxtapose different eras and styles, encouraging visitors to question and reinterpret heritage meanings.	Adopts a flexible approach to urban design, incorporating eclectic elements that reflect a multi-layered history and diverse cultural influences.

Source: Author 2024

The analysis provided in Table 3 above reveals the complex and dynamic ways in which theories of authenticity interact with the physical and visual borders within Javanese urban heritage contexts. These interactions underscore the importance of a multidisciplinary approach in heritage conservation, one that considers not only the tangible aspects of heritage but also the intangible qualities that define the spirit of a place. As we move forward, understanding these theoretical underpinnings will be crucial in crafting policies and practices that respect both the historical significance and the living culture of Java's urban landscapes. The subsequent sections will explore specific case studies, demonstrating how these theories and concepts are applied in real-world scenarios to maintain the authenticity of Javanese heritage cities.

The unique character of Javanese cities is deeply influenced by specific elements that embody local authenticity. These elements, ranging from architectural styles to cultural practices and urban planning, are critical in preserving the cultural identity and historical continuity of these regions. Each element plays a pivotal role in maintaining the essence of Javanese tradition amidst the pressures of urban development and globalization. Table 4 below presents an overview of these authentic elements, categorizing them into distinct types that collectively define the urban and cultural landscape of Javanese cities. This classification helps in understanding how tangible and intangible heritage components are integrated to sustain the authentic character of these cities.

**Table 4.** Elements of Javanese Authenticity in City Design

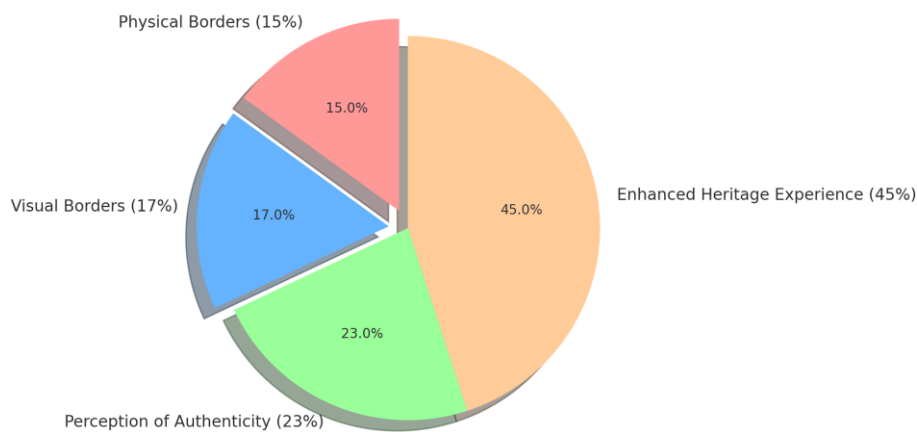
Element Type	Features	Description	Examples
Architectural	Traditional Javanese architecture	Incorporates design principles like joglo and limasan roofs, open-air pavilions (pendopo), and intricate wood carvings.	Kratons in Yogyakarta and Surakarta, traditional marketplaces like Pasar Beringharjo.
Cultural Practices	Javanese rituals and ceremonies	Key cultural elements include Wayang performances, Javanese dance, batik making, and ceremonial observances tied to local beliefs and the Javanese calendar.	Sekaten festival in Yogyakarta, Wayang Kulit shows, Royal Weddings in Keraton.
Urban Planning	Gambiranom layout	The city layout often centers around the royal palace (kraton), radiating outwards and structured to reflect Javanese cosmology and social hierarchy.	Historical layouts of Yogyakarta and Surakarta, with the Kraton as the epicenter.
Green Spaces	Traditional gardens and water features	Emphasis on integrating nature within the urban environment, with gardens that follow traditional aesthetic guidelines and include water elements like small lakes and rivers.	Taman Sari Water Castle in Yogyakarta, Alun-alun greens in central Java cities.
Public Spaces	Alun-alun	Central public squares that are traditionally grassy, bordered by banyan trees, and serve as communal gathering places for social and religious activities.	Alun-alun Utara and Alun-alun Selatan in Yogyakarta, similar spaces in other Javanese cities.

*Source: Author 2024*

As detailed in Table 4 above, the authenticity of Javanese cities is a composite of multiple layers, each contributing to the overall cultural narrative and heritage experience. These elements not only serve as physical manifestations of Javanese cultural identity but also as living practices that continue to engage and influence both residents and visitors. The

continued relevance and preservation of these elements are crucial for sustaining the cultural vitality of Java's urban centers. The following sections will discuss the challenges faced in preserving these authentic elements in the face of urban expansion and modernization pressures, as well as the strategies employed by local stakeholders to address these challenges effectively.

In the study of heritage conservation, particularly within densely urbanized regions such as Java's major cities, understanding the roles of physical and visual borders is crucial. Physical borders, which include architectural styles and protective barriers, serve as tangible demarcations that preserve the historical integrity of sites. Visual borders, encompassing landscaping and thematic aesthetic elements, play into the sensory perception of visitors, enhancing the authenticity felt during their visits. Both types of borders contribute significantly to the perceived authenticity of heritage sites, which in turn, deeply influences visitor experiences and the broader public's connection to historical narratives, see Figure 2 below.



**Figure 2.** Impact of Physical and Visual Borders on Heritage Authenticity.

*Source: Author, 2024*

The conceptual model illustrated in the figure 2 above serves as a foundation to examine how heritage conservation strategies are being applied in specific Javanese cities like Yogyakarta, Semarang, Surabaya, and Jakarta. Each of these cities, with their unique historical and cultural contexts, has implemented a range of physical and visual borders that shape the authenticity and subsequent public perception of their heritage sites.

Figure 2 above reflects the specific percentages for each component involved in heritage authenticity and experience enhancement, using 94 respondents in all cities. This visualization helps to illustrate the relative importance of each element in contributing to the successful conservation and appreciation of heritage sites.

1. Physical Borders (15%): This percentage represents the impact of tangible elements like architecture and spatial organization on the overall perception of authenticity.
2. Visual Borders (17%): These are aesthetic and sensory elements that enhance the authenticity from a visual standpoint, slightly more influential than physical borders.

3. Perception of Authenticity (23%): This larger slice underscores the significance of how authenticity is perceived by visitors and locals, driven by both physical and visual borders.
4. Enhanced Heritage Experience (45%): The largest portion, indicating that the combined effect of well-maintained borders and authenticity perception significantly enhances the overall heritage experience.

In Yogyakarta, the preservation of physical borders is evident in the maintenance of royal structures such as the Kraton, which not only serves as a direct link to the city's historical narrative but also as a symbol of Javanese cultural identity. Visual borders are maintained through the preservation of traditional arts and crafts that are displayed and performed within these heritage zones. This blend of physical and visual cues helps maintain a high level of authenticity, enhancing both local and tourist engagements with the site.

Moving to Semarang, the city has creatively integrated its colonial architecture into the modern urban landscape, turning historical buildings into functional spaces for businesses and cultural activities. This approach to visual borders provides a tangible connection to the past while supporting contemporary use, thus sustaining the buildings' relevance and ensuring their preservation. The physical borders in Semarang are also highlighted by well-defined urban planning that protects these historical precincts from encroaching modern developments.

In Surabaya, the emphasis is on integrating heritage into the bustling modern city. The conservation strategies here often involve adapting heritage sites to new roles, such as converting old factories into museums or cultural venues. This practical approach to physical borders ensures the structures' preservation by embedding them in the city's daily life, while the visual aspects are maintained through curated exhibitions and the conservation of architectural styles.

Jakarta presents a dynamic blend of old and new, where large-scale heritage zones like Kota Tua are managed to function as vibrant parts of the urban fabric rather than static museum pieces. The physical borders here are rigorously managed to withstand the pressures of being in a rapidly developing capital, and the visual borders are carefully designed to narrate Jakarta's rich history through preserved buildings and planned urban aesthetics.

In each of these cases, the interaction between physical and visual borders plays a critical role in how authenticity is perceived and experienced. The strategic use of these borders not only helps in conserving physical structures but also in creating a meaningful heritage experience that resonates with both residents and visitors, thereby fostering a deeper connection with the city's historical and cultural identity.

## **CONCLUSION**

The exploration of visual and physical borders within the heritage sites of Java has revealed significant insights into the complexities of preserving cultural authenticity amidst urban development. The case studies from Yogyakarta, Semarang, Surabaya, and Jakarta, illustrated through Figure 1, showcase not only the diversity of architectural and cultural heritage across Java but also highlight the varied approaches these cities employ to manage

and conserve their historical landscapes. Yogyakarta's preservation efforts, centered around its royal structures and traditional Javanese culture, underscore the importance of maintaining physical and visual continuity with the past. This approach helps to foster a deep, inherent connection between the city's residents and their heritage, ensuring that conservation efforts are deeply rooted in local values and traditions.

In contrast, Semarang and Surabaya demonstrate how colonial legacies can be integrated into the modern urban fabric through adaptive reuse and thoughtful urban planning. These cities use physical borders, such as restored colonial buildings and public squares, to create visual narratives that engage both locals and tourists, illustrating the potential for historical structures to serve contemporary needs while preserving their historical essence. Jakarta's Kota Tua area serves as a prime example of how large-scale heritage zones can function as active, lived-in parts of the city rather than static museum pieces. The management of this area shows the potential of visual and physical borders to delineate spaces that are both historically significant and vibrant hubs of daily activity.

These case studies collectively indicate that successful heritage conservation is not merely about preserving physical structures or maintaining aesthetic standards but involves embedding heritage within the social and cultural practices of the community. The physical and visual borders discussed in this paper serve multiple purposes: they protect against the encroachment of modern development, highlight the unique histories of each locale, and provide a framework within which contemporary and historical narratives can coexist and enrich each other. The implications of these findings for heritage conservation are profound. They suggest that policymakers and conservationists must consider a holistic approach that respects and utilizes physical and visual borders to enhance the authenticity and vitality of heritage sites. As Java continues to modernize, the challenge will be to maintain these borders in ways that respect the past while accommodating the inevitable changes of the future. This balance is essential not only for preserving historical authenticity but also for ensuring that heritage sites remain relevant and meaningful to future generations.

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