

Exploring Symbols In Jakarta Cathedral Through Creative Media Documentation

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ABSTRACT

The post-Covid-19 transition period has had a significant impact on the creative industry, where creative industry people are increasingly utilizing digital platforms to promote content to audiences or the general public. This can be used as a medium to provide education and knowledge to audiences or the public about historical heritage buildings in Indonesia, one of which is the Santa Maria Diangkat ke Surga Cathedral Church in Jakarta. Santa Maria Diangkat ke Surga Cathedral Church is one of the historical buildings protected by the Indonesian Government since 1993. This building has many symbols in its interior and exterior that carry different meanings and roles, representing the values of the Catholic religion and culture. This building is a historical heritage that needs to be preserved and protected, requiring the participation of the wider community. Therefore, it is the responsibility of people in the creative industry to provide education to the public through existing digital platforms.

Keywords: *creative industry; cathedral; symbol*

INTRODUCTION

Background

Post-covid, the creative industry has experienced significant impacts and the condition of the creative industry has become increasingly active over time (Fitriana, et al., 2014). The post-pandemic changes have resulted in many new opportunities and challenges. Limited physical activities and public events due to the pandemic have led the creative industry to adopt digital solutions such as using online platforms for virtual exhibitions, digital performances, visual learning tools, and more. The creative industry produces content and utilizes social media as a platform to disseminate that content, reaching a wider audience. The current

increase in social media usage has become a tool for promoting various things such as tourist destinations, up-to-date information, restaurants, and more. Due to easy access, it provides convenience for everyone to access information about the history of a building, etc. Online platform is already used by many people. As a designer, online platforms often can be used as a place to put our portfolio and display some of their work. These showcase can be a chance for designers to reach more potential clients and it can open up opportunities to collaborate with fellow designers. Often times common people used online platforms as a place to do online shopping, online shopping helps people to buy things that they can't easily get in their place they are from or sometimes people don't have time to buy it in the offline store. Common people can post or create a content that they are interested in to express their passion creatively and posted it on the online platforms such as Tiktok, Youtube, etc. Online platforms can gather people that interested in the same topic through algorithms that automatically create in the app.

Through a content people can gather some new information whether it's a news local cafe openings, or upcoming exhibitions, etc. Online platforms can be used as a media to learning sources to enhance people knowledge and skills in diverse areas. This can be beneficial to augment their design capabilities. This can be an opportunity to provide education and knowledge to audiences or the public about the historical buildings in Indonesia, one of which is Jakarta Cathedral. The church was inaugurated on December 7, 1901. The church has a capacity of approximately 1,000 people. Red bricks combined with stone decorations, including sculptures and carvings depicting symbols of religious elements, serve as the main building materials for the church. Religious symbols are interpreted as revered signs in various forms according to the culture and beliefs of each religion (Wahab, 2011). The interior and exterior symbols in Jakarta Cathedral have different meanings and roles but all represent Catholicism and its teachings. The symbolic elements in the cathedral also serve as a visual and indirect means of communication among the congregation, such as statues, window patterns, carvings, etc. Symbols such as carvings and statues in Jakarta Cathedral have stood since 1901 until now, therefore, to preserve and protect the historical building, it is necessary to increase exposure on social media or other online platforms. Documenting the symbols in Jakarta Cathedral would be essential to assist the creative industry in preserving historical buildings and educating the wider community.

Literature Reviews

Creative Industry is an industry where every day there is constant development and new innovations. The Creative Industry plays an important role in developing media, one of which is social media, which has seen an increase in internet users recently, with nearly 77% of the Indonesian population using the internet, according to Muhammad Arif (2022). Online media platforms are used to showcase ideas, content, etc., and serve as a means of self-branding exposure. Social media can be utilized as a tool to reach out to the public in terms of education. One example is utilizing it as a medium for educating people about historical and protected buildings, etc. Therefore, there is a need for the involvement of creative industry players in creating educational content so that people can easily access knowledge and insights through existing online platforms. One of the protected buildings is the Jakarta Cathedral. The symbols that form part of the church hold significant meanings and tell stories within the teachings of a religion. Hence, it is necessary to protect and cultivate them.

Research Questions

1. How has the development of the creative industry been during the post-pandemic period?
2. What are the symbols present inside Jakarta Cathedral?
3. How can we utilize online platforms to educate the community?

Purpose of Study

1. To understand the development of the creative industry after the post-pandemic period.
2. Providing knowledge about the symbols and their meanings present in Jakarta Cathedral through church documentation.
3. Providing ways to utilize online platforms as a means to share educational content with the community.

METHOD

This research method uses a qualitative approach. Qualitative research focuses on gaining an understanding of social issues based on realistic conditions or natural settings that are holistic, complex, and detailed (Fadli, 2021). Qualitative research is aimed at describing a phenomenon that exists. The goal of descriptive research is to provide a comprehensive and detailed description of the observed phenomenon. To support this research, the researcher undertook an exploration visit and gather symbols documentations that available at Jakarta Cathedral. These observations were conducted to provide more detailed information about the symbols within the church and to enhance the researcher's field data. In the relations to the research topic about church symbol, the researcher focused on gathering on factual and historical information about the church, with the aim to attaining optimal research results.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Creative Industry

The creative industry is the future industry that relies on human creativity (Simatupang, 2007). The development in the creative industry, which is constantly growing, has a significant impact on society, especially during the pandemic. The pandemic has shifted many activities, including the limitation of physical gatherings. This has resulted in all activities shifting online, and there has been an increase in internet users compared to previous years. According to Muhammad Arif (2022), approximately 77 percent of the Indonesian population now uses the internet. Most creative industry activities have also transitioned online to avoid direct contact. This situation has required the creative industry to innovate and adapt to the circumstances.

Creative Media Industry Development During Post Covid

The creative media industry has undergone significant changes and adaptations in the post covid era. Digital transformation brings many creative industry such as film, music, and live events turned into online platforms to reach more of their audiences. Online platforms used as a media to create a virtual events, livestreamed concerts, and online film. There is no

limitations time and people can access livestreams whenever they want. In online platforms like TikTok, Youtube, Instagram, etc., these apps usually arrange users homepage recommendations using algorithm. An algorithm is a way of sorting posts in a user's feed based on relevance instead of their publication time (Barnhart, 2021). Algorithm will analyze user data and behavior, such as preferences, previous interactions, and viewed content, and after analyzing, the algorithm will search for similar content that the user might like. Algorithm exist to gather people with the same interests easily. With this, it can often automatically create new communities, that's why nowadays, people find it easier to discover someone with the same interests/hobbies, and the targeted audience for the content will accurately reach the right individuals homepages. This also applies to the creative industry, where industry people will find the right target clients who have the same style more easily. A seller can build a relationship with their consumers because on social media, interactions between buyers and sellers are easier and faster (Prasetyo, 2018). Moreover nowadays artist can explore their preferred styles and gain some knowledge about various things like what's on trends or skills that related to their job through online platforms without limitations.

How To Utilize Online Platforms To Educate The Community

As the first step to educate community is to identify target audience by understanding their needs, interests, and what methods that the audience preferred in online platforms. Choosing the right platforms is crucial, as this ensures that the chosen platforms align with the needs and preferences of the community. Not only that, planning the content strategy and following the current trends can help attract a broader audience. Social media is platforms that also can be used to share bit sized educational content, some fun facts, or short video that catch the audience's attention. This approach not only makes the educational content more fun and enjoyable but also enhances accessibility for a wider range of individuals. Social media often promotes many recommended places for tourism while also educating people about the history and fun facts about buildings, it can also be utilized to educate the community, especially in the field of history. This is expected to help the public appreciate and preserve historical heritage, particularly history buildings.

Symbol in Jakarta Cathedral Church

A symbol is an image whose figurative meaning is much deeper than its literal one (Glatch, 2022). A symbol is a sign that represents a meaning, significance, or symbolizes something. Symbols are one of the elements that cannot be separated from everyday human life (Manusama, Y.M., Raming, R.R., Pamantung, R.P. (2019)). Religious symbols are often used within a religion to serve as reminders of the teachings of that religion, ensuring that every believer remains obedient in all aspects. Furthermore, symbols are frequently utilized as integral components of worship or religious rituals. Religious symbols serve as the identity of a particular religion. They can represent the history, culture, and faith of a religion. Symbols are commonly used in various contexts, such as the cross sign found in a church, where the cross symbolizes the sacrifice of Jesus. In the Catholic Church, many carvings and sculptures are often found, which contain spiritual, sacred, and ritualistic values. Here are some carvings and sculptures found in Jakarta Cathedral:



Picture 1. Rose-shaped glass

Source : Personal Documentation

- Rose-shaped glass: named Roseta/Rosa Mistica symbol of Mother Mary the location of the glass window is right in the middle of the church, and sun light stremed through the window and lights up the church.



Picture 2. Tower of David's fortress and Ivory Tower

Source : Personal Documentation

- Tower of David's fortress on the left: symbolizes the Virgin Mary protecting humans from the powers of darkness.
- Ivory Tower on the right: symbolizes the sanctity of the Virgin Mary.

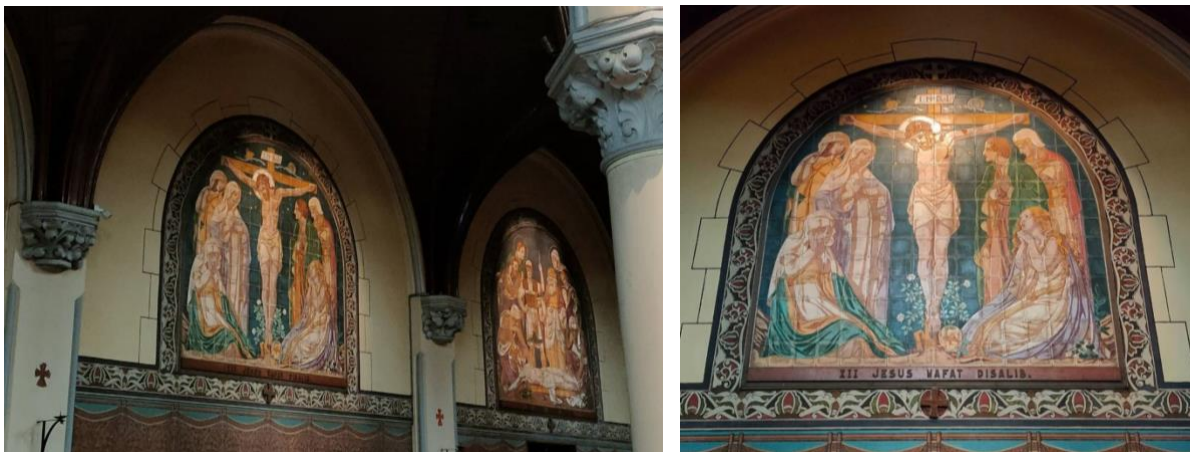
As in the picture, the building in the left and the right has different shape and creates asymmetrical shape in the exterior of the building.

- Carving of the Lord Jesus preaching on the hill, this was seen in a platform that the church used to when the priest is preaching inside of the church, in the old days there aren't any sound system so the platform can reflect sound manually.



Picture 3. Carving of the Lord Jesus preaching on the hill

Source : Personal Documentation



Picture 4. Jesus' journey when crucified

Source : Personal Documentation

- Jesus' journey when crucified: The wall represented the story from the beginning of Jesus journey when He was crucified until the end. This artwork is painted on tiles and done by Dutch artist.



Picture 5. Statue The Virgin Mary

Source : Personal Documentation

- Statue The Virgin Mary: Mediator to Christ for all children who come to ask for His mercy.



Picture 6. Virgin Mary receiving her lifeless son

Source : Personal Documentation

- Inspired by the Pietà statue, which took the example of the vesperale image, the main motive of the vesperale image is the scenario of the Jesus body from the Cross, which depicts the Virgin Mary receiving her lifeless Son. In memory of Jesus death at Golgotha.

CONCLUSION

The creative industry in the post-pandemic era has undergone significant changes. From offline presentation methods, it has shifted to online platforms, and every player in the creative industry is required to adapt to these changes. As a participant in the creative industry, an online platform is needed to make it easier for people to access portfolios. Social media has become one of the means to showcase portfolios, ideas, and content, reaching a wider audience. The creative industry has the potential to preserve culture and promote historical buildings through various efforts, one of which is creating video documentation that can be uploaded to online platforms like YouTube, TikTok, and etc. Making a short reels about some unique fun facts that the audience can only finds in the historical buildings, and consistently update about new information related to the historical buildings and to make audience aware that the historical buildings is also actively engaging on social media platforms to providing broader exposure to historical buildings such as Jakarta Cathedral to the public. By presenting educational content, the creative industry has played a role in raising public awareness of the importance of preserving cultural heritage and historical buildings. One of these historical buildings is Jakarta Cathedral. Therefore, the creative industry can seize this opportunity to help introduce Jakarta Cathedral in more detail. Documentation on the symbolic elements present in Jakarta Cathedral can assist the public in education and broaden their knowledge about historical buildings.

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