



# Jurnal Arsitektur Zonasi

Journal homepage:

<https://ejournal.upi.edu/index.php/jaz>



## The Philosophy of the Joglo House

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### ABSTRACT

*Traditional buildings in Indonesia have various forms and philosophies adopted, one of which is the Joglo House which is popular in the Central Java region, D.I. Yogyakarta and East Java. Joglo houses in the past could be differentiated between ordinary people and nobles. The Joglo house of the nobility was adopted from the palace building which consists of several buildings, including: Pendopo, Pringgitan, Teras, Omah Njero, Senthong Kiwa, Senthong Tengah, Senthong Tengen and Gandhok. Each building or room has its own function. The Joglo house for ordinary people is simpler, namely combining Pendopo, Omah Njero and Senthong into one building. Meanwhile, Gandhok is usually separate. This is due to limited land and number of residents. Structurally, the building for Joglo houses for nobles and the public has similarities in the use of the main structure in the middle of the building in the form of 4 (four) main columns called Soko Guru. The Soko Guru supports the main roof of the building. Apart from that, there is Soko Penunjung which is located around and symmetrical to Soko Guru. Philosophically, the building form or structure of the Joglo building is divided into 3 main parts, namely the Umpak as the legs, Soko Guru or Soko Penanggaran as the body and the roof as the head.*

### ARTICLE INFO

#### Article History:

Submitted/Received 18 Nov 2024

First Revised 20 December 2024

Accepted 4 January 2025

First Available online 1 Feb 2025

Publication Date 1 Feb 2025

#### Keyword:

Joglo

traditional building

## 1. INTRODUCTION

One of the most popular traditional Javanese building styles is the Joglo. Joglo is not only popular in Central Java, Yogyakarta, and East Java, but has also spread to other regions. Many people outside of Central Java, Yogyakarta, and East Java adopt this building concept due to its unique and ethnic appeal.



Figure 1. Division of Joglo Houses

In terms of appearance, the Joglo building has a philosophy related to nature, where the material used in the foot or base is solid stone carved into the shape of an equilateral trapezium, cylinder and cube.

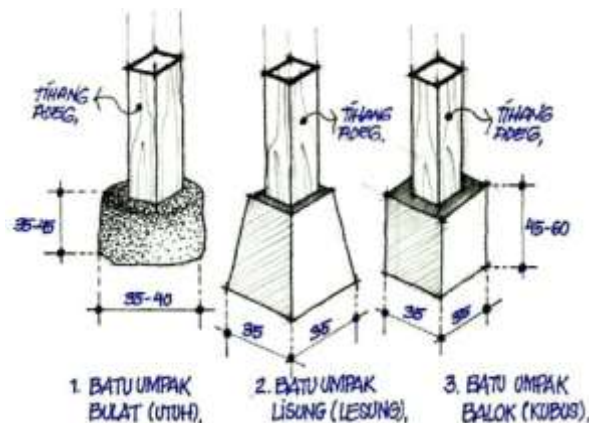


Figure 2. Umpak on a Joglo as the base of the building

Source: Sketch 2024

For the body, whole wood from tree trunks is used, cut into blocks with dimensions adjusted to requirements.



Figure 3. Wooden beams as the building body

Source: Google

Meanwhile, the roof section is philosophical, like a mountain towering in the clouds, signifying the head of the building.



Figure 4. The roof of a Joglo building as the head of the building  
Source: Google

## 2. RESEARCH METHODS

Based on the objective of this research, which is to understand the concept of the Joglo building based on the philosophy used. The methodology used in relation to the objects observed in the study of philosophy includes :

1. Collecting literature related to Javanese cultural philosophy.
2. Collecting literature about Joglo buildings.
3. Conducting an analysis of Joglo buildings in relation to philosophy
4. Making conclusions from the analysis results.



Figure 5. Research methods

The method used in observing the Joglo House Object is to analyze the observation object based on theories about the Joglo House taken from journals, books or articles that discuss the Joglo House.

## 3. DATA AND ANALYSIS OF JOGLO HOUSES

### 3.1 Characteristics of Joglo House

Historically, the Joglo house has the potential to become a cultural heritage site that must be preserved and is a legacy of our ancestors. The characteristics of the Joglo house can be explained as follows :

#### 1. Roof Shape

The roof of a Joglo house is a very prominent feature, with a four-sided square shape that tapers in the center but not to a point. The roof is supported at the base by four pillars called

Soko Guru (the soko guru). The soko guru is supported by a large, round, trapezoidal, or cube-shaped stone called Umpak.

## 2. Main door position

The main door in a Joglo building is usually located in the center, signifying balance. Typically, the main door consists of two doors, located on the left and right sides.

## 3. Terrace

The terrace of a Joglo house is located at the front, is quite spacious and has no partitions. It functions as a place for interaction. (Subiyantoro, 2011)

### 3.2 The Philosophy of the Joglo House

The Joglo traditional house has a philosophy: the Joglo House is made up of two words: Tanjung/Tajug and Loro, which, when combined, become Dua Tajug. Tajug is a roof shape that resembles a pyramid.

According to Javanese society, the Tajug resembles a mountain. Mountains in Javanese culture are considered a majestic and sacred place. Therefore, the Joglo roof is stylized as a towering mountain, which can be interpreted as a "head." The walls and pillars are made of wood grown above the ground, acting as the building's body. The base is made of stone sourced from underground. The two doors in the center, like a butterfly, symbolize continued flight, growth, and striving to provide for the extended family.

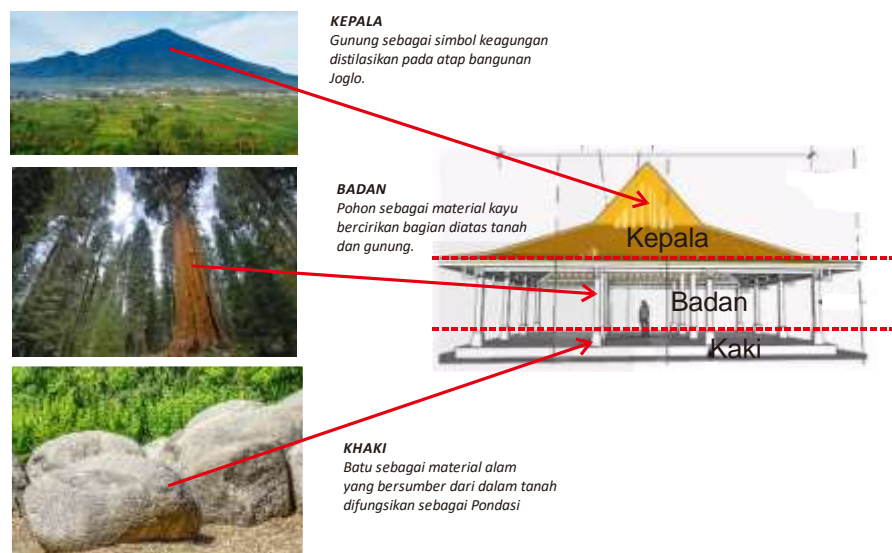


Figure 6. The Material Philosophy of the Joglo House  
Source: Analysis

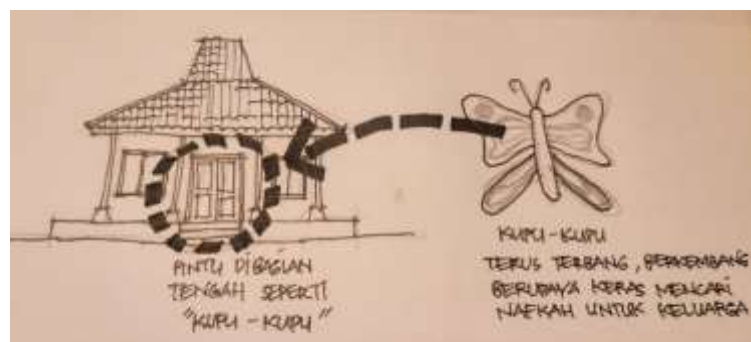


Figure 7. The Butterfly-Like Door Philosophy  
Source: Analysis

The terrace of a Joglo house for ordinary people is at the front of the building, the terrace is quite spacious and has no partitions, usually this place is used for social gatherings and social interaction with the community.

### 3.3 Joglo House for the Nobility

The Joglo houses of the nobility are certainly different from those of the common people. The Joglo houses of the nobility refer to palace buildings, whether Kasunanan Palace, Sultanate Palace, Mangkunegaran Palace, or Pakualaman Palace.

In general, Joglo houses, designed for nobility, have quite extensive grounds, as the rooms or structures are separated by function. The following is a floor plan of a Joglo house for nobility, which can be seen in the image below.

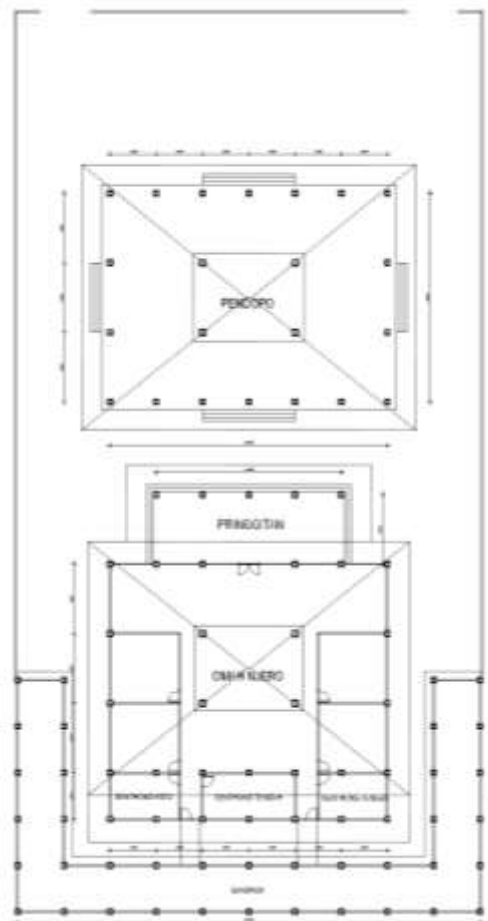


Figure 8. Floor Plan of a Joglo House of the Aristocracy

Source: Sketch 2024

Part of the Joglo House building for the nobility (Hilba Yoga Pratama & Agung Budi Sardjono, 2023) are as follows :

1. Hall

The Pendopo is located at the front of the building. The Pendopo in a Joglo house is used for formal activities, such as traditional ceremonies, discussions and so on. The Pendopo is a formal public space.

2. Pringgitan

The Pringgitan serves as a connecting space between the Pendopo and the Omah Njero (house). It functions as a venue for arts performances. It is a semi-public space..

### 3. Emperan

The emperan is in front of Omah Njero, and functions as a place to receive guests, a relaxing area or for other general activities.

### 4. Omah Njero

Omah Njero is a private residence where residents carry out their activities.

### 5. Senthong Kiwo

Senthong Kiwo is divided into several rooms which function as bedrooms and storage rooms, and are private.

### 6. Senthong Tengah

Central Senthong functions as a place to place heirloom objects, a place to meditate or pray.

### 7. Senthong Tengen

Senthong Tengen has the same function as Senthong Kiwo as a storage area and rooms.

### 8. Gandhok

Gandhok are additional spaces behind and beside the main building. Their main function is as a service area.

The elements of the Joglo house each have their own names, for more details please see the image below ( Santosa, et al., 2020).



Figure 9. Elements of a Joglo House  
Source: Sketch 2024

## 3.4 Joglo House for Ordinary People

The Joglo house for ordinary people is essentially the same as the Joglo house for the nobility, but simplified to include only certain necessary spaces. In Joglo houses, the Pendopo and Pringgitan are usually not provided, as they are not essential. However, the Omah Njero and Emperan/Tritisan are provided because they are necessary.

Within the Omah Njero, there are rooms consisting of the Senthong Kiwo, Senthong Tengah, and Senthong Tengen. Similar to Joglo houses for the nobility, these rooms function as storage areas or bedrooms. The Senthong Tengah serves as a place for heirlooms, rice and agricultural produce, and a place for prayer..

Below you can see a floor plan for a Joglo building for ordinary people. However, the shape and components of the Joglo are still the same as those for nobles or palaces.



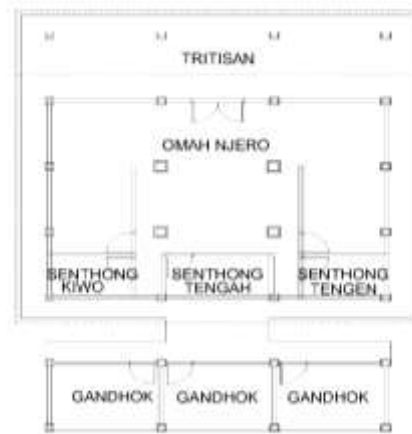


Figure 10. Joglo House Plan for the Community

Source: Sketch 2024

In general, modern Joglo houses in the Senthong Tengah area are rarely used as storage for heirlooms or rice. Instead, they are often used as gathering areas, such as dining rooms or family rooms. This shift reflects changes in the times and the community's education level.

### 3.5 Types of Joglo Traditional Houses

There are several types or shapes of the Joglo traditional house, some of which are not widely known. Each type has its own distinct differences. A more detailed explanation is provided below :

#### A. Joglo Sinom Traditional House

The Sinom Joglo house has a surrounding terrace with another characteristic, namely the presence of 36 soko or pillars in the building and four of them are soko guru/main pillars. On the roof of the building there will be sides that can be divided into three levels of the building roof. The following is an example of a Joglo Sinom building (Susanto et al., 2022).



Figure 11. Examples of Sinom Joglo Houses

Source: Google

#### B. Joglo Limasan Traditional House

The distinctive feature of the Joglo Limasan house is its pyramid-shaped roof, with four sides at the top. The Joglo Limasan is well-known for its earthquake-resistant qualities. (Prihatmaji, 2007)(Kusyanto. M, 2024).



Figure 12. Example of a Limasan Joglo House

Source: Google

### C. Joglo Pangrawit Traditional House

The Joglo Pengrawit traditional house is characterized by a domed roof with hanging symbols. At the corners of the house are pillars or Soko.



Figure 13. Example of a Joglo Pangrawit House

Source: Google

### D. Joglo Jompongan Traditional House

The Joglo Jompongan house is characterized by a two-tiered roof with ridges extending to the left and right. Compared to other Joglo houses, the Joglo Jompongan appears simpler. The Joglo Jompongan's floor plan is square.



Figure 14. Example of a Joglo Jompongan House

Source: Google



#### E. Joglo Mangkurat Traditional House

The Joglo Mangkurat is characterized by its roof, which is divided into three sections with varying slopes. The middle section is higher. The Joglo Mangkurat building plan is rectangular.



Figure 15. Example of a Mangkurat Joglo House  
Source: Google

#### F. Joglo Hageng Traditional House

The Hangeng Joglo traditional house is characterized by its larger main roof compared to other joglo houses. Another characteristic is the surrounding tratag, which gives the building a more majestic appearance.



Figure 16. Example of Joglo Hageng  
Source: Google

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The Joglo traditional house is a cultural heritage site that must be preserved and taught to future generations about cultural heritage. Joglo buildings possess numerous philosophies that can be explored, including a philosophical connection to nature.

The philosophies that can be taken include :

1. **The foot** part is made of solid stone material carved into a cylinder, cube or trapezium shape and is used as a foundation attached to the ground and is called **Umpak**.
2. **The body** parts come from natural materials that grow above the ground, such as trees that are cut and ground into building columns, doors, windows and wooden walls (gebyok) that are arranged in such a way.
3. **The headboard** adapts the shape of a mountain towering in the clouds. The philosophy behind the Joglo building is that it conforms to the laws of nature. Furthermore, the central

door signifies the balance of life. The doors open to the left and right, resembling a butterfly flying in search of food and returning to its family.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

1. To the Honorable Dr. Sri Handayani, M.Pd., Lecturer of the Philosophy of Science Course in the Master of Architecture Program, Faculty of Engineering and Industrial Education, Indonesian University of Education.
2. Colleagues of the Master of Architecture Program, Class of 2024 who have provided support.
3. My beloved children and wife who have given me their encouragement and understanding.

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