

REDESIGN OF SANTA THERESIA CHURCH IN JAMBI THROUGH THE APPROACH OF JAMBI LOCAL WISDOM

ABSTRACT

Abstract:

The redesign of Santa Theresia Church in Jambi was carried out as a response to various existing issues, ranging from the limited capacity of the worship space—which can no longer accommodate the growing number of congregants—to the lack of supporting spaces for categorial and community activities, as well as poor acoustic quality that disrupts the solemnity of worship. Additionally, the deteriorating physical condition of the church building further emphasized the urgency of renovation. Based on interviews with church representatives and supervision from the Archdiocese of Palembang, the church is expected to become a new icon of the Catholic Church in Jambi, representing local identity through a local wisdom approach. Therefore, the redesign was carried out in a way that maintains the original identity of the church while refining the spatial layout, circulation, and acoustic performance. The design concept embraces the local wisdom of Jambi as the primary design approach, while also considering the historical context in which the church’s early congregation predominantly consisted of Javanese migrants. Thus, the proposed design integrates elements distinctive to Jambi—such as the roof form inspired by the traditional Kajang Lako house, the use of local materials like rotan manau (manau rattan), and symbolic values from Muaro Jambi Temple, which are reflected through vertical elements and the spiritual ambiance of the space. These components are harmoniously combined with Javanese cultural elements that have long shaped the liturgical and visual character of the church. This fusion is expected to create a worship space that is more familiar, sacred, and relevant to the current needs and cultural identity of the congregation.

Keywords: Church Design, Catholic Church, Local Wisdom, Sacred