



# Qualities in Architecture

Aida Kesuma Azmin



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# QUALITIES IN ARCHITECTURE

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# CULTURE AS A STRUCTURE: TRANSFORMATION, CHANGE AND EVOLUTION

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## ABSTRACT

Cultural evolution and stability largely depend on the strength of the persistence of society's worldviews to maintain the basic structure of its system. Therefore, in confronting the wave of change through time, culture as a system of transformation, have to be able to adapt, accommodate and transform (i.e. enrich the information in the existing system of) its society for the impending changes, particularly in the future development of urban dwellings and the built environment.

**Keywords:** Culture, Evolution, Change, Transformation, Synchronic, Diachronic, Cultural Ecology, surface structure, deep structure,

## INTRODUCTION

A structure is a system of transformation because it is driven by the innate tendency or force to move from simplicity to complexity, i.e. to a more sophisticated form, in which its nature is always evolving, enriching and transforming itself within the system, once there is a new input into the system. This indicates the characteristics of transformation within the structure. Piaget (1971) suggests that transformation is the process of change that is inherited in a structure and never leads beyond the system but always produces elements that belong to it and maintain its laws. As transformation entails structure, according to Hamidi (2003), he then suggests that structures and forms in the built environment need to evolve or develop in time, in order to retain a unity and maintain the coherence of the components at all stages of their growth. The absence of this leads to self-destruction (Ibid: 18). **Hence**, a structure is a process, a movement from one place to another. It can be predicted because there is historical knowledge from where it is coming from. It is inherent in the nature of structure, i.e., the system of transformation to enrich its relationships and its components, as indicated by Piaget (1971), all known structures are, without exception, systems of transformation.

## Transformation

Transformation is the enrichment of the existing (original) system. It increases the relationships, the components, and the interaction within the system. Transformation is predictable because it is govern by rules and one knows its origin. It is inherent in the nature