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Cirebon: A Residual of the “Cosmic”

[Urban-Architectural Forms of Historic Southeast Asia: The Littoral Cities](#) • Book Chapter • 2026 •

DOI: 10.4324/9781003470045-4

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Abstract

Old Cirebon City is positioned as the first historic city form posited within the orthogenetic end of the “pole” or range of littoral urban forms, mainly to its compact forms inherited from the gridded agrarian-based patterns of the Majapahit civilization and to a certain extent, the Mataram Kingdom. The “cosmic” form is positioned at the cosmological end of historic urban core form, in which an external form is positioned within the cultural landscape of the city, within which eco-urbanist inflections are evident by its cosmological redirection toward the Islamic direction of Qiblah. In terms of architectural forms, its fundamental tiered forms recall the earliest public forms made of timber-masonry, representing the “punctured” pavilions characteristic of the fundamental typology in the evolvement of historic architectural forms in the Nusantara. © 2026 Shireen Jahn Kassim and Illyani Ibrahim.

Indexed keywords

Engineering controlled terms

Architecture

Engineering uncontrolled terms

Cosmics; Cultural landscape; Historic city; Littorals; Urban core; Urban form

Engineering main heading

Cosmology

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Abstract

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