

= Taman Sari (Yogyakarta) =

Taman Sari also known as Taman Sari Water Castle is a site of a former royal garden of the Sultanate of Yogyakarta . It is located about 2 km south within the grounds of the Kraton , Yogyakarta , Indonesia . Built in mid 18th century , the Taman Sari had multiple functions , such as a resting area , a workshop , a meditation area , a defense area , and a hiding place .

Taman Sari consisted of four distinct areas : a large artificial lake with islands and pavilions located in the west , a bathing complex in the centre , a complex of pavilions and pools in the south , and a smaller lake in the east . Today only the central bathing complex is well preserved , while the other areas have been largely occupied by the Kampung Taman settlement .

Since 1995 the Yogyakarta Palace Complex including Taman Sari is listed as a tentative World Heritage Site .

= = Etymology = =

The name Taman Sari comes from the Javanese words taman , meaning a " garden " or " park " and sari , which means " beautiful " or " flowers " . Hence , the name Taman Sari means an area of a beautiful garden adorned with flowers . An old article described it as a " water castle " (Dutch : waterkasteel) ; as by shutting the watergates , the complex would be completely immersed in water , leaving tall structures standing out .

= = History = =

The building of Taman Sari commenced during the reign of Sultan Hamengkubuwono I (1755 ? 1792) , the first sultan of the Yogyakarta Sultanate , and was completed by the time of Sultan Hamengkubuwono II . The building site , however , had already been known as a bathing place called Pacethokan Spring since Sunan Amangkurat IV ? s reign (1719 ? 1726) . According to Kitab Mamana in Yogyakarta Kraton , the project leader for the construction of Taman Sari was Tumenggung Mangundipura . He had travelled twice to Batavia to learn about European architecture , which is the reason why the architecture of Taman Sari has marks of European style . The Regent of Madiun , Raden Ranga Prawirasentika , participated in funding the construction of Taman Sari . Prawirasentika also beseeched the Sultan to be relieved of Madiun 's tax obligation . He offered other alternative ways of payment . The Sultan accepted his proposal . In 1758 , the Sultan commanded the Regent to supervise the making of bricks and various complements , which would be used to build a beautiful garden . The sultan wanted a place where he could spend some time to relax after many years of wars that he had just experienced . Raden Tumenggung Mangundipura , under supervision of Raden Arya Natakusuma (who later became Sri Pakualam II) , was responsible for the construction . The building was started in 1684 Javanese year (1758 AD) . After finding out how large the complex was , Raden Ranga Prawirasentika realized that the cost would have been greater than the taxes . He resigned from the project and was replaced by Prince Natakusuma who continued the project to completion .

Taman Sari was built three years after the Giyanti Agreement as a resting place for Sultan Hamengkubuwono I. The complex consists of about 59 buildings including a mosque , meditation chambers , swimming pools , and a series of 18 water gardens and pavilions surrounded by artificial lakes . The complex was effectively used between 1765 ? 1812 .

The British invasion of the Yogyakarta Kraton saw considerable parts of the complex destroyed in 1812 .

The building of Taman Sari ended upon the completion of the gates and the walls . A sengkalang memet (a Javanese chronogram) on the western gate (Gedhong Gapura Hageng) marks the year with the Javanese words Lajering Kembang Sinesep Peksi , denoting the Javanese year of 1691 or about 1765 : lajering , " core " for 1 ; kembang , " flower " for 9 ; sinerep , " suck " or " drink " for 6 ; peksi , " bird " for 1 ; the sentence can be read as " birds gathering pollen of the flower " . The relief around this sengkalang memet shows birds siphoning honey from flowery trees .

The maintenance of Taman Sari was abandoned shortly after Hamengkubuwono I died , partly because the elaborate hydraulic works were so difficult to maintain . The gardens were neglected and the buildings suffered some damage during the Java War of 1825 ? 1830 .

The palace complex fell out of use following an earthquake in 1867 , which destroyed several buildings and drained the water features . Over time , squatters began to inhabit the site , surrounding the ruins of the deserted pavilions and filling the empty lakebeds .

In early 1970s , effort at restoration was made . Only the bathing complex has been completely restored .

= = = Demang Tegis = = =

The manuscript of Serat Rerenggan mentions the story of Demang Tegis , a Portuguese man said to be one of the architect of Taman Sari . According to the manuscript , a strange man suddenly appeared in Mancingan Village (a locality name on the south coast of Java near Parangtritis) . With long nose , white complexion , and a foreign language , the villagers suspected that the person was some kind of spirit or forest fairy . They presented him to the current sultan , Hamengkubuwono II . Apparently the sultan found interest in the person and took the strange man as his servant . Some years had passed and the man had finally learned to talk in Javanese . According to him , he was a Portuguese (or in Javanese , Portegis) who was stranded from a shipwreck . He also claimed to have been a housebuilder , so the sultan ordered him to erect a fortress . Satisfied by the man ' s work , the sultan gave him the title " demang . " From then on that person was known as Demang Portegis or Demang Tegis .

There is a controversy whether Demang Tegis was actually the architect of Taman Sari , as the design resembles a hybrid of Javanese and Dutch styles , rather than Portuguese . P.J. Veth , in Java ? Book III , page 631 wrote , " Local research says that [Taman Sari ' s architecture] was designed by either a Spanish or Portuguese engineer , who was stranded off his sunken ship at the southern beach . However , [the architecture] that strongly shows Javanese character contradicts this . " The evidence about Demang Tegis remains inconclusive , yet the architecture of Taman Sari moved a number of Portuguese experts on architecture and cultural heritage to examine the Taman Sari in 2001 .

The widespread assumption of European influence in the design of Taman Sari has been also challenged by the research of Hélène Njoto @-@ Feillard from the University of Pantheon @-@ Sorbonne , presented in a 2003 conference paper . Analysing the historic context and architectural style of the complex , the conclusion is that the creators are most likely local Javanese . The absence of any mention of European involvement in the construction of Taman Sari in Dutch historic descriptions is presented as further evidence in support of this hypothesis .

= = Buildings = =

Taman Sari can be divided into four areas . The first area is the artificial lake Segaran located in the west . The second area is a bathing complex in the south of the Segaran lake , called the Umbul Binangun bathing complex . The third area , now completely gone , is the Pasarean Ledok Sari and Garjitawati Pool , located in the south of the bathing complex . The fourth area is the east side of the first and second area , which extend far to the east and to the southeast complex of Magangan .

= = = The Segaran lake area = = =

The Segaran lake area was the main complex of the Taman Sari during its era . This complex consisted of a man @-@ made lake called Segaran (" artificial sea ") with some buildings located on artificial islands in the middle of a lake . The buildings are connected by an underwater tunnel . It was used as the starting point for the royal family to reach the Taman Sari pools via a vessel . Today , the Segaran lake cannot be seen any longer as the water had been drained and the lake bed is now filled with human settlements . The underwater tunnel , which is now underground after

the water had gone , still exist and can be accessed .

In the middle of Segaran was an artificial island known as Kenongo Island (Javanese Pulo Kenongo) . It was named after the cananga trees which once covered the island . On this island is a one @-@ storeyed structure called the Kenongo building (Javanese Gedhong Kenongo) , now in ruins .

On the south side of Kenongo Island is a row of small buildings called the Tajug . These buildings were originally used as air vents for the tunnel located below the lake . This underground tunnel , constructed in 1761 , was an alternative way to reach the Kenongo Island other than by a vessel . Also on the south side of the Kenongo Island is another artificial island called Cemethi Island (Javanese Pulo Cemethi) or Panembung Island (Javanese Pulo Panembung) . It is a one @-@ storeyed structure for the Sultan to meditate , or some said , a hiding place for the royal family during an attack . Another name for this island is Sumur Gumantung , because on the south side of this island is a well that hangs above the ground . This place could only be reached via the underwater tunnel . The building of Cemethi Island is now also in ruin . A legend says that there is a secret tunnel that connects the palace with the south sea (Indian Ocean) where Nyai Roro Kidul or the Queen of the South has her palace . The supernatural Queen becomes the spiritual wife of Yogyakarta Sultan for many generations .

On the west side of Kenongo Island is another one @-@ storeyed circular structure that forms another artificial island in the past called Gumuling Well (Sumur Gumuling) . These one @-@ storeyed building can only be entered via the underwater tunnel . The building was used as a mosque . A niche in the wall of this building was used as a mihrab . The central area of this building is an elevated platform where four staircases meet , and then from the platform , one staircase reach the first floor . On the ground level of this platform is a small pool that was used for Muslim ritual ablution .

= = = The bathing complex = = =

The second area is located on the south of the former artificial lake of Segaran . Even though this area was not the focal point of Taman Sari , it is the best preserved area in the complex and is currently the most popular tourist attraction . The area is accessed via two gates on the east and the west side , each of these gates leads to the center of the complex , first to an inner octagonal @-@ shaped courtyard on the east and the west , and then each of these courtyards leads to a central bathing complex in the center .

= = = = The gates = = = =

There are two gates that lead to the bathing complex , the western one called Gedhong Gapura Hageng and the eastern one called Gedhong Gapura Panggung . Both gates are decorated with ornaments of stylized birds and flowering foliages .

The west entrance , the Gedhong Gapura Hageng was formerly used as the main entrance to the bathing complex . The east facade of the gate is still visible today , but the west facade is blocked by settlements . The construction of this gate was finished in 1691 Javanese Year (about 1765 AD) . The east entrance , the Gedhong Gapura Panggung is still functioning as a gate and is now the main entrance for tourists . The east entrance is a building with four staircases , two on the west side and two on the eastside . Four nagas once decorated this gate , now there are only two nagas left . The building was finished in 1684 Javanese calendar (about 1758 AD) .

= = = = The octagonal courtyards = = = =

Each of the gates leads to an octagonal @-@ shaped courtyard . The western gate leads to a western octagonal @-@ shaped enclosed courtyard . In the past , a building stood in the center of this courtyard , which was called the Lopak @-@ lopak building (Javanese Gedhong Lopak @-@ lopak) .

The eastern gate leads to an octagonal @-@ shaped enclosed courtyard as well . It has a similar layout with the Gedhong Lopak @-@ lopak courtyard , but within it , there are four pavilions known as Gedhong Sekawan . These pavilions were used as the resting place for the royal family .

The eastern and the western octagonal courtyards lead to the central bathing complex .

= = = Umbul Pasiraman bathing complex = = =

Umbul Pasiraman , also known as Umbul Binangun or Umbul Winangun , is a bathing complex for the royal family . The bathing complex is an enclosed space surrounded by tall structures . It consists of three pools decorated with mushroom @-@ shaped springs and large flower pots .

There are two buildings in the bathing complex . The northernmost building was used as the resting place and changing room for the daughters and concubines of the sultan . On the south side of this building is a pool known as Umbul Muncar . The pool is divided into two by a central pathway (known as Blumbang Kuras) that runs east @-@ west . The next building on the south is a building with a tower in its center . The right wing of the building was used as the sultan 's changing room , the east wing was used as his resting place . The central tower was used by the sultan to observe his daughters and concubines bathing in the pool .

On the south of this building is the third pool that was used only by the sultan and his concubines . During its era , only females and the sultan were allowed to enter this bathing complex .

= = = Gedhong Temanten = = =

On the southeast and northeast of the Gedhong Gapuro Panggung are two buildings known as Gedhong Temanten . The buildings were formerly used by the castle guard . According to archeological study , on the south side of this building was another building and a garden whose remain cannot be seen anymore and is filled with settlements .

= = = The third area = = =

This area that is located south of the bathing complex , but no visible remains are left . According to a reconstruction of the site , this complex consisted of the complex of Pasarean Dalem Ledok Sari and the pool complex of Garjitawati with several pavilions and a garden . Pasarean Dalem Ledok Sari is the only part of the complex that is still protected . Pasarean Dalem Ledok Sari was probably used as a meditation place for the sultan , or some said as the meeting place for the sultan and his concubines . In the middle of the building was also a sleeping room for the sultan with water flowing beneath it . There was also a kitchen , a looming room , a storage , two pools for the servants , and a garden .

= = = The fourth area = = =

The fourth complex is the part of the Taman Sari complex that is practically has no visible remains , except for a former hanging bridge and remains of a pier . The description of this area is retrieved from a reconstruction made from the 1812 English army sketch of the Yogyakarta kraton . This area extends about 600 meters to the east of the Segaran lake area . This area consisted of another artificial lake on the southeast of the Magangan complex toward the northeast of Siti Hinggil Kidul complex . In the middle of this artificial lake is another artificial island called Kinupeng Island (Javanese Pulo Kinupeng) . A building , known as Gading building (Javanese Gedhong Gading) stood in the middle of the island .

This artificial lake is connected to the east side of the Segaran Lake via a 380 meter long canal that runs east to west . The canal was about 20 meter wide and there are two bottlenecks that are thought to be the place where a hanging bridge once stood . One of the bridge is now located in the street that connects the kraton complex of Magangan with the Kamandhungan Kidul . The layout of the bridge can still be recognized , although the bridge itself has gone . On the west side of the

hanging bridge is a pier that was used by the sultan as his starting point for his journey to the Taman Sari pool on his royal vessel .

The canal is bounded on the south and north with a garden , now located on the west side of the kraton complex of Kamanghungan Kidul and Siti Hinggil Kidul . Today , all of these canals , bridges , lakes , and gardens have been filled with local settlements ; the garden becomes the Kampung Ngadisuryan , the lake becomes the kampung Segaran .

= = Around Taman Sari = =

Today , the area around the Taman Sari castle complex is occupied by a settlement called Kampung Taman with 2 @, @ 700 residents . The community is known for their batik and traditional painting craft traditions . Also located in this area is the Ngasem Traditional Market (Pasar Ngasem) , which hosted the biggest bird market in Yogyakarta for a long time (until the bird market was relocated to PASTY on Jl . Bantul in 2010) , and the Sokotunggal mosque , a unique mosque built in the early 20th century with a single pillar that is different from the usual Javanese traditional architecture .