

IWPA Teks (Sustainable)

Narrow room

Visiting Tambak Bayan Village in Surabaya is like seeing small boxes arranged in such a way. Very simple but filled with life. Even though it's narrow doesn't make them discouraged. Tambak Bayan offers another side that is different from other Chinatown village life. They continue to live with accuracy and show their pluralistic Indonesian identity.

Tambak bayan is the oldest Chinatown village that emerged in 1930. According to village elders who have lived in Tambak Bayan for a long time, Go Siok Young (72) or known as Gunawan, formerly Tambak Bayan area was a Dutch Company horse stall and Chinese people lived in rooms the room is next to it with only 5 watt lighting.

And they are mostly very poor and live as carpenters. Although now some residents have improved economic conditions, they still live the way their ancestors lived when they first came to Surabaya. And the work of carpenters is still being carried out, even though there isn't much anymore.

One of the residents, Sumiati, lives in a 4x5 meter tenement. In a house where most of it was made of plywood, Sumiati lived with 4 children, the narrow space they could live in made the living room also function as a kitchen, with a very small bathroom. While the attic is occupied by 3 sons of Mrs. Sumiati.

Another resident, Novi, who also lives in a 4x5 meter plot of houses, revealed that the house used to have a red dirt floor. "The condition then changes when the floor is given ceramics," he said. Novi's house was not given a bulkhead, just a box like an ordinary bedroom. The bathroom is in front of the house and the kitchen must hitchhike in-law's house. He lives with 2 children.

They adapt in such a way, living in a room filled with a lot of household furniture, and family photos decorating the walls.

For people who don't live there will surely ask, what about privacy space?

Yes that's how Tambak Bayan are able to survive the crush of space. Instead of distress by a narrow place to live, the condition is precisely to make strong bonds between family and neighbors.

Caption for each photo

1. Lie Syu Mie's Family
2. Agustinus's Family
3. Tatik's Family
4. Sumiati's Family
5. Novi's Family
6. Pandu's Family
7. Go Siok Young's Family