

BETWEEN SKETCH AND SHARIA: DISCOVERING THE ROLE OF ISLAMIC ECONOMICS IN THE WORLD OF ARCHITECTURE

Ahmad Naufal Fadhoil*¹, Yeni Kartikawati¹

^{1,2}Universitas Islam Zainul Hasan Genggong
e-mail: naufalfadhoil159@gmail.com, kartikawatiy@gmail.com

Abstract: This study is driven by the need to develop architectural practices that are not only functional and aesthetic but also rooted in Islamic values. Architecture has traditionally been viewed as the exclusive domain of architects, while students of Islamic economics are often confined to financial and managerial fields. In reality, their participation holds great potential for strengthening development based on the principles of *maqāṣid al-sharī'ah*, which emphasize welfare, justice, and sustainability. This research aims to explore the role of Islamic economics students in integrating sharia principles into contemporary architectural practices. Using a qualitative descriptive–explorative method, data were collected through in-depth interviews, participatory observation, and documentation at PT. NAMI Design and Build Architecture in Probolinggo. The findings indicate that Islamic economics students contribute to project management transparency, material administration, and the implementation of Islamic business ethics grounded in fairness, honesty, and benefit. The company also applies *maqāṣid al-sharī'ah* values through environmentally friendly construction and transparent budgeting practices. The study concludes that interdisciplinary collaboration between Islamic economics and architecture is essential to realize sustainable, ethical, and Islamically relevant development.

Keywords: Islamic economics, Islamic architecture, *Maqāṣid al-Sharī'ah*, Interdisciplinary collaboration.

Introduction

The development of modern architecture today encompasses not only technical and aesthetic aspects but is also rich in cultural, social, and even spiritual values. Amid the dynamics of globalization, there is a growing need to present architecture that is not only functional but also capable of representing Islamic identity and values. This phenomenon can be observed in the increasing public interest in Islamic architectural design, evident in the construction of mosques, educational institutions, and public spaces (Anwar, 2021).

Students of Islamic economics, as part of the Muslim intellectual generation, have a strategic role in bridging the gap between architectural sketches and sharia values derived from the principles of *maqāṣid al-sharī'ah*, such as welfare (*maṣlaḥah*), justice (*'adl*), and sustainability (*istidāmah*) (Suryani, 2021).

However, there exists a noticeable gap that deserves attention. Architecture is often regarded as the technical domain of architects alone, while Islamic economics students are typically seen as limited to financial and managerial sectors. In fact, their involvement in providing sharia perspectives on infrastructure development has the potential to strengthen a more comprehensive, value-based Islamic development framework (Nasution, 2020). This calls for further exploration of how Islamic economics students can discover their role in the

architectural field, particularly in creating designs that are both spiritually meaningful and economically viable.

Based on this context, the present study aims to explore the role of Islamic economics students in the field of architecture, particularly in the process of integrating Islamic values into design sketches and spatial concepts. The main objective is to describe their potential contributions in a field traditionally considered beyond the scope of Islamic economics and to interpret how such roles can reinforce Islamic architectural practices relevant to contemporary social and cultural contexts.

The focus of this research is directed toward investigating the role and contribution of Islamic economics students in architectural development at PT NAMI Build and Design Architecture, and understanding why their involvement is essential in bridging architectural design with sharia values. By narrowing this focus, the study seeks to explore in depth the interdisciplinary interaction between Islamic economics and architectural knowledge.

The findings of this research are expected to provide several benefits. Academically, it enriches interdisciplinary literature between Islamic economics and architecture (Suryani, 2021). Practically, it may serve as a reference for Islamic economics students to develop critical and applicative perspectives in identifying opportunities for contribution within the architectural sector. For the wider community, this study may inspire the creation of architectural works that align more closely with Islamic values works that are not only visually beautiful but also spiritually and socially meaningful.

Method

This study employed a qualitative descriptive–explorative approach, selected to gain a deep understanding of the meanings, experiences, and perspectives of Islamic economics students in discovering their role within the field of Islamic architecture. The qualitative method allows the researcher to explore the phenomenon contextually, thus providing a comprehensive depiction of interdisciplinary engagement between Islamic economics and architectural practice.

The research location was PT. NAMI Design and Build Architecture, situated at Jl. Imam Bonjol No. 7, Sukabumi, Mayangan District, Probolinggo City. The company operates in the contracting sector and is closely associated with architectural and construction activities. This site was chosen as it provided an opportunity to observe how Islamic economics students could identify and actualize their roles in a real work environment, especially in contributing to the integration of Islamic values into design and construction practices (Anwar, *Islamic Architecture and Contemporary Challenges: A Conceptual Study*, 2021).

The research subjects were students from the Islamic Economics Department who were actively engaged in academic and organizational activities and demonstrated interest or experience in developing Islamic architectural concepts through discussions, projects, or campus-based initiatives. The selection of informants was conducted through purposive sampling, targeting individuals most capable of providing in-depth insights aligned with the research focus.

Data collection was carried out through several techniques. First, in-depth interviews were conducted with Islamic economics students and academic supervisors who had relevance to the issue of Sharia–architecture integration. Second, participant observation was performed

on academic or organizational activities discussing Islamic architectural themes, such as seminars or thematic discussions. Third, documentation techniques were utilized to gather academic articles, student essays, and relevant records that supported the research objectives.

The data analysis process followed an interactive qualitative model consisting of several stages. The data reduction stage involved selecting and focusing on relevant information obtained from interviews, observations, and documentation. This was followed by data presentation, which took the form of a narrative description illustrating the phenomenon of Islamic economics students' roles in Islamic architectural practices. Finally, conclusion drawing involved formulating findings that addressed the research focus and linking them with *maqāsid al-sharī'ah* theory and existing Islamic architecture literature.

Results and Discussion

The results of interviews with staff members at PT. NAMI Design and Build Architecture revealed that the integration of Islamic economic principles has begun to take place in project management, particularly in the areas of payment systems and budget administration. In practice, some clients prefer to avoid *riba* by making full cash payments without involving banking institutions, although others still rely on conventional bank loans with interest. This variation reflects differing levels of acceptance toward Sharia-compliant transactions in the field. Nevertheless, the company strives to uphold the principle of justice (*al-'adālah*) by ensuring budget transparency through the presentation of a clear Cost Budget Plan (*Rencana Anggaran Biaya* or RAB) and by involving clients in every additional cost incurred outside the initial plan. This practice illustrates the company's commitment to avoiding *gharar* (uncertainty) and maintaining fairness in all economic transactions, in line with Islamic legal principles (Muhammad Abu Zahrah, *Ushul Fiqh: Prinsip-Prinsip Ekonomi Syariah*, 2018).

Furthermore, the company emphasizes Islamic business ethics in its partnerships with clients and vendors. Values such as honesty, responsibility, and fairness are considered the foundation of building mutual trust, even with non-Muslim clients. This demonstrates that Islamic business ethics are not limited to intra-Muslim contexts but are universal ethical values relevant in all professional relationships. The embodiment of *maqāsid al-sharī'ah* namely justice, benefit (*maslahah*), and protection of client rights is clearly reflected in these practices (M. Umer Chapra, *The Future of Economics: An Islamic Perspective*, 2000).

From the architectural perspective, PT. NAMI seeks to design spaces that promote both inhabitant comfort and environmental sustainability. The principle of *maslahah* is manifested through construction practices that minimize harm to surrounding communities, maintain environmental cleanliness, and promptly repair any damage caused during the building process. On the spiritual side, the company does not enforce an exclusive Islamic spatial concept but rather adapts to the religious and cultural needs of each client. This approach represents flexibility with integrity, allowing Sharia-based values to coexist and guide the creation of functional and meaningful spaces (Seyyed Hossein Nasr, *Islamic Art and Spirituality*, 2014).

The role of Islamic economics students within the company emerged as a key finding. Their primary contributions lie in project administration, particularly in managing material stock, recording usage, and producing systematic financial reports. These students also demonstrate strong accountability and adaptability, helping the company maintain efficient administrative order and ethical work standards. From an interdisciplinary theoretical

perspective, this finding highlights the relevance of Islamic economics in architecture, not merely as a financial discipline but as a crucial pillar supporting ethical and sustainable development (Nur Huda, *Integrasi Ekonomi Syariah dalam Pembangunan Berkelanjutan*, 2021).

Cross-disciplinary collaboration between economics and architecture is viewed as essential for achieving sustainable development. Islamic economics provides an ethical and equitable foundation for cost management, while architecture translates utility and benefit into tangible forms through the built environment. The company remains open to welcoming students from various academic backgrounds, including Islamic economics, as part of its educational contribution to workforce development. Ultimately, Islamic economics students act not merely as observers but as agents of transformation, driving the internalization of Sharia principles into modern architectural practices. This aligns closely with the philosophy of *maqāsid al-sharī‘ah*, which emphasizes benefit (*maslahah*), justice (*‘adl*), and the holistic protection of human welfare (Jasser Auda, *Maqāsid al-Sharī‘ah as Philosophy of Islamic Law: A Systems Approach*, 2008).

Conclusion

This study affirms that Islamic economics students play a significant role in the field of architecture, particularly through the integration of Sharia values into design and construction practices. Their involvement extends beyond financial management to include project administration, budget transparency, and the implementation of *maqāsid al-sharī‘ah* principles within workplace ethics. The findings demonstrate that their presence at PT. NAMI Design and Build Architecture contributes to creating a more orderly administrative system, upholding Islamic business ethics, and reinforcing justice and benefit in development processes.

Moreover, this study underscores the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration between Islamic economics and architecture as a means of achieving ethical, sustainable, and Islamically grounded development. Islamic economics students serve as bridge-builders, linking modern architectural functionality with spiritual and social dimensions. Therefore, this research not only enriches the interdisciplinary academic discourse but also offers practical insights for realizing Islamic architecture that resonates with contemporary societal dynamics.

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