

# The Interior Design of Indonesian Bethel Church in Surakarta

Mega Puspa Susanto <sup>a,1,\*</sup>, IF. Bambang Sulistyono <sup>b,2</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Interior Design Study Program, Faculty of Visual Art and Design, Sebelas Maret University, Surakarta, Indonesia

<sup>1</sup> [mega\\_susanto@student.uns.ac.id](mailto:mega_susanto@student.uns.ac.id) \*; <sup>2</sup> [ifbambang@staff.uns.ac.id](mailto:ifbambang@staff.uns.ac.id);

\* Corresponding Author



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## ABSTRACT

Every individual who has trust, needs means and infrastructure in realizing their relationship with God. This can be realized by the construction of houses of worship. Church is a place of worship for Christians to ally with God, so this space is considered sacred. The problem of worship space of bethel church today is more looks like a concert hall than a place to worship. There are also other problems such as lack of wiggle room, children running around in the worship space, this can interfere with the course of worship. Therefore it takes space for Sunday school that can accommodate children to worship.

The interior of the church has an important role in supporting one's need to worship. Based on the above concerns, a church was designed that could provide a sacred and peaceful atmosphere with the application of contemporary concepts, as well as design a Sunday school space that could appeal to children. There are also other rooms that serve as support rooms.

## KEYWORDS

Church  
Bethel Church  
Indonesia  
Contemporary  
Interior Design

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## 1. Introduction

Needs, in human life, consist of two aspects, namely the physical aspect and the spiritual aspect. Physical aspects include physical needs such as clothes to wear, foods to eat, and house to live in. Spiritual aspects include spiritual human needs such as the need to worship (to God) as an embodiment of their beliefs. Worshipping is a choice of each individual. But for the individuals who have trust, they need the means and infrastructure in realizing their relationship with God. Thus, one of efforts to such need is the construction of a house of worship.

Christians need church buildings as a means of accommodating activities. The message and meaning of the church architecture cannot be separated from the three main functions of the church, namely communion (koinonia), witness (marturia), and ministry (diakonia) and their relationship to architecture. (Sitompul, 1993:223). The realization of the fellowship is reflected in the function of the church as a center of Christians fellowship. The fellowships are usually conducted in the Church service room and other support rooms. The Church is a gathering place for the believers together doing their fellowship with God, and since it is usually done in the service room, this space is considered sacred.

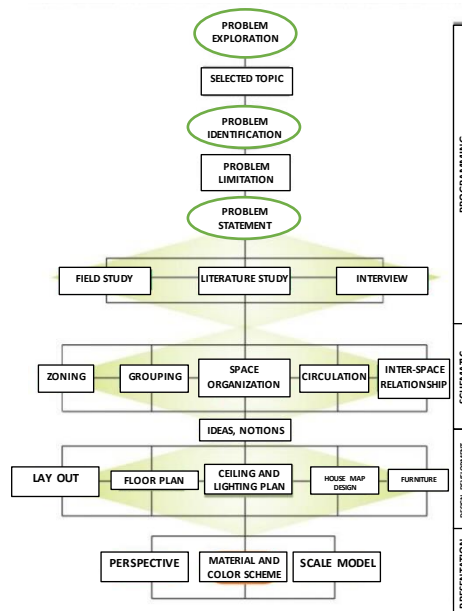
The denomination of Christian churches in Indonesia is divided into about 89 synods according to the data from PGI (the Fellowship of Churches of Indonesia). One of them is the Indonesian Bethel Church under PGI. Today, not a few Bethel Churches whose worship halls do not look sacred. Therefore, it takes space that can present the visualization of earnest, wholeheartedness, and sacredness itself. Conceptually, the function of testimonies in church architecture is emphasized on the symbolization of activities that occur in churches and physical elements of the church to preach God's words. The interior of the church building in general has a pulpit and chairs for the congregation who attend worships. The distance between the seats of the congregation is narrow; people walking back and front through it could make some noise when the worship is still running.

The architecture and interior of the church was developed based on the ordinances of church worship. This is more accurately said to be the knowledge of the church. The church is a sacred building that usually has a symbol of the cross.

The interior of the church plays an important role in supporting the members' need of worship. Unspacious room for the activities can interfere the earnest in worship, thus, a sufficient space is necessary to avoid bothers during the worshipping. In the interior of a Protestant church, chairs for worship are not equipped with a place to kneel. According to the architect's book, the width of the chair in the church is about 40-50 cm, with a distance between the front and rear seats of about 90 - 100 cm. Other problems that arise, such as children running around in the worship room, can also interfere with the course of worship. Therefore, for Sunday school, it takes space to accommodate children to worship.

Therefore, the interior design of a church must pay attention to several important aspects so that the comfort and earnest of worship can be maintained. The church building is also equipped with support rooms for worship activities such as space for Sunday school, secretary room, sharing room, and can also be equipped with supporting facilities such as cafeterias and toilets.

## 2. Method



**Fig. 1.** Design method scheme (Source: TA Guideline Book, Chapter I Interior Design of UNS.pdf)

Physical and non-physical data and the problems of the case will be found in the concept of space design and refer to literature (library sources), interview results, and parameters in the form of photo images as references and comparisons with other church designs. Problems to solve through analysis will later produce ideas or design alternatives. The final result is the design that will be realized.

## 3. Results and Discussion

Design, is the initial idea, lay out, plan of arrangement patterns, the shape frame of a building, building's motifs, building's patterns, building's ornaments. The design of Bethel Indonesia Church is expected to meet the needs of users both physically and psychologically. There are three main elements of design that must be fulfilled, such as: activities, capacities, and anthropometry, which are closely related to the socio-cultural conditions of the users, in order to create useful means for users' benefits. In designing, it is necessary to consider the comfort and safety factors for the users. Some approaches are used in design solving, as follows.

### 3.1. Function Approach

The interior design of Bethel Church Indonesia is to serve as a center of worship and non-worship activities for Christians. Not only as a place of worship, there are also additional facilities to support all existing activities. To meet these needs, the design must provide facilities such as the main worship room, Sunday school room, sharing area, cafeteria, secretariat office, pastor's room and toilet.

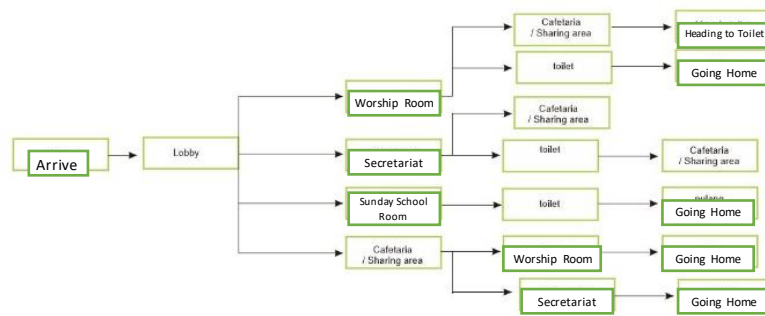
### 3.2. Theme Approach

The theme that will be applied to the church design is taken from the application of modern contemporary concepts. Contemporary architecture according to L. Hilberseimer is a particular style of architectural type in its era, that reflects the freedom of work so that it displays something different, and

is a new stream or incorporation of several other architectural styles. (Contemporary Architects 2, 1964). According to Rayner Banham, the development of modern architecture emphasizes the simplicity of a design by adhering to Form Follows Function. Modern architecture arises because of advances in technology that make humans tend to prefer anything economical (Age of the Master: A Personal view of Modern Architecture, 1978). The combination of these two concepts can bring a solemn, peaceful, and calm atmosphere with the selection of neutral colors and the use of materials, also the application of geometric and curved shapes to interior elements. The combination of these two styles is applied to the use of open plans and the selection of ornaments that are not too crowded can cause a calm feel. This style can also display a neat and clean space atmosphere, as well as featuring many lines that look sleek and contrasting.

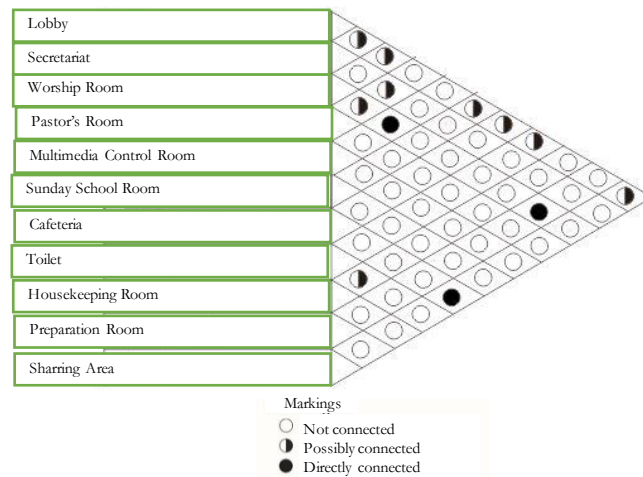
### 3.3. Programming

The project is designing the interior space of Indonesian Bethel Church in Surakarta, which is a public building that serves as a means to carry out worship activities. The location of the building is the area on Sutan Syahrir street No.88, Kepatihan Kulon, Jebres, Surakarta City, Central Java 57129. The Church has the following operational regulation: Operational day is open from Monday – Sunday; Operational hours: Secretariat : Monday -Sunday : 09.00 - 17.00; prayer Room: Every day: 24 hours



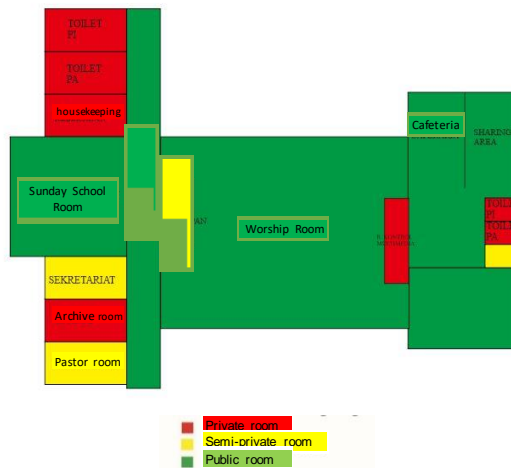
**Fig. 2.** Inter-space Relationship Space (Source: Personal Document)

Then, the relationship of space and pattern is mapped as follows:



**Fig. 3.** Schematic relationships between spaces and patterns.

### 3.4. Zoning & Grouping



**Fig. 4.** Grouping and zoning.

### 3.5. Aspects of Ideas

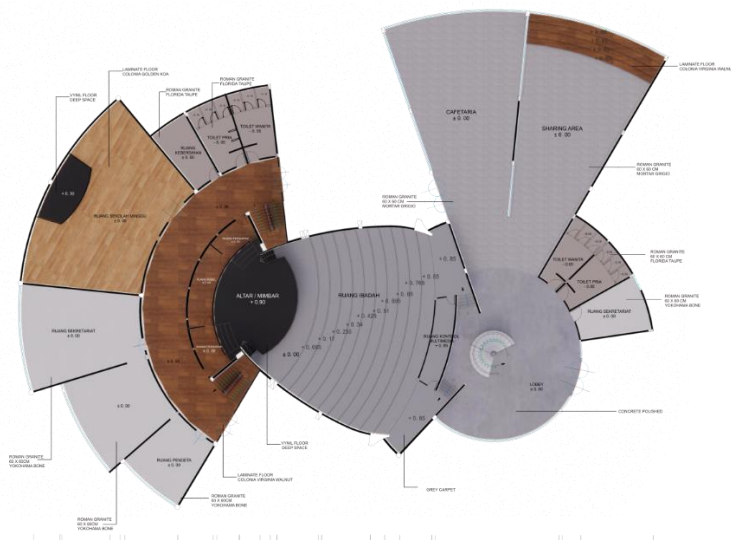
The plan and design of this church is a project of designing facilities for activities in it to accommodate the fulfillment of each person's spiritual needs through worship activities, Sunday school, etc. Bethel Church today looks more like a concert hall than a worship hall. That's what underlies this interior project. This church interior design project wants to create a bethel church that shows the form of a church which displays a peaceful and solemn space atmosphere.

The application of ideas to this building is supported by contemporary concepts. This concept aims to provide more space for the congregation who come, because the church is an area that many people visit. Contemporary concepts which do not have barriers make the congregation's activity room to be more freely when they are in the church. Sunday school room applies exciting forms for children, to make them feel as like they are at home when they join worship. The application of this concept for Sunday school rooms is also to make children more free, considering their active behaviors.

### 3.6. Aspects of Space Arrangement

The arrangement of space in this bethel church places a lobby in the middle area so that it can be easily accessed. Lobby which is located in the center of the building is to facilitate access for the visitors to all spaces around it. The arrangement of space is determined by the circulation system and the order of activities of both visitors and officers so that the arrangement of space can be arranged based on the purposes.

### 3.7. Aspects of Space Forming

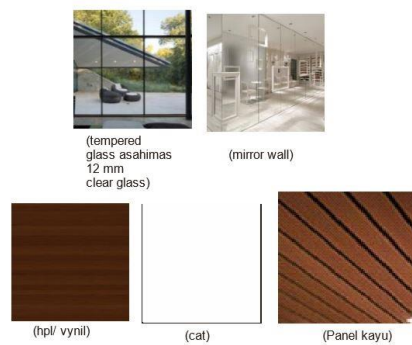


**Fig. 5.** Floor

The floor in this design is tailored to the needs of the space. The flooring materials used include vinyl, granite, carpet, concrete, and ceramics. The use of the selected materials considers natural themes and space acoustic. The use of materials that support the acoustic needs of the space is, for example, the use of carpets in the worship room. In the lobby, there are concrete materials and the secretariat can use granite materials. In the design of Sunday school space, safe materials for children are used, such as the use of laminate floor or vinyl.

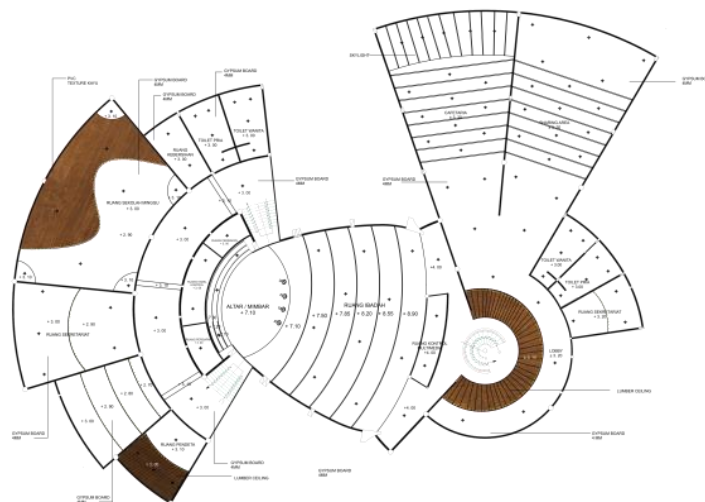


**Fig. 6.** Floor Mateial (Source: google images)



**Fig. 7.** Wall Materials (Source: google images)

The consideration of the materials use in the worship room is the acoustics of the space. The materials used are wood / wooden panels including hpl or vinyl, glass walls, wallpaper, also paints. In Sunday school rooms, the materials used are safe for children.



**Fig. 8.** Ceiling.

For the ceilings, the materials used are: lumberceiling (for the natural impression looks), pvc, gypsum board and skylights (in certain areas). The ceiling in the design of the worship space is made high to reflect that God is high and magnificent. The materials used also consider the acoustics of the space, so that it can reflect the sound during worship and consider the ceiling as a place for ME (Mechanical Electrical).



**Fig. 9.**Floor Materials.

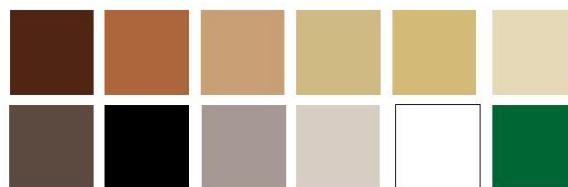
### 3.8. Interior System

Lighting is essential in designing a worship room. The interior design of this church uses both natural and artificial lighting. The natural lighting comes into the building from the openings on the walls and ceilings. Meanwhile, artificial lighting is from the supporting lights such as downlights, spot light and stage lighting. The ventilation applied to the church design almost entirely uses artificial air conditioning such as the use of central AC, split air conditioning, and exhaust.

The application of acoustics in the design of this church is only in the worship room. This is to block the noise from outside to not enter the space and interfere with the course of worship. Things to consider in the acoustic design of the church are as follows. To increase the loudness of the voice from the voice source, the floor on the altar is positioned higher so that the delivery of voice can directly reach the people without being hindered by other people in front of them. The placement of sound-reflecting materials in the altar area will also be very helpful. In a mass room with a high ceiling, a canopy is needed to amplify the direct sound and avoid a long echo (Egan, 1988: 119). A narrow church with a large volume of space (with a high ceiling) would be great for the sound quality of music. Well-planned church acoustics have a volume - seating ratio between 4.86 m<sup>3</sup> - 8.1m<sup>3</sup> per person when preaching is the primary activity. Meanwhile, it should be between 5.4 m<sup>3</sup>- 10 .8 m<sup>3</sup> per person when music is the main activity (Egan, 1985:119). To avoid procuring niches that are too deep because it will cause bad voices.

The pulpit should be lifted and located in a position close to the wall field. To increase the clarity of the voice of the worship leader in a very humming room, the use of loudspeakers with a centralized system that is directed to the area of the congregation will be very helpful. If the balcony construction is needed, the balcony overhang requirement must be carefully considered so that there is no acoustic shadow and the bottom part of the balcony is designed in the form of slopped soffit so that the sound can be reflected towards the people sitting under the balcony. The ceiling above the choir room should not be too high (ideally less than 7 m). The surface of space whose shape has the potential to cause acoustic defects (such as concave surfaces / domes that can result in sound concentration) or features that can be detrimental to reflection efforts, should be avoided. The elimination of noise as a necessity for meditation and prayer should be specially considered (Doelle, 1990:115). For a sacred atmosphere, it requires NC value  $\leq 25$  dB. The security system applied in the design is: the use of CCTV in several corners of the building that can either be reached by vision or not, smoke detectors as the initial step to find out the source of smoke from fire, also sprinkles and fire extinguishers which are the initial step of fires countermeasures.

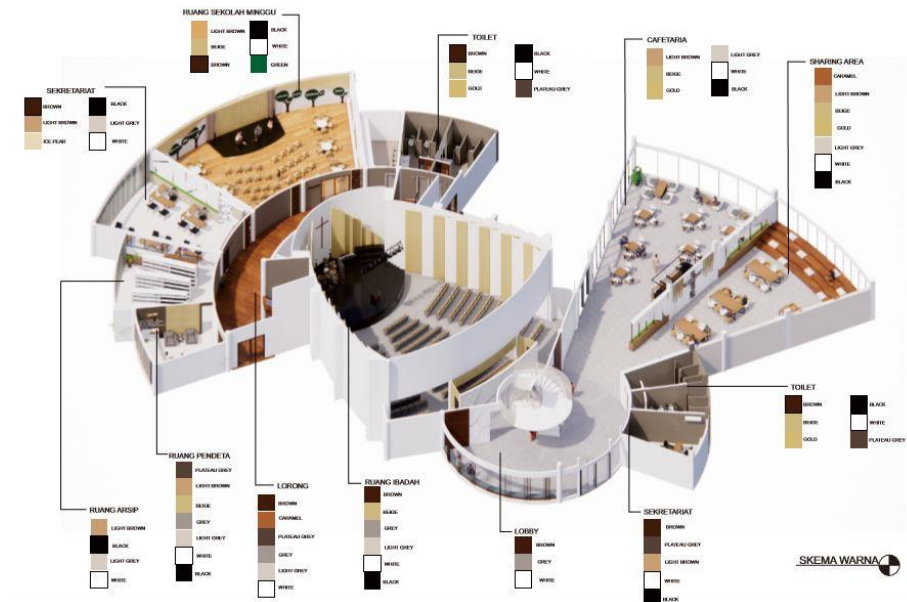
### 3.9. Aspects of Color, Shapes, and Materials



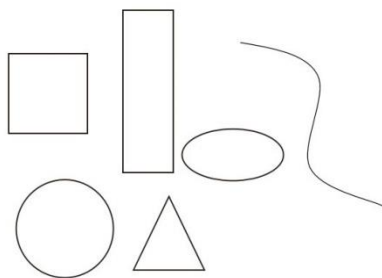
**Fig. 10.** Colors.

The colors for the interior of this church are the colors adjusted to the needs of existing spaces. For instances, in the Sunday school room, bright colors are used because the most users are children. In other spaces, the colors are adapted to the concept and theme of the space.



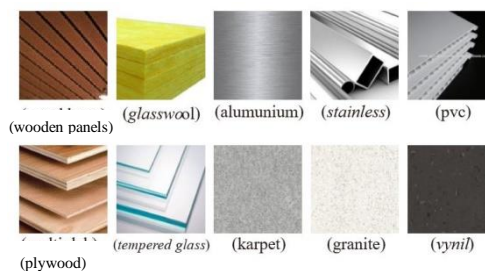


**Fig. 11.** Colors Scheme.



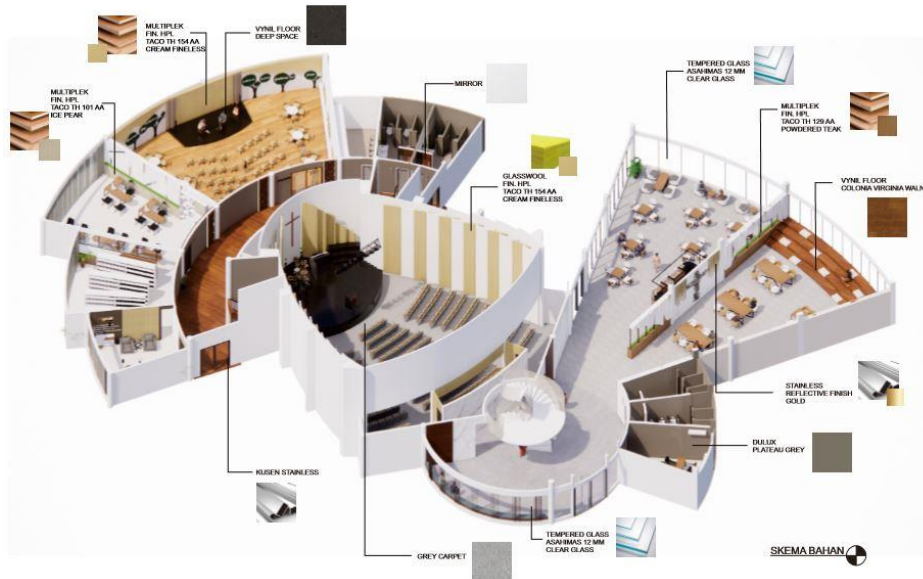
**Fig. 12.** Shape.

The selection of shapes is adjusted to the theme to convey expected impression. The selected shapes include geometric shapes and curved lines.



**Fig. 13.** Materials (Source: google images)

Materials used in the construction of this church interior project include brick, stucco, glasswool / rockwool, carpet (rug), paints, ceramic, granite, aluminum, iron, stainless, solid wood, vinyl or HPL, laminate floor, tempered glass, pvc, and mirrors.



**Fig. 14.** Materials Scheme.

### 3.10. Facilities



**Fig. 15.** The Main Worship Room.

This room is the main room in the building. This prayer/worship room serves as a space for worship.



**Fig. 16.** Sunday School Room



A space for children to worship and get spiritual education early on. The space located in the back area is intended so that children do not interfere with the course of worship in the main worship room.

### 3.11. Secretariat



**Fig. 17.** Secretariat

One of the support rooms in this church is the secretariat room. Located at the back of the building, it is the office of church management taking care of congregational administration.

### 3.12. Pastor Room



**Fig. 18.** The pastor room

This room is one of the supporting facilities in this church, where the pastor does his part in the church.

### 3.13. Cafeteria



**Fig. 19.** Cafeteria

This area is one of the public areas that can be accessed by anybody. The cafeteria which serves dining and drinking facilities can also be used for any congregational meeting.

### 3.14. Sharing Area



**Fig. 20.** Sharing area.

Another supporting facility in this church is the sharing area. This area serves as a gathering place during the fellowship and other activities.

## 4. Conclusion

The interior design of Indonesian Bethel Church in Surakarta with a modern contemporary concept aims to design a church that can facilitate both worship and non-worship activities. This design arranges the interior of a worship room that can visualize the earnest and tranquility during worship, also brings a nuance of joy with the use of stage lamps that are not excessive, so that the atmosphere of the worship space can still feel solemn. The Sunday school space is designed by applying shapes that can make children comfortable to be inside it. This design is not only thinking about the comfort of children, but how interior elements can also educate children indirectly. There are also the designs of additional spaces such as cafeteria, sharing area, secretariat, and other spaces that can accommodate the needs of space for non-worship activities.

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