

## ABSTRACT

The Pontianak community since its inception has been a multi-ethnic society, with four dominant ethnic groups forming the Pontianak City, namely the Arab, Buginese, Banjar, and Riau ethnic groups. This study aims to find the embodiment of ethnic acculturation in the vernacular architectural elements of Pontianak's old houses that show multicultural culture in the past. This study uses 30 research samples in the form of Pontianak old houses that still stand today, which were built between the early 19th century and the mid-20th century. Through a qualitative-rationalistic research approach in the context of comparative analysis of the role of each ethnic group in conducting acculturation through nomothetic studies of the physical elements of building architecture and ideographic studies of normative / religious aspects of these physical elements, in order to obtain important mutually reinforcing findings about ethnic acculturation. This finding is the main element of the building which shows the aspect of constancy or continuity to change for almost a half century, which illustrates the attitude of integrative-assimilate ethnic acculturation on elements of building architecture. This is a strong indication which leads to the realization of the basic elements of historic buildings in the past that as a whole are important main markers for the realization of the Vernacular Architecture of the Malay House of Pontianak. This is the result of a study that is quite important for the further development of the discourse.

**Keywords:** *Acculturation, interaction of ethnic groups, vernacular elements, Vernacular Pontianak Malay House*