One of the most important elements of a traditional Indonesian city is its distinctive market. In the pre-colonial period, the market was the centre of life for the urban community in Indonesia, especially in Java and Sumatra. The starting process of colonialism and the modernization of traditional markets in Jakarta showed their ability to adapt to new conditions.

The process of adaptation turns out to run with the process of preservation of local culture whose manifestations can be seen from the existence of the Cake Market, Bird Market, and Gemstone Market. Those three are part of "people's culture" which originated in the pre-colonial era but still exists until today.
In the last 20 years, the increase in land prices in Jakarta is far faster than the increase in the people’s economy. As a result, small and micro entrepreneurs are forced to choose land and houses in the kampong as the domicile of their business. Home industry has high competitiveness because this type of business is not burdened with the cost of renting space.

In kampong located behind commercial areas there are also other types of businesses such as boarding houses, catering, canteen, photocopying. Such changes in conditions by Saskia Sassen are called sweatshops which means low value-added rough work. The other kampong also turned into a mixed-area between work and business one after another.
One of the property products that developed in Jakarta in the early 1980s was a townhouse with the concept of gated community. This type of dwelling was originally built in the late 70s as a rental residence for expatriates who worked in various foreign companies, but it was increasingly popular among the middle-upper class nowadays.

Pantai Mutiara Housing Estate is one example of high-end property project developed by private company through reclamation of swamp land on the coastal area of Jakarta. Later on to the gated community of luxurious housing where each houses has two gates for the car to the street and for the private yacht to the lake, was developed a high end apartment complex designed by Atkinson.
Menteng was built between 1910-1918 as a Tropical Garden City, which was developed in Dutch Colonial era, designed as an extension to the southern downtown area known at that time as Weltevreden. As a sub district of Central Jakarta at that time, Menteng is well known as a residential area for Dutch people and high officials.

Long before the Dutch came to Batavia in 1619, the Chinese already living in the eastern mouth of Ciliwung. However when the Dutch built lodges, they were expelled to Glodok, which is not far from ‘Stadhuis’ (now Fatahillah museum) to be easily monitored. Glodok was once a commercial center for Batavia, until there was a CBD transfer to Thamrin-Sudirman street. After that degradation occurs in the absence of planning for this area.