

Public Space Image and Comfort

Case Study: Wisdom Park UGM

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ABSTRACT: Public space plays an important role in an urban area as a form of environmental quality improvement. Many public spaces are created to meet human needs. However, these public spaces often do not meet the needs and criteria of users in various aspects. One of these aspects is the image and comfort of the public space itself, which concerns user comfort, so that a study of the public space itself is needed. Wisdom Park at UGM is one of the public spaces frequented by the public. Using indicators from an organization called the Project of Public Space, this study examines the extent to which Wisdom Park meets the criteria of a public space in terms of image and comfort itself. From the results of this research, it is expected that it can be used in the development of public spaces in Wisdom Park.

Keywords: Public Space, Image and Comfort, Yogyakarta

Introduction

Public space is a place where everyone has the right to access it. Public space is a place for people to gather and carry out various activities. In carrying out its activities, public spaces are often equipped with various facilities that can be used. The means can be anything, according to the context and function of the public space.

Wisdom Park, which is located in the Gajah Mada University area, in Jl. Prof. DR. Drs Notonagoro, Karang Malang, Caturtunggal, Kec. Depok, Sleman Regency, Yogyakarta Special Region, is a public space that has quite a variety of facilities. Starting from parks, sports facilities, to a small lake that can be used for fishing. All these facilities can be accessed by anyone so that this place is crowded with people, whether they are just stopping by or doing other activities.

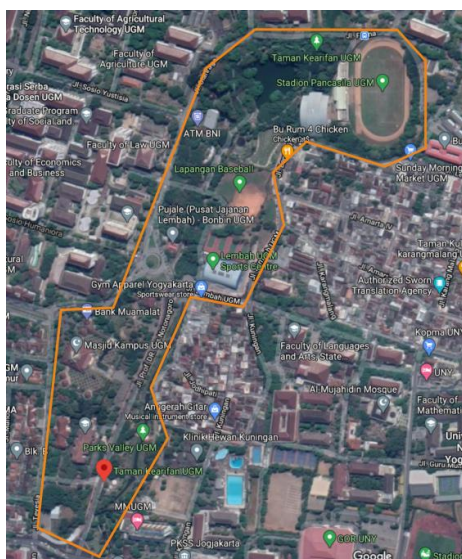


Figure1. Wisdom Park location

Source: www.google.co.id/maps/

This study examines the extent to which Wisdom Park meets the needs of a public space itself, especially in the aspect of comfort and image, based on The Place Diagram developed by The Project for Public Spaces (PPS) and the results of this study is expected can become material for evaluation in the development of public spaces in Wisdom Park.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Public space is formed because of an object or activity in it, a process where the community participates in forming a common space.

According to Tuan (1977), "*What begins as undifferentiated space becomes place as we get to know it better and endow it with value... the ideas "space" and "place" require each other for definition ... Furthermore, if we think of space as that which allows movement, then place is pause; each pause in movement makes it possible for location to be transformed into place*"

Then space is a space that contains a movement, which can be transformed into a place if there is a pause and stop from the movement. Regarding place-making itself, Cresswell (2009) expressed his opinion that "*places are practiced. People do things in place. What they do, in part, is responsible for the meanings that a place might have. Space becomes a place when it is used and lived*". A space has more meaning when there are activities carried out by humans in it.

"*Space is real in the same sense that commodities are real since (social) space is a (social) product*" (Lefebvre 2000:26).

The value of public spaces, criteria of successful public spaces, quality attributes and their evaluation, and management of public spaces have been and researched. Concerns for safety, diversity and the vitality of cities, particularly in the public realm were addressed by Jane Jacobs - the famous urban activist in 1961 (Jacobs, 1992), and the issues of failure and/or success of public spaces have been addressed by William Whyte in *The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces* (1980), wherein in order to find out what attracts people most he highlighted the role of sitting spaces, comfort, presence of food, retailing, streets and the main space's relationship to pedestrian flow and external stimuli (W.H. Whyte, 1980).

The Project for Public Spaces (PPS) developed The Place Diagram as a tool to judging public space, against the four main criteria of access and linkage, uses and activities, comfort and image, and sociability as mentioned above. These four main criteria can be further judged according to a number of intuitive or qualitative aspects. The qualitative aspects for the evaluation of Image and comfort include: History, Attractive, Charming, Spiritual, Sittable, Walkable, Green, Clean and Safe

METHODOLOGY

This research approach using qualitative methods. Data was collected through various sources, both site surveys and online surveys. From the data collected, an analysis was carried out regarding the parameters of the public space in terms of image and comfort according to the Project of Public Space diagram. The data are aggregated in an explanation and compared using existing parameters. In the results, we found several indicators of the success of public space at Wisdom Park in terms of comfort and image.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION



Figure 2. Wisdom Park map

Source: Author

Wisdom Park is located in the eastern part of the UGM main campus. Which is part of UGM's green open area including indoor and outdoor facilities. From these facilities, they can be grouped into several zones.

Urban Forest and lake zone



Figure 3. Urban forest and lake zone

Source: Author

Activities in this zone are more to water tourism, where visitors can carry out various activities such as fishing and water recreation using boats or outbound.

Culinary Zone



Figure 4. Culinary zone
Source: Author

Culinary spots in the Wisdom Park area as a food service facility for visitors.

Art and culture zone



Figure 5. Amphitheater zone
Source: Author

A zone where visitors can gather together in an amphitheater to watch various events and performances.

Iconic tunnel zone



Figure 6. Iconic tunnel
Source: Author

It is one of the tunnels that has become an icon in Wisdom Park, because of its unique shape.

Urban river and lake zone



Figure 7. Urban river and lake zone
Source: Author

The zone around the area is in the form of water, offering views of the river as well as the lake.

Orchid zone



Figure 8. Orchid zone
Source: Author

A zone where visitors can see various kinds of orchids. There is a description of the names of each type of orchid as well as other plants.

Traditional house zone



Figure 9. Traditional house zone
Source: Author

Located close to river and lake zones, this zone has traditional buildings with beautiful nuances.

DISCUSSION

The parameter is one of the tools that Project of Public Space has developed to evaluate place. There are two types of parameters, namely intangible qualities and

measurable data. In this discussion, we will focus more on the parameter of intangible qualities. The parameter of intangible qualities consists of History, Attractive, Charming, Spiritual, Sittable Walkable, Green, Clean, Safe

History

Wisdom Park was built in 2013 and until now it has become part of the existing facilities at UGM.

Attractive



Figure 10. Attractive bridge

Source: Author

Wisdom Park has many facilities that can be used as well as various different zones that make this place quite interesting

There is an amphitheater that can be used as a performance venue. Also attractive bridge near the lake that can be use to go up and explore the place.

Charming



Figure 11. Plaza gate

Source: Author

The various forms of arrangement of the facilities. One of them is the gate of this plaza, where a large stone ornament is used to mark the entrance to the plaza.

Spiritual

There is no conspicuous spiritual aspect

Sittable



Figure 12. Wood bench

Source : Author

There are lots of sitting facilities, that consist of many type and spread in many area. These wooden benches are scattered around the river area.



Figure 13. Marble bench

Source : Author

Another type of seat provided is the marble bench located around the lake zone.



Figure 14. Sittable Stone

Source : Author

And one of the seats that is quite unique is the stone seat, located on a miniature hill. The use of a large stone as a seat makes it blend with the surrounding environment.

Walkable



Figure 15. River bridge with blind track

Source : Author

Many pedestrian paths are provided to make it easier for users to explore this place. Most of these paths already have blind tracks for people with disabilities.

Green



Figure 16. Plants in Wisdom Park

Source : Author

Wisdom Park has lots of green areas. The plants at Wisdom Park vary, ranging from types of trees, grass, to ornamental plants. One of them is in the orchid zone which presents various types

Clean



Figure 17. Dry leaf litter

Source : Author

Still visible trash and fallen leaves scattered. mostly natural waste such as leaves, mostly in forest areas. However, some inorganic waste is still visible in several areas such as river areas. It would be better if do maintenance and cleaning regularly.

Safe

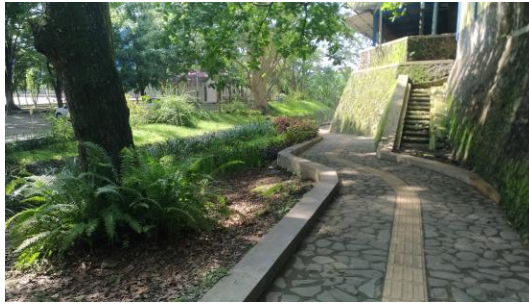


Figure 18. Path with blind track

Source : Author

Many security posts and also fence boundaries in the area. Most of the paths already use pavement so it is safe when it rains, and are also equipped with a blind track for people with disabilities.



Figure 19. Fence on the brodge

Source : Author

CONCLUSION

The aspect of image and comfort in public space is influenced by both the physical condition of the public space itself and the user's feelings. It takes a good combination and relationship to create a good quality public space. Especially in the aspect of image and comfort, all are interconnected in order to create harmony that supports each other. Starting from small things such as seating placement and other facilities to managing the public space itself. In this case, most of Wisdom Park has fulfilled the aspects of image and comfort.

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