

Placemaking And Privatization In Tambora's Public Open Space

Maria Immaculata Ririk Winandari, Punto Wijayanto, Ardilla Jefri

Abstract: The purpose of this paper is to investigate the cause of privatization in public open spaces for placemaking performed by residents. Tambora as the most populous settlement in Southeast Asia, possessing limited public open space for inhabitants to socialize, therefore, the streets serve as the main alternative to actualize this need. In addition, visual data were collected via walk-through studies, site visits and observations, which were based on the spatial form of buildings, streets and open spaces, on-site interviews, and a survey. Furthermore, the variables consist of the use of space and the occurrence of privatization, and the results showed the practice of furniture placement on streets to be part of efforts to obtain a comfortable open space. Therefore, this pattern of privatization is considered to strengthen their identity and reinforce personalized territory.

Index Terms: case study, informal settlement, place identity, placemaking, privatization, public open space, Tambora district.

1. INTRODUCTION

Public open spaces are important parts of a settlement area, although creating it in Jakarta seems to be a challenge. According to the Provincial City Planning Agency (now Human Settlement, Spatial Planning and Land Agency), there is a probability of these spaces occurring in green and non-green forms. However, the difference between both is the existence and distribution of ecological elements, including vegetation. Moreover, they are collectively denoted by the placement of facilities, which consist of playground equipment. In 2017, the percentage of the green variety in Jakarta was 9.98% [1], which seemed to be higher in luxury settlements. In addition, a research by Widyawati, et al. [17] reported its most common application was as a playground, and few people use them for meeting. Furthermore, the problem is worse in dense settlements, due to the limitation in availability, as almost all have been converted to roads, and spaces only serve for interaction, hence, there is need for a wider place. This problem triggers the creativity of citizens, and Lew states that activities conducted by individuals or a group in a room where they live are termed placemaking [2]. Furthermore, Friedmann argued that 'a place be defined as a small, three-dimensional urban area, cherished by the inhabitants', and Friedmann [20] concluded the existence of three additional elements in its definition, which include small in term of size, inhabited and valued by people. Several previous studies on placemaking include the formation of informal settlement [3], space identity [2], [3], [4], [5], [6], racial capitalism [7], and revitalization [8]. Irandoost et al [3] stated that it is the creation of informal settlement by the poor, encompassing 69% housing in the urban population. Toolis [4] describes it as a tool for building inclusiveness and community participation, therefore, bottom-up approach and tactical design are capable of revitalizing open spaces through community interaction [8]. According to

Main and Sandoval [5], place identity with emotional significance is influenced by physical, social and cultural elements, while Friedmann [20] argued that focus be given to small and ordinary place in the neighborhood scale, as they 'genuinely have order, structure, and identity, which are created (wittingly or not) by the inhabitants'. However, studies relating placemaking to privatization in a dense area have not been performed, therefore, this research is aimed at explaining a probable correlation in the dense areas of Jakarta. This location, which is the capital of Indonesia, consists of 5 administrative municipalities and 1 regency, totaling an area of 661,52 km², where its human population density as of 2019 was 15.663 / km². Furthermore, the most densely populated district in West Jakarta Municipality [9] and also in Southeast Asia is Tambora. This name is believed to give reference to an active volcano located in Nusa Tenggara Barat, and the area has existed since 18th AD.

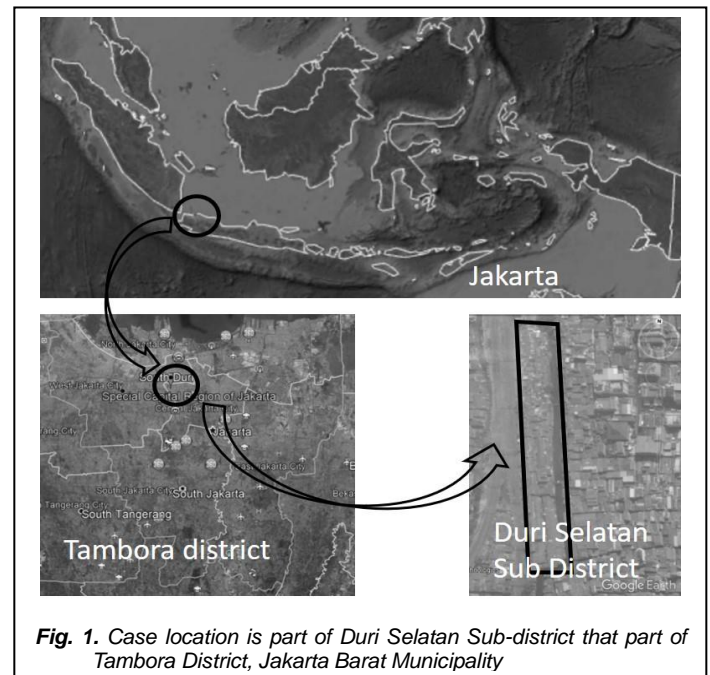


Fig. 1. Case location is part of Duri Selatan Sub-district that part of Tambora District, Jakarta Barat Municipality

In addition, the district is known to have the highest building and population density of 1468.3 buildings / ha [10], and 48,219 / km², respectively, and the second lowest green line area of 43,649 m², with 75% of street form [1]. Tambora almost has no public open space for residents to interact and socialize, and this limitation has triggered the community to

- Maria Immaculata Ririk Winandari is currently lecturer in Architecture Department in Universitas Trisakti, Indonesia, PH-628129409897. E-mail: mi.ririk@trisakti.ac.id
- Punto Wijayanto is currently lecturer in Architecture Department in Universitas Trisakti, Indonesia, PH-628122742725. E-mail: punto.wijayanto@trisakti.ac.id
- Ardilla Jefri is currently lecturer in Architecture Department in Universitas Trisakti, Indonesia, PH-6282227468645. Email: ardilla.jk@trisakti.ac.id

create one, in an attempt to strengthen relationships. Furthermore, placemaking process is often accompanied by privatization in public open spaces, hence, the purpose of this paper is to evaluate the occurrence of this relationship by Tambora residents in public open space. This case involves a settlement located between the railroad tracks and river in Duri Selatan Sub-district, where two bridges happen to be the only access connecting it with others. Furthermore, it is an illegal community, built on a land owned by PT Kereta Api Indonesia (PT KAI or Railway Company). In addition, BPS data showed Tambora District to be the second lowest rankings in ownership status of fields [9], as almost all buildings are permanent with 1 or 2 floors. Moreover, most of them are rental houses occupied by street vendors and laborers. This information [9] also shows Duri Selatan Sub-district to be a part of Tambora with the highest amount of pavement traders (955 people), in comparison with others. Meanwhile, there exists a traditional market in the northern areas that is crowded, and streets, with width of about 1 to 2.5 meters, happen to be the only open spaces type, with no parks or fields (see Fig. 2). This paper, therefore, focuses on the process of placemaking, occurring on residential streets, and the nature of privatization that takes place there. Steuteville [11] stated the importance of creating a process of better-quality space for life, work, play and learning, and the approach entails the ability to accommodate its application and the users over a wide period [12]. Winandari [13] declares the highest space utilization to be affirmed by the private temporary or permanent properties of individuals or groups, placed in public places. Pacholi et al. [14] stated most of the space to be provided for relaxation and internal user involvement, and that its condition in Asia, especially on the street, is not clearly determined because of the variety of responses [15]. Good space is one used by active or passive individuals and groups, for activities including listening, chatting, singing, and profiling people [15]. In addition, its four key qualities consist of access and linkage, comfort and image, uses and activities, then sociability [16]. This comprises of visible places, easy to reach, comfortable to sit, and effortless to interact, thus initiating return visits.

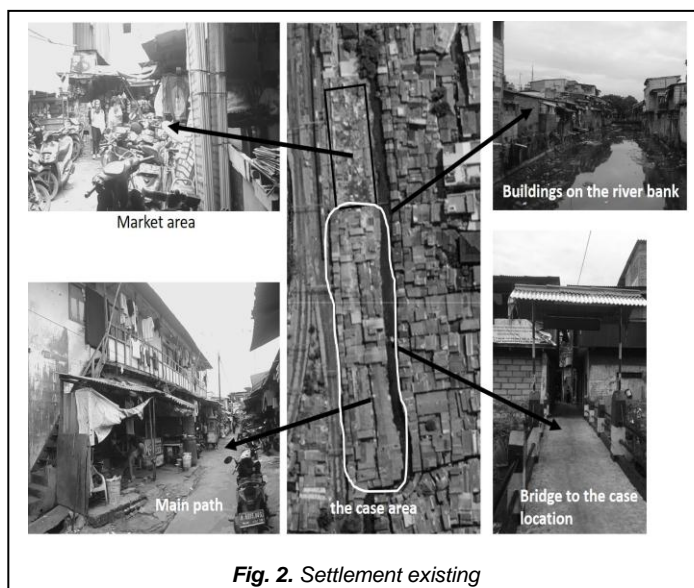


Fig. 2. Settlement existing

2 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This is a qualitative research with an exploratory case study approach, conducted in one of the most densely populated settlements situated in Tambora District. In addition, respondents consisted of government staff from Duri Selatan Sub-district, and residents in those areas. The investigation was initiated by reviewing previous researches on placemaking and privatization of public spaces, where the results were utilized as a basis for observing the conditions in case studies. The variables include the use of space and the occurrence of privatization. Therefore, the settlement profile and physical public open spaces were the basis of analysis, centering on the type, the area, furniture, and constraints. Furthermore, the utility includes activities, time, and users, and privatization entails territory, privacy, ownerships and relationships supervision. Meanwhile, visual data collected via walk-through studies, encompasses site visits and observations on the spatial forms of buildings, streets and open spaces, interviews on-site, and a survey conducted during the walk-through studies. In addition, a qualitative analysis process was conducted on space layout and ownership relationships.

3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The case study deliberates on illegal settlements, which is part of Duri Selatan Sub-district, flanked by rivers and railroads of approximately 0.5 hectares or 1.5% of the total area. Furthermore, its population density is 49.782 people / Km², and based on interviews with residents, almost of the buildings are rental houses owned by people living nearby. Meanwhile, clean water facilities are obtained from the ground or from traders, while home and public toilets sewerage are flowed directly into the river. These settlements possess very high building densities, as seen in Figure 2, with about 90% land coverage. Therefore, the open spaces consist of streets, rivers and railroad tracks serving as a means of connection, with no squares, parks or similar settings (see Fig. 2). The main street ranges from 2 to 2.5 meters while the second was between 1 and 2 meters, and permanent buildings are established on some street spots intended as community centers. Furthermore, pavements were created using concrete material with sewerage on both sides, and street sides are directly adjacent to the walls of the residents' houses. Moreover, physical deteriorations were observed in several spots, due to rain and residual water from laundry activities.

3.1 The Use of Public Open Space

Open spaces in streets are used 24 hourly and interchangeably, as activities vary greatly, amongst which are meetings, talking, playing, caring for children, washing, drying, patrolling, trading, and sometimes storage of personal goods, including vehicles and carts. This is similar with the argument of Friedman [20], stating that a good neighborhood is cherished its inhabitants, although the infrastructure is deficient. Furthermore, it was also mentioned the importance in places for meetings, which ought to be created according to the community's way of life. These activities are collectively conducted by groups of mothers, fathers, teens, or children, and locations near intersections, guard posts/'gardu jaga', or stalls are often used. In addition, mothers and toddlers mainly act in the mornings, while during the day, the groups of mothers and children use the space, while fathers and teens are predominant in the afternoon and evening.

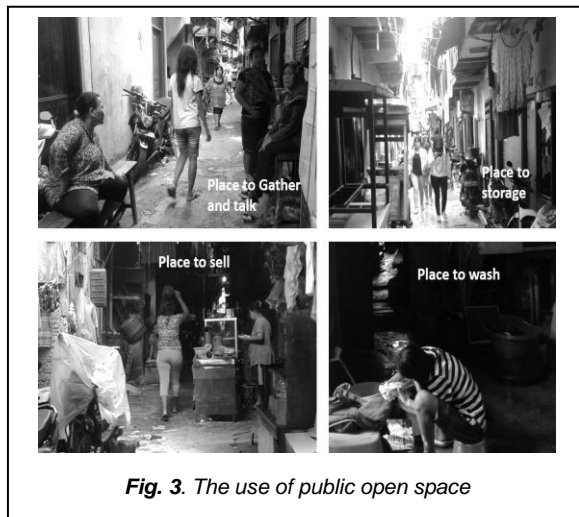


Fig. 3. The use of public open space

Washing activities are conducted by mothers or young women in the morning, on the street near public toilets, or other sites with taps. Subsequently, drying is performed in front of the houses, and some involve the use of 'gardu jaga' terrace. Storing or stationing items, e.g., carts and vehicles, take place in front of homes and some tend to place them on the street sides of the main road. This condition reduces the smoothness of circulation, which is due to street width narrowing, as a result of goods placement. Furthermore, the activity mainly takes place all day long because of alternate participation by residents. Trading occurs especially in the morning up to the afternoon on several road spots, with the tendency of being temporary and permanent, and the table or cart used for sales are usually placed there.

3.2 Privatization in Public Open Space

Privatization is the process of transferring ownership from public to private, although this case study is more about the use and placement of goods belonging to persons and groups in the public area. This tend to occur in most road sections in the research area, and the condition is characterized by placing items on the roadside, where some are large enough to cover it up to half-way. In addition, the behavior at the same time shows the existence of individual or group territories, as they tend to create marks or identity. Furthermore, personal belongings, including clotheslines, carts, motorbikes, merchandise, and temporary kitchens are usually situated in front of or near the home, while others, e.g., benches are generally placed close to intersections, guard posts, and stalls. Moreover, washing equipment is positioned in public toilet areas, only when washing is taking place. The placement shows the citizens' personification towards public open spaces.



Fig. 4. Placement of private goods in public space

This also makes it easier for owners to oversee and ascertain the safety of their goods, especially vehicles and carts. In addition, the condition strengthens one of the key factors of a good open space, which is comfort [16], based on safe conditions, conversely reducing the ease of human circulation, due to the existence of a narrowing street width. This practice at intersections, in the form of sentry boxes and benches seen from homes, makes it stress-free to access such places. Furthermore, the evaluation confirms the statement that a visible space, which is easy to obtain, move around, and interact, remains the best space [16]. Therefore, placing benches at several spots on the road also indicates a demand for the comfort to sit while discussing and interacting with other residents. Most furniture positioned in these spaces is temporary, and goods are also often moved, although they are replaced continuously. Therefore, permanent placements include several guard-posts or 'gardu jaga' buildings at street intersections, which is often used as a discussion site for the neighborhood officials, and as a resting place for people patrolling. Meanwhile, some benches around the substation tend to also be permanently built with concrete or masonry materials.

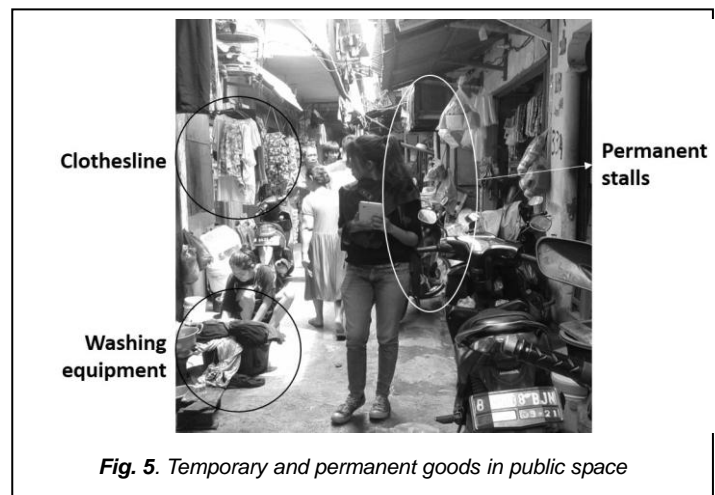


Fig. 5. Temporary and permanent goods in public space

3.3 The Use of Communal Space

Privatization is conducted by a community, through the placement of personal items on the side of roads, further identifying and marking territories. Meanwhile, at the initial phase, it was performed while residents indicate the existence

of shared space utilization. Therefore, the positioning of personal items, including chairs / benches non-permanently at the front of a house was often applied during interactions in daily life, and sometimes, the washing area served the purpose. Moreover, the use of shared space is mostly based on the desire for numerous residents to carry out similar activities, through the utility of remaining spaces between buildings. This was usually performed in groups, which have agreed to consider the concept as reasonable, and not detrimental to the community. Street spaces in front of a house, 'gardu jaga' and washing area were chosen as alternatives in the determination of locations for communal activities because of the limited area available. Meanwhile, the front of an individuals' house was most widely used for social interaction, where benches are non-permanently placed due to the ease of monitoring and access from home. Although the location is regarded as one of the party's territories, residents always attempt to use it collectively, reinforcing the statement on ease of accessibility, as this, further, elevates the interest of users to conduct social interactions [18, 19]. The interesting aspect of using communal spaces is the agreement that takes place between residents, as the privatized public land, personally mark territories through the placement of personal items, but this is, therefore, reused together by the residents, collectively. Dewi [18] stated that human behavior towards space is highly dependent on their perceptions, therefore making the human being and the environment, its influential factors. This is, in line with the conditions occurring in Tambora, and the discussion on collective agreements is a manifestation of social interactions in society. Furthermore, the citizens present tend to agree with each other on the use of shared public space, thus, creatively modifying it according to their needs, without anyone feel disadvantaged, individually or in groups.

4 CONCLUSIONS

The limited number of open spaces in Jakarta is a major challenge, and solutions differ according to the situation, one of which involves the utility of urban elements. Tambora's informal settlement shows interesting evolutionary changes in urban placemaking on streets, which indicates the main factors to be the social practices and interactions that occurred by the community. Furthermore, placemaking does not happen only at night, but over time, up to the point where a community agrees on the permissible activities to take place on the street. Therefore, as stakeholders in the settlement are homogenous, communication is more likely to occur, which is necessary to facilitate the process. Public open space placemaking in Tambora's informal settlement showed a potential for privatization to fulfill local community requirements of comfort. Naturally, it is conducted by the society, to improve the quality of life, and to interact, play, and deal with the limitation of housing space. Therefore, the narrowing street, which was caused by placing furniture indiscriminately, does not reduce the comfort of performing activities.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The authors wish to thank Universitas Trisakti, as this work was supported in part by a grant from Architecture Department, Universitas Trisakti.

REFERENCES

- [1] F. Olyvia, "Questioning Jakarta that Is Not Green," CNN Indonesia, <https://www.cnnindonesia.com/nasional/20170622130709-20-223543/menyoal-jakarta-yang-tak-kunjung-hijau>, 2017. (in Indonesian)
- [2] A.A. Lew, "Tourism Planning and Place Making: Place Making or Placemaking?", *Tourism Geographies*, Vol. 19, No. 3, 2017, doi: <https://doi.org/10.1080/14616688.2017.1282007>
- [3] K. Irandoost, M. Doostvandi, T. Litman, M. Azami, "Placemaking And the Right to The City of Urban Poor: A Case Study in Sanandaj, Iran". *Journal Of Place Management And Development*, 2019, doi: <https://doi.org/10.1108/JPM-D-03-2018-0027>
- [4] E.E. Toolis, "Theorizing Critical Placemaking as a Tool for Reclaiming Public Space", *Am J Community Psychol*, Vol 59, pp. 184–199, 2017, doi: <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajcp.12118>
- [5] K. Main, G.F. Sandoval, "Placemaking In A Translocal Receiving Community: The Relevance Of Place To Identity And Agency", *Urban Studies*, Vol. 52 no. 1, pp. 71-86, 2015, doi: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0042098014522720>
- [6] N.A. Latip, N.A.A. Bilal, N.S.M. Akhir, N.F.H.M. Hafizar, F.N.M. Yusof, "Place Making Concept in Urban Area: Penang Youth Park, Malaysia", *Research Journal of Fisheries and Hydrobiology*, Vol. 11, No. 3, pp. 165-174, 2016, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/329449639_Place_Making_Concept_in_Urban_Area_Penang_Youth_Park_Malaysia/link/5c09175092851c39ebd7866d/download
- [7] A. Montgomery, "Reappearance of the Public: Placemaking, Minoritization and Resistance in Detroit", *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, Vol. 40, No. 4, 2016, doi: <https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-2427.12417>
- [8] F. Rossini, "Temporary urban intervention in the vertical city: a place-making project to re-activate the public spaces in Hong Kong", *Journal of Urban Design*, Vol. 24, No. 2, pp. 305-323, 2019, doi: [10.1080/13574809.2018.1507674](https://doi.org/10.1080/13574809.2018.1507674)
- [9] BPS, Jakarta Barat Municipality in Figures 2018, Jakarta: BPS-Statistics of Jakarta Barat Municipality, pp. 100-101, 2018. <https://jakbarkota.bps.go.id/publication/2018/08/16/6e9a0b9a268a6db2aee24b43/kota-jakarta-barat-dalam-angka-2018.html>
- [10] Ambarwati, D. Sugandi, D. Sungkawa, "Slum Level Settlement in Tambora District Jakarta Barat", *Antologi Pendidikan Geografi*, Vol 4 No. 2, 2016. [http://antologi.upi.edu/file/Tingkat_Kekumuhan_Permukiman_an_di_Kecamatan_Tambora_Jakarta_Barat.pdf](http://antologi.upi.edu/file/Tingkat_Kekumuhan_Permukiman_di_Kecamatan_Tambora_Jakarta_Barat.pdf). (in Indonesian)
- [11] R. Steuteville, "Four Types of Placemaking," *Public Square a CNU Journal*, 2014, <https://www.cnu.org/publicsquare/four-types-placemaking>
- [12] M. Holden, "Community Well-Being in Neighbourhoods: Achieving Community and Open-Minded Space through Engagement in Neighbourhoods," *International Journal of Community Well-Being*, Vol. 1, pp. 45-61, 2018, doi: [10.1007/s42413-018-0005-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/s42413-018-0005-1).
- [13] M.I.R. Winandari, "Public Open Space Utilization in Housing Areas: A Case Study of Upper-Middle and

- Lower-Middle Class Housing in Yogyakarta,” PhD dissertation, Dept. of Architecture and Planning, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, 2015. http://etd.repository.ugm.ac.id/index.php?act=view&buku_id=80072&mod=penelitian_detail&sub=PenelitianDetail&typ=html. (in Indonesian)
- [14] S. Pancholi, T. Yigitcanlar, M. Guaralda, “Public space design of knowledge and innovation spaces: learnings from Kelvin Grove Urban Village, Brisbane,” *Journal of Open Innovation: Technology, Market, and Complexity*, Vol. 1, No. 13, 2015, doi: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40852-015-0015-7>
- [15] N. Sulaiman, N.H.Q. Zaman, H. Hamdani, Y.A. Abdullah, “Rethinking Potentials of Public Space and its Management Through Placemaking in Kuala Lumpur,” *MATEC Web of Conferences* 66:00056, January 2016, doi: 10.1051/mateconf/20166600056, https://www.matec-conferences.org/articles/mateconf/pdf/2016/29/mateconf_ibcc2016_00056.pdf
- [16] No name, “Four Key Qualities of A Successful Place,” placemaking Chicago, <http://placemakingchicago.com/about/qualities.asp>.
- [17] K. Widayawati, A. Ernawati, F.P. Dewi, “The Role of Public Open Space on Solidarity Level and Residents Concern in Jakarta Housing Areas”, *Jurnal Ilmiah Faktor Exacta*, Vol. 4, No. 3, September, pp. 246-260, 2011, doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.30998/faktorexacta.v4i3.54>.
- [18] Z.L. Dewi, N. Yuliasuti, “The Use of Shared Space in Rusunawa Kaligawe Semarang”, *Ruang*, Vol. 1, No. 4, pp 181-190, 2015, doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.14710/ruang.1.4.181-190>. (in Indonesian)
- [19] R. Said, Alfiah, “The Territoriality of the use Public space and Semi-Public Space in Rumah Susun”, *Nature National Academic Journal of Architecture*, Vol. 4, No. 42, pp 128-137, 2017, doi: <https://doi.org/10.24252/nature.v4i2a5>. (in Indonesian)
- [20] J. Friedmann, “Place and Place-Making in Cities: A Global Perspective,” *Planning Theory & Practice*, Vol. 11 No. 2, pp. 149-165, 2010, doi: <https://doi.org/10.1080/14649351003759573>