

**THE VISUAL PATTERN OF PEDESTRIAN CONNECTIVITY TO THE
INFORMAL EATING PLACES IN JALAN AMPANG, KUALA LUMPUR**

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"May Peace Be Upon You"

Special dedication to people, especially my mother and father

Thank you Allah S.W.T for everything.

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ABSTRACT

Hidden informal eating places in between Safuan Tower and Sunway Tower along Jalan Ampang seem to be one of the urban void public spaces which are not fully utilized since the space is not visible. The image of many pocket spaces that serve as well as functioning as informal eating places have not much been explored. These informal eating places are often hidden, characterless, and unorganised. The architectural image that is embedded or portrayed within such setting are also temporal. However these places are lively and offer a great place with the diverse of social activities of people. They are normally known to the locals within their own neighbourhood. They become the place for people to gather, and be regarded as the urban marker or third place in the city fabric. More so, not much attention is given to its image that suits to its locality. Dining experience at these informal eating places can be more diversified. It could also be educational and suits to the needs of the surrounding community. The environment could be enhanced especially when taking account the uniqueness of the site when fronting the riverside. By analysing the pattern of visual connection of people and their movement and behavioural activities will help inform designers and authority to understand the importance and sensitivity of the context of its locality. Subsequently, a better architectural image that are visible, see through and accessible to greater public could help raise its potential and enhance the social, economic and environmental of the development of the place, hence sustainable in line towards the vision of Greener KL in 2020. Furthermore, the social activities happened in the studied site prove that the space is liveable but yet not really welcoming. By studying the type of activities, occupation of spaces and density of people predict by space syntax allowing this kind of urban intervention need new link/spine to attract more user and flourish.

ABSTRAK

Terdapat tempat makan tidak formal tersembunyi yang terletak di antara Menara Safuan Menara dan Menara Sunway di Jalan Ampang, Ruang ini tidak digunakan sebaiknya dek kerana lokasinya yang tidak strategik dan terlindung. Imej ruang poket yang berfungsi sebagai tempat makan tidak formal masih boleh diperbaiki. Tempat-tempat makan yang tidak formal sering tersembunyi, tidak beridentiti dan tidak teratur. Imej yang digambarkan dalam suasana sedemikian juga adalah bersifat sementara. Namun tempat-tempat ini adalah meriah dan menawarkan pelbagai aktiviti sosial. Tempat seperti ini biasanya dikenali oleh penduduk tempatan di dalam kawasan mereka sendiri. Ia menjadi tempat untuk orang tempatan berkumpul, dan dianggap sebagai penanda bandar atau tempat ketiga dalam konteks urban. Pengalaman menjamu selera di tempat-tempat makan yang tidak formal boleh menjadi lebih menarik. Ia juga boleh menjadi contoh yang sesuai dengan keperluan masyarakat setempat. Dengan menganalisis corak sambungan visual dan pergerakan pejalan kaki dan aktiviti-aktiviti tingkah laku mereka dapat membantu pereka dan pihak berkuasa tempatan untuk memahami kepentingan dan sensitiviti konteks kawasan itu. Kemudiannya, melihat melalui dan boleh diakses oleh orang ramai dan mampu membantu meningkatkan potensi dan meningkatkan sosial, ekonomi dan alam sekitar pembangunan setempat, dengan itu selaras ke arah wawasan 'Greener KL' pada tahun 2020. Tambahan pula, aktiviti-aktiviti sosial yang berlaku di dalam laman sistem urban yang dikaji membuktikan bahawa ruang seperti ini sesuai untuk didiami namun keadaan sekarang tidak mengalu-alukan. Dengan mengkaji jenis aktiviti, jenis ruang dan ketumpatan orang yang diramal melalui simulasi ruang sintaks membenarkan sebarang pembaharuan bandar perlu baru untuk menarik lebih ramai pengguna.

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EATING PLACES AT JALAN AMPANG, KUALA LUMPUR**

MOHAMAD SAFWAN SAIFUDDIN BIN ZULKERNAIN

NEW SPIRIT

DESIGN THESIS DISSERTATION

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

Many of pocket spaces give a kind of magical quality to these leftover spaces that have been creatively transformed, either officially or otherwise into useful parts of an urban landscape. But, they also highlight the fact that in most major cities, space is a finite resource. In Malaysia, the hidden pocket spaces can defined as leftover unstructured landscaped at the base of high-rise tower away from the flow of pedestrian activity. They are the unused land that nobody cares about maintaining, much less using it. The main reason this spaces was abandoned are because of the an increased dependence on the automobile, the attitudes of architects towards open spaces,, zoning and land-use policies of the urban renewal period that divided the city, an unwillingness on the part of contemporary institution (public and private , to assume responsibility for the public urban environment) (Trancik, 1986).

The other main concern is the regenerating of this kind of hidden pocket spaces as general did not take any empirical study as a tools to proof the current case is facing problem and the proof for the best possible layout of intervention. This can be seen on chapter 2 under Literature Review which all of the case study of pocket spaces is not really deep in terms of empirical study.

This research undertake along Jalan Ampang. The study is looking into how outdoor gathering spaces are utilized. This awareness of our senses, emotions towards any surrounded space, building as a small space of the city, has to be in total harmony with the whole city and areas. The image of many pocket spaces that serve as well as functioning as informal eating places have not much been explored. These informal eating places are often hidden, characterless, and unorganised. The architectural image that is embedded or portrayed within such setting are also temporal. However this places are lively and offer a great places with the diverse of social activities of people. They are normally known to the locals within their own neighbourhood. They become the place for people to gather, and be regarded as the urban marker or third place in the city fabric. Qualitative surfaces in space is simply lack and the reduction of space to the quantitative aspect of humans (Forman, 1995).

1.1 Problem Statement

Many 'Pocket Spaces', such as the small spaces located in between buildings in urban areas are used as eating places. These eating places attract the locals, and most people in the surrounding neighbourhood. Nasi Padang normally is the main dish being served there to cater for the need of the people in the area for having their quick and cheap lunch in the afternoon. Thus these pocket spaces are seen to be giving life and meaning to its surrounding context, which is could be argued as an interesting public space.

The richness of the unseen in pocket spaces social activities that are used as eating places, somehow inject quite an interesting architectural meaning to the area where it is generally located. However, these places are normally unorganised, cluttered, crowded and improperly planned. Such is the common phenomena happening in city centres. The potential of these lively eating places in these pocket spaces have not much been explored in terms of its potential to increase other aspects of social activities than just eating; a place where people gather, place people buy, place people take direct interaction that could give a better image for the city as a whole. Such is a scene also happening in Kuala Lumpur in general and in particular

the pocket space located between Safuan Tower and Sunway Tower along Jalan Ampang, Kuala Lumpur. A lots of these public spaces itself are functioning as eatery places only. In Kuala Lumpur for example. This potential can be explored further architecturally for giving better image for the urban development of Kuala Lumpur. The architectural image of many pocket spaces that serve as well as functioning as informal eating places have not much been explored. these informal eating places are often hidden, characterless, and unorganised. the architectural image that is embedded or portrayed within such setting are also temporal. However this places are lively and offer a great places with the diverse of social activities of people . They are normally known to the locals within their own neighbourhood. they become the place for people to gather, and be regarded as the urban marker or third place in the city fabric. in the rapid urbanization of kuala lumpur, such potential seems to be ignored and not much attention is given to its architectural image. By analysing the pattern of visual connection of space and their movement and behavioural activities will help inform designers and authority to understand the importance and sensitivity of the context of its locality. Subsequently, a better architectural image that are visible, see through and accessible to greater public could help raise its potential and enhance the social, economic and environmental of the development of the place, hence sustainable in line towards the vision of Greener KL by 2020. Pocket spaces/small spaces itself which are lively but not pleasing, hidden in term of its appearance on the location. Liveliness of architectural image, potential of many of these eating place were not much as architecturally its presence in urban fabric as urban marker often also ignored with no significant character.

Lots of its potential of these spaces can be discovered, functioning as eating spaces for workers and people within the immediate neighbourhood, in Kuala Lumpur in general and in particular the area in between Safuan and Sunway Tower. Many of these places are hidden to the public but very well known to the local, in the immediate surrounding. Reviving the area through VGA studies and analysis could help beautify the area and give a better quality of public spaces.

1.2 Research Aim

The research aims to enhance the visibility of the hidden eating places in the pocket space along Jalan Ampang, Kuala Lumpur.

1.3 Research Objectives

The objectives of the study:-

- i. To apply Space Syntax Visual Graph Analysis (VGA) in order to understand the visual connectivity pattern on the pedestrian movement in the studies area.
- ii. To survey and observe the density of people and their activities in order to find the relation between their occupation of space and visual connectivity.
- iii. To synthesise the above analyses in order to recommend the spatial configurational of the layout of the eating places of the studied area.

1.4 Research Question

Based on the studies, research questions that arise are:

- i. How would VGA be applied to analyse the visual connectivity pattern in the studied area?
- ii. What is the relation between occupation of eating spaces and the spatial visual connectivity of people?
- iii. What are the suitable configurational layout of the eating places in the studied area?

1.5 Significance of Research

This study seeks to help the designer to understand the important of designing pocket spaces as a food eatery spaces as an identity of a city as a whole. Other than that, this research can help local authority to have better understanding of urban configurational layout for better urban development image. A methodology of injecting the sense of community spirit in eatery space will be produced based on the research. In addition, it also helps designer to make design decision based on scientific syntactical study on the connectivity and visibility of the development area. As a components of the integration between design studio and the thesis dissertation, the result and the outcome of the research will be utilized in order to have better development of urban design development on the studied site.

1.6 Scope Of research

This research is focussing on the visibility (visual) of spatial layout from the current situation which is hidden informal eating places located in between Safuan Tower and Sunway Tower.

There are many informal eatery places in Kuala Lumpur. Some are hidden and some are easily seen and accessible. This research identifies informal eatery places in Kuala Lumpur especially in Jalan Ampang. However, due to uncontrolled urbanization of Kuala Lumpur as city center, urban pocket space seems to be ignored and architecturally character-less. This study focus on the potential urban pocket spaces as a food eatery spaces. The types of social interaction happens in informal spaces and the visibility studies by different level of analysis can be the design determinant in Design Thesis or even in urban development as one of guideline for interweaving in between research and real practice. Besides, the urban identity of its own should be redefined and reflect corporate image of Jalan Ampang. The experiment and study of this research is focus on Jalan Ampang, Kuala Lumpur.

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