

Conference Paper

Designing Public Open Spaces as a Form of Environmental Identity

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Abstract

The presence of open space in the middle of the buildings can be a counterweight to the environment. Physically the composition between buildings and open space (solid – void) forms a harmony in a spatial pattern. Open space in a residential environment provides a very important function, because the presence of open space can support community activities, such as gathering, and socialization among citizens, playing, cycling and exercising, as well as providing recreational area for residents. On a wider scale, such as urban environment, the presence of public open space can also function as the place of meetings among citizens of different types of men and women, young and old as well as various social status, buying and selling activities, playing ground and recreation, especially in the afternoon or holiday time, as well as other public activities. This shows the importance of the role and function of open space in supporting the activities of citizens and the surrounding environment. This research was conducted to study an open space design with roles and function that can be accommodated there so it can form the character/identity of the environment. The research was done by observing the open space in a simple housing environment and conducting interviews with residents. Further exploring in a design. Characteristic functions and typical community activities in a simple housing environment becomes the dominant factors in forming the traits and identities.

Keywords: Enviromental identity, Public open space, urban environment

INTRODUCTION

The development of housing and settlement facilities in urban areas will color the urban spatial pattern. This development extends to the suburbs. The existing housing and residential environment, as a form of meeting the needs of where to live, where the developer plays a role in the provision. The new housing and settlement areas are provided not only in the form of housing but also with other infrastructure such as road network, electricity network, water supply and sewerage/sewer network. Included in it is the availability of open spaces place of gathering and socialization among residents. Basically, open space is a Common Open Space, i.e. open space that can be accessed by anyone (Mulyandari, 2011). In general, the function of open space as a place to exercise, play, relax, social communication, means of connecting a place or as a barrier. Meanwhile, according to Mirza (2012), the presence of open space can give other characteristics or characters in a city, whether formed naturally or artificially. Therefore, the arrangement of the form and the pattern must be through careful design.

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Open space can be easily found in many kinds of housing environment. Residents of residential community use it to gather, socialize and playing ground for children. Unlike the open space found in the middle or luxury housing environment, the trend for the provision of open spaces has been designed in such a way, equipped with elements of outdoor space furniture, such as parks, park benches, sculpture, etc., designed with concepts and themes, certain themes, adjust and reflect the strata/class of housing, so as to make the characteristics/identity of the environment.

Although the presence of open space in a simple housing environment, just a plot of land open, but the local community is able to optimize by filling various activities, including means of gathering and socializing citizens, means of meeting and mingling people, especially during leisure time, children's playground, cycling, sports facilities for children and adults, and so on. With the role and participation of residents of residential housing, the conditions of open space have improved quality, this is done to meet the needs of citizens and optimize the function such as making pavements on the floor, providing adequate lamps, providing portable sports facilities.

To improve the quality of open space and characterize in accordance with the character of a simple residential community, it is necessary to design an open space with specific concepts and themes, so that the presence of this open space can also function as a form of environmental identity.

METHODS

Selected open space located in simple residential Pondok Dadapan Permai Sidoarjo located in the southern region of Sidoarjo regency was chosen as the research object. The open space located in the middle of a residential housing area, so it becomes a center point of residential neighborhood.

The method used was observation on order to see the physical condition of the existing open space, and to conduct interviews with the residents, to identify the activities undertaken and summarize the needs and desires of the community. From the results of data analysis, the concept of open space design characterized by environmental identity then formulated by using explorative design method, to develop the idea of design idea in two dimension (2D) and three dimension (3D) and complete it with pre-plan and detail image as shown in Figure 1.

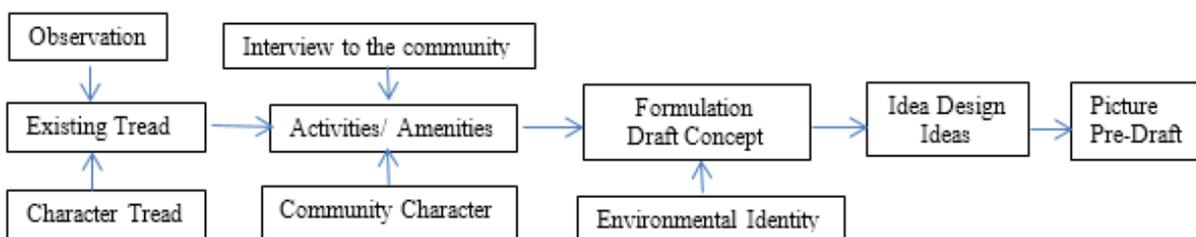


Figure 1. Flow Chart Design

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The Open Space located in the modest residential neighborhood of Pondok Dadapan Asri Sidoarjo has a small area, about 22,00 m x 32,60 m in size. Located in the middle of a residential area right in front of the mosque on the right and the community meeting hall on the right left. With a rectangular shape, stretching north-south direction. The location and position of open space is advantageous, if viewed from the aspect of the orientation of the sun, because it does not cause glare effects if used as a sports field. With a limited size, the presence of this open space was able to accommodate various activities of citizens, such as:

- Sport Facilities (Volley, futsal and basketball, gymnastics together, etc.)
- Support religious activities held in prayer room/ Mosque, such as recitation, Eid al-Fitr prayer or Eid al Adha, or other big day celebration

- Supporting social activities, gathering place of citizens during the commemoration of Independence Day
- Increase the economic value of society, because it is used as a place of Ramadan or Independence Day celebration, with the bazaar and entertainment stage, etc.
- Supporting other recreational activities, such as the gathering place of citizens at the entertainment event stage of Independent day, a place to chat in leisure or holiday, play, cycling, afternoon walks and so forth.

All kinds of this activities mentioned above are of course done by residents in turn, given the limited existing open space, but able to support the various activities and needs of residents of housing. So it can be said that the level of flexibility of open space usage is quite high.

In addition, the housing environment is simple, dominated by low-income residents, so that the presence of public open space facilities become a means of gathering, exercising and playing/recreation is considered very effective and cheap, because it is located near the residential neighborhood. This condition can characterize and color the uniqueness of the concept of open space design in a simple housing environment so as to form the identity of the environment. The following figures show the cytoplican image and the design looks (Figure 2).



(a) Siteplan

(b) East View (top) and south view (below)

Figure 2. Siteplan (a) and Views (b)

The presence of open space as a means of gathering, playing and mingling, and sports like futsal, volleyball and basketball is realized by the field that uses paving stone material. The use of paving stone is intended to easily absorb water and not muddy when it rains. Besides it is easy to be repaired or dismantled pairs, in addition to the material is quite strong and resistant to climate/weather. In order to provide a place identity, a nameplate as a place of identity and other spatial supporting elements in some sculpture models, with the use of striking colors, will characterize it differently than anywhere else. The following figures show the design of open spaces with various sculptures (Figure 3).

The presence of a sports field is in the middle of an open space area, while at the edge is surrounded by various sculpture models created to fulfill the functions and needs as a means of play, namely: seesaw boards, swings, skateboard, climbing ladder grid patterns, motor for children, seats to mingle, and so forth. The following figure shows sculpture with various models (Figure 3).



Figure 3. Open Space Atmosphere Perspective

With adjustment to limited land area, the sculpture design is strived not to disturb the presence of the existing sports field as detailed in Figure 4. The sculpture placement is placed around the field, adjusting the width of the open space edges. The sculpture model is tailored to the function and needs of residents of residential communities. This is what makes its own characteristics and form the character of the open space.

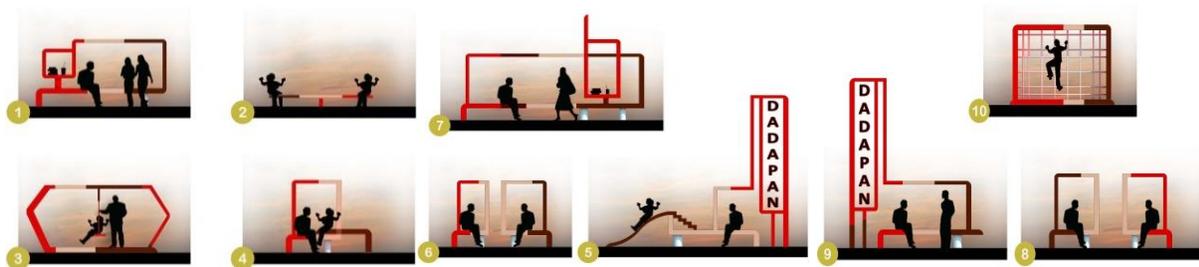


Figure 4. Various forms of sculpture as street elements characterize the environmental identity in the design of open spaces

CONCLUSION

The presence of open spaces in residential neighborhoods in the simple, medium, and luxury housing schemes is instrumental in supporting the activities of citizens to gather, socialize, play and exercise, which is quite effective and inexpensive, as it is easily accessible to all residents. The design of the open spaces is expected to meet the needs of citizens with a variety of functions. In order to achieve the optimization of space, then the time of use is done alternately. Elements in the open space is designed in accordance with the activities of citizens as a means of gathering, socializing, and playing, so as to provide its own characteristics and character (identity) for the surrounding environment. With the use of various sculpture models, able to support the activities and needs of citizens in the open space.

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that the presence of this open space will be able to improve the quality of life of residents of housing residents, as well as improve the quality of the housing environment.

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