VALENCE OF PUBLIC PLACES: AN INQUIRY TO CHILD-FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOODS

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Problems & Issues

- Lack of open public spaces and places, especially for children to play.
- They use any “open space” as a playground.
- Many public spaces have not been utilized optimally.
- Many types of neighborhood: City center, neighborhood estate, ”urban kampong”/ village, slum area.
- Socio-spatial fragmentation (formal and informal sector / private and public sector)
- Gap among each part of the city.
- Gap between the privileged and the deprived.
Problems

• How can the children be attracted on the public spaces? What are the public spaces’ valences for children?
• How to create a neighborhood public space become child-friendly neighborhood.
Rationale

- Child-friendly neighborhood and valences of public spaces?
- Child-friendly neighborhood: the place where they can live and grow healthy (physically and mentally), enjoyable to stay, can play & explore their many skill and warmly welcome feeling by their peer group and neighborhood.
- Children’s and youngster’s valences will fulfill their needs (physical, social, aesthetic and psyches) and expectation, comfort, safety and secure feeling, solve their struggle with urban space and they will attach with their neighborhood.
Public Places

• Public places: Squares (the heart of the city), Parks (the lung of the city) and Streets (the artery of the city).

• Many functions of public space for children: playground and exploring; social, cognitive and emotion learning; “contemplation” place/reduce stress; increase self-esteem and self regulations; recreation, relax, leisure and cultural place, etc
Diagram to show State of the Art of Valence which is happened by interaction between users and spaces/places:

Users
There are needs & wishes:
Physical and psychological
(Place & comfort feeling)

Activities

Spaces/places
Physical, functional, personal &
Social meaning: Typology &
Character of requirement spaces
(Parks, Squares, streets/alleys)

Valence
Diagram of the interaction shown as below:

Interaction between people and urban places

**People / User**

**Urban Places**

**Motivation** which is driven

By **purpose**

**Appealing** from the space / place

**Valence** that transformed into some activities
Diagram of urban spaces in each part of neighborhood at City of Jakarta

A: Urban Kampong  
B: Neighborhood estate  
C: City Center (high-rise building)
Plaza (in the middle of City)
City Park
Open Mall
(Pedestrian corridor or streets)
Activities in some urban spaces
Activities at CBD and Office & Shop-Houses district
Children activities in some open places
Children and the youngster’s activities in some public spaces
Neighborhood park
Pedestrian in Neighborhood (Real-Estate)
Neighborhood (Real-Estate)
Neighborhood & Children’s playground (Real-Estate)
Activities in some alleys (neighborhood in the middle of the city center)
Neighborhood

Ciliwung River (Manggarai),
Jatinegara,
Kuningan & Urban Kampung
Map of Jakarta city
EXISTING
Circulation in neighborhood

Public road

Pedestrian
Open space

- Neighborhood park and activity on the alleys: They create their own public space
Neighborhood
Ciliwung River (Manggarai), Jatinegara, Kuningan & Urban Kampung
Jatinegara
Building form and skyline (Conservation Chinese style building)
Bring unique point of interest to this old area of neighborhood.
Jatinegara slum area.
Night life of this area.
Street Hawker along pedestrian area
Neighborhood
Ciliwung River (Manggarai), Jatinegara, Kuningan & Urban Kampung
“Urban kampung” behind Highrise building

“KUNINGAN”
“Urban kampong” behind the high-rise buildings.
1. Busway Shelter

2. Pedestrian

3. Motor cycle taxi shelter
Neighborhood condition

“Urban Kampong” behind high-rise building
Conclusions

• Valence of urban spaces have big influences to children’s attitude to use, to close and become friendly and attach to the places.

• Perceived of familiar, welcome and effective child-friendly neighborhood are: physically, aesthetically and functionally fulfill their valences.
Conclusions

• Their valences are: activity to get and express a freedom, recreation and fun activities, enjoying nature & openness and environment, activities for sports and health, social and cultural activities.

• If they attach to their neighborhood, they feel their neighborhoods are favorable, preference’s, enjoyable, friendly and healthy places to stay.

• Different age, gender, cultural / ethnic, economy background and length to stay in one / different neighborhood have a different attention and value of their public space and environment.
Conclusions

• In case of Jakarta: need additional specific design (transition spaces) between two neighborhoods & specific and contextual design for each type of neighborhood, such as: Kampong improvement program, community development program (by design many continuous places and features that children need & expected).
Recommendations

- Design: several design criteria (macro and micro level: play networks)
- Create & develop several activities according to the valences of the children and the youngster
- Create comfortable, healthy, and child-friendly places
Recommendations

Create many open “places” where can develop children’s & youngster’s place attachment by creating play network which are related with their valences, their environment / neighborhood and supported by many facilities, natural features, including good support in maintenance and management.

Make a “landmark architecture / landmark places or playground” of the each area and have their own identity

Create mirror of the community with strong local character (close, open, clean, safety and become community’s valence also for their children)

Involvement of Government & other institution
The valences of the children and the youngster

• Create child-friendly public places (according to children’s and youngster’s valences):
  – Recreational and fun activities,
  – Physical activities,
  – Particular attractive activities, such as: festival, music and art, etc
  – social and educational activities,
  – availability of greenery & some aesthetical buildings and features to enjoy nature such as: water element.
  – and activity to enjoy both freedom and privacy through natural edge.
Design Idea

- Renovate facade and provide space for pedestrian

- Using space on right-left of street for pedestrian area & add street's furniture, amenities and greenery to make this place more comfort.

- Provide comfortable pedestrian area and zebra cross

- Provide nice area/space for selling/places for streets vendor and comfort pedestrian area.

- Create play network from pedestrian and places/plaza or park for children to play and to explore their idea & fulfill their needs.

- Separate pedestrian and streets for vehicles.
Healthy environment will make children are grown healthy;

…”We build our cities, and it will build our way of life, and we shape our environment, and afterwards our environment shape us”…

(Winston Churchill’s speech, May, 10,1941)