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# Identification of Urban Space Use at Monpera Square Palembang

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## Abstract

*This research was started from the preliminary observation of busy-life open space around Monpera. Unlike the ideal open space, here people were tending to not use the proposed open space (inside Monument Square) for their activity. In fact, the lively urban space has occurred at the out side the square spontaneously. This research was aimed to study further about the impact of change is society life orientation from river to land oriented. This will automatically affected the social life of urban space in transitional area, between riverside and landside. The selected Monpera square was located in this kind of area. The observation had drawn a conclusion that there is an impact of orientation changing on urban space use in transitional area. Two big facilities, such terminal (of city's mode interchange hub) and big regional market (16 Ilir market) had great influence in determining the social life of urban space around Monument Square. Those social lives create pattern of activities and open space in surroundings monument.*

**Keywords:** Open space, urban space, waterfront.

## Introduction

The use of urban space for Palembang citizen had been changed over the years. It happened when the orientation of society changed from river oriented into land. This change bring the process of city development to be more concentrated to the land this situation brings to logical consequences that more open space being built rather than conserve it. According to the emerging process, there are two types of urban space, planned and unplanned urban space. The first one is urban space, which planned and designed by the urban designer/city planner intentionally. The other one is urban space, which emerged spontaneously by the user to accommodate their activities.

This research observed the way people, i.e. the citizens; use the urban space in selected open space, Monpera Square. The objects of research are varying form people as user, open spaces facilities, user movement and so on. The method used in this reaserch is camera documentation, which observed activities in different time lapse.



This different time will show different activity and it will bring this research to conclusion and pattern of urban space use.

The problem founded here is to find the affect/impact of the changing of life orientation (from river to land) on social life at selected area around Monpera square. This research was conducted by observing the use of planned urban space inside Monpera Square area, and the activity outside as factual condition, comparing the planned and factual condition, analysing the social life in connection to transitional area, life orientation changes.

Selected location was selected area around Monpera Square, included open space inside and outside monument complex, the streets around monument. This square site beside the Musi River and the centre of the city. It has been chosen because it can reflect transitional area between river and land, and it was near city's landmark such Ampera Bridge and Great Mosque.

## **Theory**

### ***Psychology of Space Theory***

Space is the container from the activity inside it. Robert Lynn studied the psychological side of user space, and its effect on user's the life. Generally, human as user create physical environment as *neutral space*. This neutral space can be draw as a container of the activity inside, which structured of independently. Sometime users feel their life in certain spatial feel. This psychological feeling made the border between user and space become blur. This psychological effect creates an acute space. Next, there is another invisible psychological experience, named *chronic space*. Chronic space was defined as a common space of common actual even in one's life.

### ***Theory of Social Life of Urban Space***

According to Whyte (1980), The best use of an urban space was a space for society interaction. In order to make a lively plaza, there are elements for attracting plaza; sitting space, street vendor, street and climate factor such as wind, sun etc. Whyte also discuss about one factor that can make people/user stop (for a while) or decide to use certain space to interact with friends or other user, named self-congestion. The degrees of self-congestion can be seen by observing the distances made by user- between the main pedestrian flow and temporary place to stop and interaction with friend or make an activities. A successful of an urban space or plaza can be created from adding the attractive element such street putting furniture at sitting area, fountain, shadowed sitting area, etc. The existence of street vendor also can make an open space attractive. They can attract people to come closer and interact one another. A busy street corner can be a good start to create successful open space. Street is one of element that integrated with the space. There is negative space in an open space that can attract undesirable things such drinker, marginal, etc. Their existences can annoy social life of a plaza. In order to eliminated this negative things



Whyte recommended to make a more attractive open space or plaza, so that they have no space to stay longer in there.

## Methodology

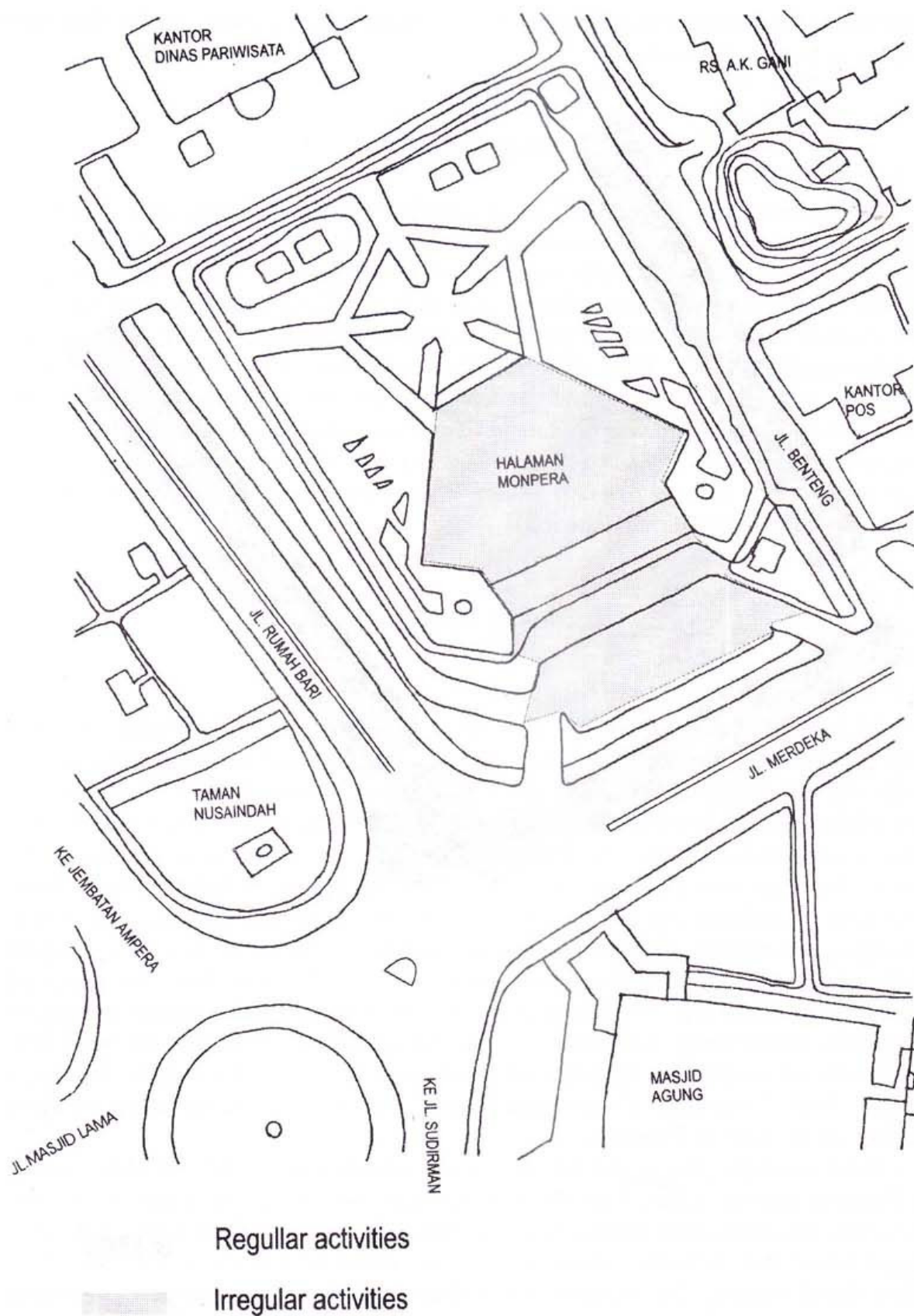
The research used descriptive and qualitative analysis. Primary data were taken using field observation method, while secondary data taken from city map and the city land used plan (RUTRK). Field observation was conducted by documenting the situation in different time lapse using manual camera. This research conducted in for steps. First of all, it observed the planned function of Monpera Square in connection with monument function. Then the research was continued by observing the use of open space around the square (inside and outside) and the activities in different time lapse. Having those data, it was continued to analysing the data, to find the changes in space use and location of each activity. The last one was comparing the pattern of actual space use to planned one and relating it with the life of transitional area where the change of life orientation happened.

## Results & Discussion

### *The Activities at Monpera Square*

Based on the research that has been done, there were two types of activities that colour the social life of Monpera Square, regular activity and irregular activity. The regular one was happened when the activity happened in longer time, more than two hours a day, or the activity is a daily regular activity. Traders such street vendor, food vendor, ex-use fashion seller, fruit/vegetables sellers are included in this type. The locations for these activities took place at outside the square. Sometimes the activity can be held in different place (moveable) in one day, or in another way, one certain place can accommodate different activities in different time in one day. The irregular activities took place inside the square area. The activity had different character compared to pervious one. The irregular activity must have a recommendation from an official local government institution, so that it happened only in certain period of time such in special event like special traditional market on fasting month, Sriwijaya Cultural Fiesta, Palembang Darussalam festival and so on. The mapping of these activities can be seen on **Figure 1**.

There are three streets located around the square, Bari Street, Merdeka Street, and Benteng streets. Users were located sporadic all along the street. From the observation, the users were tending to move fast, only a few of them found stay for a while to take a rest. Traders were tending to use space longer, in certain time, their location found moved. The most crowded street is Bari street where accommodate trading activity as well as terminal activity. Merdeka Street was widening than the other two, which is why the trader activities are rare found along this street, especially at the noon. The movement of users can be seen on **Table 1**.



**Figure 1.** Activities mapping around monpera square



**Table 1.** The movement of the space use

Time	Activities	Space Used
03.00-05.00 wib	Early Morning Market	Bari Street
05.30-06.00 wib	Terminal activities started	Bari Street
07.00-11.00 wib	Food vendors started, vehicle (minibus and becak) started to operated	Bari Street and Merdeka street
12.00-14.00 wib	Peak time	Bari Street and Merdeka street
15.00-17.00 wib	Ex-use fashion traders replace the previous traders Some night food vendors open their trading	Bari Street
17.00-19.00 wib	Terminal Activities declined, fruit and vegetables supplier came to start trading.	Bari street
19.00-21.00 wib	Fruit-Vegetables supplier started their activities. Some food vendors replace the previous ones Undesirable thing came up.	Bari street and Merdeka street. A few food vendor along Benteng street
21.00-22.00 wib	Night trading, terminal activities declined, only minibus route Tg Buntung and becak operated. Undesirable; PSK.	Bari street, Merdeka street.
23.00-03.00 wib	Night market all night long until morning	Bari street

### ***Open Space Facilities***

In fact there was no sitting space that intentionally designed as resting place for user. There was also no greenery that can be used as sit able place. Sitting furniture only provided by the food vendors that bring little chair that easily moved from one place to another. Only shadow space below the Monpera gate and some street divider that can be used as sit able place by few users.

As explained before, the busiest street is Bari Street, followed by Merdeka Street. Both were located in area that has high activity level, both transiting (or terminal activity) and trading activity. There is no transitional place between street and the square that can be used as street corner, which can create a lively open space/plaza. The square also invited undesirable things to come, such prostitute, drunker, street kids and criminals. Those undesirable things operated along those streets. If there were special event at he Saturday night, their activities inclined.

### ***Open Space Quality***

Monpera wan designed as monument which reminding the next generation of a certain unforgettable moment. Accommodating this role, Space around monument should be designed to support building objectives. Based on Robert Lynn Theory above, spatial feel could not be found inside the square. Users seem to be separate

from the "monument". Open space around the square was more neutral than it should be.

### *Circulation Mapping*

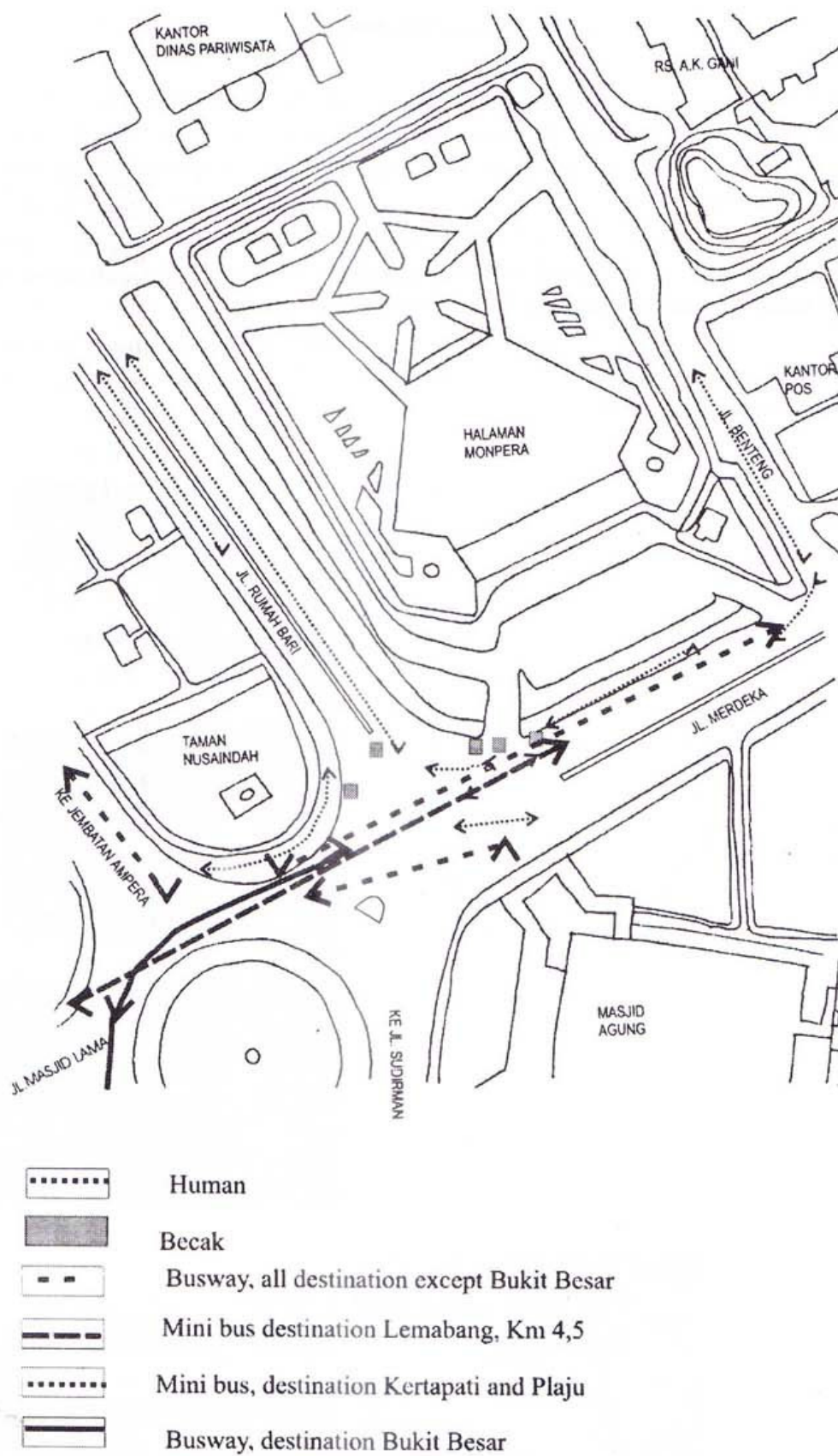
People tend to use main pedestrian around the square for circulation. In some space, traders use pedestrian path as a place for their activities. In this situation, people will use street space (1–1,5 meters outside the path) as circulating area. Some times traders located their merchandise use street space, and let the pedestrian path as circulating area.

Public transport, such city bus and mini bus used Bari Street and Merdeka Street. These two streets were being use as transit place for this transportation mode. It caused crowded circulation. At the peak time, almost a half of street body had been used for transiting activity. Public transportation operated from 05.00 wib until 21.00 wib. Only two routes operated 24 hours, route with destination to Tg Buntung and Bukit Besar. Circulation Mapping can be seen on **Figure 2**.

### *Time Scale Use of Space*

There are three scale of time for the activities using open space around the square; daily, weekly, and special. On the daily scale, there is a change on activity happened in the same day. Most of activities using this scale had been already discuss above. On weekly scale, there is a routine weekly activity that makes situation open space around the square different. The different activities were happened on Sunday Morning and Friday Noon. On Sunday morning, trading activities were higher than other morning. The number of buyers were much more compare to others morning. Buyers come from citizen who has\d finished their sport activities on Sunday morning. On Friday, the different situation happened when there is Jumat Praying at Great Mosque. This activity, including parking was extended to Merdeka street. Usually special events were held on Saturday night or Sunday. The special activities was accommodate inside the Monpera square.





**Figure 2.** Circulation mapping



## Conclusion

Monpera Square as one of urban space in Palembang has specific social life. Its open space was used to be more functional (accommodating activity) rather than to be comfort urban space. This monument building was not supported by activities and urban function around. Trading activities that have been happened for a long time ago, give much influence for people activities. This research found that river orientation activity still extended to the land and have a great influence for the open space in transitional area. The close distance between regional market and open space, combine with public transport activity, made the use of urban space at Monpera square was different from the previous plan. The planned activity purposed for the square was different compare to the actual activity.

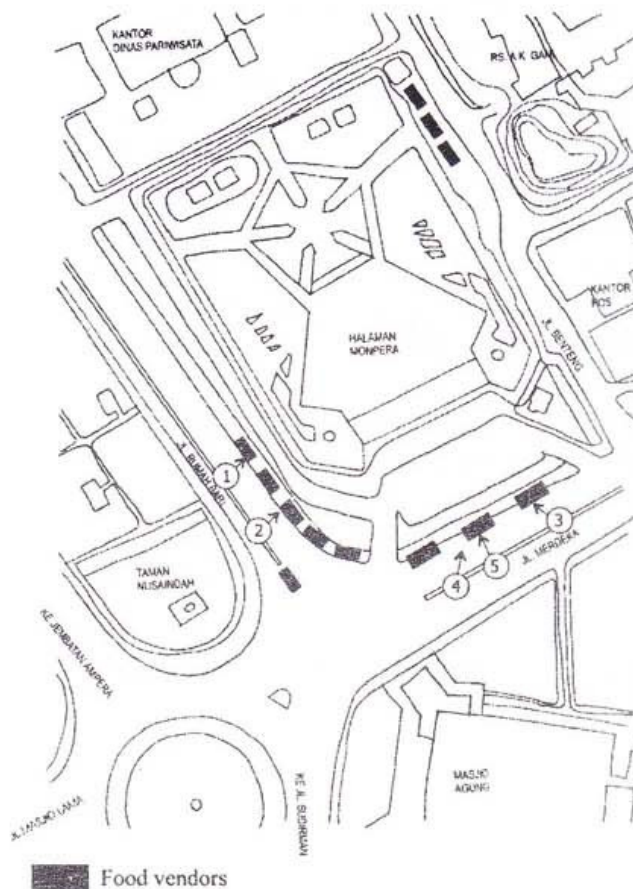


Photo 1



Photo 2

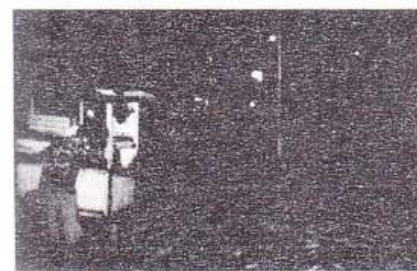


Photo 3

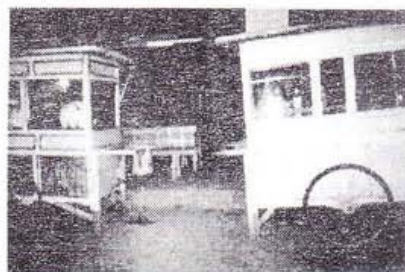


Photo No.4 (22.00 wib)



Photo No.5 (17.30)

**Figure 3. Trading activities mapping (at night)**



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