

Public Space Placemaking Study in The Teladan Stadium Area, Medan

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Abstract. A public space in urban areas is essentially intended for the community to socialize safely and comfortably conduct various activities. Public spaces, especially in large cities, significantly influence the activities of the city's residents. Parks and streets are frequently used by the community for their daily activities. Teladan Stadium area is one of the public open spaces in Medan City that accommodates diverse activities and serves as a common destination for community activities. The purpose of this research is to assess the effectiveness of this public open space using placemaking approaches with criteria such as sociability, uses and activities, access and linkage, and comfort and image (Bohl, 2002). This study aims to provide insights and policies for addressing issues in public spaces through Placemaking approaches. It utilizes a qualitative descriptive method, mapping community activities in the public space (Behaviour Mapping) around Teladan Stadium in Medan, to understand whether placemaking is occurring and efforts to transform the existing space into a place where activities are actively conducted.

Keywords: Public space, Placemaking, Community Activities, Behaviour Mapping.

1 Introduction

A city serves as a place for residents to carry out various activities. Population growth increases the demand for community space in urban areas, and this is true for Medan, the third-largest city in Indonesia. Medan is divided into 21 districts and 151 sub-districts. One of the districts where people engage in public activities is Medan Kota. In 2020, Medan Kota had a population of 88,666 people, covering an area of 5.27 square kilometers, with a population density of 16,066 people per square kilometer. As the population density rises, there is a growing need for space within the city for activities. In this district, one prominent public space that attracts people is the Teladan Stadium area in Medan.

The development of these spaces transforms them into active public areas. However, in addition to making these spaces active, their functions may also change over time. Therefore, a more in-depth study is needed to understand how spaces evolve into places, specifically

through placemaking analysis of the Teladan Stadium area in Medan. With the emergence of new places in the Teladan Stadium area, a more comprehensive spatial planning approach is required, starting with a placemaking study of the area.

Placemaking is the process through which individuals transform and adapt their surroundings, thereby discovering their identity within the environments they inhabit (Schneekloth & Shibley, 1995). Dovey (1985) explains that the concept of "place" reflects the relationship between people and the meaning of a location. "Place" encompasses not only the physical aspects but also emphasizes the spatial experiences perceived by its users. According to Bohl (2002), placemaking involves four main criteria: sociability, uses and activities, access and linkage, and comfort and image. The background of this research is the increasing population growth, which creates a demand for spaces where people can engage in activities. However, the available public spaces do not adequately meet the community's needs. Additionally, some areas are being repurposed for activities that do not align with their intended functions. This study aims to explore the placemaking occurring in the Teladan Stadium area, focusing on sociability, uses and activities, access and linkage, and comfort and image.

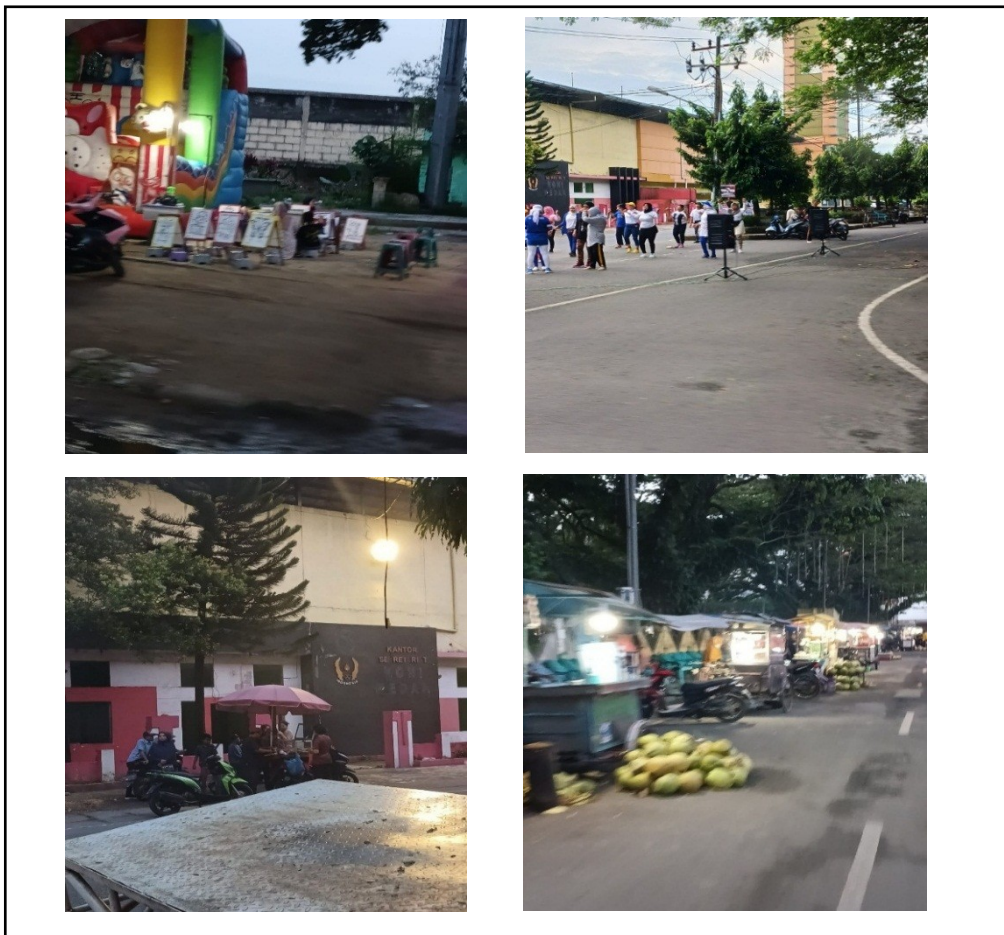


Fig. 1. Documentation of space utilization in the Teladan Stadium area.

2 Method

The research method employed is a qualitative descriptive approach. The scope of the study covers the Teladan Stadium area in Medan, specifically within a 100-meter radius from Teladan Stadium and Teladan Park. Data collection was conducted over a week, focusing on how space evolves into place. The Teladan Stadium area was chosen for the study due to its accessibility and the presence of active generators of activity in the vicinity, such as commercial areas, educational institutions like campuses and schools, as well as places of worship and office buildings. This makes the area a strategic location for observing placemaking devide into 3 Segment.

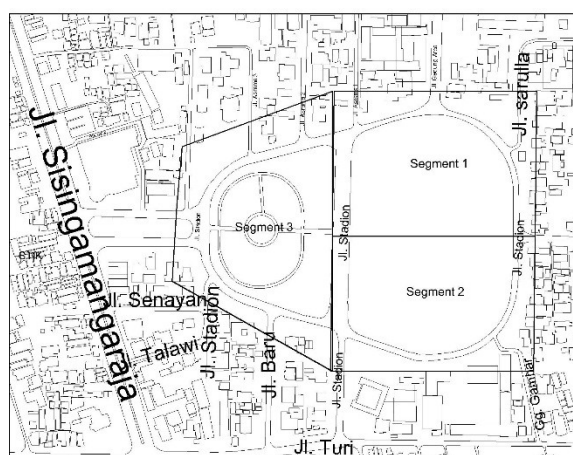


Fig. 2. Research Location

The data collection techniques involve gathering literature and similar studies, as well as conducting observations over a week using behavior mapping. The qualitative descriptive method is employed to:

1. Describe the existing conditions of public spaces and determine whether place-making has occurred in the Teladan Stadium area in Medan.
2. Assess the extent of efforts made in place-making.

Following this, the data is processed and analyzed descriptively to evaluate placemaking, including the levels of placemaking in the Teladan Stadium area, which encompasses comfort and identity, accessibility and linkages, functions and activities, and sociability.



Fig. 3. Documentation of Facilities in the Teladan Stadium area.

From the image above, we can observe the facilities present in the public space of the Teladan Stadium area in Medan. In image (A), the pedestrian paths are in poor condition due to uneven surfaces and a lack of barriers between pedestrians and motor vehicles, which poses safety risks. Additionally, these pathways are crowded with street vendors. Image (B) shows standing water at a curve, which is hazardous for motorcycle riders, along with uneven asphalt. In image (C), it is evident that there are insufficient trash bins, leading people to use old flower pots as makeshift waste containers. Based on the figure, it is essential to conduct observations and mapping, as these will impact the placemaking efforts in the Teladan Stadium area of Medan.

3 Results and Discussion

3.1 Existing Condition Analysis

In the Teladan Stadium area of Medan, the research sample includes the Sisingamangaraja XII statue area, Teladan Park, and the Teladan Stadium area, each of which has distinct characteristics of roadway space. Generally, in the Teladan Stadium area, nearly all sections have sidewalks surrounding the Sisingamangaraja XII statue, Teladan Park, and Teladan Stadium. However, although sidewalks are present, they do not fully meet standard requirements. The sidewalks in Teladan Park are in better condition compared to those in the Teladan Stadium area and the Sisingamangaraja XII statue area.



Fig 4. Description of the sidewalks in the Medan Teladan Stadium area.

Roadways intended for vehicular movement in the Teladan Stadium area of Medan are being used for parking and various activities like exercise and sports. This misuse of the roadways creates obstacles, as the roads are not serving their intended purpose, posing significant risks to users.



Fig 5. Images of activities that occur in the street space

Facilities in the Teladan Stadium area of Medan, such as seating, can encourage more activity within the area. However, not all parts of this area are equipped with seating that could enliven the road spaces. Generally, public transportation options like pedicabs, city buses, and online ride-hailing services serve the Teladan Stadium area. Additionally, the area is frequently used for driving practice and exercise, both in the mornings and evenings, as well as during the day and night. The majority of people passing through are students from nearby universities, indicating that the space is utilized for various activities. This indicates progress toward effective placemaking in the area.

Based on the description of public facilities in the Teladan Stadium area of Medan, many amenities, such as pedestrian walkways, street furniture like benches and lamp posts, and trash bins, are in poor condition and unsuitable for use. Additionally, the pedestrian pathways are hazardous for walkers, and the lack of public open spaces has led people to use the road for activities like exercising.

3.2. Analysis of Placemaking Levels in the Medan Teladan Stadium Area

In general, placemaking theory suggests that the Teladan Stadium area in Medan has made efforts to create a "place" throughout the research sample. However, not all parts of the sample exhibit high quality. The following is an assessment of the four placemaking elements in the Teladan Stadium area in Medan:

3.2.1. Comfort and Identity

Comfort and identity are aspects experienced by space users and contribute to a particular impression (Weisman, 1981). Analysis reveals that the levels of comfort and identity in the Teladan Stadium area in Medan are rated as weak to moderate. The assessment of comfort and identity is based on activities that do not fully align with their intended functions, such as people exercising in inappropriate locations and vendors causing congestion during events or religious activities. Medan generally lacks smooth traffic flow, partly due to on-street parking. Additionally, comfort in the Teladan Stadium area is affected by sidewalks that do not meet the minimum standard of 2.7 meters for clear walking space.

3.2.2. Accessibility and Linkage

Accessibility and connectivity refer to the ability to reach a place and its relationship with the surrounding environment, thereby shaping the image of the place. A space can become a "place" if it is supported by public transportation, resting areas, connectivity with sidewalks and roads, and a transit system for public transport (Project for Public Space, 2007). The Teladan Stadium area in Medan is strategically located and supported by public transportation that covers the entire city. Public transportation facilities facilitate movement between areas. However, the ease of crossing sidewalks is heavily dependent on the width of the clear space available, and sidewalks in the Teladan Stadium area are often used for vending.

3.2.3. Function and Activity

Functions and activities refer to the diversity of uses and behaviors within a space (Project for Public Space, 2009). The sidewalks in the Teladan Stadium area in Medan do not fully support a wide range of functions and activities. Although users who feel comfortable on the sidewalks may perceive the area as a "place," the existing sidewalk facilities in Medan are still uneven, particularly in commercial areas. Most parking spaces in the Teladan Stadium area use on-street parking, which, while facilitating access to shops, can disrupt vehicle circulation.

3.2.4. Sociability

Sociability in road spaces is related to social interactions, especially at transit points. Overall, the Teladan Stadium area in Medan lacks transit facilities that support the placemaking

process. Transit areas can provide space for users to engage in other activities and feel comfortable. The absence of transit spaces indicates that sociability in the Teladan Stadium area remains weak.

Based on the assessment of placemaking in the Teladan Stadium area of Medan, the level of placemaking varies across the northern, eastern, southern, and western sides. The northern section shows a higher placemaking score, particularly in terms of accessibility, linkage, functionality, and sociability compared to the other sides. However, comfort remains lacking across all areas, indicating a need for improvements to enhance placemaking in the Teladan Stadium, Medan.

4 Conclusion

Overall, despite efforts to transform the space into a place in the Teladan Stadium area in Medan by providing public transportation facilities and sidewalks for pedestrians, the level of placemaking remains relatively weak. The user experience of road spaces in this area does not yet fully reflect the ideal concept of place. It is hoped that space usage will better accommodate the community's needs, and that park planning and revitalization will address these needs more effectively.

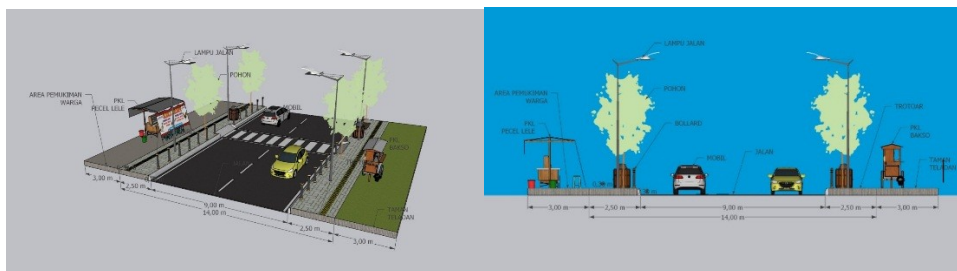


Fig 6. Design of Pedestrian Ways and section of street in Teladan Stadium, Medan.

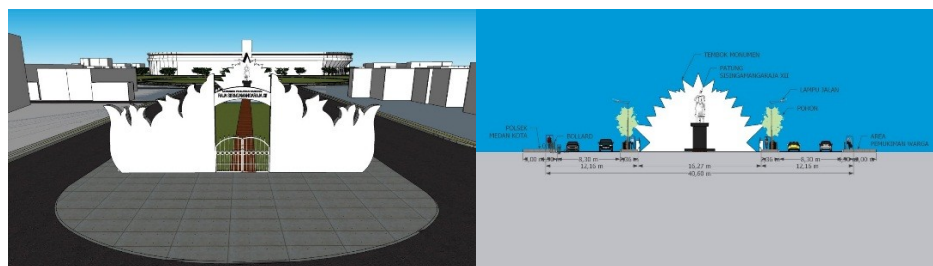


Fig 7. Design of Sociability and Identity Space for Teladan Stadium, Medan.

Figures 6 and 7 illustrate effective pedestrian walkway designs that facilitate foot traffic while accommodating street vendors, creating spaces that enhance placemaking such as comfort and identity, accessibility and linkage, function and activity, and sociability in the Teladan Stadium area of Medan.

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