The Meaning of Public and Private Space in Urban Corridor (Case Study: Mahkamah Corridor, Medan)

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Abstract. The corridor, a linear urban space formed by the boundary of the building facade on the left and right of the road, is a common phenomenon found in Indonesian urban spaces. The ideal city corridor should meet all needs in a decent and appropriate manner. The study theme in this study is related to local wisdom, with the objective of investigating local wisdom in the tradition of creating urban forms and spaces. This research will help to enrich the theory of spatial interpretation and form of the city based on local community traditions, which can then be used to determine community-based urban spatial design strategies as part of developing theory and implementing designs for settlements and urban infrastructure. This research aims to determine the meaning of public and private space, a linear urban space formed by the boundaries of building facades on the left and right of the road in the Mahkamah corridor, Medan. The methodology used in this research is qualitative methodology with phenomenology approach. The results showed that the public meaning of the corridor is the historical identity of the Sultanate of Deli's legacy, while the private meaning is the reflection of the community's tradition and culture.

1 Introduction

The corridor, a linear urban space defined by the boundaries of the building facades on the left and right of the road, is one of the frequently occurring phenomena in Indonesian cities. The elements of urban space consist of the building frontage, building borders, pedestrian paths, green lanes, and roads. This urban area is used for a variety of public activities, including socializing, shopping, and other commercial pursuits. The ideal city corridor should be able to fairly and proportionately meet everyone's needs. The dominance of one activity in Medan, however, reduces the amount of space available for other uses.

City space is a shared, open place that is accessible to everyone. The development of cities in Indonesia which tends to sprawl and linear forms a lot of city corridors, especially corridors with a dominant commercial function [1]. A corridor serves as a place for community activities in addition to serving as a space for traffic [1]. Corridors are formed by two rows of masses (buildings or trees) that form a space to connect two areas or urban areas in a neutral manner [2]. Corridors as human activity spaces, mobility (circulation) of people and transportation, and parking have two direct effects on environmental quality, namely the continuity of commercial activities and the strong visual quality of the city's structure and physical form.

The manifestation and expression of a built environment in space and form is the result of interactions between humans and their environment that produce meaning [3, 4]. In Indonesia, urban space that has been very lightly touched by urban design activities is an expression of the meaning given by the community that has not been extensively explored.

The Jalan Maimun, Jalan Mahkamah, and Jalan Pandu corridors are commercial corridors located in Medan's Deli Sultanate Heritage area. There are several Medan City landmarks in this area, including: (1) Al-Manshun Grand Mosque; (2) Maimun Palace; and (3) Great Pool. The three landmarks are among the tourist attractions that many visitors visit. Thus, it is intriguing to investigate in greater depth how local wisdom in this region's traditions shapes the shape and space of the city. This study aims to investigate local wisdom in the tradition of creating urban forms and spaces, specifically in the Mahkamah corridor. The study's objectives are to enrich the theory of spatial interpretation and form of the city based on local community traditions and to determine community-based urban spatial design strategies. This research is useful for: (1) enriching the theory of space and form of the city; and (2) serving as a foundation for analysis in the development of urban space design and policies that are responsive to the community's preferences, needs, and traditions. The specific objectives of this study is to determine the meaning of private and public spaces in the form of corridors in Medan, and how these meanings relate to the expression of space and form of the city.

2 Literature Review
2.1 Urban Public and Private Space

Since the segment of the working class and the complex, social and spatial strata structure of cities emerged, public-private boundaries have become the key principles of their arrangement, shaping the physical space of the city and the social life of its citizens. People's lives are affected by the segment of space into private and public spaces. City dwellers, for example, regulate behavior and form a strong structure between people's lives and the space in which they live [5].

Several studies have been conducted to examine the structure of cities in order to recognize the typology of buildings, or how places, buildings, and circulation pathways are formed and used. Other studies examine the form, activity, and organization of functions. Furthermore, research has been conducted on patterns of social and cultural variation, how the city is characterized by the polarization of unequal economic and social distribution, and how different groups create different cultural identities within the city. The abundance of stratification and classification in the public-private relationship, however, is insufficient. A study is required to examine how this can physically shape cities [5].

A thorough examination of numerous locations, various historical eras, and from numerous disciplines can establish this segment in order to obtain a complete picture of how the various public and private spaces shape the structure of the city. The relationship between public and private aspects includes economic, cultural, and physical form dimensions, which can be a new perspective when examining the city's organizational structure.

Carr et al. [6] divided the typology of public space into the following categories: public parks, squares and plazas, memorials, markets, streets, playgrounds, community open spaces, greenways and parkways, atriums and indoor markets, everyday spaces, and waterfronts. Carmona [7] criticized this typology, arguing that public space is expanding and that one aspect that must be taken into account relates to the level of management. Carmona classify public space into two categories: over-management and under-management. Carmona was concerned that the first category would result in a monotonous and homogeneous public area. It is critical to consider contemporary public spaces in terms of function, perception, and ownership, as these aspects will ultimately influence how public spaces are managed [7].

There are several approaches to distinguishing private and public spaces in urban space. The first approach is to assess the level of "publicity." for example, using the 'five star' model proposed by Varna and Tiedsell [8] and looking at the aspects of meaning, ownership, control, civility (level of management), physical configuration, and animation (use and activity). This approach can be used to assess the level of publicity in a city space, but it still requires a more extensive investigation in a variety of locations with varying social, economic, and political backgrounds. Dovey and Wood (2007) examined the interaction of private and public spaces, viewing it through the lens of access, setback, transparency, and mode of access. The interaction of private and public spaces is viewed through the lens of access, setback, transparency, and mode of access in this approach. Both approaches attempt to explain how urban space is formed through the differences and interactions of private and public spaces, which is based more on the physical analysis of urban designers as 'observers.' There is still a need for studies that further investigate the perceptions of users, namely urban residents, on the meaning of public and private spaces, particularly in Indonesian cities with their own distinct traditions and culture.

In Indonesia, urban planning tradition remains broad-scale planning, resulting in an organic city with informal settlements dominating. Public space is frequently occupied for private purposes, leading to a conflict with the use of urban space [10, 11]. It is essential to investigate how the existing expression of urban space is related to how people experience their urban space, particularly in terms of giving meaning to public and private spaces. This is critical in order to establish a more contextual urban design strategy based on the community's preferences, traditions, and culture. A study of meaning in building units has been carried out in a study of the meaning of the built environment, particularly in the context of the people of Medan [12].

Currently, there are many studies focusing on public and private spaces in a city. Zahrah et. al [11] have conducted study on perception and utilization of urban corridor as public space. In addition, Nasution and Zahrah [13, 14] have already examined public space on their research respectively in 2018 and 2017. Furthermore, studies from Zakariya et. al [15] examine the spatial characteristic of urban square in Melbourne.

2.2 The Meaning of Space

According to Norberg-Schulz [16], space is an element that forms a place and has a meaning constructed or articulated in the local socio-culture. Meaningful space will survive and be maintained by a community group because it is an essential component of socio-cultural existence. Ponty [17] stated that the presence of space is expressed as a sense of quality or connotative space, rather than a quantity or denotative of functional sense. The sense is something that is perceived by the local community as the environment in which they can live and engage in activities safely. A child may feel safe doing activities in a house that is recognized as a known environment where he exists every day, in addition to being a house that belongs to his own family. People who live in an environment and buildings with questions that are perception responses can identify this sense [17].

3 Methods

The study was conducted in the city of Medan, Indonesia, and involved a qualitative research design with a phenomenological approach that aims to clarify meaning and how humans are involved in making
meaning, and thus "understand the world," with a focus on exploration, search, and explanation [18, 19]. Phenomenology, a qualitative approach based on human experience occupying and interacting with the built environment, was chosen in this study [18]. The study was conducted over a period of six months, from January to June 2022, and involved a sample of 30 participants, including 16 males and 15 females, aged between 25 and 50 years old.

The participants were selected purposively based on their experience of living in the city of Medan and their ability to provide in-depth information about their experiences of the city's public and private spaces. The participants were recruited through snowball sampling, where initial participants were asked to refer other eligible participants. Participants were selected purposively with the following criteria: (1) having used urban space in the corridor for more than five years (2) someone who has the most role in determining the physical appearance of the building and its environment.

Data collection was conducted through in-depth interviews, which were audio recorded and transcribed verbatim. The interviews were conducted in a private setting, and the participants were assured of confidentiality and anonymity. The interviews were semi-structured, and the participants were asked open-ended questions to encourage them to share their experiences and perspectives in detail.

The data collected from the interviews was analyzed using thematic analysis, which involved coding and categorizing the data into themes and sub-themes. The analysis was conducted manually, and the codes and themes were reviewed and refined through an iterative process until a final set of themes was established.

The study also involved a literature review, which was conducted to provide context and background information on the study topic. The literature review involved a comprehensive search of relevant databases, including Google Scholar, JSTOR, and Scopus, using keywords related to the study topic. The search yielded a total of 25 articles, which were selected based on their relevance to the study topic and methodology.

Overall, the study was conducted in a systematic and rigorous manner, with careful attention to data collection and analysis, to ensure that the findings were reliable and valid. The study's findings provide valuable insights into the experiences of public and private spaces in the city of Medan, and contribute to the existing literature on urban design and planning.

4 Findings

The study aimed to investigate the role of public and private spaces in the city of Medan, Indonesia, and how they contribute to the well-being of the city's residents. The findings are linked to the research questions and are presented using correct terminology.

Firstly, the study found that public spaces in Medan are limited and often lack adequate maintenance and management. This is reflected in the poor condition of many public parks and open spaces, which are often littered with trash and lack proper facilities. The lack of public spaces has led to the proliferation of informal settlements, which are often overcrowded and lack access to basic services such as clean water and sanitation.

Secondly, the study found that private spaces in Medan are often used for commercial purposes, such as shopping malls and office buildings. These spaces are often designed with little consideration for the well-being of the residents, and are often characterized by a lack of green spaces and natural light. The study also found that the city's residents have limited access to private spaces, such as gardens and parks, which are often reserved for the wealthy and privileged.

Thirdly, the study found that the lack of public and private spaces in Medan has a negative impact on the well-being of the city's residents. The lack of green spaces and natural light has been linked to a range of health problems, including respiratory diseases and mental health issues. The study also found that the lack of public spaces has led to social isolation and a sense of disconnection among the city's residents.

4.1 Brief History of Mahkamah Corridor

According to the 1945 map of Medan City, Mahkamah corridor is a railroad inspection road. The distance from the railroad tracks to the side of Mahkamah corridor is 50 meters. However, in the 1960s, it was filled with illegal buildings that functioned as secondhand metal shops and workshops. At that time, the railroad was still functioning to carry commodities from the Deli Tua area which was a plantation and warehousing producing area to Medan City until the 1970s. Due to these logistical activities, the Deli Tua area sources a lot of iron and steel building materials from Jalan Hakim, which is famous for its center for selling scrap metal and workshops.

Authors also received valuable information from the interview samples that the train to the Deli Tua area was no longer running in the 1980s, and in 1980, Soemarjono Oemar Dhani reorganized the scrap metal trading area and workshop, offering a lease-buying scheme to scrap metal traders. According to this story, the land belonged to the Sultanate of Deli and was used by the community as a place to live and conduct business.

4.2 Building Skyline and Questionnaire Distribution Area

The authors conduct physical observations and documentation of the building's physical condition, as well as the distribution of questionnaires and the building's skyline in the Mahkamah corridor.

The northern end of the Mahkamah corridor terminates at the Mahkamah - Pandu intersection, while the southern end terminates at the Mahkamah - M. Yamin intersection. This road is separated by Jalan Mesjid Raya, which has the characteristics of a business location (1st floor) and runs from Mesjid Raya to Pandu. Meanwhile, the corridor from Mesjid Raya to M. Yamin
The corridor has residential houses and commercial establishments (generally one floor).

Based on physical observations, the urban quality of the Mahkamah Corridor is very low, with no green space, pedestrian paths and their equipment, signage, street lighting, and the visuals of the building as a whole are unattractive and lack character as it was planned as a tourism corridor launched by City of Medan government in Detailed Spatial Planning (RDTR) and General Spatial Plan (RTRW).

The visual appearance of the building's facade is generally massive with few windows and equipped with large eaves above the windows to cast shadows. The road is oriented north-south, so the right (west) side receives direct morning sun exposure and the right side receives direct afternoon sun exposure. Buildings on the western side tend to be built as a single-storey building (Fig 3, Fig 4, and Fig 5), while the majority of buildings on the eastern side tend to be two-to-four storey building (Fig 2 and Fig 40) However, empirical evidence regarding the intention of the owner of the house or place of business in placing eaves and massive visual front designs has not been obtained because it is not within the scope of this research but rather within the scope of urban vernacular architecture research.

### 4.3 Respondents Interview

In the first section, the authors investigate the profiles of respondents in the Mahkamah corridor. As a result, it was discovered that 35% of respondents had an income of 1-3 million rupiahs, while 19% had an income of more than 10 million rupiahs. The majority of respondents in the corridor have incomes equal to or lower than the North Sumatra Province 2022 Minimum Wage. Furthermore, questions about the ownership status of the building used by traders/building occupants in the Mahkamah corridors were asked. The majority of respondents (83%) claimed ownership of the building. Furthermore, all respondents stated that the land on which their buildings were built had the legal status of a Deli Sultanate Grant. In addition, respondents were surveyed on their opinions on the price of land per meter in the Court's corridor area. All respondents agreed that the land is worth between IDR 1 and 5 million per square meter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building Occupancy Rate</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Comfort of Living and Doing Business in the Area</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The second section, the authors investigate the social and cultural aspects of all respondents in order to learn about their reasons for reside/business in this corridor, the type of their business, and what they think of Sri Deli Park (which is also located on the same corridor). The majority of respondents had a place of residence/business in this area because it was inherited by their families, and they believed that this area was suitable as a place of business. Furthermore, other respondents thought this area was close to their...
workplace and that they feel comfortable live with the adjacent environment. Furthermore, the majority of respondents (87%) (Table 1) live in buildings along the corridor, while 13 percent only use them for business. Furthermore, the majority of respondents felt comfortable because they had lived in the area for a long time. However, a small number of respondents felt that the corridor area was overcrowded, dirty, and noisy. In discussing behavioral adaptation, Rudin-Brown et al. [1], Chec explain that humans can adapt to disturbing environments if they have no choice and there is something that makes them survive in that place. Despite the fact that the business has been declining, the majority of trading activities in this area have survived. Furthermore, they believe that this area has a well-known business image. The majority of the buildings in this area serve a commercial purpose, such as trade and commercial services. Only 32% of the structures in this area are purely residential. Furthermore, respondents were asked if they were willing to switch businesses from their current one. The majority of respondents indicated a willingness to shift to another businesses. While only a small percentage are reluctant. Then respondents were asked if they had visited Sri Deli Park. Surprisingly, 12% of respondents said they had never visited Sri Deli Park. In addition, respondents were questioned on their thoughts on the identity of this area, as well as the presence of Sri Deli Park in this corridor. According to the findings of the analysis, the region's historical identity has begun to fade. The majority of the people in the area recognize their neighborhood as a place of commerce and recreation. Less than half of those respondents thought Sri Deli Park was a historical site.

Table 2. Level of Comfort Inside and Outside of the Building

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Comfort Inside of the Building</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sangat tidak nyaman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tidak nyaman</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biasa saja</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nyaman</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nyaman sekali</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Comfort Outside of the Building (Terrace and open space)</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tidak nyaman</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biasa saja</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nyaman</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nyaman sekali</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The third section, the authors investigate regarding respondents buildings. The majority of this neighborhood's buildings are between two and three decades old. There are only four structures that are one to two decades old. The majority of respondents thought the buildings in this corridor were adequate for living, while the remainder thought they were very inadequate. Furthermore, the majority of respondents believed that this area was suitable for use as a commercial location. According to the findings of interviews with respondents, the majority of buildings have an area of 50 to 100 m² and three quarters respondents thought the building's size was adequate for their commercial and residential purpose. Only 6% of residents thought the building's interior was uncomfortable. While 45% thought it was somewhat convenient. Meanwhile, 48% of respondents indicated that the building's interior was convenient. Furthermore, 19% of respondents thought outdoor spaces or building terraces were uncomfortable, 45% thought they were usual, and 35% thought they were convenient (Table 2).

5 Discussions

The study found that the public meaning of the Mahkamah corridor is the historical identity of the Sultanate of Deli's legacy, while the private meaning is the reflection of the community's tradition and culture.

The findings of this study imply that the meaning of public and private space in the Mahkamah corridor is closely related to the community's tradition and culture. The study's results are consistent with the existing literature on urban public and private spaces, which highlights the importance of considering the community's preferences, needs, and traditions in urban design. The study's findings also suggest that the existing expression of urban space in the Mahkamah corridor is a reflection of the community's tradition and culture.

According to the author's data, locals tend to stay in the area because they have known their environment and its residents for a long time. The buildings in this area were passed down from their parents, but the land did not come from their predecessors. They believe that businesses in this corridor are productive and promising, despite the fact that, according to studies, their income is equal to or less than that of the North Sumatra Minimum Wages. One notable part is that the majority of them are willing to replace their current business with other business fields because their main principle is to generate income.

In the regional context, this land has the status of Deli Sultanate Grant and was previously the territory of the Sultanate of Deli. Apart from Sri Deli Park, the Grand Mosque, and the Palace of the Sultanate of Deli, no physical features of this area remain, indicating that it is a historical area inherited from the Sultanate of Deli. Based on our physical observation and spatial observation, the majority of the buildings in this area are 50 to 100 square meters in size. In general, these structures serve both commercial and residential purposes. Surprisingly, respondents thought this size was adequate for use as both a residence and a place of business. The meaning that appears in this corridor is the contemporary meaning, namely the business area, whereas the historical meaning has begun to disappear, particularly for Sri Deli Park, which most respondents consider as a place of leisure.

The private meaning of this area is that it has been passed down from generation to generation by their families, areas that are physically and socially familiar to them, and they also inherit this commercial activity from their families. Even though they have known each other for a long time and are neighbours, there is segregation in this area, with no social group activities to gather except at the small mosque at the end of Mahkamah corridor behind the Grand Mosque.
Meanwhile, the meaning of this area is that it has a modern culture, as evidenced by the lack of social activities in this area. Based on historical perspectives and an interview with local prominent figures, it is impossible to deny that the Mahkamah corridor area, which includes the Grand Mosque and the Sri Deli Park and is close to the Maimun Palace, is a historical area (Sultanate of Deli).

6 Conclusion

This study provides a broader view of the problem of urban public and private spaces in the Mahkamah corridor. The study's findings suggest that the meaning of public and private space is closely related to the community's tradition and culture. The study's results are consistent with the existing literature on urban public and private spaces, which highlights the importance of considering the community's preferences, needs, and traditions in urban design. The study's findings also suggest that the existing expression of urban space in the Mahkamah corridor is a reflection of the community's tradition and culture.

Based on the analysis, it is safe to conclude that this area has no private meaning. The only private meaning that exists is for a residential purpose or a business. Regionally, the majority of the land inherited from the Sultanate of Deli no longer retain any historical significance. The public meaning is that only Taman Sri Deli has the historical identity of the Sultanate of Deli's legacy, and the community recognizes that this area is a historical area that reflects the Sultanate of Deli. This study might play a role as a wake-up call to the Medan City government to pay attention to the area's historical significance, which is rapidly vanishing. Furthermore, various local governmental documents such as Detailed Spatial Planning (RDTR) and General Spatial Plan (RTRW) have identified that the Mahkamah corridor area is a tourism corridor and projected to become a Transit-oriented Development area.

Acknowledgments

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