



PLANNING MALAYSIA:

Journal of the Malaysian Institute of Planners

VOLUME 24 ISSUE 2 (2026), Page 173 – 199

**NAVIGATING NUSANTARA'S URBAN GREEN FABRIC:
EXPLORING CULTURAL AND SOCIAL INFLUENCES IN SELECTED
CITY PARKS**

**Najah Md Alwi¹, Syafiqah N. Mukhtar², Nor Hafizah Anuar³,
Khalilah Hassan⁴**

^{1,2} *Centre for Sustainable Urban Planning & Real Estate (SUPRE),
Department of Architecture, Faculty of Built Environment,
UNIVERSITI MALAYA, KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA*

³ *Architecture and Interior Design Engineering Department,
College of Engineering, Majmaah,
UNIVERSITY OF MAJMAAH, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA*

⁴ *Landscape Architecture Department, Faculty of Architecture & Ekistics,
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA KELANTAN, BACHOK, KELANTAN, MALAYSIA*

Abstract

Urban spaces in Southeast Asian cities, such as Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur, are undergoing transformative shifts in function and design, reflecting the complex interplay between cultural dynamics, historical contexts, and urban development trajectories. This research elucidates the evolving narratives of parks, open spaces, and eateries within these metropolises, stemming from the ancient archipelago of Nusantara, and examines their role in forming a unique urban experience. The study employs an interdisciplinary methodology, integrating historical analysis, ethnographic observations, and a review of urban planning literature to examine the changing roles and architectural developments in social spaces of Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur. Data were gathered through archival research, fieldwork, and interviews with urban planners and local stakeholders. The findings highlight a nuanced interaction between traditional practices from previous histories and modern Western and colonial influences, revealing how these social spaces serve as arenas for cultural expression and community engagement amidst the pressures of urbanisation. This investigation offers a framework for understanding the significance of cultural, historical, and urban factors in shaping the social and physical landscapes of Asian cities and to a broader discourse on the role of culture in urban development and its potential as a catalyst for creating resilient and vibrant urban spaces.

Keywords: urban parks; urban social spaces; Nusantara; urban green spaces (UGS)

¹ Corresponding author. Email: najah.alwi@um.edu.my

INTRODUCTION

The urban landscapes of Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur, two dynamic metropolises and capitals of Southeast Asia, stand as tributes to the profound influence of culture, history, and urban development on the configuration and functions of social spaces. Within the broader Southeast Asian context, often referred to as *Nusantara*, which represents the ancient *Malay Archipelago*, the cities have evolved into vibrant hubs where cultural diversity, historical legacies, and the inexorable march of urbanisation converge (Figure 1). The changing roles of social spaces in Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur in the post-pandemic era reflect the nuanced interplay between tradition and modernity, as well as the dynamic forces shaping urban life within this captivating region. This evolution is particularly evident in the adaptation of traditional urban elements, such as public squares and markets, alongside the integration of colonial structures, demonstrating a unique synthesis that defines the urban morphology of these cities (Sunaryo et al., 2013). The increasing population density and demand for diverse activities necessitate a re-evaluation of how urban green spaces are designed and utilized, moving beyond mere aesthetics to serve as dynamic social infrastructures that cater to the evolving needs of residents (Ebadi, 2015) (Putra et al., 2018).



Figure 1. Nusantara: Authentic Map Based on Indigenous Sources. Intel Prop
Source: Anwar OdM, Zakaria Z, Hashim WAFW (2016)

This inquiry explores the various narratives that shape architectural adaptations, including cultural influences and historical legacies, which have redefined and continue to redefine the use and value of urban spaces in Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur. This paper included photographs from both the pre- and post-pandemic periods in this study to facilitate a comparison of the rapidity of change between the years 2016 and 2021. In these specific case study urban parks, the aim is to unveil the nuanced shifts in the role of these spaces. A profound appreciation for the complex interplay between the historic culture of the people and the urban environment within the larger Southeast Asian narrative underpins this research endeavour.

Theoretical Contributions

This research contributes to urban planning theory by demonstrating that effective park planning in postcolonial, rapidly urbanizing contexts requires frameworks recognizing parks' multiple functions: social infrastructure for community cohesion, cultural infrastructure for identity expression, health infrastructure for wellbeing, and ecological infrastructure for environmental services.

From past to present

The rapid urbanization of Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur, as capital cities, has significantly transformed the design and function of the green spaces within these cities. As urban areas continue to develop, the demand for parks, green spaces, recreational areas, and communal gathering spots becomes increasingly crucial. Urban planners and architects face the challenge of redesigning these social spaces to cater to the changing requirements of residents while also ensuring the preservation of the cities' cultural heritage.

The evolution of urban landscapes brings forth a striking metamorphosis in modern parks, where lush greenery intertwines with innovative open spaces that invite exploration and leisure. Trendy eateries, often both affordable and eclectic, spring up like vibrant oases, catering to the diverse tastes of city dwellers. These areas are no longer mere locales, but vibrant environments infused with technology, sustainable practices, and active community engagement. Consequently, social spaces have blossomed into dynamic hubs, pulsating with energy and fostering connections among residents, thereby transforming ordinary interactions into memorable experiences.

The interaction between tradition and modernity in social spaces is a defining feature of cities like Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur. While traditional practices and cultural norms shape the social fabric of these cities ([Nahuway et al., 2021](#); [Nor et al., 2021](#); [Santoso et al., 2021](#)), modern influences such as globalization, technology, and urbanization also play a significant role in

redefining social spaces ([Arif, 2019; Dwisusanto & Juwita, 2022](#)). The juxtaposition of tradition and modernity creates a dynamic urban environment where old and new coalesce to form a unique identity. This dynamic is particularly evident in the transformation of public parks, which are increasingly seen not just as ecological assets but as vital social infrastructures that must adapt to evolving urban needs and demographic shifts.

The interplay of tradition and modernity significantly shapes the architecture, design elements, and programming of parks, open areas, and dining establishments. In cities like Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur, two countries that integrate traditional values with contemporary trends, these social spaces appeal to a wide range of preferences and lifestyles ([McDonald et al., 2018](#)). This blend of influences fosters inclusivity and promotes cultural exchange among diverse communities. These transformations often manifest in adaptive reuse projects, in buildings, urban spaces, and landscapes, where historical buildings and streetscapes are reimagined to serve modern functions (such as shopping, socialising, or dining out), yet retain cultural continuity while accommodating contemporary demands.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The rapid urbanisation of Asian city centres has led to notable transformations in the design and function of social spaces within these cities (Mahira et al., 2021, Lukito & Zahra, 2019). Maps showing more similar urban areas continue to develop in the *Nusantara* region, with the demand for green spaces, recreational areas, and communal gathering spots increasingly crucial. Urban planners and architects face the challenge of redesigning these social spaces to cater to the changing requirements of residents while also ensuring the preservation of the cities' cultural heritage. This re-evaluation extends to how these spaces contribute to cultural sustainability, a vital aspect of urban development that emphasizes the integration of local identity within contemporary design.

The evolution of urban and city landscapes brings forth a striking metamorphosis through modern parks, where lush greenery entwines with innovative open spaces that invite exploration and leisure use, which were once not part of local culture. Trendy eateries, often both affordable and eclectic, spring up like vibrant oases, catering to the diverse tastes of city dwellers. These areas in the cities are no longer limited to locals but consist of vibrant environments infused with technology, sustainable practices, and active community engagement with the city. As a result, social spaces have blossomed into dynamic hubs, pulsating with energy and fostering connections among residents, transforming ordinary interactions into memorable experiences.

The interaction between ancient *Nusantara* heritage and colonial modernity in social spaces is the new defining feature of both Jakarta and Kuala

Lumpur. While multi-ethnic traditional practices and cultural norms shape the social fabric of these cities, modern influences such as social media globalisation, technology, and urbanisation also play a significant role in redefining social spaces (i.e., Instagram-able, Wi-Fi use). The juxtaposition of tradition and modernity creates a dynamic urban environment where old and new coalesce to form a unique identity.

The influence of tradition and modernity on social spaces significantly shapes the architecture, design elements, and programming of parks, open areas, and dining establishments. In cities like Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur, the integration of traditional values with contemporary trends allows these social spaces to appeal to a wide range of preferences and lifestyles. This blending of influences fosters inclusivity and promotes cultural exchange among diverse communities.

Urban Community Spaces

Social green spaces generally encompass Urban Green Spaces (UGS) that serve as vital community gathering places. In Jakarta, the city government has implemented policies to preserve and expand public parks and green areas, such as Taman Mini Indonesia Indah and Monas National Monument, offering recreational opportunities and community events for the city's vast population. Similarly, Kuala Lumpur has designated several urban parks, like Kuala Lumpur City Centre Park (KLCC) and Perdana Botanical Garden, as social hubs where residents and visitors can enjoy nature, engage in leisure activities, and participate in cultural festivities. These green spaces play a crucial role in fostering social interaction and community cohesion within both cities' rapidly developing urban landscapes. This section presents studies detailing the various efforts by stakeholders in each city to balance the preservation of their cultural treasures with what may be considered a fundamental aspect of the city's identity.

Preserving historical and cultural assets presents a significant challenge for rapidly growing cities like Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur. Both cities have undertaken efforts to rehabilitate and revitalize old inner-city areas with varying degrees of success. In Penang, Malaysia, George Town, a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO World Heritage site), faces the challenge of balancing heritage preservation with modern development, a situation mirrored in Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur. This equilibrium is crucial for maintaining the cities' unique cultural identities and social fabric while accommodating the demands of urban growth. Studies indicate that integrating public art and community engagement can create more vibrant and inclusive public spaces that resonate with local culture and history.

Current practices in maintaining and preserving inherently culturally sensitive social spaces (such as prayer areas for different religious practices,

cemeteries) require further research. While existing literature highlights the challenges of balancing heritage preservation and modern urban development in cities such as Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta, a deeper exploration is needed into how these cities navigate potential conflicts between safeguarding cultural identities and accommodating the demands of rapid urbanization in the design and function of public spaces. Specifically, it is unclear how the interplay between rapid urban expansion patterns and the socio-cultural dynamics influences the amount and spatial distribution of green spaces (Nor et al., 2021).

The selection of case studies that exemplify the dynamics in Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur is crucial for understanding the complex interplay between tradition and modernity in the transformation of urban social environments in Southeast Asia. For instance, investigating Jakarta's lively street markets, where local traditional commerce merges with contemporary consumerism, can yield important insights into this relationship. The Daerah Khusus Ibukota (DKI) Jakarta Provincial Government's initiative to build Green Open Spaces in each urban village, featuring management buildings, parks, and children's play areas, aims to address this deficit by providing much-needed community facilities and fostering social interaction (Rustanto & Akhmad, 2021).

Likewise, in examining Kuala Lumpur's dynamic cultural festivals, which honour heritage while embracing modern artistic forms, it showcases how these cities manage the delicate balance between maintaining historical identities and adapting to the pressures of globalization. Collectively, these examples depict the intricate and shifting landscape of urban existence in Southeast Asia, reflecting the ongoing evolution of community and identity in a rapidly transforming world.

Post-Pandemic Urban Parks

The COVID-19 pandemic has fundamentally reshaped understanding of urban parks globally, elevating them from recreational amenities to essential public health infrastructure (Honey-Rosés et al., 2021). Studies document increased demand for accessible green spaces during lockdowns, with parks experiencing usage surges of 25-200% in various cities (Venter et al., 2020). This heightened awareness has prompted reconsideration of design standards, including spatial configurations enabling social distancing (Kleinschroth & Kowarik, 2020), enhanced sanitation facilities, and digital integration for capacity monitoring (Shoari et al., 2020). In Southeast Asian contexts, pandemic impacts intersected with existing cultural practices and spatial constraints, creating unique challenges (Xie et al., 2020). However, limited comparative research examines how cities like Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur adapted their urban green spaces to meet evolving public health and social needs within their specific cultural contexts.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted in a total of five parks: two urban parks in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and three urban parks in Jakarta Central, Indonesia. The parks in Kuala Lumpur are the Botanical Gardens and KLCC Park, both located in the city centre of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (see Figure 1). The parks in Jakarta are Taman Menteng, Taman Suropati, and Taman Monas (see Figure 2), all located in the heart of the Capital of Indonesia. All three sites selected for Jakarta are both considered city parks and neighbourhood parks, defined by their location and proximity to residential areas as well as the city metropolitan areas. The selection of these five urban parks was informed by their diversity in function, location, and governance structures, offering a representative spectrum of public green spaces across varying socio-political urban landscapes.

Data Collection Methods

This research employs a multi-method approach to data collection and analysis, aiming to thoroughly examine the dynamics influencing social spaces in Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur (as shown in Figure 2). Semi-structured interviews were conducted with park officials and users, yielding valuable insights into the decision-making processes, challenges, and strategies related to the design, preservation, and management of social spaces in both cities. Field observations were carried out to document the physical characteristics, usage patterns, and social interactions within the selected case study sites. The data from these observations, combined with archival research on the historical development and design evolution of the areas under study, were analysed to uncover key themes and patterns.

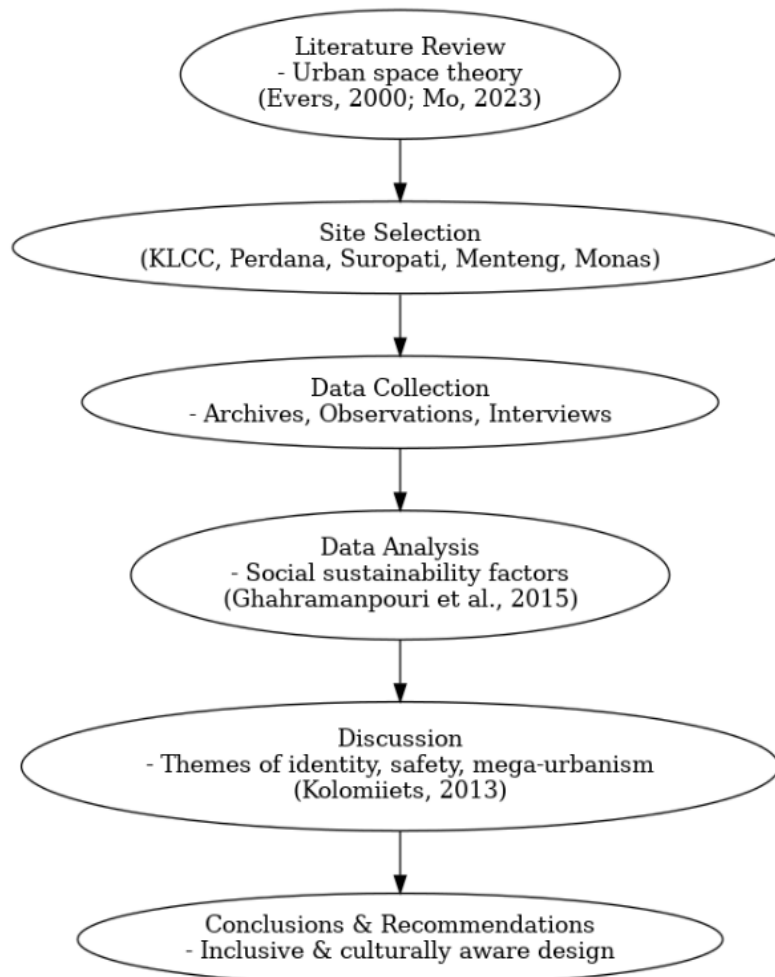


Figure. 2. Research Flow Adapted in this Study
 Source: Author

Data Integration and Analysis

This study integrates three primary data sources to examine park evolution:

- (1) **Field observations** conducted in 2016 documenting spatial configurations, design elements, and usage patterns across selected parks in both cities.
- (2) **Archival research** analyzing historical documents, planning reports, and photographic records to establish temporal baselines and trace design evolution;

- (3) **Literature review** synthesizing existing research on urban parks, cultural heritage, and post-pandemic urban planning to contextualize findings within broader scholarly discourse. These sources were analyzed thematically to identify patterns in park design, cultural integration, and governance approaches, enabling comparative analysis between Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur.

Limitations and Future Research

This study's limitations include focus on capital cities (potentially not representative of secondary cities), reliance on 2016 field observations (not capturing recent post-pandemic changes directly), and emphasis on formal municipal parks (potentially overlooking informal green spaces). Future research should conduct longitudinal studies tracking park evolution, expand to secondary cities, include other Nusantara cities (Bangkok, Manila, Singapore), and examine informal green spaces for more comprehensive understanding of urban nature access.

The COVID-19 pandemic has elevated urban parks from amenities to essential infrastructure. As Nusantara cities continue rapid urbanization, lessons from Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur offer valuable guidance for developing resilient, culturally responsive, and equitable urban green space systems through creative synthesis of local cultural resources, community agency, professional expertise, and evidence-based innovation.

ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This study highlights varied approaches to urban park development in Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur, ranging from grassroots community-led initiatives to top-down, commercially driven models.

An inductive thematic coding process, based on Braun and Clarke's (2006) six-phase framework, was applied to field notes, interview transcripts, and visual data. Initial coding was conducted without predefined categories, identifying patterns related to spatial practices, user behaviour, symbolic elements, and civic interaction. Both manual and NVivo-assisted coding enabled integration of textual and photographic data, allowing, for instance, the correlation between informal seating patterns and themes of inclusivity or place attachment. Visual cues—such as signage, graffiti, or commemorative structures—were treated as embedded narratives and triangulated with verbal accounts to provide a comprehensive understanding.

Codes were refined into overarching themes through iterative analysis, supported by peer debriefing, intercoder calibration, and memo writing to ensure rigor and reflexivity. Cross-case comparisons examined key variables, including spatial design, accessibility, heritage integration, and user engagement. These

were interpreted through a sociocultural lens, grounded in theories of urban social sustainability and spatial justice, which allowed for a nuanced understanding of how public parks function as socio-spatial infrastructures in Southeast Asian megacities.

Research Structure & Thematic Presence in Urban Park Case Studies

Public Art & Heritage	1	0	1	1	0
Community Engagement	1	1	1	1	0
Urban Development Pressure	0	1	1	1	1
Green Space Functionality	1	1	1	1	1
Safety & Crime	0	0	1	1	0
Inclusivity	1	1	1	1	0
Health & Well-being	1	1	1	1	1
	Taman Suropati (Jakarta)	Taman Menteng (Jakarta)	Taman Monas (Jakarta)	Perdana Botanical Gardens (KL)	KLCC Park (KL)

Figure 3. Emerging Themes Across All Five Selected Parks
 Source: Author

Thematic coding followed principles from Braun & Clarke's framework (Table 1 below), identifying recurring socio-spatial patterns across cities (in Figure 3 above). Cross-case comparison was guided by variables such as spatial design, accessibility, heritage integration, and user engagement. These data sources were interpreted within a sociocultural lens, informed by the theoretical underpinnings of urban social sustainability and spatial justice.

Table 1. Braun and Clarke's (2006) Six-Phase Framework for Thematic Analysis

Phase	Description
1. Familiarisation with the data	Immersing in the dataset through repeated reading of transcripts, field notes, and visual material, noting initial insights.
2. Generating initial codes	Systematically coding key features of the data using manual or software tools; organising data in meaningful groups.
3. Searching for themes	Collating codes into potential themes; grouping relevant coded data extracts under thematic clusters.
4. Reviewing themes	Checking coherence of themes in relation to the dataset; refining and modifying themes as needed; developing a thematic map.
5. Defining and naming themes	Finalising themes with clear definitions; analysing their scope and interrelationships; assigning concise names.

Phase	Description
6. Producing the report	Weaving themes into a coherent narrative, selecting compelling examples, and relating findings to research questions and the theoretical framework.

KEY FINDINGS

Three principal findings emerge: First, Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur pursue fundamentally different approaches—Jakarta emphasizing high-density, community-managed, multifunctional spaces versus Kuala Lumpur’s aesthetically refined, professionally managed parks serving both recreational and representational functions. Second, cultural integration manifests differently—organically and practice-based in Jakarta versus curated and representational in Kuala Lumpur—reflecting distinct nation-building trajectories. Third, governance approaches shape park outcomes, with Jakarta’s participatory model building strong community ownership while Kuala Lumpur’s centralized model ensures consistent professional standards.

CASE STUDY DATA FINDINGS

Case Study 1: Taman Suropati, Jakarta.

Taman Suropati, a public park in the heart of Jakarta, exemplifies how public art and community engagement can enhance the cultural significance and social function of urban green spaces. The park features diverse sculptures and art installations that reflect Indonesia’s rich cultural heritage, ranging from traditional Javanese motifs to modern abstract designs. The integration of public art not only enhances the park’s visual appeal but also fosters a sense of community ownership and pride among residents. Taman Suropati’s design and programming have evolved to meet the changing needs and preferences of the community. It has transformed from a mere recreational hub into a vibrant venue for various cultural events and community gatherings, including traditional music performances, art exhibitions, and local festivals.

Observational research and stakeholder interviews reports on public art and community-focused activities in Taman Suropati have fostered greater social engagement, increased recreational use, and enhanced a sense of community ownership among park visitors ([Lukito & Zahra, 2019](#)) ([Hutomo & Fuad, 2020](#)). Consequently, the park has become a vibrant centre for cultural events, including traditional music performances and art displays, further solidifying its role as a space that celebrates Jakarta’s rich artistic heritage. In Taman Suropati, a historic park in Jakarta, public art installations have been a strategy to balance cultural preservation with modern urban design. The study of Taman Suropati suggests that public art here can serve as a medium to enhance the quality of urban spaces, fostering community interaction and creating lively, attractive environments. For

instance, the placement of statues representing the pioneering Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries in Taman Suropati has helped preserve the park's historical significance while attracting visitors and promoting cultural engagement. This integration of art within the urban landscape stimulates active engagement, moving beyond passive observation to foster dynamic social interactions within the park ([Lukito & Zahra, 2018](#)).

This case study highlights the potential for public art and inclusive design to preserve the cultural heritage and social function of urban green spaces in the face of rapid urbanization. This successful integration highlights the park's crucial role in enhancing the well-being of its users through both active and passive engagement with its diverse offerings ([Hutomo & Fuad, 2020](#)). The park's strategic location and accessibility, combined with its well-maintained infrastructure and diverse amenities, significantly contribute to its success as a public space ([Lukito & Zahra, 2018](#)).

Case study 2: Taman Menteng, Jakarta

Taman Menteng, another public park in Jakarta, provided a compelling case study for examining the interplay between urban development and the preservation of cultural heritage. As a spacious, centrally located green space, Taman Menteng serves as a gathering place for the city's residents, hosting various community events and cultural activities ([Adiati et al., 2018](#); [Darmawati & Sumadio, 2020](#); [Nursanto, 2014](#)). However, the park has faced increasing pressure from commercial development and urban renewal projects in the surrounding neighbourhoods. Efforts to revitalise the area during the pandemic have included renovating the park's facilities, introducing new recreational amenities, and incorporating modern architectural elements. While these changes have made Taman Menteng more appealing and accessible to the city's growing population, they have also raised concerns among residents and heritage advocates about the potential loss of the park's historic character and cultural significance.

While renovations have made Taman Menteng more appealing and accessible to the city's growing population, some residents and heritage advocates have expressed concerns about the potential loss of the park's historic character and cultural significance. However, others argue that the renovations and new amenities have helped the park better meet the community's needs and remain relevant in the face of rapid urbanisation. Observational studies and interviews with community members have revealed a complex dynamic result. Residents express a solid attachment to the park's traditional features, such as its lush greenery, iconic pavilions, and longstanding community gatherings and cultural celebration traditions. At the same time, they acknowledge the need for the park to adapt to the changing needs and expectations of modern urban life. Many residents emphasise preserving the park's historic character and cultural

significance, which they see as integral to the community's identity and sense of place.

This delicate balance between honouring the park's heritage and responding to contemporary demands requires careful consideration and negotiation among various stakeholders. The ongoing dialogue and negotiations between various stakeholders, including the city government, urban planners, and local communities, will be crucial in determining the future trajectory of Taman Menteng and other similar public spaces in Jakarta.

Case study 3: Taman MONAS, Jakarta

Taman Monas is a central gathering place for the public, where Indonesians from all walks of life come together to honour their shared history, engage in cultural activities, and express their national pride through the park's physical design and the many celebrations hosted within its bounds throughout the year ([Kusno, 2004](#); [Sushartami & Ristiawan, 2018](#)). The park's National Monument, a striking 132-metre-tall obelisk (see Figure 3), is a powerful symbol of Indonesia's struggle for independence and has become a source of great national pride for its citizens. Studies have shown that the vibrant cultural events and festivals held at Taman Monas, such as the annual Independence Day celebrations, play a crucial role in fostering a sense of unity and strengthening the national identity among Indonesians.



Figure 4. *A Ground View Taman MONAS, Jakarta*
Source: Author



Figure 5. *Top View of Taman Monas Tower*
Source: Author

Taman Monas has also come under increasing pressure from urban development, with repeated proposals to introduce commercial buildings and large-scale infrastructure within its perimeter. While the park has historically served as a central venue for cultural expression, civic engagement, and collective memory, these functions have been increasingly challenged by the encroaching commercialisation of the surrounding district (Nor et al., 2021; Rustanto & Akhmad, 2021; Thedyardi & Husin, 2019). The introduction of contemporary architectural features and new facilities—often justified under the guise of modernisation—has raised public concern over the erosion of the park's historical and symbolic significance, as well as the risk of diminishing public access and cultural autonomy within the space.

This case exemplifies the delicate balance between safeguarding cultural heritage and accommodating the pressures of rapid urban growth. As Taman Monas evolves, the challenge lies not merely in resisting change but in ensuring that future developments remain contextually respectful, publicly accountable, and deeply rooted in the collective narratives that the park embodies. Only through such an approach can its role as a national and cultural landmark be meaningfully sustained amidst the flux of urban transformation.

Case Study 4: Perdana Botanical Gardens, Kuala Lumpur

Kuala Lumpur's Perdana Botanical Gardens, also known as the Lake Gardens, is a sprawling urban oasis over 92 hectares in the heart of the Malaysian capital. This lush green space is a renowned destination, providing a peaceful respite from the bustling city life (Samad et al., 2021). The botanical garden features a diverse array of plant species, carefully curated landscaping, and tranquil waterbodies, offering visitors an immersive experience in nature within the confines of the metropolitan area. It serves as a vital ecological lung for the city, contributing significantly to urban biodiversity and offering numerous recreational opportunities for residents and tourists alike, even during the global lockdown in 2020 (see Figures 6 and 7).

The Perdana Botanical Garden's long history dates to the late 19th century, when the area was first developed as a recreational space for colonial officers. Over the decades, the gardens have evolved to accommodate the changing needs and preferences of Kuala Lumpur's residents while maintaining their core national identity as a cherished urban green space that celebrates the city's natural heritage, like Taman Monas and Taman Suropati in Jakarta.

As urban development accelerates, concerns have arisen over the potential encroachment of commercial and infrastructure projects into public green spaces, threatening their cultural and ecological integrity (Ibrahim et al., 2020; Samad et al., 2021). Similar tensions are evident in Taiping Lake Gardens, where heritage preservation must contend with urban expansion (Ebadi, 2015;

Thani et al., 2015). This reflects a broader pattern in Malaysian urban planning, where limited prioritisation and funding for conservation often result in decisions that undermine the historical value and distinct identity of key cultural landscapes.



Figure 6. Different Segments of Perdana Botanical Gardens, Kuala Lumpur during September 2020
Source: Author



Figure 7. Different Segments of Perdana Botanical Gardens, Kuala Lumpur during September 2020
Source: Author

The Perdana Botanical Gardens have undergone several strategic redevelopment and expansion efforts, incorporating new recreational amenities and educational facilities to enhance the visitor experience during the global pandemic (see Figures 6 and 7). These upgrades aim to strike a balance between preserving the gardens' cultural legacy and ecological significance, while catering to the growing demands of the city's population (Khalid et al., 2023). The result is a harmonious blend of traditional and modern elements that continues to draw

residents and tourists alike, offering a tranquil respite and an opportunity to connect with Kuala Lumpur's natural and cultural heritage.

Kuala Lumpur's increasing urbanisation, marked by the transformation of green areas into built-up zones for infrastructure and housing, poses a substantial risk to the survival and integrity of crucial ecological assets, such as the Perdana Botanical Gardens ([Kasim et al., 2018](#)). The city's continuous expansion, propelled by economic growth and development priorities, often results in the fragmentation and isolation of green spaces. There is a critical need for a more comprehensive urban planning strategy that prioritizes environmental and social benefits over mere aesthetic enhancements or commercial interests ([Nor et al., 2021](#)).

This case study highlights the complexities and opportunities involved in preserving the Malaysian cultural identity of urban green spaces while adapting them to the evolving needs of a dynamic metropolitan area. As cities such as Kuala Lumpur advance, the Perdana Botanical Gardens serve as a benchmark for how public spaces can be strategically redeveloped and reimagined to honour heritage while embracing future advancements. This challenge is not unique to Kuala Lumpur; many rapidly developing Southeast Asian cities face similar pressures on their urban green spaces due to accelerated urbanisation.

Case Study 5: KLCC Park, Kuala Lumpur

In contrast to the more grassroots-driven approach observed in Taman Suropati, the development of KLCC Park in Kuala Lumpur represents a more top-down, commercially driven approach to urban space design. Located in the heart of Kuala Lumpur's central business district, KLCC Park was conceived as an integral part of the more considerable KLCC development, which includes the iconic Petronas Twin Towers and a sprawling shopping mall ([Ayeghi & Ujang, 2014](#); [Shafee & Kamaruddin, 2019](#)). The park's design and programming aimed to influence a delicate balance between serving as a public green space and catering to the commercial interests of the surrounding developments.



Figure 8. A Snapshot of Overview KLCC Garden Showing Greenery Area and Water Bodies of the Park Taken from Hyatt Hotel during September 2021
Source: Author

This strategic positioning, within a high-density commercial zone (Figure 8), highlights a deliberate effort to integrate nature into the urban core, aiming to enhance aesthetic appeal while offering recreational opportunities to a diverse population ([Nor et al., 2021](#)). While the park does provide a much-needed green respite within the urban core, its design and programming have been criticised for prioritising commercial interests over community engagement and cultural preservation. The park's landscaping, amenities, and facilities primarily cater to the needs and preferences of affluent residents and visitors from the surrounding high-end developments, potentially excluding or marginalising the broader local community.

Figure 9. Different Usage of Areas of KLCC Gardens during Day and Night, Kuala Lumpur during September 2021

Source: Author

Furthermore, the construction of KLCC Park and the larger KLCC development have been linked to the diminishing presence of traditional shophouses and the displacement of established communities, impacting historical and cultural elements in the surrounding area ([Shams & Badarulzaman, 2014](#)) ([Chan, 2019](#)). Despite these issues, the park remains a popular destination, attracting over 6 million visitors annually and offering a diverse range of recreational amenities, as well as hosting various cultural events (as shown in Figure 9).

This case study illustrates the complex dynamics inherent in urban green space development driven by commercial interests and centralized planning, rather than grassroots community needs. It raises crucial questions regarding the ability of urban green spaces to genuinely serve the public good when integrated into large-scale commercial developments. While the Petronas Towers and KLCC development were conceptualized to project Malaysia as a "world-class" nation and foster new perspectives among its populace, critical analyses suggest that these symbolic intentions can be contested and reinterpreted through the everyday lived experiences of urban dwellers ([Bunnell, 1999](#)).

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS: JAKARTA VS KUALA LUMPUR

The case studies reveal distinct approaches to urban park development in Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur, reflecting differing cultural priorities, governance structures, and resource constraints.

Park Design Approaches

Jakarta's parks emphasize multifunctional, high-density spaces maximizing utility per square meter—a response to severe land constraints (4.3 m² green space per capita versus WHO's 9 m² recommendation). Parks like Taman Suropati and RPTRA Kalijodo feature compact layouts with intensive programming, incorporating traditional Javanese architectural motifs (pendopo structures, ornamental gates) within contemporary frameworks. Design prioritizes active recreation and community gathering over passive contemplation.

Kuala Lumpur's parks exhibit greater spatial generosity (14.8 m² green space per capita), emphasizing aesthetic refinement and botanical diversity. KLCC Park and Perdana Botanical Garden showcase expansive lawns, curated plant collections, and architectural elements blending Malay, Islamic, and colonial influences. Design philosophy balances active recreation with passive enjoyment and representational functions.

Community Engagement and Governance

Jakarta has increasingly embraced participatory models, particularly through the RPTRA (Ruang Publik Terpadu Ramah Anak) program launched in 2015, mandating community committees for park oversight. This bottom-up approach emerged partly from budget constraints but has generated strong local ownership, with residents contributing to programming, maintenance, and security.

Kuala Lumpur maintains centralized governance through Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL), with limited formal community input mechanisms beyond consultation periods. While ensuring consistent maintenance standards, this can create disconnects between official programming and community preferences. Informal engagement occurs through user groups (tai chi associations, jogging clubs) negotiating space usage with authorities.

Cultural Integration

Jakarta's parks serve as sites for organic cultural expression—traditional music performances, communal meals (kenduri), and spontaneous religious gatherings. Cultural integration is practice-based, emerging from community usage. The presence of warungs (food stalls), informal gamelan sessions, and religious activities demonstrates vernacular cultural expression within modern urban contexts.

Kuala Lumpur's approach is more curated, with cultural elements deliberately incorporated to project national identity. KLCC Park's Islamic garden features and Perdana Botanical Garden's hibiscus collection (national flower) exemplify this strategy. Cultural programming is formalized through scheduled events rather than spontaneous practices, reflecting Malaysia's nation-building project balancing diverse ethnic traditions.

These differences have significant implications for urban planning policy. Jakarta's model demonstrates how participatory governance can build community ownership despite resource constraints, while Kuala Lumpur's model shows how professional management ensures consistent quality. Neither approach is inherently superior; rather, each represents context-appropriate strategies shaped by distinct urban realities, governance traditions, and cultural priorities.

Implications for Urban Planning Policy

The comparative analysis reveals critical lessons for urban planning policy in Nusantara cities. For participatory governance, Jakarta's RPTRA model demonstrates that community involvement can reduce municipal costs while increasing local ownership and responsiveness to community needs. Planning policies should establish frameworks supporting community park committees while ensuring minimum service standards. For design standards, the contrast

between Jakarta's high-density, multifunctional parks and Kuala Lumpur's aesthetically oriented parks suggests that design guidelines must be calibrated to local land availability and cultural priorities rather than adopting universal standards. For cultural integration, both cities demonstrate successful but different approaches—Jakarta's organic, practice-based integration versus Kuala Lumpur's curated, representational approach—indicating that cultural heritage can be preserved through multiple pathways. For pandemic resilience, literature suggests that parks with flexible design and governance structures (combining Jakarta's community adaptability with Kuala Lumpur's professional standards) are better positioned to respond to public health crises while maintaining essential functions.

EMERGING THEMES

Health And Well-Being

The preservation and enhancement of public green spaces in rapidly urbanising cities like Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur are increasingly recognised as vital to urban health, well-being, and liveability. Thoughtfully designed parks and gardens not only provide opportunities for physical activity and social interaction but also offer essential psychological relief from urban stressors. Iconic spaces such as Taman Monas and the Perdana Botanical Gardens exemplify the role of urban nature in promoting physical, mental, and environmental health (Raman et al., 2021). As Southeast Asian cities continue to densify, the strategic integration of green spaces becomes increasingly critical in mitigating environmental degradation and sustaining a high quality of life (Nor et al., 2021).

Moreover, public green spaces serve as vital platforms for social interaction, fostering community ties through gatherings, cultural events, and everyday encounters. By nurturing a sense of belonging and reducing social isolation, these spaces enhance individual well-being and strengthen urban social cohesion. As urban populations in both Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur continue to expand, safeguarding and enhancing these communal environments becomes essential—not just for leisure, but for sustaining quality of life and public health amid the pressures of rapid urbanisation.

Crime and Safety

Urban safety, understood as the quality of the urban environment for its inhabitants, critically impacts a city's sustainability and its citizens' ability to participate in community life without apprehension ([Salazar et al., 2020](#)) ([Iqbal, 2021](#)). Historically, the perception of nature as perilous during the 13th to 15th centuries gradually shifted, leading to the emergence of the urban park as a concept of secure public space in the 19th century ([Lis et al., 2025](#)). This historical progression underscores the need for deliberate design and

management interventions to transform natural areas into secure and accessible public amenities ([Polko & Kimic, 2021](#)).

While green spaces were integral to communal life during the Nusantara era, contemporary urban planning often overlooks the critical relationship between design, use, and safety, thereby undermining their potential to support community well-being and prevent crime (Guttman et al., 2021; Sukartini et al., 2021). Research shows that well-maintained, well-lit green areas can deter criminal activity. In contrast, neglected or poorly surveilled spaces may foster anti-social behaviour (Nor et al., 2021).

Taman Monas in Jakarta, for instance, has faced issues of theft, vandalism, and public disorder (Lavandya et al., 2020). In response, planners have implemented safety measures, including increased lighting, surveillance systems, and security personnel. However, proper safety extends beyond infrastructure—it requires the integration of defensible space principles and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) strategies. These include promoting natural surveillance, territorial reinforcement, and routine maintenance to sustain a sense of order and safety (Marzukhi et al., 2018; Polko & Kimic, 2021; Ali et al., 2020).

Given the multifaceted nature of urban safety, future urban development strategies must prioritize consistent investment in the maintenance and improvement of these vital public spaces ([Badiora et al., 2020](#)). As urban environments continue to develop, the design and management of public spaces must prioritize safety and security to ensure continued accessibility and inclusivity for all users.

Community Engagement

The social spaces observed in the case study serve as evidence that they provide platforms for community engagement and social interaction. Encouraging residents to participate in the design and programming of these spaces can foster a sense of ownership and belonging among the local population, thereby strengthening social connections and cultivating a heightened sense of community belonging.

In Jakarta, Taman Monas has been the site of various community-led initiatives and events, from cultural festivals to recreational activities. These events have helped unite diverse residents, fostering a sense of shared identity and pride in the city's public spaces. Taman Menteng, as a hub for music and group exercise, enables the community to gather and socialize, thereby further strengthening social cohesion. The successful implementation of such initiatives, however, hinges on proactive community engagement, ensuring that the spaces genuinely reflect the needs and aspirations of their users.

Similarly, observed in Kuala Lumpur, the Perdana Botanical Gardens has hosted numerous community-based programmes and events, such as guided nature walks, educational workshops, and community gardening projects. These initiatives have encouraged residents to engage with and appreciate the natural environment, facilitating the development of interpersonal connections and a stronger sense of community. This proactive approach transforms public spaces into dynamic community hubs, fostering social cohesion and empowering residents to shape their urban environment. By prioritising community engagement and social interaction, the social spaces in Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur have become vibrant hubs that contribute to their respective urban environments' overall well-being and social fabric.

Segregation and Inclusivity

Urban green spaces serve as reflections of societal structure, and their design plays a crucial role in either reinforcing or challenging social divisions. Creating inclusive, welcoming environments requires the intentional removal of physical and symbolic barriers, fostering spaces where diverse communities feel a sense of belonging. This not only enhances accessibility but also strengthens social bonds and promotes cohesion.

The comparative analysis of Taman Monas, Taman Suropati, and Taman Menteng in Jakarta, alongside Taman KLCC and the Perdana Botanical Garden in Kuala Lumpur, illustrates how parks act as expressions of socio-cultural identity within Southeast Asian megacities. Rooted in Nusantara traditions of communal space and social permeability, these parks reveal differing capacities for inclusivity.

Taman Monas, while symbolically significant, can feel formal and exclusionary. In contrast, Taman Suropati and Taman Menteng, situated in older, community-based districts, support informal gatherings and cultural expression—echoing the *kampung* ethos. In Kuala Lumpur, Taman KLCC's curated design and controlled access reflect a cosmopolitan model that may unintentionally marginalise certain users. At the same time, the Perdana Botanical Garden, though ecologically rich, is limited by accessibility issues.

Collectively, these parks illustrate how *Nusantara* urbanism—once characterised by permeability, communal interaction, and ecological harmony—has been reshaped by modern planning paradigms. The most inclusive parks are those that balance these traditional values with contemporary needs, offering diverse, permeable, and culturally resonant spaces that foster community cohesion and equitable urban experiences.

CONCLUSION

This comparative study reveals how cultural heritage, governance structures, and contemporary pressures shape urban park development in Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur. The research demonstrates that effective park planning in Nusantara cities requires context-specific strategies balancing cultural authenticity with modern functionality, community participation with professional management, and flexibility with consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This unpublished work builds upon the lead author's doctoral research on urban parks in megacities, which Malaysia's Ministry of Higher Education funded under the SLAB/SLAI scheme at the University of Nottingham in 2020.

REFERENCES

- Adiati, M. P., Lestari, N. S., & Wiastuti, R. D. (2018). Public parks as urban tourism in Jakarta. *IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science*, 126, 12063. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1755-1315/126/1/012063>
- Al-Ghiyadh, M. A.-K., & Al-Khafaji, S. J. N. (2021). The role of urban planning and urban design on safe cities. *IOP Conference Series: Materials Science and Engineering*, 1058(1), 12065. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1757-899x/1058/1/012065>
- Ali, S. N. M., Tarmidi, Z., & Noor, N. A. M. (2020). Review of conceptual model to spatially assessing safe city level of affordable housing in Malaysia. *IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science*, 540(1), 12046. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1755-1315/540/1/012046>
- Anwar, O. d. M., Zakaria, Z., & Wan Hashim, W. A. F. B. (2016). Nusantara: Delineating its authentic map based on indigenous sources. *Intellectual Property Rights: Open Access*, 4(2), Article 163. <https://doi.org/10.4172/2375-4516.1000163>
- Arif, A. (2019). Rethinking integrated urban governance in Jakarta: An institutional approach. *International Journal of Kybernology*, 4(1), 71. <https://doi.org/10.33701/ijok.v4i1.646>
- Ayeghi, A., & Ujang, N. (2014). The impact of physical features on user attachment to Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC) Park, Malaysia. *Malaysian Journal of Society and Space*, 10(3), 44. <http://journalarticle.ukm.my/7464/1/4ok.geografia-jul2014-atefeh%26norsidah-edam.pdf>
- Badiora, A. I., Wojuade, C. A., & Adeyemi, A. S. (2020). Personal safety and improvements concern in public places. *Journal of Place Management and Development*, 13(3), 319. <https://doi.org/10.1108/jpmd-03-2019-0013>
- Braun, V., & Clarke, V. (2006). Using thematic analysis in psychology. *Qualitative Research in Psychology*, 3(2), 77–101. <https://doi.org/10.1191/1478088706qp063oa>
- Bunnell, T. (1999). Views from above and below: The Petronas Twin Towers and/in contesting visions of development in contemporary Malaysia. *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography*, 20(1), 1. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9493.00040>

- Chan, R. S. K. (2019). In with the old: Community participation in heritage management in selected Malaysian tourist sites. *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, 24(2), 131. <https://doi.org/10.22452/jati.vol24no2.8>
- Darmawati, D., & Sumadio, W. (2020). Citizen's sense of place of Menteng subdistrict. *IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science*, 481(1), 12075. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1755-1315/481/1/012075>
- Dwisusanto, Y. B., & Juwita, R. D. (2022). Materialise thirdspace through socio-spatial integration (Cases of study: Thamrin 10, Jalan H. Agus Salim, Jalan Percetakan Negara, and Jalan Kramat Raya). *Dimensi*, 49(2), 105. <https://doi.org/10.9744/dimensi.49.2.105-116>
- Ebadi, H. (2015). *Physical attributes on place attachment in Malaysian urban parks*. <http://eprints.utm.my/id/eprint/54817/>
- Guttman, Z., Hebner, Y., & Varma, R. (2021). Urban greening: An alternative mechanism to address public health and safety in underserved communities. *Journal of Science Policy & Governance*, 18(4). <https://doi.org/10.38126/jspg180411>
- Honey-Rosés, J., Anguelovski, I., Chireh, V. K., Daher, C., Konijnendijk van den Bosch, C., Litt, J. S., Mawani, V., McCall, M. K., Orellana, A., Oscilowicz, E., Sánchez, U., Senbel, M., Tan, X., Villagomez, E., Zapata, O., & Nieuwenhuijsen, M. J. (2021). The impact of COVID-19 on public space: An early review of the emerging questions – design, perceptions and inequities. *Cities & Health*, 5(sup1), S263–S279. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23748834.2020.1780074>
- Hutomo, S., & Fuad, A. H. (2020). Engagement and well-being in public space. Case study: Suropati Park Jakarta. *Evergreen*, 7(1), 138. <https://doi.org/10.5109/2740970>
- Ibrahim, R., Clayden, A., & Cameron, R. (2020). Tropical urban parks in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: Challenging the attitudes of park management teams towards a more environmentally sustainable approach. *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*, 49, 126605. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ufug.2020.126605>
- Iqbal, A. (2021). Inclusive, safe and resilient public spaces: Gateway to sustainable cities? In Intech Open eBooks. Intech Open. <https://doi.org/10.5772/intechopen.97353>
- Kasim, J. B. A., Yusof, M. J. M., & Shafri, H. Z. M. (2018). Urban green space degradation: An experience of Kuala Lumpur city. *Environmental Management and Sustainable Development*, 8(1), 27. <https://doi.org/10.5296/emsd.v8i1.13917>
- Khalid, I. K. M., Ismail, N. A., Tahir, O. M., & Ismail, N. H. (2023). Plant elements reinforcing the sense of place identity of the Muslim Malay royal town. *Journal of Islamic Architecture*, 7(3), 501. <https://doi.org/10.18860/jia.v7i3.14079>
- Kleinschroth, F., & Kowarik, I. (2020). COVID-19 crisis demonstrates the urgent need for urban greenspaces. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*, 18(6), 318. <https://doi.org/10.1002/fee.2230>
- Kusno, A. (2004). Whither nationalist urbanism? Public life in Governor Sutiyoso's Jakarta. *Urban Studies*, 41(12), 2377. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00420980412331297582>
- Lavandya, D., Dewi, O. C., & Widyarta, M. N. (2020). Taman Monas resilience on vegetation due to response to the festival or “Pesta Rakyat.” *IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science*, 452(1), 12113. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1755-1315/452/1/012113>

- Lis, A., Zalewska, K., Grabowski, M. J., & Zienowicz, M. (2025). Signs of children's presence in two types of landscape: Residential and park: Research on adults' sense of safety and preference: Premises for designing sustainable urban environments. *Sustainability*, 17(9), 4098. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su17094098>
- Lukito, Y. N., & Zahra, R. A. (2018). Improving the quality of urban lives through public art in Taman Suropati, Jakarta. *IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science*, 213, 12030. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1755-1315/213/1/012030>
- Lukito, Y. N., & Zahra, R. A. (2019). Public art in Taman Suropati as a medium in creating attractive and lively public space. *MATEC Web of Conferences*, 280, 3004. <https://doi.org/10.1051/mateconf/201928003004>
- Mahira, E. D., Soemardiono, B., & Santoso, E. B. (2021). The uniformity concept of urban design: Impact of cultural traditions on the meaning of Balinese town. *IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science*, 907(1), 12017. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1755-1315/907/1/012017>
- Marzukhi, M. A., Afiq, M. A., Zaki, S. A., & Ling, O. H. L. (2018). An observational study of defensible space in the neighbourhood park. *IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science*, 117, 12016. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1755-1315/117/1/012016>
- McDonald, R. I., Beatley, T., & Elmqvist, T. (2018). The green soul of the concrete jungle: The urban century, the urban psychological penalty, and the role of nature. *Sustainable Earth Reviews*, 1(1). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s42055-018-0002-5>
- Nahuway, L. C., Eni, S. P., & Sudarwani, M. M. (2021). Betawi arts and culture center with the application of modern tropical architecture. *IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science*, 878(1), 12026. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1755-1315/878/1/012026>
- Nor, A. N. M., Aziz, H. A., Nawawi, S. A., Jamil, R. M., Abas, M. A., Hambali, K., Yusoff, A. H., Ibrahim, N., Rafaai, N. H., Corstanje, R., Harris, J. A., Grafius, D. R., & Perotto-Baldivieso, H. L. (2021). Evolution of green space under rapid urban expansion in Southeast Asian cities. *Sustainability*, 13(21), 12024. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su132112024>
- Nursanto, A. (2014). *Analisa Taman Menteng sebagai Taman Kota berdasarkan kriteria Kualitas Taman Jakarta Pusat*. <https://digilib.esaunggul.ac.id/bookmark/4499/ruang%20terbuka%20hijau>
- Polko, P., & Kimic, K. (2021). Condition of urban park infrastructure in the context of perceived security of park users. *IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science*, 900(1), 12036. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1755-1315/900/1/012036>
- Putra, A. D., Kohdrata, N., & Gunadi, I. G. A. (2018). Studi desain Taman Tebet sebagai youth park. *Jurnal Arsitektur Lansekap*, 159. <https://doi.org/10.24843/jal.2018.v04.i02.p05>
- Raman, T. L., Aziz, N. A. A., & Yaakob, S. S. N. (2021). The effects of different natural environment influences on health and psychological well-being of people: A case study in Selangor. *Sustainability*, 13(15), 8597. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su13158597>
- Rustanto, A. E., & Akhmad, J. (2021). RPTRA activities program in services to the community during the Covid-19 pandemic. *Advances in Social Science, Education*

- and Humanities Research/Advances in Social Science, Education and Humanities Research. <https://doi.org/10.2991/assehr.k.210430.014>
- Salazar, N. N. G. de, Martín, M. C., Chamizo-Nieto, F. J., Rosa-Jiménez, C., & Muñoz, J. B. (2020). Indicator system to measure the qualities of urban space affecting urban safety and coexistence. *IOP Conference Series: Materials Science and Engineering*, 960(4), 42051. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1757-899x/960/4/042051>
- Samad, N. S. A., Abdul-Rahim, A. S., Afandi, S. H. M., & Yusof, M. J. M. (2021). Factors influencing the public park use in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. *IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science*, 756(1), 12085. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1755-1315/756/1/012085>
- Santoso, I., Setioko, B., & Pandelaki, E. E. (2021). The changing aspects of function and meaning of space in Alun-Alun Kidul Keraton Surakarta. *IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science*, 780(1), 12075. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1755-1315/780/1/012075>
- Shafee, F. A. A., & Kamaruddin, S. M. (2019). The effective characteristics of an urban park through visitors perception. Case study: KLCC Park. *Built Environment Journal*, 16(2), 1. <https://doi.org/10.24191/bej.v16i2.9692>
- Shams, A. R. A., & Badarulzaman, N. (2014). Evaluating the city image: A focus on landmarks of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. *Asian Social Science*, 10(4). <https://doi.org/10.5539/ass.v10n4p241>
- Shoari, N., Ezzati, M., Baumgartner, J., Malacarne, D., & Fecht, D. (2020). Accessibility and allocation of public parks and gardens in England and Wales: A COVID-19 perspective. *PLOS ONE*, 15(10), e0241102. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0241102>
- Silva, B. M. D. da, Bakay, E. K., & Morais, M. B. de. (2024). Safety in public open green spaces in Fortaleza, Brazil: A data analysis. *Sustainability*, 16(2), 539. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su16020539>
- Subadyo, A. T., Tutuko, P., & Cahyani, S. D. (2018). Assessment of inclusive historical public spaces in achieving preservation of such areas in Malang, Indonesia. *International Review for Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development*, 6(4), 76. https://doi.org/10.14246/irspsd.6.4_76
- Sukartini, N. M., Auwalin, I., & Rumayya, R. (2021). The impact of urban green spaces on the probability of urban crime in Indonesia. *Development Studies Research*, 8(1), 161. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21665095.2021.1950019>
- Sunaryo, R. G., Soewarno, N., Ikaputra, I., & Bakti, S. (2013). Colonial and traditional urban space in Java: A morphological study of ten cities. *Dimensi*, 40(2). <https://doi.org/10.9744/dimensi.40.2.77-88>
- Sushartami, W., & Ristiawan, R. (2018). The well of truth: Managing authenticity in the Pancasila Sakti Monument. *Asian Journal of Tourism Research*, 3(1). <https://doi.org/10.12982/ajtr.2018.0007>
- Thani, S. K. S. O., Ibrahim, N. K., Mohamad, N. H. N., & Rodzi, N. I. M. (2015). Public awareness towards conservation of English landscape at Taiping Lake Garden, Malaysia. *Procedia: Social & Behavioral Sciences*, 168, 181. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sbspro.2014.10.223>

- Thedyardi, C., & Husin, D. (2019). Reconstructing the past: From landform bath to spa-scraper of Taman Sari. *IOP Conference Series: Materials Science and Engineering*, 508, 12026. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1757-899x/508/1/012026>
- Venter, Z. S., Barton, D. N., Gundersen, V., Figari, H., & Nowell, M. (2020). Urban nature in a time of crisis: Recreational use of green space increases during the COVID-19 outbreak in Oslo, Norway. *Environmental Research Letters*, 15(10), 104075. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/abb396>
- Xie, J., Luo, S., Furuya, K., & Sun, D. (2020). Urban parks as green buffers during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Sustainability*, 12(17), 6751. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su12176751>

Received: 11th November 2025. Accepted: 13th January 2026