Bustanussalatin Park characteristics as an image shaper of Banda Aceh City

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Abstract. Imagery is a memory of an event that is re-conveyed through the traces of historical relics or collective memories of society. Bustanussalatin Park is currently a small part of Ghairah Park, which was built by Sultan Iskandar Tsani during the Sultanate of Aceh. Bustanussalatin Park has an area of 2.18 ha which is smaller than before due to the physical development of the city at that time by the Dutch colonial. This paper aims to identify and analyze garden elements (hardscape and softscape) in Bustanussalatin Park and explore public perceptions regarding the characteristics of the current Bustanussalatin park. This study contains public perceptions of the history, extrinsic, and ecological aspects of Bustanussalatin Park as a green open space in providing design recommendations by the image of Banda Aceh City as the city center of the past Islamic empire. The approach of study in the form of qualitative architectural history study is descriptive chronologically. The results show two important things: a) the historical value of the park has not been a major consideration; b) most of the community still wants the presence of Acehnese plant elements, in addition to presenting the needs of public play facilities for now. Recommendations bustanussalatin park design in shaping the image of the city of Banda Aceh by presenting a variety of typical plants of Aceh by the function of the park in the form of protective plants (Jeumpa), directing plants and plants for aesthetics.

1. Introduction
The Aceh tsunami in 2004 had an impact on people's mental and destroying settlements, affecting history and changing character of the new natural environment [1]. Banda Aceh has undergone many changes in the wake of the city's rise to the 2004 tsunami disaster and construction of a city with a real city space structure was built since the kingdom of Aceh in the 17th century as an Islamic city of tamaddun [2]. City structure in the form of a radial relic from the Aceh kingdom not much changed after the tsunami, so it is known as a global tourist destination [3]. After the tsunami, Banda Aceh had a geographical change. Thus, it requires the penetration of negative conditions by structuring city parks as a standard of urban green open space with the application of themes and characters that are by historical considerations [4].

Traces and cultural landscapes are part of forming a collective identity. The characteristics of a park can be defined as uniqueness will not have an absolute nature, because people's perceptions are not the same [5]. Identity cannot be built or created, but it has been formed by itself, through the introduction of physical objects (buildings and other physical objects) or nonphysical objects (social
activities) [6]. Historical aspects and image recognition are important things captured by the public in the use of city identity [7]. Banda Aceh city has a very long history from time to time and leaves a collective memory that contains past experiences of social identity as well as being an image of the future. The history of Banda Aceh city has changed the cultural paradigm: pre-Islamic, Islamic civilisation, colonialism, and colonial outposts [8]. Interventions from various parties left a mixed trail and became a tradition of society.

Today, Banda Aceh city has developed, which some historical relics have changed. Bustanussalatin Park is one of the Green Open Spaces (RTH) because it functions to control the capacity and quality of the environment in managing the lungs of the city, up to the post-tsunami disaster, which caused space modification and revitalization or reconstruction of the park design so as to reduce ecological functions due to the addition of hardscape 61.65%.

Bustanussalatin Park is a Ghairah Park built by Sultan Iskandar Muda as a large park as well as a playground belonging to the royal family, which measures 1000 fathom [9]. Bustanussalatin Park is one of the icons of Banda Aceh that also influences the image of the city itself. In the beginning, the park has undergone three changes since it was built in the 17th century (Ghairah Park). It became Vreddespark in 1905, in 1978 it became Taman Sari, and the last change became Bustanussalatin Park. Changes that occur due to government intervention. However, many changes led to the weakening of the characteristics of the park that also influenced the image of the city of Banda Aceh and the importance alternative of policy recommendations in paying attention to the ecological function of the Bustanussalatin Park due to the reduced land percentage.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Research sites

![Figure 1. Bustanussalatin Park Location.](image)

In this study, researchers focused on one location, Bustanussalatin Park located on Jl. Tgk. Abdullah Ujong Rimba, Kampung Baru, Baiturrahman Subdistrict, Banda Aceh City because the park is one of the famous city parks in Banda Aceh with a very strategic park location that is in front of the landmark of Banda Aceh, Baiturrahman Grand Mosque.

2.2. Data collection methods

This type of research is descriptive qualitative that aims to present qualitative information with the description studied in describing the situation, in collecting data including data interpretation analysis [10]. Qualitative research was conducted to assess the perception of participants as informants through multi-strategy that is interactive such as direct observation, participatory observation, in-depth interviews, documents, complementary techniques of data collection such as photos, recordings, field notes, and so forth [11].
2.3. Data analysis method

Data analysis in this study using coding analysis with the withdrawal of conclusions through the keyword answer source by indepth interview with Bustanussalatin Park visitors, consisting of open coding, axial coding, and selective coding [12]. The open coding stage is an analysis stage that uses the withdrawal of keywords from the source's answer as well as classifying the answers into several categories. Axial coding stage is the analysis stage that is done by looking at correlation between categories through analysis of the source's answer. The result of this analysis is a cluster of relationships between categories. The last stage, selective coding, is making the final hypothesis of the relationship between these categories. The hypothetical result is the final result of this study in the form of a diagram or table of hypothetical results containing a table of public perception.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Public perception of park characteristics

Data collection interviews with park visitors conducted from February 25 to July 17, 2021 using triangulation of data sources and triangulation theory. After conducting interviews involving 34 visitors from Bustanussalatin Park, the result of this study is to collect keywords from the answers of resource persons. The keywords are then grouped again into several categories to formulate public perception of the characteristics of Bustanussalatin Park. Based on the keyword, there are 16 keywords that will be a category in 4 groups, namely impressions, historical knowledge, dominant characteristics, and the desire of visitors in Bustanussalatin Park.

| No | Identify                          | Category                  | Visitor | Percent |
|----|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------|---------|
| 1  | Visitor Impressions               | Islamic                   | 9       | 26.5%   |
|    |                                   | Memorial (History)        | 7       | 20.6%   |
|    |                                   | Tsunami                   | 5       | 14.7%   |
|    |                                   | Ecological                | 13      | 38.2%   |
|    |                                   | Know                      | 6       | 17.6%   |
| 2  | Community Knowledge of Park History | Hesitant                  | 2       | 5.9%    |
|    |                                   | Confused                  | 5       | 14.7%   |
|    |                                   | Don't Know                | 21      | 61.7%   |
| 3  | Dominant Features of the Park     | Proclamation Monument     | 11      | 32.4%   |
|    |                                   | Entrance Motif            | 5       | 14.7%   |
|    |                                   | Bustanussalatin Building  | 15      | 44.1%   |
|    |                                   | Facilities                | 3       | 8.8%    |
| 4  | Visitors' Desire for the Park     | Children's Playground     | 14      | 41.2%   |
|    |                                   | Acehnese Plants           | 8       | 23.5%   |
|    |                                   | Street Lamp               | 5       | 14.7%   |
|    |                                   | Evacuation Signs          | 7       | 20.6%   |

(Source: Visitors Interview, 2021)
3.1.1. Visitor impressions of bustanussalatin park

![Visitor impressions of Bustanussalatin Park.](image)

The group of park visitor impressions category in this study was chosen based on the selection of character visuality, function, and sense of place that visitors feel towards Bustanussalatin Park. Below is the result of tabulation of visitor visuality based on the table above so as to form a diagram of the impression perception of park visitors.

![Visitor impression diagram.](image)

(Source: Visitors Interview,, 2021)

Based on the diagram above according to the perception of park visitors, the impression of Bustanussalatin Park is currently dominated by ecological impressions of 38.2% because the existence of Bustanussalatin Park for visitors in the middle of the city is considered a balancer for urban ecosystems, both hydrological and microclimate systems as well as other ecosystems, but the fact that the pavement (hardscape) in Bustanussalatin Park according to DLHK3 data in Banda Aceh has reached 61.65%.

The Islamic impression of Bustanussalatin Park is 26.5% identical to the white and golden yellow colors of the building. This park also gives a historical impression of 20.6% due to the vocal point of the Proclamation Monument building. While the impression of Tsunami on the park is 14.7%, the underlying point of tsunami due to 2004 then the state of this park is ravaged by the disaster.

3.1.2. Community knowledge of park history

![Bustanussalatin Park Development.](image)

(a) Sultanate period (b) Colonial Period (c) Post Colonial (d) Now

Figure 4. Bustanussalatin Park Development.
Before it was known as Bustanussalatin park today, this park is a representation of Ghairah Park and metamorphosed in colonial times as Vreedespark, then post-colonial until post-tsunami park is known as Taman Sari. After conducting an indepth interview with 34 selected speakers, the category of grouping the knowledge of park visitors in identifying historical journeys against Bustanussalatin Park obtained tabulation diagram below.

![Diagram Community Knowledge of Park History](image)

**Figure 5.** Diagram Community Knowledge of Park History
(Source: Visitors Interview, 2021)

Based on the diagram above, explains that the collective memory knowledge of the community about the history of bustanussalatin park travel today is very little that 5.9% know the details of the journey of the change of the park. While 61.7% of visitors even students do not know about the history of the formation of Bustanussalatin Park now. This is a record that it is necessary to educate the history of Aceh, especially to the people of Banda Aceh itself in order to pay more attention to the characteristics of the city park, especially Bustanussalatin Park as the shaper of the image of Banda Aceh.

3.1.3. *Easily recognizable dominant features*

![Bustanussalatin Park Hardscape](image)

**Figure 6.** Bustanussalatin Park Hardscape

The selection of the dominant feature categories in Bustanussalatin Park is based on hardscape identification, so that visitors can visually remember the special characteristics found in the Park through buildings and facilities.
Based on the data showing that Bustanussalatin Building is the dominant building that is easily recognized by the public when going to Bustanussalatin Park, 44.1% of sources mentioned that Bustanussalatin building is a very striking thing when in Bustanussalatin Park because the shape, ornamentation, combination of white and golden colors show the characteristics of Islamic buildings. Meanwhile, 32.4% of the speakers revealed that The Proclamation Monument became an easy thing to recognize because of the existence of a stringy monument between the stage and Bustanussalatin building. Motif krawangan arables Islami at each point of entrance Bustanussalatin Park is also a vocal point of park visitors that is as much as 14.7%. Facilities of garden lights, pergola, stilt buildings and others become other elements that are easy to recognize.

3.1.4. Visitors' desire for the park

Based on the diagram above explains that 41.2% of the most visitors wish are the return of children's games or playground areas so that the park can be used as a child-friendly park and can be reached by all age categories. Meanwhile, 23.5% of visitors want Aceh vegetation planted in Bustanussalatin Park to strengthen the branding of Banda Aceh. Banda Aceh is known as one of tsunami tourism cities, so according to the visitors that is 20.6% need installation and education of evacuation signs at the site of Bustanussalatin Park, this is used as a way to mitigate future disasters and efforts to reduce fatalities. 14.7% of visitors expressed that the need for serious monitoring of lighting facilities in Bustanussalatin Park, in order to avoid things that violate Syariah and Qanun in Banda Aceh as an Islamic city.
3.2. Characteristics of the park by perspective

Table 2. Character perspective assessment.

| No | Image Items | Physica Elements | Non-physical Elements | Sum |
|----|-------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----|
|    |             | Building | Design | Memory | Impression |   |
| 1  | Islamic     | √        | √       | √       | √           | 4 |
| 2  | Tsunami     | -        | -       | √       | -           | 1 |
| 3  | Heritage    | √        | -       | √       | √           | 3 |

(Source: Indepth Interview, 2021)

From the tabulation above, there can be drawn conclusions below, namely physical elements and non-physical elements that become parameters of the formation characteristics of Banda Aceh image based on the perspective of the community. Below is a conclusion from the keyword in the previous sub-chapter to be assessed.

The results of the keyword processed show that islamic elements are the highest criteria that form the characteristics of Bustanussalatin Park to the image of the Banda Aceh city. The results of the interview provide evidence that buildings and designs are physical objects that are easily recognized by the public in assessing the characteristics of islamic parks. However, some sources generally advise that Bustanussalatin Park is now a park that re-styles history with the increase of Aceh's easily recognizable vegetation, the return of children's play areas, and the addition of park lights to avoid immorality given the image of Banda Aceh as an Islamic city that adheres to Qanun and Syariah.

3.3 Bustanussalatin Park design recommendations

Based on the results of the analysis above, the concept of design recommendations Bustanussalatin Park Banda Aceh is currently by the results of perception identification by visitors in shaping the characteristics of the city park as the image of the Banda Aceh city obtained:

1. Consideration of plant identity, dominant vegetation, and ecological conformity is indispensable in restoring the ecological function of history as well as the lungs of Banda Aceh in shaping the image of Banda Aceh. Especially the typical vegetation of the area to strengthen the character of the image of Banda Aceh in Bustanussalatin Park through Aceh plants that are easily recognized by the community.

Table 3. Vegetation recommendations.

| No | Flower Name (In Acehnese) | Flower Name (In Indonesian) | Scientific Flower Name |
|----|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1  | Bungong Jeumpa            | Cempaka Wangi               | *Michelia campachia*  |
| 2  | Bungong Seulanga          | Bunga Kenanga               | *Cananga odorata*     |

(Source: Indepth Interview, 2021)

2. Return of playground area in Bustanussalatin Park to support communal spaces function and strengthen the historical character that since the sultanate was used as a playground.
3. Improvement of lighting facilities or street lamps in Bustanussalatin Park as night lighting to maintain Syariah and Qanun in Banda Aceh in strengthen the image of Banda Aceh as an Islamic city.
4. Need to install evacuation routes and evacuation signs to strengthen the image of Banda Aceh as an area that has been hit by a tsunami, this disaster mitigation step can build awareness and ability of the community in dealing with the threat of disaster.
4. Conclusions
With the above results and discussions can be concluded the characteristics of Bustanussalatin Park are inherent in the hopes, desires and memories of the citizens of Banda Aceh. Strengthening the character of the city park, will have a direct impact on strengthening the image of Banda Aceh as a heritage and Islamic city, therefore the utilization and elements of the park (hardscape and softscape) should be in line with the strengthening of the character. City parks function to improve environmental quality. Currently, the park is considered a place for recreational activities. Need to regerize history with the addition of Aceh's easily recognizable vegetation to maintain the ecological function as well as the aesthetics of the Bustanussalatin Park, the return of playground area, as well as the addition of park lights to avoid immorality considering the image of Banda Aceh as an Islamic city that adheres to Qanun and Syaria in Bustanussalatin Park. And then, installation of evacuation routes and evacuation signs to strengthen the image of the city of Banda Aceh as an area that was hit by the tsunami in 2004.

The journey of history presents an image that is a testament to the development of civilization and humanity [13]. To identify the characteristics of Bustanussalatin Park in shaping the image of Banda Aceh requires a deepening of history that is able to present evidence as an image of a heritage city, the presence of culture and artifacts. Therefore, the importance of support from the government and the community in reviewing the ecological and extrinsic aspects of the Bustanussalatin Park as a Green Open Space (RTH) from time to time. It is necessary to examine the dynamics and perceptions that develop in the community about the increase in hardscape which has an impact on the historical elements and the function of the park as the lungs of the city.

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