Spatial Conflict in Urban Kampong Development
A Case Study in Kampong Pendrikan, Semarang

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Abstract. Urban development triggers transformation in kampongs. The concept of a kampong as a residential area that has transformed into mix used area creates spatial conflict. This study aims to identify and give brief explanations about spatial conflicts in urban kampongs. The research was conducted in qualitative research paradigm which operated through site observation, questionnaire and literature. The result showed multiple inhabitant perceptions and area development lead spatial conflicts in urban kampong, such as discussion about: vacant spaces, houses’ transition area and houses’ front yards. The evidence of spatial conflicts are clearly shown by signage, barriers, and even buildings installations.

Keywords: urban kampongs, spatial conflicts, perception, human settlement

1. Introduction

No man’s land phenomena often appear in many residential spaces because public spaces in urban are considered as the secondary space and are owned by the city or individuals. Designers of contemporary neighborhoods, new towns and cities are dealt with challenges in creating open spaces and outdoor environments which are collective and unifying many frameworks for betterment. Urban betterment advocates buildings as separated objects in the landscape, considering the bigger fabric of lines and open spaces. The contribution of the urban designer reaches at best after the advocacy for the betterment [1].

The space and the temporary neighborhood open spaces system gives the materials for cognitive schemes, the social effective responses, and the cultural factors as the perceptual inputs, [2-4]. Those conditions include the meaning of neighborhood and communication, the nature of social relationships and connection, and the design of activity places. Neighborhood spaces have meaning for people, invite access for all, and encourage use and participation. The good neighborhood spaces are the ones well-maintained by their users. Therefore in planning process, users’ perceptions and preferences are important factors. The perception and preference have meaningful sources of information for environmental planning [5-7]. Those factors are the important body of research however they are not frequently included into the process of neighborhood planning.

Urban planners are not enough to make new projects of residential and neighborhood environments. Therefore urban planners must learn how the working system of environment runs well [8-10].
Designers and researchers are demanded to realize that people may utilize their environments in predictable ways. However, in some conditions, people are unable to enjoy the planned environments and many available opportunities in the surrounding areas since designers and researchers are unable to predict them. Therefore, if planners and researchers want to learn how to improve the designs, they will see how people use space as the important thing.

The study of spatial conflict and conflict resolution various levels can show fundamental concepts of modern geography and social significance [11-12]. This concept has relevance in contemporary society and has generated large and developing areas of multidiscipline researches.

In spatial conflicts, the disadvantages may be caused by multiple factors, especially economic status [13]. Nowadays, several groups with less developed skills have severely limited access to the political infrastructures, and they also become less obedient; hence difficulty in simulating those factors. The advantages are usually related to money, mobility, and majority.

The main similarity between the simulation and the real conflicts is the arguments of social issues, especially the social issues related to selfish character or neighborhood objectives [14-15]. Members of the neighborhood frequently argue about the occupation of area such as trespassing of the landfill in their area which will have negative impacts and will escalate greater conflict. Residents of the neighborhood state that the landfill area will have an effect on the nearby commercial district affecting the local economic and social environments. Everybody uses the commercial area for shopping, dining, or entertainment, so this point is usually quite effective in winning the support at least from those living in the middle class neighborhood like urban kampong.

The scope of this paper is limited to the study of the ‘spatial conflicts’ in public spaces at the Pendrikan community and how people show them. Particular emphasis will be placed upon the spaces that are integrated with the physical design of the neighborhood. There are areas in Pendrikan that surrounding residential buildings that are poorly designed, and these areas deserve attention. There is a need to examine how such neighborhood spaces can be an appropriate and meaningful territory to serve people. Suggestions are based on site observations and literatures. Activities were observed, users were interviewed, and their patterns of outdoor space use were recorded. Useful neighborhood spaces were defined, and what forms of design that did and did not work were analyzed.

2. Methods
The methods of this paper were literature studies, site observations and questionnaires to identify the occurring or the future space conflicts. In next phase, compilations of the conflicts were organized and explained using literature reviews per case studies. The paradigm is the qualitative-rationalistic research which was explained in inductive ways using several evidences.

3. Discussion
3.1. Defining the spatial conflicts
According to the first-ranked scenarios of land use change, all coalitions will assign almost the total of the case study area to public land uses. The public land use spaces in combination with high priorities expressed for the Kampong environments are the major factors leading into the formation of a commonly scenario; that proposes the study area into vacant and transitional spaces. The issue of spatial dependence recognizes that neighborhoods are not isolated islands. Social interaction and access to community resources transcend neighborhood boundaries [16].

Through the previous literature reviews, the spatial conflict is defined as the neighborhood, as community or personal, having objectives on accessing the public space around their residence. The objectives of people in urban kampong are related to many factors hence variations of results. The different objectives in accessing public spaces around the residence are the paper limitation regarding spatial conflict term.
3.2. The spatial conflicts areas
Regarding to the previous study in Pendrikan, the main spatial conflict trigger the land use transformation [17]. The kampong’s open spaces which are identified as spatial conflicts are vacant space (no man lands), space in front of houses, and the houses’ front yards. The vacant spaces or no man lands are the part of streets having no house across from them (It can be the house backs or the house sides). This area usually is undeveloped and unauthorized by anyone until the local authority from RT (the chief of neighborhood unit) to city councils established a legalized plan on it. However the plan itself will never be realized if the the neighborhood community never considers the land as their region.

The second area is the space in front of the house (the house connector). This area is also the part of the street development program made by the authority. However the development of Pendrikan urban kampong is usualy grassroots proposal instead of top down regulation. In addition, Kampong Pendrikan is one of many kampons in Semarang designed as indigenous settlement areas since Dutch Colonial era.

The third is the house front yards. In kampong transformation, the yards can be public spaces since they are the transition space and perhaps the only access between houses and streets in the front. The second and third areas are connected and related as spatial conflict area.

The three areas were defined as spatial conflict areas by people in urban kampong as result of different objectives and the ‘as mine-your-our space’ idiom. The parameters which determine the mine-your-our-space idiom in this paper are accessing the space (access), controlling the space (control), securing the space (secure).

3.3. The evidences of spatial conflicts
Vacant space or no man lands are located in many parts in Pendrikan. The location of vacant spaces can be identified on figure 1 as void areas between the street line and solid building. Some parts of this area are occupied by food stalls, personal/communal parking shelters, temporal house extensions (but in further development it becomes permanent without legalization), and unused areas that become garbage disposal.

The house connectors are noticed by the area between solid house and street line. It might be small and shallow depending on the house width, but the expansions to the street body depend on the social values and street width itself. These areas are occupied by food stalls, parking areas, and house extensions. The purposes are similar to the vacant lands, but the detailed evidences are different.

The house yards are actually private space, but in some cases, they are transformed into shops and houses and then defined as public space. The food stalls, stores and parking areas have transformed these private areas into public spaces.

![Figure 1. Kampong Pendrikan from solid and void mapping](image-url)
The house yard space conflict (showed in figure 2) occurs as the private access and public access collided in the same space. Some houses divided their access by making more than one (usually two) gates and doors. The house owners wished that if they use this area their activities can be controlled and secured and the separate access still keeps owner of houses in-out access.

Figure 2. The house yard conflict

However those wished only permitted and designed by the house owners but not their next house neighbor. Several spots showed signage and fences in connection with the conflict area (see figure 3) made by the owners to assert their areas [18]. The conflicts in this area are clear and justified toward this area in the view of the house guests (permitted or without permitted) and not for the house inhabitants. The house owners show their control-access-secure area and so do their neighbors, and the trespassing activities may trigger social conflicts among them.

Figure 3. The spatial conflict signage

The transition areas also have the similar evidences. The signage of authority is found in this area as the street furniture. Further reactions of conflict are also showed by the instalation of landscape elements such plants in the soil or pots, small parks, flag pole foundations, surface material differences, and common traffic signs use (see figure 4). It was found that in order to show the spatial conflict in soft reaction there are landscape elements installation instead of hard text signage.

The vacant areas have slightly different evidences since these areas might not related to any inhabitants in short terms. No sign of spatial conflict responses in several spots. In deeper interview to the food stalls/shops’ owners, most of them said that they must pay tax to local authorities for their illegal activities. The tax prices are varied and disclosed. The spatial conflicts occur when their activity happens on street parking and when there are more serious of garbage problems. The occupied spaces cause the street jams and environmental pollutions (see figure 5).

The selfish perception about space among inhabitants in the urban kampong and people visiting in short time can be considered as the main factors of spatial conflicts. The conflict itself needs time and
space to show up. The catalysts of the space conflicts are the bigger size, the more frequent occupation time, and the inhabitants’ demands for space expansion.

![Image](image1.jpg)

**Figure 4.** The landscape spatial conflict evidences

![Image](image2.jpg)

**Figure 5.** Vacant space conflicts

### 3.4. Proposal of conflict resolutions

Three areas with three catalysts of spatial conflicts and a main factor can be studied to offer the problem solving strategies. In this chapter, we avoid comparing the disadvantages and advantages of spatial conflict in relation with eliminating the problem or keeping the problem with options. The basic strategy regarding the areas, catalysts and main factor are strengthening relationship among community members in order to discuss every conflict happening in their area, starting from the smallest and rare case. The weaker the relation among the community members is, the bigger and the more frequent spatial conflicts may come.

### 4. Conclusion

There are three areas in urban kampong residences potential for spatial conflicts in the neighborhood, such as: vacant space, house transition area and front yards. The evidences of spatial conflicts are shown in the form of signage, fences, gates, buildings, and landscape elements installation, parking slots and localized commercial area localization. Design element did influence on the spatial conflicts. The strengthening of neighborhood may bring solution to these conflicts. The longer and more frequent the conflicts may occur, the more difficult efforts all parties must create.
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