Space Overlapping by Commercial Activity in Vibrant Kampong (Case: Kampong Cikini, Jakarta)

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Abstract. The existence of vibrant public spaces is one of livable and sustainable city criteria. It is important to study how high-density areas in a city provide vibrant spaces such as good atmosphere for economic activities. The research took place in Gang Ampiun -- a tight alley of Kampong Cikini, a strategic and tightly-packed settlement in Central Jakarta. There, people tend to use the street area, as an attempt to fulfil spatial needs within a limited space. The aim of this study is to discover how the overlapping happen in slack space and the result of overlapping in shifting or create threshold and boundary. The research is conducted through interviews, mapping, photos, and note-taking for four days using qualitative analytics method. Several aspects were observed, including spatial arrangements of property for commercial purpose, as well as where the seller and buyer activity take place. This study reveals that the alley and gutter are seen as slack space due to the emergence of the private owned property for commercial use. Therefore, it affects accessibility and results in a new or shifting boundary.

Keywords: Slack space, overlapping, threshold, liveable, vibrant, Cikini

1. Introduction
Livable city has certain fundamental aspects, based on the website livablecity.org, robust and complete neighborhoods, accessibility and sustainable mobility, a diverse and resilient local economy, vibrant public spaces, and affordability. Based on the aspects above, street which provide accessibility and sustainable mobility has a special role to decide, is a city livable? In Cikini, Gang Ampiun connects strategic places: Cikini Station with RSCM hospital, Tourism Ministry Office and universities. Beside that, Gang Ampiun not merely be an access to connect places. Limited space makes people see so many possibilities to use this street. One of them is to accommodate economic activities. The passer-by becoming potential buyers for commercial activity. Many possibilities of activities on the street creates vibrant public space.

A good city should be livable. But most of the livable concepts are still looking upon the western standards. In United Kingdom, a city called livable using these criterias: “Cleaner, Safer, Greener” [8]. Tried to critic the concept of livable environmental quality from the western, as an imprecise and untheorised metaconcept, which encompasses 4 notions: sustainability, quality of life, well being, and orderly public space [8]. Livability performance indicators use the perspective among affluent groups and rule out understandings of other groups. Mandhar & Kathleen understand the way space produced and consumed in the East, by appreciating the threshold between public and private space that defines physical morphology and human performances within the space.

Many studies had discussed about the issues livability, especially on the street, but none of them use slack space haven’t seen as one of the way to see kampung. Slack space offers many possibilities in the utilization of space while at the same time still provides the anticipated function [12]. This concept allows the overlap between private and public space, which often occurs in a 'high-density' area, as the attempt to fulfil spatial needs within a limited space. This study aims to discover the vibrant public spaces that created by overlapping between several functions of Gang Ampiun, using slack space as the theoretical approach, which allows it to happen, especially in commercial activities.
Sees that a boundary controls to move and behave according to the spatial function and public-private space [6]. Boundary emerges in the need of control. In slack space, boundary tends to be blurred, because the space could accommodate many kind of activities. Street is mainly use for access, but since there are any other functions that overlapped, control will be much more complex. The strategic area of Cikini Kampong, especially Gang Ampiun, makes it a vibrant space. With so many possibilities of usage. That is why, the myth of a high density area as a space that has bad atmosphere for economic activity, should be rethink [9].

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2. Materials and methods
In Architecture Depends, connotate space with ambiguity in, as something political. Ambiguity is the result of personal spatial occupation politics. In a socially more dynamic space, will be harder to accommodate [12]. Sometimes, we need to sacrifice other’s spatial need. Neutral space is an area which can be use as a filter to separate outside and inside (domestic area) [6]. On the domestic scale, terrace classified as a neutral space [6]. Boundary creates transition between spaces or so called threshold. If boundary and threshold had identified, we will know space that can be accessed, from the hardest to easiest [14].

Slack space allows a lot of functions take place on the same space. Slack space did not have any exact framework, but it has potential function that can be anticipated. Different functions occur at the same time emerge layers of space that overlapped and blurred the boundaries between each layers. Slack space can be a self-built extension of a building by the local people, then recognized as something belongs to them [6]. Eventhough the space used is publicly owned, after they built extension, it became privately owned. In Gang Ampiun, this case happens in threshold or a neutral space. This is how people try to cope with limited space and see space as slack space, which didn’t have certain framework. Slack space can also absorb the change of time and adapting with the situation as well.

The research is conducted through interviews, mapping, photos, and note-taking for four days using qualitative analytics method. Several aspects were observed, including spatial arrangements of property for commercial purpose, as well as where the seller and buyer activity take place. I wanted to know how slack space can response the change of time and situation. Therefore, I do the observation from 06.00 to 17.00. With the duration of each session in an hour and take a break an hour each session. I observe the access and commercial activity on the street, which create vibrant space and make the city livable as well.

First, I observe the commercial space encroachment to the street that emerge space overlapping. Observing the placement of commercial properties and where the activities take place, position of threshold to commercial and street. How the accessibility rearranged before and after the placement of commercial properties. How the street overlapped with commercial function shows that the street seen by the locals as a slack space. And how change in time and situation can be accommodated by the street. There is any other possibilities of activity that emanates by the commercial activities and placement of properties.

3. Results
This study reveals that the alley and gutter are seen as slack space due to the emergence of the privately owned property for commercial use. Therefore, it affects accessibility and results in a new or shifting boundary, which affects the level of the publicness. At first, street built to connect places or access, also
to accommodate other activities. The amount of passer-by is potential for commercial activities. This pushes local people to place a table, chair, and cooking appliances.

The authors have categorized commercial space based on the types of placement of commercial properties and where the activities take place, position of threshold to commercial and street. For type A, properties placed in front or in the domestic space. While type B, utilized the street not as the extension of the house. The position of the property might transform the initial accessibility. The spatial arrangement or position are related with the space potential. Most of the types use threshold or alcove space to reduce street area used for commercial function. Threshold in this case could be a terrace or gutter.

One activity affects others. Activities affects another activity. Spatial need affects the opening and closing times of stalls and the ongoing economic activity. Make space requirements increase, namely for commercial functions. So that homeowners add to the function of commercial space in the space closest to the road. So that the intermediary or threshold is in the form of a terrace or closed water channel which is then used as a space to place commercial property. The following is a diagram showing various types of commercial functions in Gang Ampiu (Fig. 1).
Figure 1. Layer of spaces and threshold (personal processed image)
From the diagram above, we can see there are many types of commercial property spatial arrangements. Which affects on where the activity take place. Some of these examples would use space on the threshold, and some do not. From all the types above, I will only explain several types of commercial space arrangement to show how each type (A, B, C) could create vibrant space.

**Figure 2.** Drinks (left), indomie and snacks (right) at the tip area (personal documentation & processed image)

**Figure 3.** Drink seller on Elementary school observation area (personal documentation & processed image)

For type A1, on the tip area, the commercial properties placed above the the gutter. But the activity, such as cooking and sell-buy, take place on the street. Some of the other commercial properties, placed on the street, such as chair and thermos. People need more space, their private domestic area cannot provide it, the threshold are not wide enough to accommodate their activity, so they use the street instead. At first the gutter that have been covered, become threshold between domestic space (not accessible by passer-by) and the street (not accessible by passer-by). The space used as commercial activity. The property is not accessible by passer-by, unless they have the intention to buy something. Sell and buy activity take place on the street. This caused overlapping between two functions: commercial on access. After the addition of properties, the accessible area of the street getting narrow. From the picture above (left), we can see that some kids play on the street near the commercial space. This commercial activity attracts the kids to gather and play. On this area, there are lot of sellers. They placed the commercial property facing each others and wait for the buyers in front of their house the whole day. This attracts neighbors to come and gather at this area on the morning and afternoon, have a chat while looking after their kids who play with their friends.

Type A2 uses the street to place commercial properties. Meanwhile the preparation process take place on the terrace. So the threshold shifted and overlapped with access. The buyers take place on the street. So the accessible area for the passer-by getting narrow. In this photo below, we can also see the
kids gathered and buy drinks together. This shows that commercial activities attract kids to come and gather on the street. So this street becomes more vibrant.

Figure 4. Uduk Rice and Indomie in front of elementary school (personal documentation & processed image)

Figure 5. Different time, different seller (personal documentation & processed image)

Figure 6. Type C, tip area (personal documentation & processed image)

Type B1, take place on the site in front of the elementary school. This area is very crowded on the school time. Usually mothers who is taking their kids to the school wait and have a chat here while eating. On the afternoon, kids usually play together and met each other in this area. After the commercial properties placed on the street, the accessible space became narrow. Initially, there is no threshold, but after the properties placed, the table becomes the new threshold between the seller and buyer. The bench attracts more people to come and makes the street more vibrant.

Type B4, held the commercial activity on the access but the properties placed above the gutter, with the table or cart on leaning position to the wall. As we can see from the photos, these two sellers take
place on the same area at different time. On the morning, gado-gado sellers take this area. On the afternoon, the table still on the same place but the other properties are taken home. People gathered at this area to buy Bakso, read newspaper, and have a chat. This area, initially a house covered with fences. The neighborhood chats hardly seen in this area. The commercial property didn’t take so much space on the street. But the activity of the seller and buyer do make the accessible space becomes narrow.

The last is type C, the commercial area which did not take the street for the commercial activity. The properties are inside the domestic space, which distinctively separated with the street, between it, there is thresholder, a covered gutter, which becomes a space for the buyers. The sellers also usually seen sitting in the front of their house (on the threshold), interact with each other and their neighbor. When there are no buyers the threshold act as a neutral space. So in this type, there is no space overlapping.

A city should be livable in term of being sustainable. The passer-by, without commercial space, would only pass the alley. Otherwise, they can stop and buy some food, that can make this area more vibrant and raise local people’s income. The more people who have commercial space, the more vibrant this alley will be. The sellers themselves make the street more vibrant. Commercial space, also attract neighbor to gather, especially the commercial space which provide sitting area. Even without commercial space, the local people would still use this alley as a shared public space, for the kids playing and having chats. The existence of commercial space in Gang Ampiun makes this street more vibrant. This overlapping of function happened because the people seen Gang Ampiun as Slack Space. Which acts like a pocket, that can be filled with any functions. The arrangement of commercial properties and the activity decide the space overlapping. As result, the accessible space on the alley become narrow. There are 3 types of commercial area, which differ by the spatial arrangement of the commercial properties. Type C became the best type, which did not take the public area for the commercial activity. Type B1 became the worst type that creates the widest overlapped space. Accessibility reduced after there are several areas that is privatized by the sellers. The placement of commercial properties could shift or create threshold. These thresholds are sometimes not distinctively clear to make transition between two functional uses, commercial and access. Because the thresholds are actually overlapped with another function.

In response with the myth of a high density area, as a space that has bad atmosphere for economic activity, this notion need to be rethink. This place has high density because the location is strategic. Because it’s strategic location, so many people pass by (mostly on high pressure) and potential as the buyer of these. Since the economic atmosphere in Gang Ampiun, which located in high density area, has a lively atmosphere.

4. Conclusion
A city should be livable in term of keep sustainable. Gang Ampiun is very vibrant with the activities being held on the street. This study reveals that the alley and gutter are seen as slack space due to the emergence of the privately owned property for commercial use. Most of the commercial area overlapped on the street/access. Based on the position of the commercial properties. Therefore, it affects accessibility and results in a new or shifting boundary and threshold. The street become narrow and reduce the accessibility for the street user. Commercial activities can attract other activities, such as interaction, kids gather and play, and make the street more vibrant. High density areas can also provide a good atmosphere for commercial activity. People tend to see from the same perspective, at the end the standards will be all the same, and sooner or later places could lose their identity. We need to rethink about livable space aspects on context, not by the western standard. Even high density space, in some case can provide livable space.

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