

Impression by Spatial Structure At Indonesia's Traditional Open Space Alun-Alun — University Students As Study Subject

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1. Introduction

The population of Indonesia is 4th in the world ranking, and rapid economic growth has been observed based on this large population. Expansion of the city areas is progressing, especially around its capital Jakarta. The current issue is to develop and establish open space. In this study, alun-alun, which is Indonesia's traditional open space, has been set as a study subject. Alun-alun is a space where nothing other than lawns and several trees exist in a vast area. In recent years, with a government initiative, alun-alun have been converted to city gardens. A city garden can be defined as an open space where flowers and trees are planted. In this study, the objective has been set to compare people's impressions on alun-alun, between traditional ones and the ones which spatial structure has been changed.

2. Study Methods

In this study, impressions on alun-alun were surveyed with Bogor Agricultural University students. This university is located in the west Java in Indonesia. The survey employed a 7-scale evaluation with the following 15 questions: 1) not familiar to familiar, 2) manmade to natural, 3) dislike to like, 4) not beautiful to beautiful, 5) boring to fun, 6) tranquil to active, 7) Western to Indonesian, 8) uncomfortable to comfortable, 9) understated to flashy, 10) less green to more green, 11) modern to traditional, 12) ordinary to unique, 13) dirty to clean, 14) restricted to free, and 15) simple to complicated. The scale of seven levels was presented with the following expressions: *very much*, *quite*, *a little*, *neither*, *a little*, *quite*, and *very much*. In this article, the percentage of the top three boxes, the total respondents of *very much*, *quite* and *a little*, is indicated. The survey was conducted in May 2013, and 357 responses were obtained. The Steel-Dwass test was used for the analysis.

With this test, the following three pairings with the 15 questions were conducted: Type 1 and Type 2, Type 1 and Type 3, and Type 1 and Type 4. In this study, alun-alun were categorized into four types based on the spatial structure: Type 1 includes traditional ones, Type 2 is with the ones with planters, Type 3 is the ones in a theme park style, and Type 4 includes western style parks. All Types 2, 3 and 4 are the ones that evolved its spatial structure from Type 1.

3. Results and considerations

Type 1 was identified as a 1) *familiar* (90.5%), 3) *like* (87.4%), 2) *natural* (85.7%), 7) *Indonesian* (85.2%), 11) *traditional* (83.5%), 4) *beautiful* (82.9%), 14) *free* (82.9%), 8) *comfortable* (82.4%) and 10) *more green* (81.8) space. As a result of the Steel-Dwass test, 41 pairings among the total 45 pairings exhibited a statistically significant difference ($p < .01$). The items which did not show a statistically significant difference were 6) *tranquil to active*, 12) *ordinary to unique* and 13) *dirty to clean* between Type 1 and Type 2. The item 4) not beautiful to beautiful also did not show a statistically significant difference between Type 1 and Type 4. From this result, students possess different impressions about traditional Type 1 than others which spatial structure has changed.

With the question 10) *less green to more green*, the results towards *more green* showed as follows: 81.8% with Type 1, 48.5% with Type 2, 30.3% with Type 3, and 48.5% with Type 4. This result concludes that students feel that the traditional Type 1 has more green space than others which spatial structures have changed.

4. Conclusion

Bogor Agricultural University students felt Type 1 alun-alun as a space which is natural, beautiful, familiar and comfortable. They liked this type as an Indonesia's traditional space. They seem to find traditional alun-alun, which features only lawns and several trees in a vast area, greener than city gardens with planted flowers and trees.

Keywords: Indonesia, Traditional Open Space, Alun-Alun, University students

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