

# The Value of Corridor in Flat as Place Attachment In the Life of the Dwellers

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**Abstract.** Place attachment has been researched extensively in the behavioral and architecture studies over the past two decades. In the production of housing, designers mainly focus on the quality of the physical components. Place attachment is just the form of connection between a person and the environmental setting. However, it is challenging for this study to grasp the aspects of meanings and attachment, both in the level of personal, community and natural environment contexts, which are not adequately considered in the design process. In this study, three dimensional model of personal and community attachments to their corridor in flat, was conceptually and empirically examined. The aim is to testing an integrated approach to measurement of place attachment at corridor in flat in understanding the values of places in the life of the dwellers. Sample cases include examining attachment to corridor in three flats of Surabaya, Indonesia. It was evident that the value of corridor as a places was affected with their daily experience of the places, social bonding, neighborhood interaction and landscape values.

## INTRODUCTION

The concept of place attachment has been around in the environmental psychology and built environment literatures for quite long time, for some decades. People study some sort of these concepts, trying to understand its meaning. Also concerning the meaning, especially in the making of dwelling place, some studies emphasized on research related to sustaining the physical elements and activities. While the important function of meaning is less explored in housing studies, other studies emphasized to the meaning relates to the space and the psychological aspects of environmental experience that forms place attachment.

Relph described that space and place are interlocked, where the physical aspects of space have meaning according to the values of people experience. Place is a space filled with meanings (Relph, 1976). The social characteristics combined with the personal perceptions and functional needs shape place attachment (Bott, 2005). Place-based approach emphasizes that the experience of place is not just physical but also perceptual and psychological of the dwellers, and their experience and perception are the fundamental source of evidence in understanding place values. This study interested in the place process and lived dialectics of place have placed considerable emphasis on a two-dimensional model of place attachment comprising of personal and community context (see Raymond, Brown, Weber, 2010).

Recent studies have developed affective values for understanding individuals' attachments to place based upon their interactions with both the personal and community context. The connection between two dimensions of place attachment named social and natural environment has been examined by Brehm, Eisenhauer and Krannich, (2006).

Social and natural environment bonding were distinct and separate dimensions of place attachment and they had significant associations with environmental concern. The physical aspects were represented by natural environment attachment and the social aspects were represented by dwellers attachment. Both approaches articulate the physical and social dimensions of place attachment, they viewpoint how the physical and social dimensions of place related to place identity and place dependence (Williams and Vaske, 2003). This study advocated for new integrated models which consider the interactions between place as a personal, communal and natural setting and how the setting supports dwellers' self-identity (Sampson and Goodrich, 2009). Associating nature-based and social attachments with more traditional measures of place attachment, such as place identity and place dependence, may begin to address this need (Raymond, Brown and Weber, 2010). Place identity refers to those dimensions of self, such as the mixture of feelings about specific physical settings and symbolic connections to place. Place dependence addresses the functional connection based specifically on the individual physical connection to a setting; for example, it reflects the degree to which the physical setting provides conditions to support an intended.

The objective of this paper is to grasp the value of corridor as place attachment in flat. It discusses the way in which people value a place based on qualitative explorations. The physical features do not produce a sense of place directly, but influence the symbolic meanings of the space, which relates to the strength of place attachment. Using place-based approach, it focuses on the sense of place embedded in the feeling of dweller as personal, emotional connection of dwellers as community and relating to the natural environment surrounding.

## PLACE ATTACHMENT

Place attachment was obvious in the functional bonding between people and places described as place dependence. The main characteristic of place attachment is the desire to maintain closeness to the object of attachment (Hidalgo and Hernandez, 2001). This can be connected with elements of feeling of belonging, or emotional connection to the certain history (Sampson and Goodrich, 2009; Trentelman, 2009). According to Altman and Low, place attachment also relates to the affective aspects of environmental meaning (Altman and Low, 1992). It is embedded in the affective bond or link between people or individuals and particular places (Hidalgo and Hernandez, 2001).

This study applied an integrated model of place attachment: personal, community and natural environment (Raymond, Brown and Weber, 2010). Place identity and place dependence are included in the personal context pole, because they are related to highly personalized connections to place which are either symbolic (identity) or functional (dependence) in nature.

**TABLE 1.** Operational Definition of Place Attachment  
( source: Raymond, Brown and Weber, 2010:p.426)

<b>Context</b>	<b>Construct</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Personal	Place identity	Those dimensions of self, such as the mixture of feelings about specific physical settings and symbolic connections to place, that define who we are.
	Place dependence	Functional connection based specifically on the individual physical connection to a setting; for example, it reflects the degree to which the physical setting provides conditions to support an intended use.
Community	Social bonding	Feelings of belongingness or membership to a group of people, such as friends and family, as well as the emotional connections based on shared history, interests or concerns.
Environment	Nature bonding	Implicit or explicit connection to some part of the non-human natural environment, based on history, emotional response or cognitive representation (e.g., knowledge generation).

## **Place Attachment: Personal Context**

As suggested by those definitions of place attachment, a central assumption is that dwellers and their works are integrally intertwined. Place is powerful because it offers a way to articulate more precisely the experienced wholeness of dwellers, which people assume normal, everyday world, of taken-for-granted. Casey suggested that any emotional bond between dwellers and environment requires a descriptive language arising from and accurately portraying this lived emplacement (Casey, 2009).

Scholars on place studies have paid significant attention to the strength of individual or personal attachments to place. Most researchers have operationalized these personal place attachments using constructs of place identity and place dependence (William, et. al, 1992). Although place identity and place dependence are highly correlated, different relationships have been found between these constructs and dependent variables such as experience use history (Hammit and Backlund and Bixler, 2004), landscape values (Raymond and Brown and Weber, 2010).

A review of the place attachment literature indicates that individual connections to places are dynamic and encompass a broad range of physical settings, such as residential, recreational, and leisure settings (Manzo, 2003). Kaltenborn defined two dimensions of place attachment: nature-culture which relates to the place as both a natural environment and a cultural landscape and family-social concerning family life at the recreational home. He investigated the place meanings of recreational homes (Kaltenborn, 1997).

## **Place Attachment: Community Context**

In architecture, Yi Fu Tuan theory of topophilia has already discussed a major node of space and place concepts that deal with cultural identity and memory, but excluding social interaction. Instead then, the social context has been operationalized in a variety of ways, including community attachment, belongingness, rootedness, and familiarity. The term 'community' is based on a systemic model of connection between residents and their communities (Kasarda and Janowitz, 1974). This model postulates that community attachment is strongly related to individual connections to local social bonding and the interactions which occur with them

Study of place as articulated moments in networks of social relations and understandings, has been discussed by Doreen Massey who defined place as a product of sensing and perceiving (Massey, 1991). They found that the social connectedness that developed between people over the course of their residence in a given place was a more powerful predictor of community attachment than population size or density of the community population. More recent studies build upon the systemic model in different settings. Perkins and Long referred to these social connections in place as social bonding or the feelings of belongingness or membership to a group of people, as well as the emotional connections based on shared history, interests or concerns (Perkins and Long, 2002).

This study interested in the socio-cultural dimension of place discuss that the two-dimensional model of personal place attachment is inadequate in addressing place attachment and highlight the need to consider the social context of place bonds, including the social interaction through which place meanings are mediated (Hidalgo and Hernandez, 2001; Kyle and Chick, 2007; Sampson and Goodrich, 2009). Social attachments to places have been described using a variety of constructs that in some instances have overlapping meanings. However, there were strong correlations between personal place and community place contexts explained most of the variance in place attachment.

## **Place Attachment: Environment Context**

This study acknowledged that place attachment have considered connections to the physical environment beyond natural settings. The recreational literature has also studied how the characteristics of the natural environment effect place attachment. A number of studies have examined relationships among place attachment, human use or experience of the leisure activity and the characteristics of the natural environment. Kyle and colleagues observed the relationships among place attachment, leisure activity involvement, and the characteristics of specific natural environments (Kyle et al, 2004). Schultz and colleagues suggest that individuals hold implicit cognitive associations between themselves and the natural environment which influence their environmental concerns (Schultz et al, 2004)

The previous literature review indicated that there are multiple, overlapping meanings of place attachment and its operational measures that have developed in different disciplines, such as social psychology, environmental psychology, and community sociology. The environment constructs include: place belongingness where people feel a 'membership' to an environment (Mesch and Manor, 1998), place rootedness which refers to a very strong bond to home (Tuan, 1980), place familiarity defined as pleasant memories, achievement memories, and environmental images associated with places. Nature bonding has been operationalized in a variety of ways, together with emotional sympathy towards nature, and connectedness to nature. Unlike the definition of place identity presented in the leisure and recreational sciences, it has a much greater emphasis on the connections between the individual and the natural world. Kals and Montada showed that emotional towards nature can be distinguished from its cognitive equivalent of 'interest in nature' and is a powerful predictor of nature-protective behavior (Kals and Montada, 1999).

### **METHODS**

In this study, we conceptualize and empirically examine a model of place attachment among three samples of "Penjaringan, Grudo and Jambangan flat contexts. The model includes place identity and place dependence (personal connections to place), nature bonding (connections to the natural environment), and social bonding (connections to the community in place). First, the theoretical basis for a three-pole conceptualization of place attachment is expounded. Each of the proposed place attachment dimensions are defined and discussed.

Criteria of samples considered include the dwellers' length of living in the flats, representative of job variation (driver, security, construction workers, street hawkers), number of children as the dominant groups occupying and intimacy with (having harmony with the closed neighbor). This paper focuses on the affective values of the places expressed in the feelings about the place, memory, sense of pride and belonging. The findings will be applicable to the studied areas which cover the housing for low income people in the city of Surabaya. The findings are discussed in the value of corridor from the dwellers perspective and the established place attachment

### **FINDINGS AND RESULTS: THE VALUE OF CORRIDOR IN FLAT**

This study interested in the tangible and intangible dimension of place have either focused on: 1) the personal context of place attachment, specifically examining the highly individualized attachments of place identity and place dependence (Table 1); 2) The community context, grasping the dwellers activities and their social interaction within neighborhood; 3) the natural environment context, describing the related constructs of environmental identity, emotional connectedness to nature, which we propose can be considered using the overarching construct of nature bonding. The aim is to avoid losing the characteristics that are familiar and meaningful to dwellers that impact their continued attachment. Therefore, it enhances the value of corridor as a social setting. Identification on elements that matter to dwellers helps to ensure that any form of natural intervention will encouraging the dwellers daily engagement and comforting their sense of attachment to flat as a place they engage with.

Table 2. The meaning of Place Attachment in Corridor of Flats

<b>Construct</b>	<b>Dwellers of Penjaringan</b>	<b>Dwellers of Grudo</b>	<b>Dwellers of Jambangan</b>
Place identity	Lively place of corridor	Lively place of corridor	Happy being at corridor
	Enjoy the busy atmosphere of corridor	Enjoy the shady corridor	Enjoy the shady corridor
	Happy with the physical condition of corridor.  Sense of pride due to popularity of receiving third award from national housing ministry for flat cleanliness	Happy and satisfied with physical condition of the corridor.	Happy and satisfied with physical condition of the corridor.  Sense of pride due to popularity of receiving second award from municipal for the flat cleanliness
Place dependence	Care about the cleanliness of corridor.	Care about the cleanliness of corridor.	Care about the cleanliness of corridor.
	Like the corridor's atmosphere that can be used for playing of their children	Like the corridor's atmosphere that can be used for playing of their children	Like the corridor's atmosphere that can be used for playing of their children
	Pleased with the price range of different floor	Pleased with the price range of different floor	Pleased with the price range of different floor
Social bonding	Care about the other children who playing around corridor  Feeling comfortable and satisfying due to good business and familiarity with people and the flat.	Care about the other children who playing around corridor  Feeling comfortable and satisfying due to its strategic location in heart of Surabaya city.	Care about the other children who playing around corridor  Feeling comfortable and satisfying due to familiarity with people and the flat.
	Nature bonding	Love the corridor for playing, chatting and observing people activities.  Proud of the specialty facilities, like traditional food vendors, Broadbent learning centers	Love the corridor for planting, chatting and observing people activities.  Strong attachment to the location due to being familiarized with the place. (The Flat was built on their former Kampong)

## CONCLUSION

The purpose of this study is to test an integrated model of place attachment which four constructs place identity, place dependence, social bonding and natural bonding. The outcome shows that the attributes of place dependence have emotional connection with social bonding and nature bonding. Such as the dwellers care about the cleanliness due to the using corridor as playing place for their children, and has a connection with social bonding of their neighbor toward taking care any children who play around the corridor. Instead of having connection with social

bonding, the dwellers also feeling comfortable when notifying some people taking care of plants at corridors. From these result, it is possible that place dependence can be placed on both as the attribute of personal or community contexts. Moreover, the significance in identifying place identity is the impact of the presence of harmony between place dependence, social bonding and nature bonding. The dwellers felt happy, satisfied and enjoyed the shady corridor. The understanding about which attributes have emotional connection with the other attributes will help to improve the design process of corridor in flat. Thus the appreciation to the dwellers daily experience, how they perceive the corridor, how they figuring out their neighbors, and how they feel comfort with plant as shading, have an important role for flat corridor design.

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