

# The value of corridor in flat as place attachment in the life of the dwellers

*by Anik Juniwati*

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Lilianny Arifin, Wanda K. Widigdo, Anik Juniwati, and Danny Mintorogo

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

Arifin, Lilianny<sup>1,a)</sup>, Widigdo, Wanda K<sup>1,b)</sup> Juniwati, Anik<sup>1,c)</sup> Mintorogo, Danny<sup>1,d)</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Architecture Department, Universitas Kristen Petra, Surabaya, Indonesia.

<sup>a)</sup>Corresponding author: lili@petra.ac.id

<sup>b)</sup>wandaw@petra.ac.id

<sup>c)</sup>ajs@petra.ac.id

<sup>d)</sup>dannysm@petra.ac.id

**Abstract.** Place attachment has been examined extensively in the behavioral and architecture studies in 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 was 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 the flat was conceptually and empirically examined. The aim is to test an integrated approach to measuring place attachment at the corridor in flat in understanding the values of locations in the life of the dwellers. Sample cases included the examination of attachment to the hallway in three units located in Surabaya, Indonesia. It found out that the value of corridor as a place was affected by the 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 literature for a 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 a dwelling place, some studies emphasized on research related to sustaining the physical elements and activities. While the essential function of meaning is less explored in housing research, other studies highlighted to the meaning refers to the space and the psychological aspects of environmental experience from place attachment.

Reference [1] described that space and venue are interlocked, where the physical dimensions of space have the meaning according to the values of people experience. The place is an area filled with meanings [1]. The social characteristics combined with the personal perceptions and functional needs shape place attachment [2]. The place-based approach emphasizes that the experience of place is not just physical but also perceptual. Likewise, the psychological of the dwellers and their experiences and perceptions are the fundamental sources of evidence in understanding place values. This study interested in the place process and dialectics of place that have placed considerable emphasis on a two-dimensional model of place attachment comprising of personal and community context [3].

Recent studies have developed effective values to understand 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 Ref. [4].

Social and natural environment bonding was distinguished and separate dimensions of place attachment and they had significant associations with environmental concern. The physical aspects were represented by natural surroundings attachment and the social aspects were present as dwellers' attachment. Both approaches articulate the physical and social dimensions of place attachment, they perceive how the natural and social aspects of place relate to place identity and location dependence [5]. 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 [6]. Associating nature-based and social attachments with more traditional measures of place attachment, such as place identity and location dependence, may begin to address this need [3]. Place identity refers to those dimensions of self, such as the mixture of feelings about particular physical settings and symbolic connections to place. Location dependence addresses the functional relationship based specifically on the individual physical connection to an environment, for example, how it reflects the degree to which the physical environment provides conditions to support an intended.

The objective of this paper was to grasp the value of corridors as place attachment in flat. It discussed 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 relate to the strength of place attachment. Using place-based approach, it focused on the sense of place embedded in the feeling of dweller as personal, emotional connection of dwellers as a community, and relation to the surrounding natural environment.

## PLACE ATTACHMENT

Place attachment is evident 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 [7]. It can be connected with elements of the feeling of belonging, or emotional connection to the precise history [6]. Place attachment also relates to the affective aspects of environmental meaning. It is embedded in the emotional bond or link between people or individuals and particular places [7].

This study applied an integrated model of place attachment: personal, community and natural environment [3]. Place identity and location dependence are included in the individual context pole, because they are related to highly personalized connections to place which are either symbolic (identity) or functional (relationship) in nature.

TABLE 1. Operational Definition of Place Attachment [3]

Context	Construct	Definition
Personal	Place identity	Those dimensions of self, such as the mixture of feelings about particular 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 environment 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 parts 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, an underlying assumption is that dwellers and their works are integrally intertwined. The place is a powerful thing because it offers a way to articulate the dwellers' whole experiences more precisely, which people perceive as normal, everyday world, of taken-for-granted. Any emotional bond between dwellers and environment requires a clear language arising from and accurately portraying this lived emplacement.

Scholars on place studies have paid significant attention to the strength of individual or personal attachments to place. Most research have operationalized these particular place attachments using constructs of place identity and place dependence. Although place identity and location dependence are highly correlated, different relationships have been found between these constructs and dependent variables such as experience use history and landscape values [3]. Review of the place attachment literature indicates that personal connections to places are dynamic and encompass a broad range of physical settings, such as residential, recreational, and leisure settings.

### Place Attachment: Community Context

In architecture, Yi Fu Tuan theory of topophilia has already discussed a primary 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 [9]. This model postulates that community attachment is strongly related to individual connections to local social bonding and the interactions which occur between them.

Study of place as articulated moments in the networks of social relations and understandings, has been discussed in Ref. [10] who defined a place as a product of sensing and perceiving. They found that the social connectedness developed among 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 city population. More recent studies build upon the systemic model in different settings. Reference [11] 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.

This study interests in the socio-cultural dimension of place discussing the two-dimensional model of private place attachment that is inadequate in addressing place attachment and highlighting the need to consider the social context of place bonds, including the social interaction through which place meanings are mediated [7] [12] [6]. Social attachments to places have been described by using a variety of constructs that in some instances have overlapping meanings. However, there are high correlations between private place and community place contexts that explain most of the variance in place attachment.

### Place Attachment: Environment Context

This study acknowledged that place attachment has special connections to the physical environment beyond natural settings. The relational literature has also explored how the characteristics of the natural environment affect the 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 [13]. Schultz and colleagues suggested that individuals hold implicit cognitive associations between themselves and the natural environment which influence their environmental concerns [14].

The previous literature review indicated that there are multiple, overlapping meanings of place attachment and its operational measures that have been developed in different disciplines, such as social psychology, environmental psychology, and community sociology. The environment constructs include: 1). Place belongingness where people feel a 'membership' to an environment [15], 2). Place rootedness which refers to a unyielding bond to home [16], 3). 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 heartfelt sympathy towards life, 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. Reference [17]



showed that emotional towards nature could be distinguished from its cognitive equivalent of 'interest in nature' and is a powerful predictor of nature-protective behavior.

## METHODS

In this study, we conceptualized and empirically examined a model of place attachment among three samples of *Penjaringan*, *Grudo* and *Jambangan* flat contexts. The design has involved place identity and place dependence (personal connections to place), nature bonding (links to the natural environment), and social bonding (links to the community in place). First, the theoretical basis for a three-pole conceptualization of place attachment was expounded. Each of the proposed place attachment dimensions was defined and discussed.

Criteria of samples included the dwellers' duration of living in the flats, representative of job variation (driver, security, construction workers, street hawkers), the number of children as the dominant group occupying and intimacy with (having harmony with the close neighbor). This paper focused on the practical values of the places expressed in the feelings about the place, memory, sense of pride, and belonging. The findings would be applicable to the study areas which covered the housing for low-income people in Surabaya City. The results were discussed in the value of corridor from the dwellers perspective and the secure place attachment.

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

This study interested in the tangible and intangible dimension of place attachment as focused on: 1) the personal context of place attachment, specifically in the degree of individual attachments on place identity and place dependence (Table 1), 2) the community context, grasping the dwellers activities and their social interaction within neighborhood, and 3) the natural environment context, describing the related constructs of environmental identity, emotional connectedness to nature, which we proposed can be assessed by using the overarching construct of nature bonding. The aim was to avoid any loss of the characteristics that are familiar and meaningful to dwellers that would impact their continued attachment. Therefore, it enhanced the value of corridor as a social setting. Identification of elements that were significant to dwellers to ensure that any form of natural intervention would encourage the dwellers in daily engagement and comfort their sense of attachment to flat as a place they engage with. Table 2 summarizes the value of corridor in flat.

## CONCLUSION

The purpose of this study was to test an integrated model of place attachment which four constructs of place identity, place dependence, social bonding, and natural bonding. The outcome showed that the attributes of place dependence have an emotional connection with social bonding and nature bonding. It was represented by the dwellers' care about the cleanliness since they used corridor as playing place for their children. In addition, they have a connection related to the social bonding of their neighbors in taking care of children who play around the corridor. Besides having a connection with social bonding, the dwellers also feel comfortable when notifying some people to take 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 area identity is the impact of the presence of harmony between place dependence, social bonding, and nature bonding. The dwellers felt happy and enjoyed the shady corridor. The understanding about which attributes have emotional connections with the other characteristics would help to improve the design process of corridor in flat. Thus, the appreciation of the dweller's daily experience, how they perceive the corridor, how they interact with their neighbors, and how they feel comfort with plants as shading, have an important role for the flat corridor design.

**TABLE 2.** The Meaning of Place Attachment in Corridor of Flats

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

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