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THE EVALUATION OF PLACEMAKING IN TAMAN MEDIAN, RUSUNAWA MARUNDA

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ABSTRACT

Rapid urbanization results in the need for quality public spaces, especially in vertical housing area such as Rusunawa Marunda, Jakarta. This research aims to evaluate the placemaking performance of Taman Median, Rusunawa Marunda as a public space by applying placemaking based on The Place Diagram by Project for Public Spaces (PPS), encompassing four dimensions: Access and Linkages, Comfort and Image, Uses and Activities, and Sociability. The method used is descriptive qualitative, with a non-participatory observation and a review of literature and official documents. The data were collected over one week across four daily time periods (morning, midday, afternoon, and evening). Analysis was carried out using a three-stage process and source triangulation to ensure validity. The results reveal that the dimension of Sociability is the best performer in terms of demographic inclusivity, sociopetal spatial design and voluntary frequent use, as a quantifiable enhancement of social cohesion and quality of life of residents. The other three criteria are only partially fulfilled, due to the physical remoteness from daily circulation routes, the lack of infrastructure that provides thermal comfort and the lack of planned community activity. This work contributes to placemaking scholarship in vertical housing situations by identifying an asymmetry that is both socially driven and design-driven. Top recommendations include inclusive accessibility infrastructure, more shading and resident-based management with structured programming.

Keywords: Placemaking, Public Space, Rusunawa Marunda, Taman Median

INTRODUCTION

Urbanization is fast and ongoing, and it is estimated that by 2050 two-thirds of the world's population will be living in urban areas, especially in developing countries such as Indonesia (United Nations, 2025) (Bappenas, 2025). This leads to a number of complex problems for urban planning such as socio-cultural changes, economic inequalities and environmental degradation, which finally results in a general decrease in the quality of life of urban communities (Žlender & Gemin, 2020).

In this respect, public spaces are important in terms of satisfying the needs of urban residents. Public spaces are meant to be inclusive, comfortable and safe, enabling a wide range of social activities, considering accessibility and sustainability. High-quality public spaces can improve the quality of life of residents through social interaction, recreation, and cultural expression, as well as promote social cohesion and create more vibrant and sustainable urban environments (Kusumo, 2025).

Public spaces in major cities, such as Jakarta, are a counterpoint to urban density, as well as venues for social interaction, recreation and informal economic activities (Firdaus & Utomo, 2024). The function is even more critical in the context of vertical housing such as Rumah Susun Sederhana Sewa (Rusunawa), where the limited size of the residential units causes the public space to serve as an extension of the living space for its occupants. The public spaces in Rusunawa are not only a place for children to play and interact with their families, but also as community spaces, informal education space, and hubs for small-scale economic activities. All are a great way to improve the quality of life of residents.

One of the implementations can be seen in the Rusunawa Marunda. Taman Median is a new public space built on previously undeveloped ground in late 2025. This park's creation turned a neglected area into a useful and dynamic area for local people. Taman Median is a place for kids to play and a place for adults to hang out, mingle and socialize. Residents of Rusunawa Marunda praised the existence of this area.

Placemaking is an idea-based approach to the design and management of public spaces that seeks to create comfortable and inclusive spaces that promote social activities (Project for Public Spaces, 2022). The Place Diagram helps to clarify this by showing four interlinked key dimensions: Access and Linkages, Comfort and Image, Uses and Activities and Sociability. These four elements are interdependent and their harmony strengthens the bond of inhabitants with the area by providing comfort, safety and aesthetic appeal that encourages social interaction. This makes public space not only functional but also dynamic in creating social connectivity within the community, allowing the space to accommodate a variety of users and generate dynamic social conditions.

As shown in Figure 1, The Access and Linkages indicator assesses the park's accessibility in terms of visual visibility, spatial connectivity, pedestrian pathway quality, universal accessibility, and the effective reach of users across residential blocks (Surico, 2023). Comfort and Image evaluates the space's comfort and appeal based on aesthetic quality, the effectiveness of a multi-layered security system, the completeness and suitability of seating facilities in relation to the tropical climate, and the minimal amount of vehicle intrusion into pedestrian space (Aina, 2024). Usages and Activities uses occupancy rates, the range of activities supported, the spatial distribution of users, and the

Figure 1. Placemaking Indicators in The Place Diagram
(Source: Project for Public Spaces, 2020)

lucidity of formal and informal governance systems to gauge how well space is used (Peinhardt, 2023). As part of the identity and daily routine of community life in Rusunawa Marunda, Sociability measures the social quality of the area in Rusunawa Marunda based on the identity and daily routine of community life, loyalty and attachment of residents to Taman Median, demographic inclusiveness, and degree and range of inter-user interaction (Project for Public Spaces, 2022).

Place Diagram, a widely recognized evaluation framework for urban public space such as waterfronts, plazas, and city parks, is from Project for Public Space (PPS) (Abidin et al., 2022) (Reich, 2020) (Soszyński & Michalik-Śnieżek, 2023) (Shumi, 2011). However, the use of The Place Diagran in the context of vertical housing or Rusunawa, is still considerably limited in academic literature especially in Indonesia. Moreover, the original Place Diagram indicators have not yet fully integrated the specific challenges of local contexts, such as thermal comfort in tropical climates and inclusive accessibility for users with special needs – two aspects that are particularly relevant in the design of public spaces in dense urban settlements. Therefore, this study aims to fill these gaps by evaluating a new public space in Rusunawa Marunda, which was recently completed in 2025, in the early stages of the placemaking approach based on the four indicators of the PPS Place Diagram, to find out the deficiencies of design in the early stages and to be able to provide recommendations to improve the quality of public space in vertical residential settlements in a timely manner.

Thus, the purpose of this research is to evaluate the placemaking performance of Taman Median, Rusunawa Marunda. The evaluation is conducted by measuring the achievement level of each dimension in The Place Diagram. The four indicators used are Access and Linkages, Comfort and Image, Uses and Activities, and Sociability. The findings are expected to provide evidence-based recommendations for improving the quality of Taman Median as a public space in Rusunawa Marunda.

METHODS

The research method used is descriptive qualitative research. It describes and identifies each of the aspects contained in this study based on Placemaking Theory(Project for Public Spaces, 2020)

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The stages of this research are as follows:

1. Data Collection. The data used in this study comes from two types of data sources: 1. Primary data was obtained through direct observation with the non-participatory method. The purpose of this method is to observe the conditions of the research location without directly involved in the activities being carried out (Kusumo, 2025). The data is collected over one week observation in four different times each day (morning, midday, afternoon, and evening). Meanwhile, secondary data were collected by reviewing the literature from books, journals and relevant electronic media. Supporting records and visual evidence in the form of official documentation was also collected as secondary data.
2. Coding Procedure. The raw observational data, which contains field notes and documentation, are systematically categorized according to the four dimensions of The Place Diagram. Each then was assigned to its corresponding indicators based on Table 1.
3. Data Analytics. A comparative analysis was performed by comparing the coded findings with the normative criteria of placemaking principles specified by the Project for Public Spaces (2020) and supported by relevant literature. This procedure helped to identify the gaps between the actual conditions of Taman Median and the optimal standards for each indicator, and so the performance rating for each indicator was Met, Partially Met, or Not Met.
4. Data Validation is done by triangulation technique of source. Triangulation of source is conducted by cross-referencing field observation with secondary data from official documents (Department of Public Housing and Settlement Areas of DKI Jakarta Province) and information from UPRS II. This triangulation approach enhanced the consistency and trustworthiness of the findings across numerous data sources.
5. The conclusions were systematically deduced; it begins with a specific assessment of each indicator by integrating the results of field observations and literature review, then it moves towards a general assessment, and ends with actionable recommendations.

Figure 2. Taman Median as Research Location
(Source: Field Observation, 2026)

The research location can be seen in Figure 2. The research location is in Taman Median, located on the road median area, located on the south side of Block D, Rusunawa Marunda complex, which is between Jl. Rusun Marunda Cluster B, northern side, and Jl. Rusun Access on the south side.

Research Indicators and Variables

The indicators used in this study are derived from The Place Diagram developed by the Project for Public Spaces (PPS) and consist of four main variables. These variables are used as an indication of a public space success based on the application of the concept of placemaking. The four variables are further developed into a set of practical questions that can be used as evaluation indicators as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Table of Placemaking Indicators

Item	Description
1. Access and Linkages	• a. Is the place/space visible from a distance? b. Can you see the inside from the outside? • a. Is the place/space well connected to the surrounding area or is it surrounded by walls? b. Is it used by the locals? • Is it easy for residents to walk to the place/space? For instance, do they have to cross a road with motorized vehicle traffic? • Are there pedestrian paths to and from the place/space? • Can residents with special needs use the place/space? • a. Are there walkways? b. Do the walkways in the place/space lead residents to their desired destination?
2. Comfort and Images	• Does the place/space create a good impression at first? • a. Is there enough seats? b. Is the place/space comfortable to sit in? c. Are there any seating options? For example, a choice between covered and uncovered seating? • a. Does the place/space feel safe? b. Is there any security present around the place/space? c. If yes, what do they do? What are their working hours? • Do vehicles use the place/space more than pedestrians, so that pedestrians are not able to access the place/space?
3. Uses and Activity	• Is the place/space being used or is it empty? • How many types of activities occur at the same time? For example: walking, eating, playing basketball, playing chess, relaxing, and reading? • What parts of the space are not used and which are? • Are there activity options available at the place/space?
4. Sociability	• Is it used by residents of different age groups? • Is there any interaction with users in the place/space? Is the place/space used regularly and of the residents' own volition?

(Source: Adapted from Project for Public Spaces 2020)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The following section presents the placemaking performance evaluation of Taman Median across the four dimensions of The Place Diagram, based on coded field observations, comparative analysis, and source triangulation.

Access and Linkages

Taman Median shows great visual accessibility and easily recognized as an attractive spot in Rusunawa Marunda. The bright-colored features of the park and the conspicuous amphitheater form, as shown in Figure 3, provide the distinctive visual landmark that is readily recognized from the hallway of Block D and from as high as the 6th level. In addition, the absence of visual barriers such as thick vegetation or illegal constructions adds to the legibility. This condition is aligned with the placemaking principle that the more visible and identifiable a space is, the more likely it will be spontaneously visited. People tend to engage with a space that they can see and read from a distance (Liu et al., 2025). In this respect, Taman Median successfully meets the visibility of Access and Linkages.

However, major drawback is the lack of spatial integration of the park with its surroundings. Taman Median is in a road median, physically separated from Block D and the Mangrove House by traffic roadways on both sides. The initial aim of UPRS II was for the park to provide an integration area between these two points, although this is not best achieved. The vehicular road in the surrounding areas act as a physical and psychological barrier, disrupting the pedestrian continuity and preventing spontaneous access. In placemaking theory, this is called a permeability deficit – the public space is not linked to the residents' daily routes of circulation, so the use is intentional, rather than incidental (Surico, 2023). The upshot is a big one: residents have to decide to go to the park, rather than passing through it on the way somewhere else. This inherently limits the possibilities for casual social interaction and spontaneous use.

The pedestrian infrastructure in and around Taman Median tells a similar mixed story. The jogging track around the park measures 4.65 meters in width, which is adequate to accommodate two-way pedestrian traffic. This could also enable stationary activities like informal chats without impeding movement, fulfilling the minimum level recommended for high-density pedestrian routes (Gerike et al., 2021). The exclusion of motor vehicles and street vendors from this pathway creates a sense of pedestrian ownership, which is psychologically significant in generating a safe and comfortable mobility environment (Surico, 2023)

Figure 3. Documentation of Taman Median from the 6th Floor of Block D
(Source: Personal Documentation, 2026)

However, the conblock surface material presents a paradoxical nature, since although it allows the absorption of water, the effects of deformation changes and irregularities in the joints become more evident over time, creating conditions that are more detrimental to wheelchair users, elderly residents and caregivers with strollers (Silva et al., 2025). This is a betrayal of the inclusive accessibility norm that placemaking demands, particularly in a social housing context where disadvantaged populations are a large part of the user base.

The most important accessibility gap in Taman Median is the lack of accommodation for the users with special needs. At present, the park does not include ramps for wheelchair users, guide blocks for visually impaired persons and pedestrian crossing markings on the adjoining traffic roadways. According to (Silva et al., 2025), the lack of ramps is not only an annoyance for people who use wheelchairs but a fundamental attack on their independence, as they are forced to rely on others to access parks to meet basic needs. Similarly, the absence of guiding blocks removes the spatial orientation cues that the visually handicapped need to navigate safely and independently. In the context of Rusunawa Marunda which has elderly and disabled adults as part of the resident population, these omissions are a structural exclusion that is in direct opposition to the inclusive accessibility principle that is at the heart of placemaking. The park's large pedestrian areas would in theory allow wheelchairs to pass, but the lack of purpose-built infrastructure means access is dependent on help, rather than something that can be achieved independently – a distinction that is important to real inclusion.

The Access and Linkages aspect of Taman Median is generally partially fulfilled. The park scores well for visual intelligibility and the quality of internal pedestrian connections but its physical separation from the surrounding circulation network and the lack of inclusive infrastructure for users with special needs considerably detract from the quality of the park. These gaps are not just design oversights – they reveal a structural limitation on the park's ability to serve all residents equitably and must be addressed to fully realize its placemaking potential.

Comfort and Image

The Comfort and Image aspect is illustrated through Figure 4.

Taman Median creates a good initial impression, with good physical conditions throughout the park, as shown on Figure 4. And the lack of scattered litters, the intactness of the floor and wall surfaces, the slight paint flaking all add up to indicate a level of upkeep that sends a message of care and institutional responsibility to visitors. More importantly, the park has strong identification features. The amphitheater is an iconic spatial anchor and the specially designed floor marks are a visual landmark that can even be seen from the top residential floors (Figures 5 and 6). Such identification markers are also important in terms of placemaking, as areas with a strong visual character create a feeling of place that induces repeated visitation and emotional attachment among residents (Project for Public Spaces, 2020). But the absence of signage that identifies the park as "Taman Median" is an

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opportunity squandered to promote this identity and improve the sense of ownership of the place by inhabitants.

Figure 4. Residents Sitting and Interacting at the Bench Play Area
(Source: Personal Documentation, 2026)

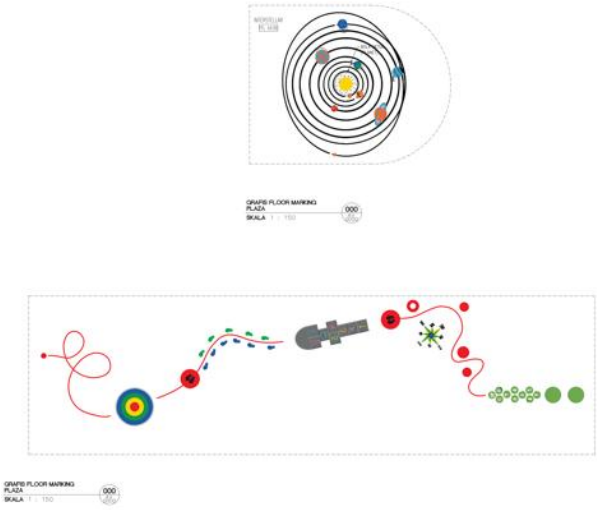

Figure 5. As-Built Drawing of Floor Marking Graphic Design of Taman Median
(Source: Department of Public Housing and Settlement Areas of DKI Jakarta Province, 2026)

Figure 6. The Documentation of Taman Median by drone
(Source: Personal Documentation, 2026)

The seating arrangement in Taman Median is a real attempt at variety with seats, a deck and the amphitheater as separate seating typologies. This type of variation aligns with placemaking principles that recommend a mix of seating alternatives to accommodate diverse user preferences and social groupings (Project for Public Spaces, 2020). However, the use of cement as the main sitting material presents a serious thermal comfort concern. In contrast to heat-dissipating materials, cement absorbs and emits solar heat when exposed to direct sunshine, making seating surfaces uncomfortably hot at midday. This material selection, together with the lack of sufficient overhead coverage – only the bench seating is covered by a roof constructed from an Aluminium Composite Panel (ACP), which is less than enough – provides conditions that actively discourage park use at midday. The young trees placed inside the park have not grown up enough to give considerable canopy cover. According to (Ahmed et al., 2024), thermal comfort is a major design determinant in tropical urban public areas and the urban heat island effect exacerbates heat stress in high-design not only reduces comfort but also serves as an effective temporal barrier limiting when the park can realistically be used.density residential settings. As seen in Figure 10, this thermal discomfort directly causes a sharp midday drop-off in park activity, demonstrating that the lack of climate-responsive design not only reduces comfort but also serves as an effective temporal barrier limiting when the park can realistically be used.

Taman Median's security situation is maintained through passive rather than active means. The park does not have its own security officers, with safety being guaranteed by the visibility of the park from the nearest security station and the corridor of Block D. (See Figure 8.) The open interior plan, which lacks large barriers, allows for informal surveillance from the surrounding residential environment — a condition that is consistent with the idea of natural surveillance in safe urban design, where the presence of passive observers discourages antisocial behavior and provides a sense of security to users (Liu et al., 2025). The gateway is installed at the northern and southern entrances as illustrated in Figure 7 and further adds to access restriction during off-hours. This passive security system is appropriate for the present level of use, but relies on favourable environmental conditions like sunshine and the presence of adjacent inhabitants. Therefore, its effectiveness at night or when low occupancy is naturally restricted and requires consideration for enhancement.

Figure 7. Portal as a Road Barrier on the Northern and Southern Sides of Taman Median
(Source: Personal Documentation, 2026)

Figure 8. Security Post Viewed from the Nearest Residential Block
(Source: Personal Documentation, 2026)

The conflict between vehicular traffic and pedestrian space in Taman Median is not resolved. Basic traffic calming measures like speed bumps have been put in place around the park to slow down vehicles. The lack of road markings, pedestrian crossing zones and obvious visible distinction between vehicle and pedestrian domains produce an uncertain spatial state. The ambiguity in this context has major implications for disabled people, elderly users and youngsters – populations that depend on unambiguous spatial cues and infrastructure to navigate safely through shared vehicle-pedestrian zones (Silva et al., 2025). Residents accessing the park from Block D, without pedestrian crossing marks, are forced to traverse vehicular space without statutory protection, compromising the safety and autonomy of the park's most vulnerable users.

The dimension of Taman Median Comfort and Image is partially met. The park manages to develop a favorable visual identity and offer many typologies of sitting, but it is seriously weakened by insufficient thermal comfort infrastructure and a deficient pedestrian safety system. In a tropical climate with high solar radiation, the lack of adequate shading is not a minor design gap. It is a fundamental barrier to an equitable and consistent park use throughout the day, and it is the most urgent design intervention needed to elevate the park's placemaking performance.

Uses and Activities

The evaluation of the Uses and Activities aspect is elaborated based on Figure 9.

Taman Median has a regular pattern of use in several time periods, used by residents in the morning, afternoon and evening. This temporal distribution of activity is a major measure of placemaking success as a high-quality public space is supposed to draw people throughout the day, not just during a single peak (Project for Public Spaces, 2020). The park's capacity to serve use in three different time periods indicates that the park's program design consisting of eight differentiated zones namely, the Interstellar Zone, Social Plaza, Congklak Area, Jogging Track, Amphitheater, Play Area, Seating Area, and Deck, was successful in providing sufficient spatial diversity to accommodate the different user

Figure 9. *A*ctivities at Taman Median in the Morning
(Source: Personal Documentation, 2026)

motivations. The interactive and distinctive components of the park help to foster this dynamic further, actively inviting interaction rather than passively accommodating it (Cohen et al., 2023).

But looking at the use at midday reveals a crucial lack of temporal distribution. This is shown in Figure 10, where park activity drops off substantially during the hours of most sunlight. The Interstellar Zone, one of the main play areas of the park, is largely empty during midday, but well used in the afternoon. This is not a coincidence but a real behavioral reaction to the temperature discomfort created by the lack of shade infrastructure, as mentioned in the Comfort and Image section. From a placemaking analytical perspective, this midday vacancy is significant in that it demonstrates that the usability of the park is not uniformly distributed throughout the day; the thermal conditions effectively establish an invisible temporal boundary, and the park cannot be completely used until the morning and afternoon. According to (Gehl, 2011) the success of a public space is not only in the fact that it is used but also in the fact that it is accessible for all users at all times. On this measure, the midday vacancy at Taman Median indicates a measurable performance gap in the Uses and Activities dimension.

However, the spatial distribution of activities is varied across the eight zones of Taman Median. The Play Area, Seating Area and Jogging Track are always occupied, while amphitheater seems to be underutilized as an activity place. As a spatial typology, the amphitheater is loaded with programmatic possibilities for planned community events, performances and collective activities. However, the amphitheater in its current use seems to be confined to casual gathering and not scheduled programming. The elements of multipurpose public space need physical infrastructure, governance procedures and programmed activities to fully activate and constantly draw users (Peinhardt, 2023). The absence of a resident-based management community and organized activity programs in Taman Median implies that the spatial potential of the park is presently only reliant on spontaneous use. This will limit the consistency and diversity of activities in all zones throughout the day.

An analytical consideration should be given to the governance dimension of park use. The portal system and UPRS II monitoring give a minimum formal governance structure, but the lack of a community-based management structure leaves a big vacuum in the park's operational capacity. The park's activity profile is reactive rather than generative, lacking any resident-led programming such as organized morning exercise groups, activity

Figure 10. Condition of the Interstellar Zone at Midday (Left) and Afternoon (Right)
(Source: Personal Documentation, 2026)

programs for the elderly, or cultural events at the amphitheater. This is a key distinction for placemaking: spaces that depend exclusively on spontaneous use tend to have uneven spatial and temporal distribution of activity, while spaces with structured community governance show more regular and equitable patterns of use (Project for Public Spaces, 2020).

Overall, the dimension of Uses and Activities of Taman Median is partially achieved. The park is designed to accommodate a range of activities concurrently and is used throughout the day and at several times during the day which shows the popularity of the interactive features of the park. But its ability to perform is limited by a midday emptiness due to heat, inconsistent spatial activity across areas, and the lack of structured community programming, all of which hinder the park from fulfilling its full programmatic potential as a placemaking venue.

Sociability

Within the attribute of Sociability, Taman Median has the highest placemaking performance. The park is used simultaneously by children, women, and senior residents – a demographic inclusion that demonstrates its function as a true community space rather than an age separated facility (Project for Public Spaces, 2020). The sociopetal seating arrangement, with seats facing each other, was experimentally associated with higher rates of spontaneous discussion (Mumcu & Yilmaz, n.d.) and further encouraged this intergenerational co-presence. This design allows residents to socialize and observe youngsters playing at the same time. Thoughtful seating design produces compound social value beyond its basic purpose as a comfort benefit.

The friendliness of the park is strengthened by the voluntary and habitual use of the park. Each afternoon residents arrive spontaneously, without prodding from the institution, in a pattern of behavior that suggests place attachment, which is formed naturally, when a facility constantly serves residents' social requirements (Project for Public Spaces, 2020). Median is, in fact, an extension of the home sphere in the cramped Rusunawa environment where private space is limited, providing the informal social connectivity that (Jacobs, 1961) recognized as the basis of lively urban community life.
In total, the Sociability dimension is totally satisfied, which is the strongest placemaking performance of the park. But for the long term, its sustainability depends on the implementation of structured community programming (e.g., morning exercise groups,

geriatric classes, and amphitheater events) to institutionalize the park's social role and ensure its sociability performance goes deeper than just spontaneous use.

The performance rating was applied to each metric obtained from The Place Diagram framework to systematically analyze the placemaking performance of Taman Median. Each indicator was assessed against normative placemaking standards identified in the literature and was assigned one of three performance ratings: Met, indicating that the observed condition fully satisfies the placemaking principle for that indicator; Partially Met, indicating that the condition demonstrates partial compliance but contains significant gaps that limit its effectiveness; and Not Met, indicating that the observed condition fails to meet the minimum threshold of the corresponding placemaking principle. The ratings were derived using a comparative examination of coded field observation data that was cross-referenced with secondary sources for validation. The results are shown in Table 2 with the performance rating and empirical foundation for each individual indicator and summed in Table 3 with the ratings by dimension providing an overall performance rating. Taman Median's overall placemaking performance is Partially Met, with seven out of seventeen indicators graded as Met, eight as Partially Met, and two as Not Met. At the dimension level, only Sociability is evaluated as fully Met, whilst Access and Linkages, Comfort and Image, and Uses and Activities are each rated Partially Met, with some gaps still remaining in infrastructure, thermal comfort and community governance respectively.

Table 2. Placemaking Performance Evaluation of Taman Median

Dimension	Indicators	Performance	Empirical Basis
Access and Linkages	Distant visibility	Met	No visual impediments exist. Park is easily visible due to unusual amphitheater form and bright-colored elements from Block D hallway and 6th level.
	Connectivity to surrounding areas	Partially Met	Surrounded by traffic roads on all sides; physical and psychological barrier prohibits integration with people' everyday circulation routes
	Pedestrian accessibility	Partially Met	Residents must cross a motor road to reach the park, however low traffic flow mitigates safety issues to some extent
	Inclusive accessibility for users with special needs	Not Met	No ramps for the wheelchair user; no guiding blocks for the visually impaired; no pedestrian crossing marks
	Pedestrian pathway quality	Partially Met	Jogging track of 4.65m width allows for two-way traffic but the conblock surface material is a risk for wheelchair users and senior citizens.
Comfort and Image	First visual impression	Met	Good surfaces, no litter and iconic things (amphitheater, floor marks) create a strong positive spatial identity
	Seating availability and variety	Partially Met	Three typologies of seats (bench, deck, amphitheater), however cement material and undersized overhead cover hinder thermal comfort
	Thermal comfort	Not Met	Lack of shade facilities and young tree canopy leads to steep drop in park use during midday solar peak hours
	Security	Partially Met	Passive safety: natural observation from Block D corridor and security post. No dedicated security personnel or night coverage
	Pedestrian-vehicle relationship	Partially Met	To restrict the speed of vehicles, speed bumps have been built, however the absence of road markers and pedestrian crossing points produces hazardous and unclear spatial situations.

Dimension	Indicators	Performance	Empirical Basis
Uses and Activities	Level of space utilization	Met	Park is in active usage in the morning, afternoon and evening and across numerous zones and activity types
	Diversity of simultaneous activities	Met	Multiple simultaneous activities: jogging, children's play, mingling, eating and relaxing in 8 varied zones
	Temporal distribution of use	Partially Met	Sharp emptiness around midday noted due to temperature discomfort Park use not evenly dispersed over the day
	Community governance and programming	Partially Met	UPRS II provides basic formal governance and there is no resident-based management community or organized routine programming.
Sociability	Demographic inclusivity	Met	Park is a place used by children, women and elderly citizens simultaneously, representing a broad intergenerational appeal
	Quality of social interaction	Met	Sociopetal seating layout facilitates spontaneous interaction; sitting nodes provide simultaneous child supervision and adult socialization
	Voluntary and habitual use	Met	Residents independently and routinely visit the park every afternoon, showing a strong site attachment and community appropriation

(Source: Adapted from Project for Public Spaces (2020)); Field Observation and Analysis, 2026)

Table 3. Placemaking Performance Summary by Dimension

Dimension	Met	Partially Met	Not Met	Overall Performance
Access and Linkages	1	3	1	Partially Met
Comfort and Image	1	3	1	Partially Met
Uses and Activities	2	2	0	Partially Met
Sociability	3	0	0	Met
Total	7	8	2	Partially Met

(Source: Field Observation and Analysis, 2026)

Table 3 shows that Taman Median's overall placemaking performance is Partially Met in three out of four dimensions assessed. The only category to reach a Met rating was sociability, indicating the park's potential to encourage inclusive, voluntary and habitual social engagement among people of a range of age groups. Access and Linkages, Comfort and Image, and Uses and Activities are rated as Partially Met, indicating that while there has been meaningful progress in each dimension, continuing gaps—the park's physical isolation from surrounding circulation routes, inadequate thermal comfort infrastructure, and the absence of structured community programming—continue to constrain the park's overall placemaking performance. Of the seventeen factors assessed in total, seven are rated Met, eight Partially Met and two Not Met. The two Not Met grades relate to inclusive accessibility and thermal comfort; both offer basic hurdles to the equal use of the park by all resident groups.

CONCLUSION

The study evaluated the placemaking performance of Taman Median, Rusunawa Marunda using the four aspects of The Place Diagram established by Project for Public Spaces (2020). The assessment indicates that Taman Median has successfully transformed a neglected area into a lively and meaningful public space, with the Sociability dimension being the highest scoring – in terms of demographic inclusiveness, sociopetal spatial design

and voluntary habitual use by residents. The last three dimensions, Access and Linkages; Comfort and Image; and Uses and Activities are partially met, conditioned by three related gaps: the physical separation of the park from the daily circulation routes of residents, the lack of thermal comfort infrastructure in a tropical climate context, and the absence of structured community-based programming to ensure consistent and equitable spatial activation throughout the day.

To bridge these gaps, three priority initiatives are proposed. First, inclusive and connective infrastructure, such as ramps, guiding blocks, pedestrian crossing markings and direct connections to Block D and the Mangrove House should be provided to enhance both accessibility and spatial integration. Second, extension of overhead covers and planting of broad-canopied shade trees are needed to minimize heat barriers that already restrict use at midday. Third, institutionalizing the social role of the park and long-term placemaking sustainability requires the formation of a resident-based management community with organized routine programming such as morning exercise, geriatric classes, and amphitheater events.

This study contributes to the growing body of knowledge on placemaking within vertical housing environments by illustrating the continuing relevance and analytical utility of the Place Diagram framework, initially developed for general urban public spaces, when applied to the restricted spatial context of social housing complexes like Rusunawa. The results show a unique pattern of placemaking that is exclusive to this context: Sociability in Rusunawa is more likely to be spontaneous and quick to develop, as the result of high residential density and the latent demand for shared social space within the community, whereas Access and Linkages and Comfort and Image are structurally dependent on design and infrastructure decisions beyond the residents' control. This asymmetry in the dimensions of socially- and design-driven placemaking offers a nuanced framework for future assessments of public spaces in similar vertical housing settings across Indonesian cities, where the rapid urbanization pushes the need for high-quality communal spaces within affordable housing developments.

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