



Qualities in Architecture

Aida Kesuma Azmin



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QUALITIES IN ARCHITECTURE

AIDA KESUMA AZMIN

Assistant Professor Department of Architecture,
Kulliyah of Architecture and Environmental Design.



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PUBLIC SPACE FOR EXPERIENCING PUBLIC LIFE

SUFIAN HAMAT

Kulliyyah of Architecture and Environmental Design
International Islamic University Malaysia,
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Abstract

Public space is where people and environment intersect and come together. The place provides relief and recreation and can also serve to promote standards in public behaviour where people are obliged to relate to others' behaviours, ideas and preferences. Public life on the other hand is a collective action at free will and rights of every human to satisfy physical leisure needs for health and sanctity for the peace of body and mind and it is a significant component of urban experience. Public life occurs in public space where people activate the space in order to live the choices city life offers. With regards to the nature of public life, public space is considered as a vital conduit in the exchange process, providing platform for everyday interaction and information flows amongst people and the environment in the sphere of public life of a city. Traditional public places like parks, plazas and marketplaces and now shopping malls as defined by some researchers provide the necessary bandwidth for the flow of information between people where these public spaces act like a self-organizing public service.

Keywords: Public, space, environment, behaviour, public life, nature, preference, platform

INTRODUCTION

The character of cities according to Means and Tim (2005) emerges from millions of interactions of different aspects of people and the surrounding environment. They argued that the interactions have created a radical variation in the public character of towns and cities and shapes a corresponding variation in quality of life at both the individual and collective level within each place. The researchers have also mentioned public space as venue that offers a tangible and everyday arena in which the aspects of people and environment intersect and come together and exchange ideas, friendship, material goods, skill and many other things. The place is where people are obliged to relate to others' behaviours, ideas and preferences as they go about meeting their own personal needs.

Corbett, in his book "*Revival of the Square*" (2004), shares the previous view, in which he noted the important and complex role of public spaces. According to him, public space as in the City Square, can provide visual relief and recreational open space within a densely developed area, and can also serve to promote standards in public behaviour. This interpretation by Corbett echoed the function of the traditional public spaces of Europe and Latin America - be