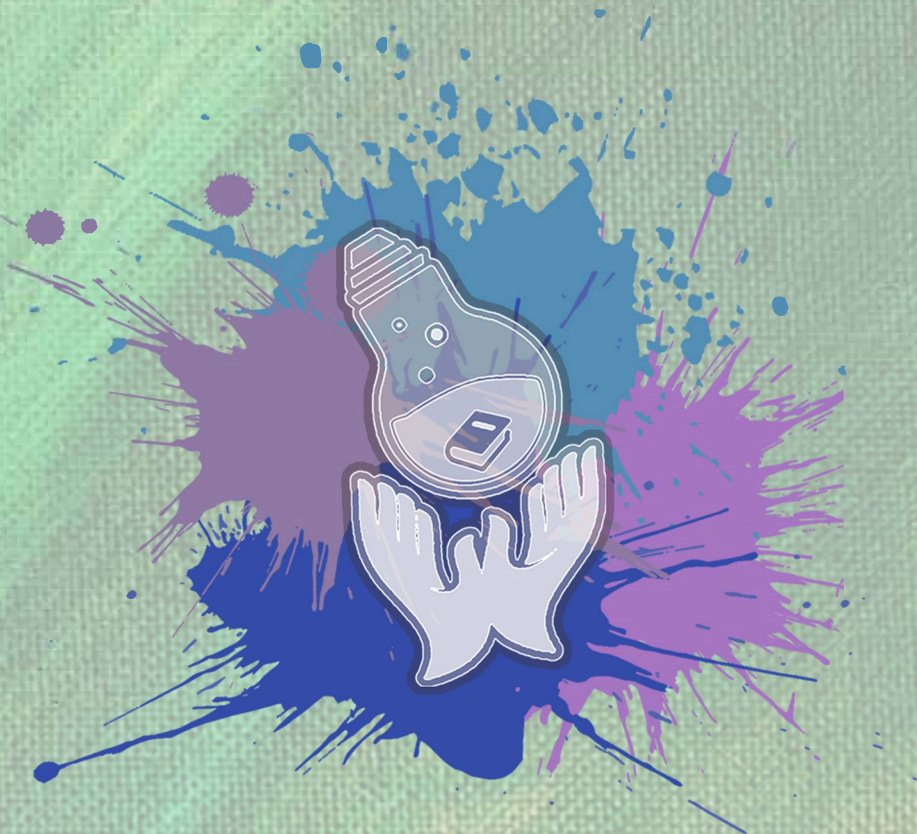F|S|P|U
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TEMPORARY PUBLIC SPACE CASE STUDY OF LANAI MIP

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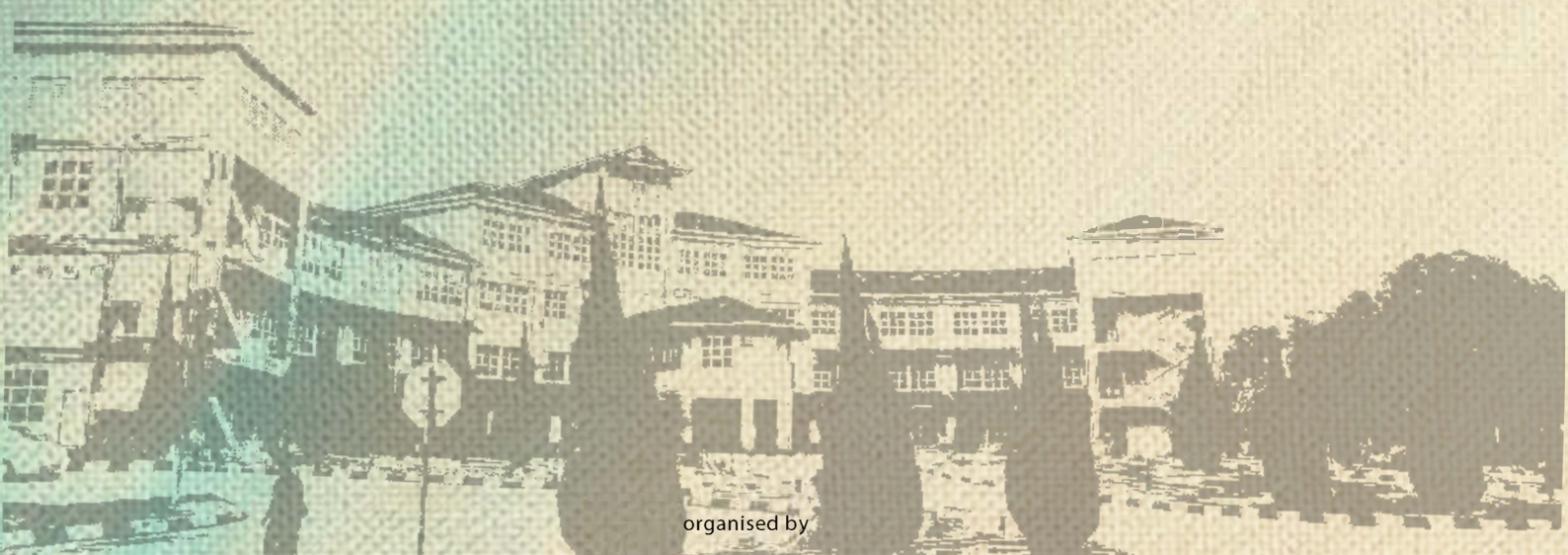
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Abstract:
Lanai MIP is a project that looks on the idea of a temporary public space within an urban setting. Originally an empty space with a bit of a touch on landscape, the space was then converted into a temporary attractive area in conjunction to celebrate the 9th World Urban Forum. Using this as a case study, this research examines the contextual setting of Lanai, facilities provided and the environmental impact and further explores the possibility to convert the little place into a permanent public space where people can enjoy, relax and socialise with one another. To ensure this study can achieve its goal, several objectives were outlined, comprises of background study of public space, observation and survey using a set of questionnaire form, followed by relevant recommendations for improvement. Findings from the analysis showed a positive prospect not only to convert the area into a permanent public space, but also to further expand the boundary by reclaiming the existing road next to the area. By doing so, it is believed that the space will be more vibrant and freer from noise and air pollution., offering a mini escapade area that can also function as a pocket park for people.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Public space is the space where inhabitants encounter strangers and can spend their time with family or friends. The street, the footpath, the square, and the parks are the punctuation of the city, give the structure that empowers urban areas to spring up, and to support and oblige various activities. Public space isn't made by one person at one minute in time, conversely, it is a combination of various people, different backgrounds and so on.

To ensure a successful public space is achievable, everyone should have the right to easily access public spaces and should be able to see a tree from their window, or to sit on a bench close to their home with a play space for children, or to walk to a park within ten minutes (Israa Hanafi, 2013).

Public space can be in any form at anywhere. A successful public space is easily accessible, safe, attractive and lively. It will help to encourage people to enjoy the space and at the same time mingle around with one another. Many cities around the world have taken a serious action on public space, ensuring quality of life for their residents are at best.

Due to the importance of public space, this study then aims to investigate human behaviour in public space, especially in the case Lanai MIP. Using relevant methods such as observation survey, this study will try to figure out for creating great community places, key principles of placemaking etc.

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

The creation of public spaces can be driven either directly as a result of a government decision, or indirectly, as a result of private developments; the need to provide better services; or by urban redevelopment. Direct decisions to create new public spaces occur infrequently (Mossop and Walton 2001; Winikoff 2000).

Regardless of what drives the decision to improve an existing public space or create a new one, the figures involved in the complex process will generally be the same. The process will need to involve

communication between planners, designers, builders, place managers, policy makers, and the public users.

The initial stages of the process will include the gathering of information, evaluation and consideration of alternative options. This is then followed by transferring the information into a concept design plan which is followed by the decision-making (Carr et al. 1992). Accordingly, the early stage of the process is the most critical time for considering and understanding the potential impacts of the designs on the experience of users of public spaces.

3.0   METHODOLOGY

This section elaborates on the structure of the survey, the process that resulted in finalizing the data collection instrument, and the process of data collection. Basically, data collection for this study comprises of both primary and secondary data. These two types of data are crucial to ensure strong justification can be made.

Figure 1: Study Process
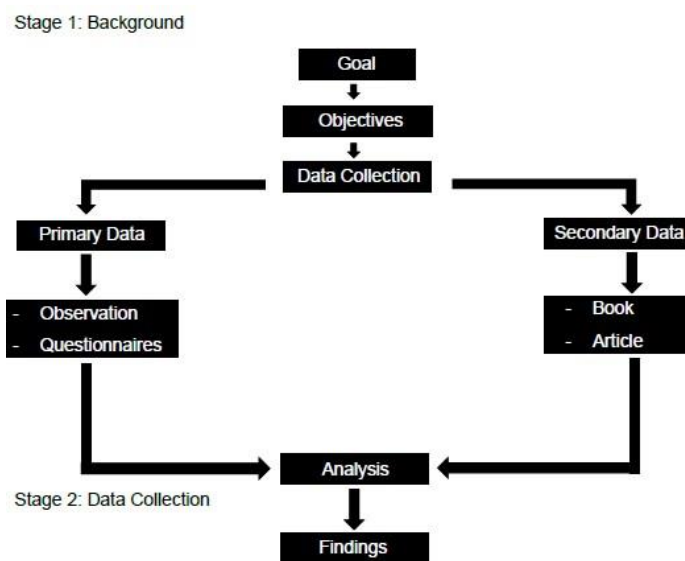
Two types of method have been used for this study namely observation and online questionnaire. This survey using probability sampling technique because researcher already know the respondents (WUF9).

4.0   ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

Data analysis comprises of two components which are observation survey and online questionnaire.

4.1   Analysis Based on Observation Survey

This observation study was conducted to identify the condition of Lanai MIP as well as the people's behaviour. Several key output from the observation can be detailed out in the following paragraph. Through observation during on site, there are several equipment and facilities at Lanai which is uncomfortable and not interesting. Lanai has provided 'rock' as a seating which is improper design for used. In fact, Lanai has an activity such as mini library for recreational reading, mini bus stop as a background for taking picture and expression walls, all the equipment and facilities are exposed, and it may cause a damage by nature. Due to the busy road beside Lanai it caused noise and air pollution as well as uncomfortable environment for recreational reading.

Photo 1: Improper design for seating that does not suit all age group (not user friendly).
Photo 2: Mini library for recreational reading.
Photo 3: Public art that represents the rowic bus mini.
Photo 4: Expression wall.

4.2 Analysis Based on Survey Results Using Online Questionnaire

i. Range of satisfaction towards Lanai

Figure 1 shows 95% of respondents are happy with the range of facilities provided at Lanai probably because this group do not spend much time at Lanai. They just either pass-by the area or taking photos. Only one respondent was unhappy due to improper seating at Lanai.
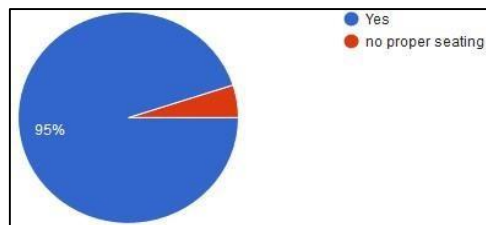

Figure 1: Range of satisfaction towards Lanai

ii. Improvement needed for Lanai

The most requested from respondents to improve Lanai is seating (80%) while the other necessary requested is pavement material (35%) which is the lowest requested from respondents. This is because the existing condition of Lanai has no proper seating that suitable for all age group.
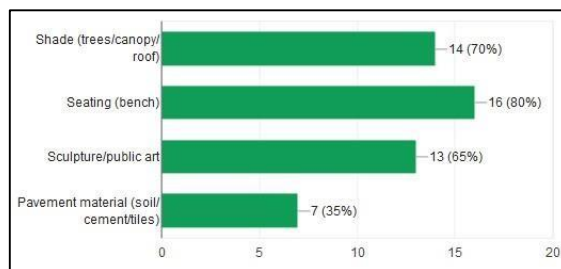

Figure 2: Improvement needed for Lanai

iii. Satisfaction level towards Lanai

The highest rate for satisfaction level towards Lanai is 80% and the lowest rate is very satisfied which is 5%. Although most of respondents are satisfied towards Lanai but Lanai still can be improved further.
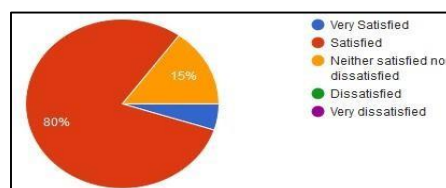

Figure 3: Satisfaction level towards Lanai

iv.   Proposal for road closure

45% of respondents have agreed that part of Jalan Petaling to be closed and reclaimed as public space. The remaining 20% disagree and 35% chose maybe. This indicate a positive move for
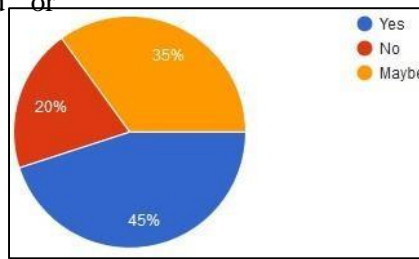Lanai to be expanded or enlarge.

Figure 4: Proposal for road closure
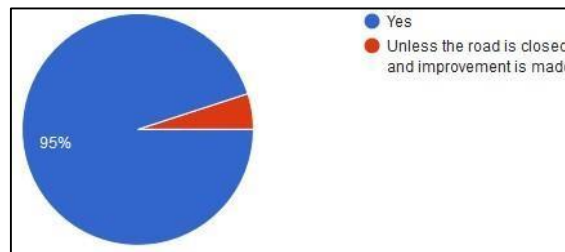
v.   Lanai as permanent public space

Figure 5: Lanai as permanent public space

From the survey results, 95% respondents agreed if the space to be a permanent public space while another 5% disagree unless the road is closed, and improvement is made. It is clear that public space is important and still a necessary element within urban area.

5.0   CONCLUSION

Lanai has the potential to be vibrant public space that can help to improve the liveability of Kuala Lumpur. This study has managed to address the quality that the place is blessed with, thus it is reasonable to be converted into a permanent public space. With several touches of improvement on design aspect that not solely based on researcher's idea, but also from public, therefore it would be interesting to see the transformation of Lanai. Ultimately, this whole idea is also fitting in with the New Urban Agenda (NUA) that targeting on achieving green and quality public spaces within cities and human settlements.

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