

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**STREET ENVIRONMENT
AS PUBLIC SPACE IN
KUALA LUMPUR: A CASE STUDY
OF JALAN MASJID INDIA**

NORMAH BINTI SULAIMAN

PhD


July 2021

AUTHOR'S DECLARATION

I declare that the work in this dissertation was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the results of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This thesis has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any degree or qualification.

I, hereby, acknowledge that I have been supplied with the Academic Rules and Regulations for Post Graduate, Universiti Teknologi MARA, regulating the conduct of my study and research.

Name of Student : Normah Binti Sulaiman
Student I.D. No. : 2013144983
Programme : Doctor of Philosophy (Built Environment) - AP991
Faculty : Architecture, Planning & Surveying
Thesis Title : Street Environment as Public Space in Kuala Lumpur :
A Case Study of Jalan Masjid India

Signature of Student : .....
Date : July, 2021

ABSTRACT

In the history of urban development, roads have been an encouraging factor in shaping the physical form and fabric of a city for decades. It has brought many impacts and more challenges into urbanization affecting the overall urban quality of life. The research background is derived from issues regarding the impact of road design shaping the urban form towards urban liveability in Kuala Lumpur. Roads and streets are at the heart of our understanding in shaping the form and fabric of the city which the previous central idea is focusing on the movement of traffics. Streets have seen to renewed their importance in being expressive as a communication platform between human and their activity. Therefore, this research will focus on street functioning as an extension of space influencing social interaction and as a public space. The research aims to examine street strategy as a basis for informing street provision as a public space in terms of the street physical and social environment. The research questions and objectives are formulated to assist research in achieving this aim. The scope is set to study the physical and social dimension of the street environment. Supporting the research are the works of literature that expand understanding on key ideas of road and street as an infrastructural component constructing movements in the city. The literature also explores the concept of the street as a public space, street functions and typology. Next, the research examined the current street provision strategy and guidance and conduct a detailed review of street guide as public space from the universal and local context. The research methodology is formulated based on a method developed by Jahn Gehl that extensively focus on street transformations globally. Following this, a decision was taken to evaluate Jalan Masjid India, Kuala Lumpur. The rationale for choosing these streets was made based on the outcome of the pilot study testing the research methodology and instruments and the availability of variables for the study. The key findings from the survey highlighted the street as a robust connector for movement and the strength of the street is its connectivity despite the average street conditions to cater for all kinds of mobility and activities. The survey of the street social environment informs the street is an active space with multiple activities and social interactions taking places. Among other findings highlighted are street connectivity, quantity and quality of public space, street programme, street landscaping and street safety. The street social environment is robust but not a functional social interactions connector. The findings from both aspects are validated using the local and global street guidance which highlights what was lacking in the current street provision as a public space in Kuala Lumpur. Recommendations are drawn with a street strategy and a street as public space framework as a basis to inform improvements on current street provision influencing social interactions. Future research also suggests exploring the potential of the street as a healthy corridor in the city and developing collaborative guidelines contributing towards a better urban liveability and environment and increase general enjoyment of life for the public.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost, I have to thank my supervisors throughout the completion of this thesis. Firstly, to Associate Professor Dr. Yusfida Ayu Abdullah for being the backbone and motivator towards the completion of this thesis. Secondly, it will also not be meaningful without the assistance of YM Dr. Raja Norashekin Raja Othman, the co-pilot of the journey. Their dedication, encouragement and endless guidance through their vast knowledge of the subject matter and thesis writing have made it possible for me to complete this thesis. May God bless all your effort and patience in understanding my abilities along this journey.

It took me years to get here, I also would like to thank my previous supervisor, who now is a retiree, Dr. Hazlina Hamdan and Dr. Saniah Ahmad Zaki, who had shown me the light of interest in urban design. Thank You to all Supervisors! May Allah swt bless you with many more blessings.

My family members have also been an immense part of my dissertation, with endless love, care, support and consistent prayers for my success in everything I choose to do. Thank You Omma for bringing me to this world and always blessing me with your prayers.

For my A-listers, who love me unconditionally and holding my hands on a rough day, putting a smile on my worry days and for bringing the sunshine along on a cloudy day. To my dearest friends, who never fail to tell me that I can make it and go further, Thank You for always being there at a phone call away.

Especially to You, who are a part of this Journey, Thank You for being here with me at the finishing line. You are indeed my #1 supporter! Alhamdulillah, the completion of this thesis was a long journey to me, but it was worth the climb to the top.

All praise and thanks to Allah swt, God in the Most Highest. Nothing is possible without His grace and I am eternally grateful that He guided me to finish this journey. May peace and His blessing be upon Prophet Muhammad, His final messenger.

Thank You Abah and Atok for watching over me from the above, my late dad, Sulaiman Abdullah and my late grandma, Helena De Silva, May Allah swt bless your soul, *Al-Fatihah*.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
CONFIRMATION BY PANEL OF EXAMINERS	ii
AUTHOR'S DECLARATION	iii
ABSTRACT	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	v
TABLE OF CONTENTS	vi
LIST OF TABLES	xi
LIST OF FIGURES	xiii
LIST OF PLATES	xiv
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Preface	1
1.2 Background of Research	2
1.3 Previous study	3
1.4 Problem Statements	7
1.5 Aim and Objectives of Research	9
1.6 Scope of Research	9
1.7 Research Limitation	13
1.8 Research Framework	13
1.9 Significance and Novelty of Research	16
1.10 Conclusion	17
CHAPTER TWO: STREET AS PUBLIC SPACE	18
2.1 Introduction	18
2.2 Street; The Viewpoint of Urban Designer	18
2.3 Street; The Viewpoint of Engineering	20
2.4 Overview of Public Space as an Urban Space	25
2.5 An Overview on Street Definition	27
2.6 The Street Environment	28
2.6.1 Function of Street	35
2.6.2 Street as Channel of Movement	35
2.6.3 Street as Social Space	36
2.6.4 Street as Commercial Space	36
2.6.5 Street as Cultural Space	37
2.7 Street Typology	37
2.7.1 Pedestrian-Only Streets	38
2.7.2 Laneway and Alleys	45
2.7.3 Downtown Commercial Street and Commercial Shared Street	47 48
2.7.4 Grand Streets	49
2.8 Discussion on Street as Public Space	