

# **A Study on the Sense of Place in the Café dan Restaurant “Tanatap Wall Garden” Semarang**

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**Abstract.** The design of public buildings in general plays an important role in influencing the sensation of a building, in addition to creating an interesting and unique visual impression, affecting the feelings of visitors, and having a positive or negative impact on the environment around the building. One of them is Tanatap Wall Garden which is located on Jl. Madukoro No.4-5, Tawang Sari, Semarang City. Tanatap Wall Garden has its own characteristics that distinguish it from the many modern coffee shops in Semarang City. In the background by a well-known architect, Antonius Richard Rusli, as the founder of the RAD+ar (Research Artistic Design + architecture) design group which focuses on the characteristics of the tropical climate in the Indonesian archipelago with innovative designs and contributions to sustainable architecture. The Semarang City Wall Garden is included in one of the design experiments carefully planned by RAD+ar, with the aim of evaluating the performance of commercial spaces in real-world situations that are sustainable. Tanatap Wall Garden Semarang City has a tropical architectural style with natural elements created in it that are adapted from existing site conditions.

**Keywords:** sense of place, relation to place, place attachment, restaurant

## **1. Introduction**

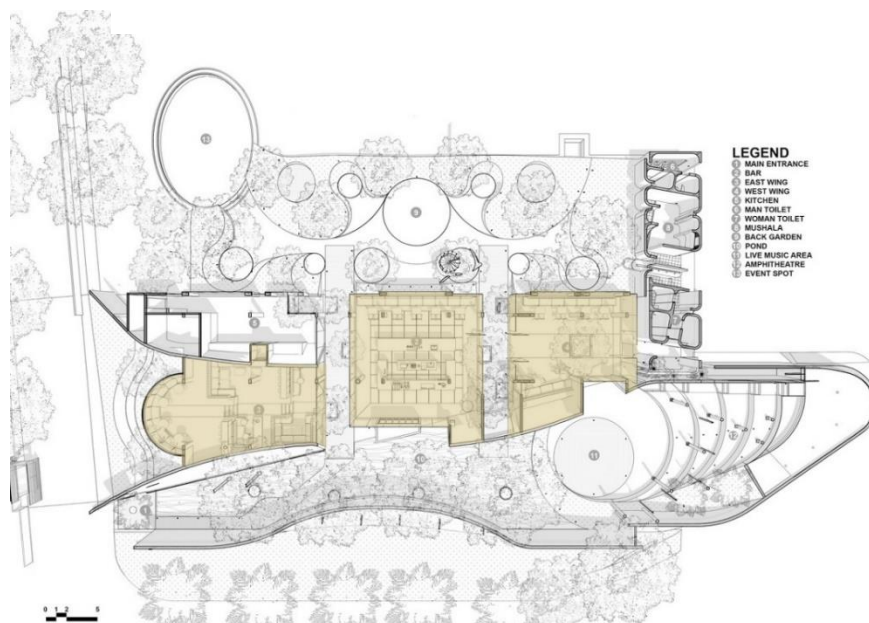
Sense of place is a deep-seated connection between a person and a particular location, understood through the lens of phenomenology. It pertains to our everyday experiences and has a spatial dimension (Güçhan, 2008) [1]. Essentially, this concept is holistic, emphasizing the subjective experiences, emotions, or bonds that individuals form with a space. It encompasses psychological, social, and physical aspects.

Tanatap Wall Garden is a unique cafe and restaurant in Semarang that offers a distinct sense of place. The combination of comfort, aesthetics, functionality, innovative use of materials, lighting, and circulation, as well as a minimalist structural system, creates a special impression and meaning for visitors. These elements contribute to a profound connection between the visitors and the space.

The indicators of the sense of place problem in this building include: 1) identification of visual design such as; building form, lighting, and applied colors that can impact visitors' psycho-visual experience, textures on wall, roof, and floor surfaces, and accessibility from the main entrance to the interior of the building; 2) the level of relationship of visual design that affects the occupants' activities

in terms of the relationship to; 3) the types of relationships and attachments created between occupants and the overall architecture of the building in terms of place attachment, leading to the creation of a cognitive socio-emotional aspect in spaces through variables of physical attachment to space and the formation of social relationships. [2]

Based on these problems, this research raises the following questions: "What types of relationships and attachments can be created between occupants and the building architecture in terms of relation to place and place attachment?" and "How does physical identity affect the sense of place of users of Tanatap Wall Garden in Semarang?" The selection of Tanatap Wall Garden as the research object has undergone several reviews of the adaptation process to the approach of sustainable architecture for new buildings in Semarang within the scope of public spaces.



**Figure 1:** Layout of Tanatap Wall Garden [6]

## 2. Methods

The research method employed in this study is a qualitative method supported by descriptive explanations. The literature data is used to determine the research hypothesis, analyze the factors influencing sense of place, and provide references for the development and evaluation of the relevant research. The distribution of analysis stages along with the data analysis techniques used can be seen more clearly in the following points:

- a. Identification of design aspects that influence the behavior, interaction, and sentiment of visitors at Tanatap Wall Garden.
- b. The influence of character on the visual design of the building affects the experience and perspective of visitors

### **3. Results and Discussion**

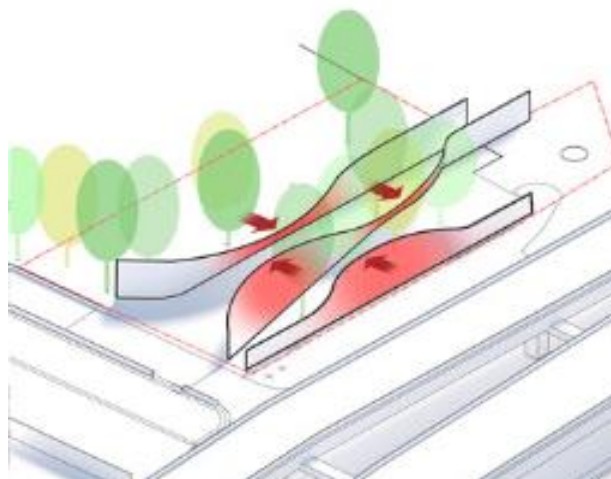
#### *3.1. Identification of Visual Design of Tanatap Wall Garden*

Public space is defined as an open space that can facilitate various individuals to interact and exchange information. The typology of public space, based on its scope, refers to external public space which includes public facilities provided to respond to the needs of the general public, internal public space: as public facilities that can be accessed by all members of the society, but are limited by six walls as a space divider, and external and internal public space: this type of public space is managed by the private sector and has more limitations or rules that must be met, both from the management and visitor side. [3]

Sense of place encompasses the sensation presented in a building, area, or surrounding environment to individuals or the community caused by a variety of factors such as architectural visual design, spatial arrangement, and the surrounding environment. A good building environment can strengthen the sensation and provide a sense of ownership, security, and comfort to individuals. The component elements included in it are from aspects of building form, lighting and color, texture, and accessibility of building occupants. [1]

Aspects that influence the sense of place in the visual design identification of Tanatap Wall Garden have the following analytical indications:

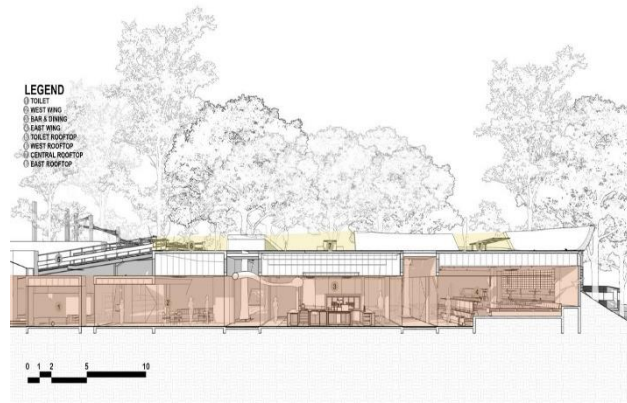
1. *Form*: The concept behind the building's walls creates an elongated form with curves and bends that are harmonious and contrasting. This creates a sense of calm, flexibility, and redefines the boundaries between architecture and nature. Three sloping lines are designed right in the middle of the site. Architectural contemplation between the entrance garden, backyard garden, and creative amphitheater is connected through the interaction of existing trees, with the indoor area created as a consequential space. From this, visitors can feel and express the freedom created among the curves of the walls, and increase the visitor's desire to further explore the architectural flow created in the Tanatap Wall Garden building.



**Figure 2:** Form and Massing of Tanatap Wall Garden [6]

2. *Lighting and Color*: The psycho-visual comfort of natural lighting becomes an important factor in building the perception, emotion, and behavior of visitors while they are active in this cafe. Natural lighting is functioned in the bar area in the form of wall glass panels (openings around

the bar area and the west wing) and glass block walls (openings in the east wing). Meanwhile, artificial lighting, which also serves as an accent and decorative element, is in the form of a blue pixel light stretch ceiling located in the middle of the bar area. The data of the study object in the existing condition of Tanatap Wall Garden shows a public park with many vegetation in the form of trees and other plants so that the openings of the research area in the indoor part (orange zone) are quite dim or have a shadow effect. The feeling created in this ambience is harmonious, comfortable, relaxed, and not boring.



**Figure 3:** layout, interior, and lighting

3. *Texture:* Tanatap wall Garden as a whole has a rough floor texture that creates a strong and natural impression. The uneven surface provides a more organic and characterful nuance. This impression also adds a visual dimension, strengthening the tropical elements of Tanatap Wall Garden. In addition, the use of natural stones such as bricks, natural stones, or ceramics with natural textures gives a warm and comfortable impression



**Figure 4:** Texture of wall



**Figure 5:** Texture of floor

4. *Accessibility:* Accessibility to Tanatap Wall Garden can be reached through the reflection garden. The East Wing and Bar areas can be accessed directly from the main entrance, while the West Wing area can be accessed by passing through the Bar area first. Supporting facilities such as



toilets and prayer rooms can be accessed from the main entrance by passing through the West Wing and Bar area.



**Figure 6:** Access of Main Entrance

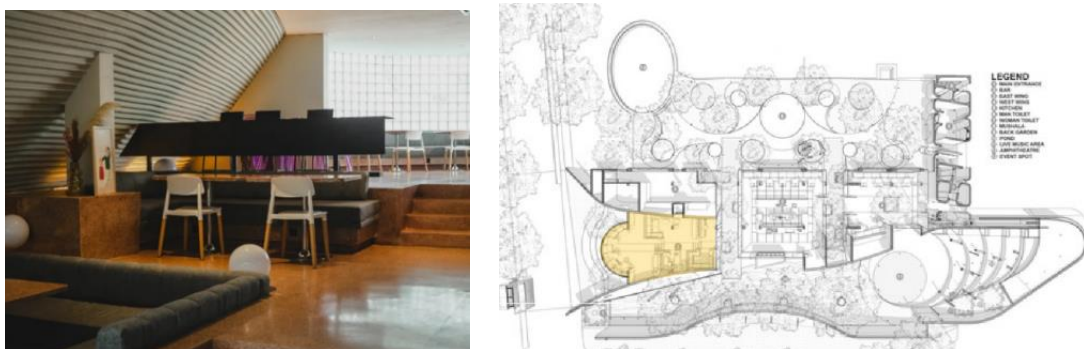
### 3.2. Relationship to Place

From the variety of these factors, a relationship of attachment is created between occupants and the building architecture in two major aspects, namely; relation to place which describes the relationship between individuals and a place, which can be in the form of knowledge, attachment, identification, involvement, and sacrifice. The level or value of relationship to place is grouped into seven categories. (1) Indicates that the individual has no knowledge or attachment to the place. (2) Indicates that the individual has knowledge of the place, but does not have a deeper attachment. (3) Indicates that the individual feels a sense of ownership of the place, but does not have a deeper attachment. (4) Indicates that the individual has a partial attachment to the place. (5) Indicates that the individual has an attachment to the purpose of the place. (6) Indicates that the individual is involved with the place. (7) Indicates that the individual has made significant sacrifices for the place. [2]

The level of Relationship to Place was obtained from observations of user activities and the influence of visual design on the three main spaces of Tanatap Wall Garden.:

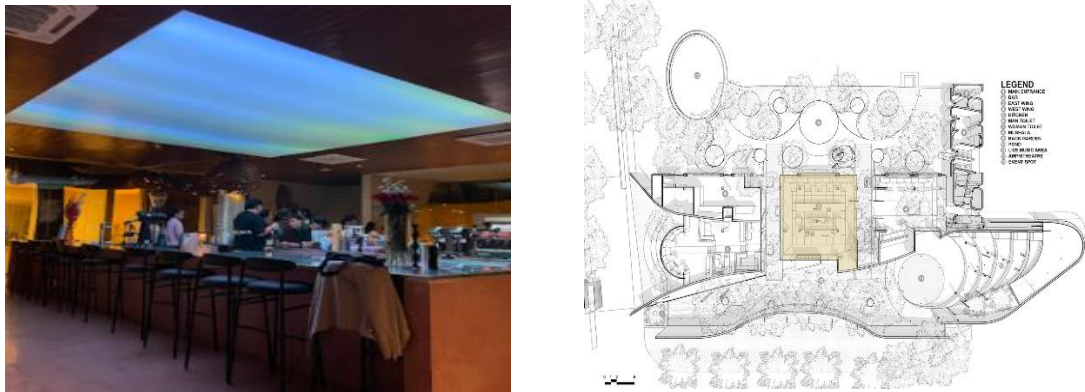
#### 1. Analysis of Relationship to Place

- a) The East Wing is the most private area of the Tanatap Wall Garden. People usually come here for a particular reason. The shape of the room is what really makes people feel a connection to this place.



**Figure 7:** Interior of East Wing

- b) Bar: Serving as the central hub of Tanatap Wall Garden, this space features a bar and kitchen. Encased in transparent glass, it offers unobstructed views of the garden's exterior. This room is commonly chosen by first-time visitors due to its convenient location near the main entrance.



**Figure 8:** Interior of Bar

- c) West Wing: Located at the rear and out of sight from the main entrance, this space is primarily used by visitors who have previously been to Tanatap Wall Garden due to their familiarity with the layout.



**Figure 9:** Interior of west wing

2. *Level of Relationship to Place*

- a) East Wing: Level 5 - Strong Sense of Place. Users in this space have a strong connection to the place due to its clear purpose and the distinctive physical identity of the space..
- b) Bar: Level 4 - Place-Bound. Users have a partial connection to the place, influenced by factors such as usage, safety, comfort, and the physical form and accessibility of the space. However, some users can be categorized as Level 1 - No Sense of Place, as they have no knowledge or connection to the space.
- c) West Wing: Level 4 - Place-Bound. Users in the West Wing are returning visitors to Tanatap Wall Garden, indicating a familiarity with the layout.

### 3.3. Place Attachment

Place attachment, it explores the element of satisfaction in the architecture of a public building with the influence of the formation of place attachment which is closely related to the sense of place. Place attachment consists of two dimensions, namely the physical and social dimensions. The physical dimension (rootedness or physical attachment) is an attachment to environmental attributes. While the social dimension (social bonding/attachment) refers to the social bonds created with other people, friends or relatives. In this study, place attachment is measured from several aspects, namely the architectural identity of the building, attachment to environmental attributes of the building, social bonds, place memory, and place satisfaction. [5]

The Place Attachment variables that occur in Tanatap Wall Garden are as follows:

1. *Building Identity*: Behaviors arising from this feeling include the desire to take pictures or selfies with the ornamental background. This building identity is characterized by unique bamboo ornaments forming an archway located between the sky bridges.
2. *Environmental Attachment*: The building's attachment to its surroundings can be seen in its response to existing vegetation, such as wall cavities designed to accommodate the size and position of existing trees. The feelings evoked are certainly not as monotonous as those experienced in a room with plain, fully enclosed walls, which can easily bore visitors



**Figure 10:** Sky Bridge and bamboo ornament

3. *Social Bonds*: While in the room, visitors engage in activities such as queuing, ordering food, paying, finding a seat, chatting, taking photos, eating, drinking, and working. These activities create social bonds among individuals through communication, expression, and ergonomics or freedom of movement. These values contribute to a harmonious and enjoyable atmosphere among café visitors, employees, and the owners or supervisors of Tanatap Wall Garden.



**Figure 11:** Social Bonds in Indoor Area

4. *Building Memories*: Visitors often capture their experiences through photos or videos. These memories are created through various activities such as chatting and joking with loved ones, strolling around the building, and observing the activities inside and outside the building from the sky bridge.
5. *Customer Satisfaction*: Tanatap Wall Garden has successfully attracted customers not only through its aesthetic appeal and quality of food but also through excellent service, facilities such as clean restrooms, a prayer room, and wireless internet, as well as a unique and creative layout. These factors contribute significantly to the place attachment of visitors

#### **4. Conclusion**

The aspects that influence visitors' sense of place in Tanatap Café are primarily architectural, including curved forms, natural lighting, preservation of existing vegetation, and the serial vision of accessibility and circulation.

The levels of relation to place observed include no sense of place, place-boundedness, and a strong sense of place. Emotional and cognitive place attachment in the spaces of Tanatap Café is facilitated by variables such as architectural identity, environmental attributes, social bonds, memory, and service satisfaction.

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