



DEFINING TERRITORIAL BEHAVIOUR AT KAMPUNG'S TRANSITIONAL SPACE

¹Tika Ainunnisa Fitria, ²Rohana Firdaus

¹Arsitektur, Fakultas Sains dan Teknologi, Universitas 'Aisyiyah Yogyakarta, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

²Landscape Architecture, Faculty of Built Environment and Surveying, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Malaysia

Surel: ¹tikafitria@unisayogya.ac.id, ²rohana.mohdfirdaus@utm.my

Vitruvian vol 15 no 1 Maret 2025

Diterima: 10 02 2025

Direvisi: 08 03 2025

Disetujui: 11 03 2025

Diterbitkan: 25 03 2025

ABSTRAK

Kampung kota atau kampung di Yogyakarta meliputi kehidupan di sekitarnya, yang ditunjukkan dalam ruang transisinya. Teritorialitas dalam konteks kampung tidak dapat dipisahkan dari ikatan sosial antar penghuninya, yang membangun keakraban. Kelonggaran pemanfaatan ruang transisi menunjukkan perilaku khas penghuni kampung terhadap teritorial. Penghuni memiliki konsepnya sendiri dalam memaknai ruang transisi. Terdapat interpretasi yang berbeda tentang teritorial dan maknanya. Namun, penelitian sebelumnya belum mendefinisikan perilaku teritorial dalam konteks kampung. Penelitian ini dilakukan secara kualitatif, berlokasi di dua kampung, yaitu Notoyudan dan Prawirotaman. Mereka memiliki perbedaan pada tipologi lingkungan dan latar belakang masyarakatnya. Penelitian ini berfokus pada pendefinisian perilaku teritorial di kampung melalui 1) telaah pustaka yang berkaitan dengan perilaku teritorial oleh Altman (1976); 2) pengamatan terhadap fenomena teritorial; dan 3) meringkas hasil penelitian terhadap teori perilaku teritorial. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa perilaku teritorial dapat didefinisikan sebagai transaksi teritorial sebagai bentuk eksistensi sosial penghuni di lingkungan tersebut. Perilaku teritorial menjadi tatanan spasial yang mengurangi kesenjangan sosial di antara penghuni kampung. Perilaku ini akan terus berlanjut, asalkan ruang transisi masih ada. Temuan ini memperkaya definisi perilaku teritorial dan berkontribusi pada teori perilaku arsitektur.

Kata Kunci: Perilaku teritorial; kampung; ruang transisi.

ABSTRACT

Yogyakarta's urban neighborhood, called kampung, encompasses the neighbouring life, shown in its transitional space. Territoriality in the context of kampung cannot be separated from the social ties between its residents, which builds familiarity. The leeway of transitional space use shows the specific behavior of Kampung's residents towards territorial. Residents have their concepts in interpreting transitional space. There are different interpretations of territory and its significance. However, previous studies have not defined territorial behavior in the kampung context. This study was conducted qualitatively, located in two kampungs, Notoyudan and Prawirotaman. They have significant differences in terms of environmental typology and community background. This study focuses on defining territorial behavior in kampung through 1) a review of literature relating to territorial behavior by Altman (1976); 2) observing territorial phenomena; and 3) resuming the results toward the theory of territorial behavior. This research concludes that territorial behavior can be defined as a territorial transaction as a form of a resident's social existence in the neighborhood. Territorial behavior becomes a spatial setting, reducing social disparities among Kampung's residents. This behavior will continue, providing that transitional space still exist. This finding enriches the definition of territorial behavior and contributes to the theory of architecture behavior.

Keywords: Territorial behavior; urban village; transitional space.

INTRODUCTION

An urban neighborhood called *Kampung* cannot be separated from the life of the Yogyakarta community. It encompasses the neighboring life, a special district as a community unit (Setiawan, 2006), residents' social and occupational backgrounds (Madden, 2015). These phenomena can be seen through transitional spaces like alleys and aisles. Transitional spaces have become places residents depend on to carry out their daily activities and interact with their neighbors. For instance, they use this space for gathering, hanging clothes, drying rice, and having conversations (Figure 1). In other words, the transitional space in *Kampung* transforms into a public space when a spatial element is used for social activity. It can be identified through the function and the changes (Jesper & Henrik, 2004).

The resident shapes the transitional space as an interaction area. It is a spot for relaxing after work (Arifin & Ellisa, 2020) It becomes an assembly point for residents, and even just a few minutes to greet each other (Tamariska & Ekomadyo, 2017). It shows that territoriality in the context of *Kampung* cannot be separated from the social ties between its residents, which builds familiarity. Transitional space is not only a walking space or a spatial structure. It is considered as a social space. It functions as a place for mobility and as a gathering place for residents (Prayitno, 2013). It happened due to neighboring ties and everyday activity in the transitional space (Middleton, 2018). The leeway in the use of the transitional space shows the specific behavior of *Kampung*'s residents towards territorial. It is marked by signs and simple fences (Fitria, Rasidi, & Said, 2022a).



Figure 1. Transitional space use in kampung

It means that residents have a concept in interpreting transitional space. There are different interpretations of territory and its significance. For example, boundaries from surroundings (Kaya & Weber, 2003), ownership (Laurens, 2006), a feeling of security (Burgess, 2007), and independence (Peters, 2010). However, this differs from the phenomenon in the *kampung* transitional space. It is influenced by culture (Zubaidi, 2019), perception and personal experience (Joyce Marcella Laurens, 2012), religion, and ethnicity (Peters, 2010). Hence, this study aims to enrich the theory related to territorial behavior by using phenomena in the context of villages, especially in transitional spaces. Territorial behavior is personalizing space to create an atmosphere of intimacy and solitariness by configuring the physical environment (Mehta, 2014). It fosters a sense of belonging and attachment to a place (Griffiths & Gilly, 2012). Meanwhile, territoriality is one of the elements of architectural behaviour (Ratna & Ikaputra, 2019).

However, previous studies have not defined territorial behavior in the *kampung* context. The topic of territorial behavior is still widely discussed in the scope of public space (Ewing, Hajrasouliha, Neckerman, Purciel-Hill, & Greene, 2016), (Widiyastuti, 2013), (Mehta, 2014), behavior patterns (Costa, 2012). In this study, the scope of territorial behavior relates to the residents' practices towards the transitional space, particularly its flexibility for shared use. It is similar to Costa (2012), public areas are difficult to mark and defend. Hence, this study will fill this gap by defining territorial behavior in the context of *kampung*, particularly in the transitional space (Figure 2).

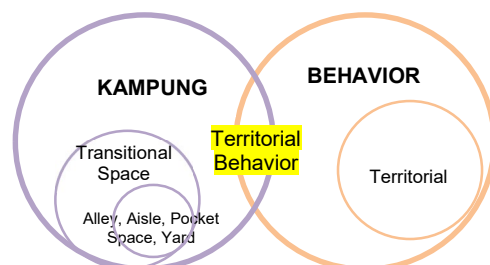


Figure 2. Study Gap: Defining Territorial Behavior in the *Kampung* context.



METODOLOGY

This study was conducted qualitatively. This study focuses on defining territorial behavior in kampung through (Figure 3) :

1) A literature review relating to territorial behavior theory by Altman (1976): *“Controlling space to determine what will and will not transpire in territories...An option to control space and to determine what will and will not transpire in territories...options open to him and maximize his freedom of choice in the given situation”*, and Altman (1992): *“As a behavioral mechanism used to satisfy privacy needs...shaping their neighbourhood patterns”*. It explains that territorial behavior identifies social activities based on the level of privacy and spatial achievement. The spatial pattern can be related to territoriality. Moreover, this stage also aims to formulate research variables based on the literature review.

Next, stage 2) Observing territorial phenomena in the kampung, particularly at the transitional space, and 3) Resuming the results toward the theory of territorial behavior for defining territorial behavior at kampung. Thus, the fundamental question of this research is ‘How do territorial practices in transitional space in kampung include physical settings, interaction activities, and the meaning of spaces?’

Moreover, the walking interview was purposed to obtain data on residents’ behavior in transitional space, namely 1) why they were here and 2) their perceptions when they were here. Meanwhile, snapshots were used to understand the relationship between the spatiality of transitional space and the behavior of residents. Snapshots capture the short moment effectively (Can & Heath, 2015). This observation collected data relating to the residents’ territorial practices. The variables used are based on literature and initial field observation, including 1) spatial pattern of transitional space and 2) behavior pattern of the residents towards transitional space.

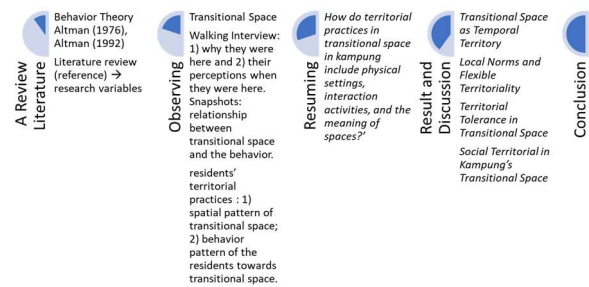


Figure 3. Research Framework

This study focused on two kampungs, Notoyudan and Prawirotaman (Figure 4), which have significant differences in terms of environmental typology and community background. Notoyudan is a densely populated village in the center of Yogyakarta, along the banks of the Winongo River. The community uses the transitional space for activities, work, and expansion of the house area (Figure 5).



(a)



(b)

Figure 4. Study Focus: (a) Notoyudan, (b) Prawirotaman



Figure 5. Transitional Space in Notoyudan neighborhood

Meanwhile, Prawirotaman is a traditional settlement that was once a Javanese residence. It was a center of batik industry in Yogyakarta in the 1970s. Currently, Prawirotaman has been transformed into a tourist area. These different characteristics are expected to provide an overview of territorial behavior in the kampung context (Figure 6).



Figure 6. Transitional Space in Prawirotaman neighborhood

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Transitional Space as Temporal Territory

Transitional areas in Kampung were transformed independently into social spaces by residents. It is a form of overcoming space limitations. For example, they use alleys and aisles for specific use and gathering. In Notoyudan, the alley turns into a place to sell vegetables every morning (Figure 7). Residents built their social spaces without planning; they consciously consider it common sense to use the transitional space (Fitria, Rasidi, & Said, 2022b).



Figure 7. Transitional space used for selling vegetables in Notoyudan

Likewise, in Prawirotaman, women came to the stalls – warung - to buy and interact with their neighbors (Figure 8). Most of the kiosks owned by residents utilize their terraces so that interaction between neighbors automatically occurs. A warung in the kampung becomes a place for selling and interaction (Hardiyanti & Devi, 2014).



Figure 8. Transitional space used for selling vegetables in Notoyudan

It showed that alleys spontaneously became commercial and interaction spaces. There are no restrictions on its use as a walking area. Residents perceived transitional space as a social space, occasionally obscuring their primary function. The pattern of residents' behavior was temporal according to the space used by each group of residents. Its territoriality has



changed temporarily. Furthermore, transitional spaces have become social spaces continuously and spontaneously formed in residents' daily lives. In sum, the social space formed influences territoriality in the kampung context. The boundaries of space use are no longer legible, especially for shared spaces.

Local Norms and Flexible Territoriality

Gathering with neighbors becomes the daily life in kampung, a part of social norms. For example, at Kampung Notoyudan, the women use alleys for *rewang* - helping neighbors hold a celebration (Figure 9). It shows that social norms and territorial interpretation transformed the transitional space into a shared space. Territoriality in the kampung context is influenced by social behavior, including their movement towards gathering places. In other words, the flexible territoriality of transitional space strengthens relations among neighbors and social existence.

Moreover, territorial flexibility in kampung was also formed by a greeting among neighbors. In kampung, asking permission to pass through a yard is common by saying '*nuwun sewu*' - Javanese language - which means excuse me. The boundaries of private areas become blurred temporarily. The local norms during these movements caused the violation of a territorial boundary. Nevertheless, it reflects territorial tolerance. It concludes that local norms influenced the flexible territoriality of transitional space, eliminating territorial boundaries. Therefore, territoriality in the context of kampung cannot be conceptualized as a spatial boundary only but rather as resident's behavior relating to their social experience.



Figure 9. Notoyudan women at *rewang*

Furthermore, this social experience is driven by shared activities in flexible transitional spaces. For example, in

Notoyudan, residents allow street vendors to sell in front of their houses (Figure 10).



Figure 10. The use of the alley side for street vendors in Notoyudan

Meanwhile, at Prawirotaman, men use the pocket space next to the alley side for gathering (Figure 11). Pocket space attracts residents to gather and stimulates various social activities (Fitria et al., 2022b). In sum, flexible territoriality is caused by the rooted culture and social habits living in the kampung, particularly neighborly and shared activities. The multi-functionality of the kampung transitional space is related to the behavior of the residents in interpreting their area as a social space.



Figure 11. The use of the alley side for men gathering in Prawirotaman

Territorial Tolerance in Transitional Space

The density of an urban village is vulnerable to physical changes. It is shown by its residents utilizing public space as their territory. They show their territorial behavior by claiming an area with temporary boundaries. For example, in Notoyudan, they claimed part of the alley as part of their house area. They built kitchens on the alley's edge, adding their private territory into transition space (Figure 12).



(a) (b)
Figure 12. The increasing territorial of private transitional space: (a) Notoyudan, (b) Prawirotaman

In other words, residents perceived territoriality as a form of public space use by expanding land due to space limitations. Likewise, in Prawirotaman, residents' interactions with neighbors predominantly occurred on the aisle, such as a house also functioning as a warung – a traditional stall owned by residents selling food, drinks, and groceries. It shows that territorial behavior at the kampungs is influenced by how the residents expand their private area, increasing their territories.

Moreover, residents claim transitional space as a territory by placing components like sitting chairs. It showed that territorial tolerance in the transitional space manifests in various forms, such as expanding, marking, and building a boundary. However, it shaped the existence of a social space in kampung. It contrasts with Huang, Mori, & Nomura, (2019), placing objects aims to provide boundaries to one's personal outer space. Furthermore, in the kampung context, territorial tolerance is the negotiation of boundaries by using transitional space. For example, in Prawirotaman, residents placed chairs in the pocket space next to the alley to replace the loss of gathering space due to tourism (Figure 13).



Figure 13. Placing chairs in the pocket space, Prawirotaman

Meanwhile, in Notoyudan, residents built a guard post that also functions as a gathering place due to the absence of public space (Figure 14). Men often use it to gather in the afternoon after work, while children use it during the day to play. Residents whose houses are in front of the guard post do not feel disturbed. This activity has become common in the daily life of neighbors in the kampung.



Figure 14. Post guard in Notoyudan

In sum, territorial tolerance is a form of recognition by residents of the interaction place in their neighborhood. For example, in Prawirotaman, residents easily find suitable gathering spaces amidst the density of their neighborhood and enclosed by buildings. In vein with Landman (2004), such spatial enclosure does not limit social interaction.

Social Territorial in Kampung's Transitional Space

Transitional space as a social space has been embedded in the neighborhood life of kampung residents. This space becomes a significant place for residents' social activity in Kampung. For example, in Notoyudan,



women and seniors use alleys for weekend exercise (Figure 15).



Figure 15. Women and seniors use alley for exercise on weekend

Moreover, the social territory was formed spontaneously. Residents can suddenly change the function of their transitional space. For example, a houseyard in Prawirotaman becomes a space for community gathering (Figure 16). It showed that territorial behavior in Kampung was related to how the residents temporarily configured the settings of transitional spaces. In other words, social territoriality manifests by adding new functions and temporal claims towards transitional space to form interaction spaces. Moreover, social territoriality causes the residents to recognize the interaction spaces.



Figure 16. Transformation of houseyard use in Prawirotaman

CONCLUSION

Residents' perceptions and experiences demonstrate territorial behavior in Kampung's transitional space. It arises when they interact in transitional spaces, social habits, and physical circumstances. Residents' perceptions toward transitional spaces are more related to their functions as gathering places. Therefore, territorial behavior at Kampung can be defined as 'A territorial transaction as a form of a resident's social existence in the neighborhood'. It is flexible according to the needs and temporal

activities. The ownership and boundaries become unclear and immeasurable. Moreover, this study confirms that territorial behavior is influenced by 1) temporal territory of transitional space, 2) local norms and flexible territoriality, 3) territorial tolerance, and 4) social territorial in transitional space. In other words, territorial behavior at kampung's transitional space relates to socio-spatial configurations and social interactions.

In addition, territorial behavior has become a spatial setting that reduces social disparities among kampung residents. Territorial behavior in the village represents a sense of togetherness, social ties with neighbors, and the environment. It contrasts with territoriality, which was previously interpreted as spatial boundaries. Moreover, this means that territorial behavior is not only to mark boundaries but also to regulate social practices. As a result, this finding enriches the definition of territorial behavior and contributes to the theory of architecture behavior. This behavior will continue, providing that the transitional space still assists.

This research focused only on defining territorial behavior. Therefore, this study reveals opportunities to expand the context of territorial behavior while still specifying the scope of transitional space and continuing from the results of this study, returning to Notoyudan or Prawirotaman as the research location. Future research can refer to the primary factors influencing territorial behavior in Kampung. These factors are expected to show the causes of the territorial behavior. Furthermore, the findings from this research suggest a new approach to planning Kampung in Indonesia, namely, based on how people behave towards space in their neighborhood.

REFERENCES

- Arifin, F., & Ellisa, E. (2020). The adolescents gathering space at kampung in the Periphery of Tangerang Selatan City. *IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science*, 452(1). <https://doi.org/10.1088/1755-1315/452/1/012128>
- Burgess, B. (2007). Seat Preferences in Different. *Environment and Behavior*, 39(6), 859–876.
- Costa, M. (2012). Territorial Behavior in

- Public Settings. *Environment and Behavior*, 713–721. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0013916511403803>
- Ewing, R., Hajrasouliha, A., Neckerman, K. M., Purciel-Hill, M., & Greene, W. (2016). Streetscape Features Related to Pedestrian Activity. *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, 36(1), 5–15. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0739456X15591585>
- Fitria, T. A., Rasidi, M. H., & Said, I. (2022a). the Forming of Spontaneous Social Interaction Place in Kampung Transition Area, Prawirotaman, Indonesia. *Journal of Tourism, Hospitality and Environment Management*, 7(27), 392–404. <https://doi.org/10.35631/jthem.727031>
- Fitria, T. A., Rasidi, M. H., & Said, I. (2022b). The space privatization: The forming process of social space in kampung ., *Geografia - Malaysian Journal of Society and Space*, 3(3), 251–263.
- Griffiths, M. A., & Gilly, M. C. (2012). Dibs! customer territorial behaviors. *Journal of Service Research*, 15(2), 131–149. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1094670511430530>
- Hardiyanti, N., & Devi, S. M. (2014). Warung Sebagai Ruang Berkumpul. *Transukma*, 1(1), 1–18.
- Jesper, B., & Henrik, V. (2004). Multifunctional landscapes-motives, concepts and perceptions. *Multifunctional Landscapes*, 1, 3–32.
- Kaya, N., & Weber, M. J. (2003). Environment and Behavior in Residence Halls. *Environment and Behavior*, 35(3), 400–414. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0013916502250144>
- Landman, K. (2004). Who owns the roads? Privatising public space in South African cities through neighbourhood enclosures. *Privatisation of Urban Space, New Orleans, 26-27 February 2004*, (February), 1–16. New Orleans.
- Laurens, Joyce M. (2006). Pendekatan Perilaku Lingkungan dalam Perancangan Pemukiman Kota. *Dimensi Teknik Arsitektur*, 34(1), 19–30. Retrieved from <http://puslit2.petra.ac.id/ejournal/index.php/ars/article/view/16453>
- Laurens, Joyce Marcella. (2012). Changing Behavior and Environment in a Community-based Program of the Riverside Community. *Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 36(June 2011), 372–382. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sbspro.2012.03.041>
- Madden, D. (2015). Cities Full of Symbols: A Theory of Urban Space and Culture. *Contemporary Sociology: A Journal of Reviews*, 44(1), 100–101. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0094306114562201nn>
- Mehta, V. (2014). Evaluating Public Space. *Journal of Urban Design*, Vol. 19, pp. 53–88. Taylor & Francis. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13574809.2013.854698>
- Middleton, J. (2018). The socialities of everyday urban walking and the 'right to the city.' *Urban Studies*, 55(2), 296–315. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0042098016649325>
- Peters, K. (2010). Being together in urban parks: Connecting public space, leisure, and diversity. *Leisure Sciences*, 32(5), 418–433. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01490400.2010.510987>
- Prayitno, B. (2013). An Analysis of Consolidation Patterns of Kampung Alley Living Space in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. *Journal of Habitat Engineering and Design*, 5(1), 99–112.
- Ratna, N. D., & Ikaputra. (2019). Teritorialitas Dalam Tinjauan Ilmu Arsitektur. *INERSIA*, 15(1), 12–22. <https://doi.org/10.21831/inersia.v15i1.24860>
- Setiawan, B. (2006). Ruang Bermain untuk Anak di Kampung Kota: Studi Persepsi Lingkungan, Setting, dan Perilaku Anak di Kampung Code Utara, Yogyakarta. *Manusia Dan Lingkungan*, 13(2), 60–70. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.22146/jml.18650>
- Tamariska, S. R., & Ekomadyo, A. S. (2017). 'Place-Making' Ruang Interaksi Sosial Kampung Kota'. *Jurnal Koridor*, 8(2), 172–183. <https://doi.org/10.32734/koridor.v8i2.1345>
- Widiyastuti, D. (2013). *Transformation of Public Space: Social and Spatial Changes. A Case Study of Yogyakarta Special Province, Indonesia*. Technical University of Dortmund.



Zubaidi, F. (2019). Types and Patterns of Territory in the Traditional Settlement of Ngata Toro. *Journal of Architecture&Environment*, 18(2), 123. <https://doi.org/10.12962/j2355262x.v18i2.a6029>

