

Public Space in Transition: How Urban Resilience Shapes Democracy in Fatahillah Plaza, Jakarta = Ruang Publik dalam Transisi: Bagaimana Ketahanan Perkotaan Membentuk Demokrasi di Plaza Fatahillah, Jakarta

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Abstrak

Fatahillah Plaza is a space where formal design converges with everyday life practice. Located in the Old Town of Jakarta, the square is surrounded by institutional heritage buildings, it embodies a symbolic identity and order of Jakarta. The site further provides main formal activities, like guided tours and museum visits. Yet, despite the formality, informality appears through informal actors who shape the spatial conditions, including cosplayers, street performers, bicycle renters, and peddlers, whose presence contests and redefines its meaning. The study utilises spatial observation, activity mapping, and contextual analysis to examine how these informal activities intersect and interact with the plaza's designated functions. It examines whether democratic and resilient values are embedded in the planning or whether they emerge through everyday negotiation and appropriation. Eventually, it recognises that informal use is not a disruption, but rather a necessity that sustains public life and encourages grassroots expression as part of their participation in citizenship. Therefore, the interpretation of the role of informality in public space would contribute to broader discourses on democratic urbanism and spatial justice in rapidly evolving cities like Jakarta.

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