



Research Article

The Spatial Practices of Working Women in Third Place: Contributions to Urban Environmental Sustainability

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Abstract: Third place is defined as informal public spaces that foster social connections and community cohesion, playing a crucial role in urban environments. However, third place is often underexplored from the perspective of working women and contributions to environmental sustainability. Therefore, this study aimed to examine the spatial practices of working women in third place, focusing on SCBD (Sudirman Central Business District) Park in Jakarta. The characteristics of third place based on Oldenburg's characteristics and other studies were evaluated in relation to environment sustainability criteria. Using a constructivist paradigm and a qualitative case study approach, data were collected through interviews with 10 working women and field observations. The results showed that third place, specifically SCBD Park supports sustainable urban practices by offering accessible, low-energy environments facilitating social interactions. Working women integrate these spaces into daily routines as social hubs, rest areas, and place to refresh appearance, reducing reliance on high-energy indoor facilities including offices or cafés. Despite being open spaces, SCBD Park as a third place can provide privacy for women through visual barriers that create semi-enclosed areas. The presence of working women in these spaces also promotes sustainable mobility, as many choose walking or public transportation over private vehicles, thereby reducing carbon emissions. In conclusion, the spatial practices of working women in third place significantly contribute to environmental sustainability by lowering energy consumption, encouraging eco-friendly commuting, and enhancing the multifunctionality of public spaces, ultimately fostering more sustainable and resilient urban environments.

Keywords: Environment; Sustainability; Third place; Urban; Working women

1. Introduction

Oldenburg (1999) introduced the concept of "third place" which refers to informal, public gathering spaces situated between the first (home) and the second space (workplace), serving the community by fostering inclusivity and connection within a local context. Third place enriches social interaction, fosters a sense of community, and provides a sense of belonging outside the home and workplace by serving as key sites for socializing, self-expression, and mutual support, which help buffer against loneliness, stress, and alienation (Finlay et al., 2019).

Third place contributes to social capital, enhances community cohesion, and potentially impacts local economies, specifically in rural areas (Cabras and Mount, 2017). Societal well-being relies on

This work was supported by the 'University of Indonesia' funded by 'PUTI Postgraduate Grant Universitas Indonesia' number NKB-304/UN2.RST/HKP.05.00/2022

<https://doi.org/10.14716/ijtech.v16i4.7606>

Received January 2025; Revised February 2025; Accepted March 2025

the presence of robust infrastructures, including diverse forms of social infrastructure such as third place (Berawi, 2018). Consequently, the discussion of this concept is still relevant presently despite being introduced 30 years ago (Bosman and Dolley, 2019).

Coffee shops, diners, taverns, and restaurants are frequently cited as quintessential third place (Finlay et al., 2019; Rosenbaum, 2006). Other common third place include libraries, fitness centers, coffee shops, malls, beauty salons, art venues, historical sites, and sports venues (Finlay et al., 2019; Cantillon and Baker, 2018; Hindley, 2018; Lin et al., 2014; Lin, 2012; Slater and Koo, 2010; Mair, 2009; Jacke, 2009; Lawson, 2004). Parks, lakes, plazas, and community gardens also function as important outdoor third place in urban environments (Joshi and Nagarsheth, 2024; Kanosvamhira, 2024; Rhubart et al., 2023). These types of place can easily be found in Jakarta.

Jakarta, Indonesia capital and largest city, has been the focus of numerous urban studies on various aspects of life. Several studies conducted using Jakarta as the locus has provided many insights into spots with the potential to be spaces for community gathering (Sutapa et al., 2023; Marfai et al., 2014) but there are limited direct studies on third place.

Urban structure plays a significant role in shaping social interactions and community dynamics, which in turn influence social cohesion. Certain aspects of urban structure and built environment can promote individualism and alienation (Shanti et al., 2022). For example, high-density urban areas and mixed land use which are often found in Jakarta are associated with higher levels of vitality, but lower levels of social cohesion compared to low-density, single-use urban forms (Mouratidis and Poortinga, 2020). This contradiction underscores the complex interplay between urban design and social dynamics. Similarly, physical and social density, as well as transit connectedness reportedly have significant negative impacts on cohesion, particularly in very dense neighborhoods (Sonta and Jiang, 2023).

Although compact urban forms may lead to lower levels of social cohesion, vitality within similar forms is positively associated with social cohesion (Mouratidis and Poortinga, 2020). This suggests that local initiatives and interventions aimed at increasing residents walking and social activity within the neighborhood could strengthen cohesion, even in dense urban environments. Therefore, easily accessible third place at the neighborhood level is important to increase social cohesion.

The concept of third place is crucial in understanding how spaces can foster community and social interaction. This is even more significant when considering the experiences of women within urban environments. Although third place is often celebrated for the role in promoting inclusivity and connection, in some cases, it may foster biases and exclusivity towards minorities (Littman, 2021; Finlay et al., 2019; Yuen and Johnson, 2016). This can lead to alienation specifically when the built environment is not designed with working women perspectives (Purnamasari, 2024). Consequently, more women use digital third place due to the greater sense of security provided (Pauly, 2022; Pedersen and Burnett, 2021; Zahaf, 2020; Vochocová and Rosenfeldová, 2019). Given the gendered dynamics in public spaces, it is essential to recognize that women engagement is influenced by factors such as safety, accessibility, and societal norms.

Women often navigate public spaces differently, considering not only the physical environment but also the social and cultural expectations (Roy and Bailey, 2021; Davis et al., 2020; Lata et al., 2020). This is specifically hard for working women who must shoulder a double burden between domestic and professional responsibilities (Chen et al., 2017). Public spaces must be understood from women perspectives to ensure accessibility and safety (Mehrotra and Chitkala, 2022). In urban settings such as Jakarta where social cohesion can be undermined by fragmented urban structures, the existence of third place is crucial for the well-being of women, specifically those who actively participate in the workforce.

1.1. Third place characteristics

Third place is defined by several key features that contribute to the role in fostering social connections and enhancing community life. In this study, the selection criteria is based on the

relevance and consistency with environmental sustainability. After gathering third-place characteristics from Oldenburg and related studies, a filtering process was conducted. This study specifically focused on how the spatial practices of working women in third place contribute to environmental sustainability. Oldenburg (1999) originally identified eight characteristics of third place. However, only six were incorporated, excluding *'the mood is playful'* and *'a home away from home'*. These two characteristics were omitted because, after filtering, both were found to have no direct impact on environmental sustainability. The two characteristics exist primarily in the perception of users rather than being directly associated with the physical attributes of the space.

Other studies describe third place as possessing primary characteristics of accessibility and inclusivity. It should be easily reachable by community members, allowing for spontaneous visits and regular interactions among diverse groups (Jeffres et al., 2009). This accessibility is crucial for fostering a sense of belonging and community cohesion, as it encourages individuals from various backgrounds to come together in a shared space. Third place is designed to be intimate social spaces that facilitate interactions among homogeneous groups, thereby enhancing the human experience of environment (Nimashi and Dharmasena, 2023). Although Nimashi and Dharmasena (2023) mentioned triangulation and personalization as characteristics of third place, we excluded both because those characteristics are either absent or not feasible in SCBD Park. Flexibility and functionality were merged under multifunctionality, which has also been identified as a third place characteristic in other studies.

Finally, the adaptability of third place is a significant characteristic, facilitating multiple functions and various activities. For example, libraries and community centers often transform into third place by hosting events, workshops, and social gatherings, thereby becoming multifunctional spaces that cater to diverse community needs (Firdaus and Fuad, 2021; Brown, 2017; Montgomery and Miller, 2011). Adaptability is essential for maintaining the relevance of third place in changing urban environments, to meet the dynamic needs of users. This characteristic is merged with multifunctionality, as both emphasize the ability to accommodate diverse activities and adapt to the evolving needs of users in dynamic urban environments. Oldenburg third place characteristics were combined with other criteria that have been formulated by other studies as listed in Table 1.

1.2. Environmental sustainability in third place

Effectively organizing a third place requires shared space, objectives, time, self-affirmation, and economic sustainability to foster a sustainable service model that integrates community needs and supports long-term business viability (Sugiyama et al., 2015). Although considerable attention has been given to economic sustainability, recent studies have increasingly explored the dimensions of social sustainability. Dynamism, vitality, flexibility, cultural identity, and inclusivity are crucial for enhancing social sustainability and preserving cultural heritage in third place, requiring action plans that promote adaptability, belonging, and long-term relevance (Nasehi et al., 2023; Al-Shami et al., 2023; Goosen and Cilliers, 2018).

Exploring themes of economic and societal sustainability inherently includes addressing environmental aspects, with raising sustainability awareness and fostering regional collaboration being key to building a more sustainable society (Suwartha et al., 2021). Sustainable land use practices are essential for preserving and restoring ecosystems (Ramakrishna et al., 2023). The balance between social, economic, and environmental sustainability is essential to explore the benefit of societal well-being Goosen and Cilliers (2018). Environmental sustainability is reflected in the relationship between human activities and nature or as practice for maintaining a balance between human needs and the natural environment (Zhang and Chen, 2021; Goosen and Cilliers, 2020). This study describes environmental sustainability as an active practice undertaken by people in urban settings to achieve balance, both consciously and unconsciously.

Studies on third place related to environmental sustainability remain limited. Goosen and Cilliers (2020) provided a framework linking third place with green urbanism. However, the study is still based on a literature review rather than empirical field data and remains general, without

considering gender minorities. Environmental sustainability criteria in this study are based on studies at the macro ([Rharbi and İnceoğlu, 2022](#)) and micro ([Prakash et al., 2022](#)) levels. Three criteria were excluded, namely sustainable energy and resources, water conservation, and waste management. These criteria are primarily controlled by building owners, municipal authorities, or business operators, rather than by the users of third place. Since this study focused on how working women engage with third place, the priority was sustainability criteria directly related to user behaviors and spatial practices. To understand environmental sustainability in the third place, tangible criteria are needed as shown in Table 2.

1.3. The importance of working women perspective in building environmental sustainability in third place

The integration of gender perspectives into urban planning and environmental policies can enhance sustainability outcomes, as evidenced by numerous studies. Women tend to advocate for more sustainable practices, when empowered and actively engaged in environmental decision-making, thereby enhancing the overall environmental health of urban areas ([Asteria et al., 2020a](#)). The leadership of women in community initiatives, such as waste management and environmental education, plays a crucial role in promoting pro-environmental behaviors ([Asteria et al., 2020b](#); [Asteria and Herdiansyah, 2020](#)).

The importance of urban green spaces, often maintained and used by women, cannot be undermined in the context of environmental sustainability. Urban green spaces contribute to biodiversity preservation and improve air quality, which are essential for sustainable living ([Edeigba, 2024](#)). Women often engage in the stewardship of these spaces, fostering community ties and enhancing social cohesion, which are critical for sustainable urban development ([Ottmann, 2024](#)). Furthermore, participation in architecture and urban planning is essential for creating inclusive urban environments consistent with sustainable development goals ([Ottmann, 2024](#); [Ottmann et al., 2024](#)).

The intersection of social capital and women participation in urban sustainability efforts is significant. Social capital significantly influences proactive engagement in community sustainability initiatives, such as river conservation ([Asteria et al., 2018](#)). This draws attention to the need for policies that enhance social networks and empower women to take active roles in environmental governance. Therefore, studies that explore the intersection of women, third place, and sustainability are crucial, not only because this topic remains relatively underexplored but also due to the significance in advancing gender mainstreaming in urban spaces.

Understanding the role of women in third place and the contributions to environmental sustainability will provide valuable insights for urban planning and policy development. By integrating a gender perspective into discussions on sustainability, academics and policymakers can promote more inclusive and equitable urban environments that cater to diverse social needs while fostering sustainable practices. Therefore, this study aims to outline ways in which third place serves as a critical space for working women to engage in environmentally sustainable activities and contribute toward broader urban sustainability initiatives.

2. Method

The central question of this study is: "How do the spatial practices of working women in third place contribute to environmental sustainability?" A constructivist paradigm was used, emphasizing the co-construction of knowledge through shared meanings and interpretations ([William, 2024](#)). This method is particularly relevant as it focuses on understanding how the activities of working women in third place can be interpreted from the perspective of sustainability.

A qualitative approach was selected for this study, as obtaining the data necessary to achieve the objectives requires in-depth interviews and observations. These methods allow for the exploration of rich, nuanced data that cannot be adequately captured through a quantitative approach ([Creswell, 2014](#)). Furthermore, the design follows a case-study approach, as answering the

formulated question necessitates the development of a detailed description and in-depth analysis. The unit of analysis is the activities of many individuals, with data drawn from multiple sources, including interviews and observations (Creswell and Poth, 2016).

Table 1 Third Place characteristics

No	Reference	Characteristics	Definition
1.	(Oldenburg, 1999)	Neutral Ground	Third place is neutral. People can gather without feeling tied to a particular social status, job, or responsibility. Attendance in these places is voluntary and free from formal pressure.
		Leveller	Third place become place of equality, where social, economic, or political hierarchies have no major influence. Everyone present is treated equally regardless of the background.
		Conversation is the main activity	Activities that occur in third place is conversation. These places are designed to facilitate casual dialogue that strengthens social relationships and allows spontaneous exchange of ideas.
		Regulars	Third place has a group of regulars who come back often, creating a sense of community and familiarity. The presence helps build the identity of place.
		Low profile	Third place tend to be simple, less flashy, or formal. The focus is on social function rather than aesthetics or exclusivity.
2.	(Jeffres et al., 2009; Oldenburg, 1999)	Accessibility and Accommodation	Third place is easily accessible to everyone and open to all groups. This space offers comfort and flexibility, encouraging people to come and feel welcome.
3.	(Nimashi and Dharmasena, 2023; Jeffres et al., 2009)	Inclusivity	Inclusivity is the ability of a third place to welcome individuals from diverse social, cultural, and economic backgrounds. It ensures that everyone feels accepted and comfortable, fostering a sense of belonging and equal opportunity for participation, regardless of identity or status.
4.	(Nimashi and Dharmasena, 2023; Firdaus and Fuad, 2021; Brown, 2017; Montgomery and Miller, 2011)	Multi-functionality	Multifunctionality describes the ability of a third place to serve various purposes simultaneously. This includes being a space for social interaction, leisure, community events, and even informal work or study. A multifunctional third place adapts to the diverse needs and preferences of its users.
		Homogeneous groups	Homogeneous groups in the context of third place refer to gatherings of people with similar interests, values, or cultural traits. While inclusivity aims for diversity, certain third place might cater specifically to like-minded individuals, offering a sense of familiarity and shared understanding within the group.

The selected case study is the SCBD Park, located in the SCBD (Sudirman Central Business District) area of Jakarta. This site was selected because SCBD is a central business district with the highest concentration of workers in Jakarta. The park, which serves as a third place, is frequently visited by working women during lunch breaks or after work for various activities. It is particularly significant as an open space, offering some greenery.

The SCBD area is known as a mega-infrastructure project that has disrupted local areas through the process of gentrification. This has led to significant changes in urban structure, including rising property prices and increased traffic congestion (Ratriananda and Herlily, 2021; Martinez and Masron, 2020). The meaning of third place has also started to blur with second place (workplaces) in urban settings (Firdaus and Fuad, 2021; Brown, 2017). Consequently, the SCBD area is a relevant locus for the study, as this phenomenon is prevalent in the district.

The literature review in this study plays a crucial role in identifying the characteristics of third place and the criteria for sustainability. These insights provide the foundation for mapping the

spatial practices of working women. Primary data were collected through semi-structured interviews and field observations. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with ten women who work in the area to provide flexibility in exploring new insights based on the interviewee responses.

The selection criteria for the ten participants included women who are used within the SCBD area, regularly use third place, and engage in various spatial practices. This method is particularly suitable as it allows for reliable and contextual data on complex topics (Stuckey, 2013). The key topics guiding the semi-structured interviews include (1) the frequency and purpose of using third place, (2) the types of activities performed, (3) the perceived benefits and challenges, and (4) the role of third place in supporting daily routines and mobility choices.

Although the characteristics of third place and sustainability criteria were established beforehand, semi-structured interviews accommodated contextual adjustments based on the spatial practices observed on-site. The interview results were transcribed for analysis, allowing for a comprehensive understanding of how working women spatial practices contribute to environmental sustainability. The thematic analysis in this study follows a deductive coding approach. The coding process was guided by predefined categories derived from third place characteristics and environmental sustainability criteria. The number of participants is considered sufficient because the themes from thematic coding adequately answer the study question, showing theoretical saturation. Additionally, the coding results are supported by field observations.

This study used photo-based thematic analysis to examine the impact of spatial practices of working women in third place on environmental sustainability. Field observations were conducted by documenting spatial practices related to working women, activities, interactions with the surroundings, the spatial attributes of third place, and the materials used. These aspects were captured through photographs, which were then categorized based on the synthesized third-place characteristics presented in Figure 1. From this categorization, dominant themes were identified using a deductive approach, and related to environmental sustainability criteria. The process allows for a clearer understanding of how each third-place characteristic relates to sustainability criteria. The overall study framework is shown in Figure 1.

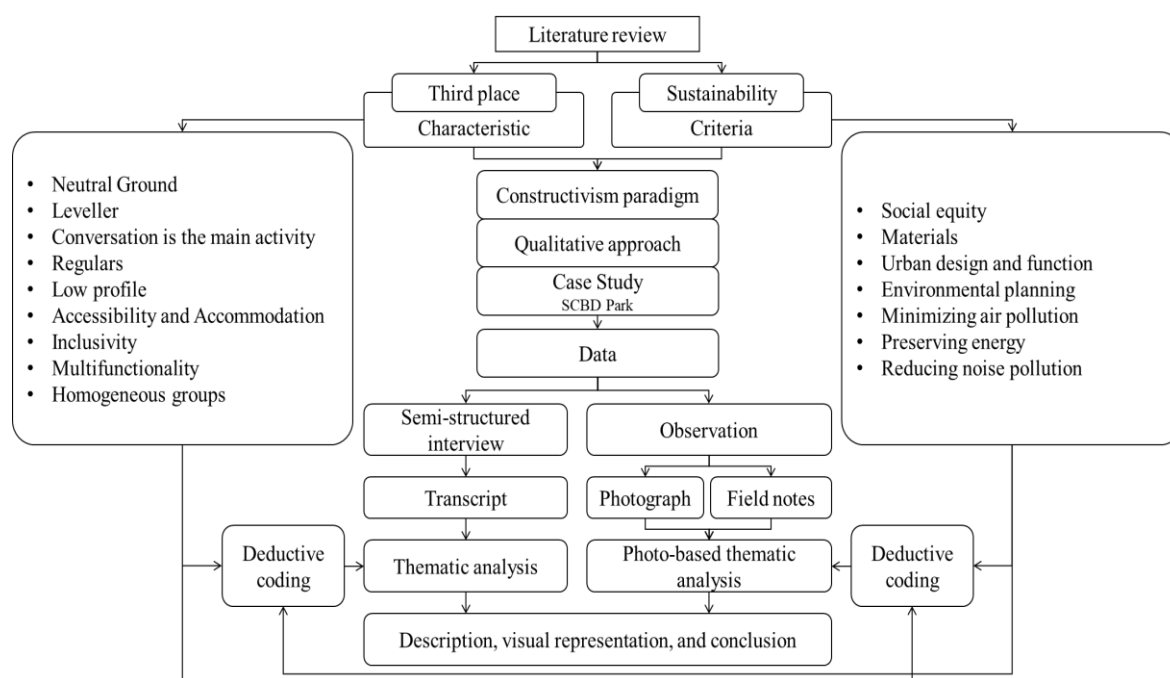


Figure 1 Study Framework Linking Third Place, Working Women's Spatial Practices, and Environmental Sustainability

Table 2 Selected environmental sustainability criteria for Third Place

No	Reference	Criteria	Definition
1.	(Rharbi and Inceoglu, 2022)	Social equity	Cities should ensure infrastructure and opportunities are accessible to everyone, regardless of class or background, including immigrants, the middle class, and low-income populations. Social equity is a critical element in enhancing the quality of urban life.
		Materials	Sustainability focuses on reducing environmental impact of construction. This includes minimizing greenhouse gas emissions and limiting energy consumption for heating and cooling.
		Urban design and function	The use of locally sourced construction materials is essential to minimize transportation costs and energy use. The durability and lifecycle of materials are also critical components for sustainability.
		Environmental planning	This involves creating spaces that encourage mixed uses, accommodate a diverse range of people, and ensure good community management.
2.	(Prakash et al., 2022)	Minimizing air pollution	This involves implementing strategies to reduce emissions from transportation, industries, and energy production, such as promoting clean energy sources, increasing green spaces, and encouraging public transportation or electric vehicles. Efforts aim to improve air quality and protect public health.
		Preserving energy	Energy preservation focuses on reducing consumption through energy-efficient building designs, renewable energy integration, and encouraging behavior changes that prioritize resource conservation.
		Reducing noise pollution	This involves designing urban spaces with noise-buffering features like green belts and soundproofing materials, as well as implementing regulations to limit noise from transportation, industries, and urban activities.

3. Results and Discussion

The SCBD Park is a planned public open space that currently functions as a third place. Originally, the site was intended to be developed into a square primarily serving as a circulation space, as shown in the initial design plans (Figure 2). The original plan showed a space dominated by circulation pathways, devoid of seating facilities or other amenities. The site was envisioned as a mere transit zone for pedestrians passing through a corridor flanked by commercial buildings on both sides. This initial design reflected a focus on maximizing the economic value of the space, without consideration for creating areas where people could rest, interact, or socialize.

Over time, as the needs of users evolved, the developers made significant modifications to the initial design, incorporating elements that foster social interaction, including circular seating areas, which now serve as focal points in the center of the park. These additions not only enhance the comfort and usability of the space but also foster opportunities for social interaction, making the park more inclusive and community-friendly. The presence of seating facilities allows visitors to pause, engage in conversations, or socialize, transforming SCBD Park from a transitional circulation area into a meaningful social space that meets the human need for connection and interaction.

This transformation reflects a shift in the developers approach to producing open spaces. It emphasizes a growing recognition of the importance of designing urban spaces beyond commercial purposes. Instead, the park accommodates the social and recreational needs of urban community, particularly working women who frequent the SCBD area. By integrating features that foster interaction and inclusivity, SCBD Park has evolved into a space that balances economic utility with social aspects. This evolution emphasizes the potential of urban public spaces to function as third place, providing not only physical amenities but also opportunities for fostering social cohesion, well-being, and a sense of community in dense urban environments.



Figure 2 SCBD Square section design before it became SCBD Park

To deepen the discussion on working women, it is essential to further explore how third place can contribute to environmental sustainability. In this analysis, the specific characteristics of the third place were examined based on the activities of working women at SCBD Park that contribute to environmental sustainability.

3.1. Neutral Ground

Third place, characterized by the role as neutral grounds, plays a crucial role in fostering social equity. This is particularly beneficial for working women, who often face unique challenges in navigating urban environments due to societal expectations, domestic responsibilities, and mobility constraints. SCBD Park exemplifies how third place can address these challenges and contribute to a more equitable urban landscape. The neutral nature ensures that working women can use the space without the social pressures or judgments that might accompany other public or semi-public areas.

Freedom is essential in creating a welcoming environment for working women, particularly in a high-pressure district. The flexibility of SCBD Park is consistent with the needs of working women who must carefully balance schedules, mobility, and domestic responsibilities. Furthermore, working women often juggle multiple roles, and the ability to visit third place is influenced by factors such as proximity to workplace, accessibility, and the time available between professional and personal obligations.

3.2. Leveler

SCBD Park serves as a leveler where individuals can gather and interact without being influenced by specific social statuses, occupations, or responsibilities. Although it is situated within a bustling business district predominantly visited by employees working in nearby offices, the leveler character of SCBD Park ensures that individuals who enter this space are regarded as equals.

"People in SCBD or people in Mega Kuningan, generally speaking, do not care (differences in social status or gender). Like we are all equal."

This characteristic directly contributes to social equity, one of the key criteria of sustainability, by providing an inclusive environment that transcends traditional societal hierarchies. The leveler character of SCBD Park is particularly significant for working women, as it creates environment to engage in activities with a greater sense of freedom and comfort. In contrast to pedestrian walkways or designated smoking areas within the same district often dominated by male workers, SCBD Park provides a more accommodating and egalitarian setting. These male-dominated spaces often inadvertently marginalize working women, who may feel uncomfortable due to the spatial and social dynamics. The inclusive design and leveler atmosphere of SCBD Park empower women to use the park for a variety of purposes, ranging from relaxation to social interaction and networking, without the constraints of gendered or hierarchical pressures.

The spatial design of SCBD Park further reinforces the role as a leveler. Circular seating arrangements, for instance, play an important role in fostering equality among users. In contrast to spaces segmented by zones that might inadvertently separate individuals based on class, profession, or gender, the park seating arrangements promote open interaction and reduce the likelihood of exclusion. These design features allow working women to feel more integrated into

the space, and not confined to specific areas but can freely participate in the collective use of the park. This design strategy is consistent with sustainability principles, as it not only addresses the social dimension of equity but also enhances the usability and inclusiveness of urban spaces.

3.3. Conversation is the main activity

SCBD Park serves as a space of interaction and recreation for workers during the day and night. For working women in particular, the park offers a meaningful venue to engage in various spatial practices, fostering social equity while consistent with principles of sustainable urban design and resource conservation. The design and functionality contribute significantly to the inclusivity, energy efficiency, and role as a sustainable urban space. A comfortable design for chatting is one of the criteria prioritized by working women.

"For example, we see, oh it's nice there, it's not too crowded. So we can chat comfortably. That's also a consideration. Because if you choose, where do you want to go? Besides the first one, there's also access, right? That's it."

During the day, SCBD Park is primarily used by office workers for lunch breaks, relaxation, and casual conversations with colleagues. Male workers are often observed sitting in groups, engaging in collective conversations, while working women tend to adopt more individual or small-group activities. This subtle gendered spatial dynamic shows the importance of the park as a space for conversation, where women feel comfortable choosing seating arrangements and more intimate social interactions that match with preferences.

Working women in pairs often sit sideways with bodies slightly oriented toward one another, facilitating intimate conversation while subtly maintaining privacy. Larger groups of women often occupy arching seating areas, positioning themselves to maintain visual connection within the group (Figure 3). These practices reflect how the park design supports social equity by accommodating diverse forms of interaction and providing flexible seating arrangements that empower women to create spaces in line with needs.

At night, SCBD Park turns into a hub for leisure and recreation. Working women, both individually and in groups, make full use of the space for socializing, dining, or relaxing after work. The park openness and visibility at night foster a sense of safety, allowing women to feel more at ease compared to other public spaces. This dynamic emphasizes the importance of inclusive urban design that enables women to reclaim public spaces for social purposes. By ensuring accessibility and comfort for all genders, SCBD Park contributes to the broader goal of social equity in urban settings.

SCBD Park exemplifies the principles of urban design and function by integrating environmental considerations into the layout and purpose. In contrast to indoor public spaces such as clubs or cinemas that rely heavily on artificial lighting and sound systems, the park open-air environment minimizes energy consumption. During the day, natural light suffices, eliminating the need for artificial lighting. The open design also allows for natural airflow, reducing the need for mechanical cooling systems, even in Jakarta tropical climate.

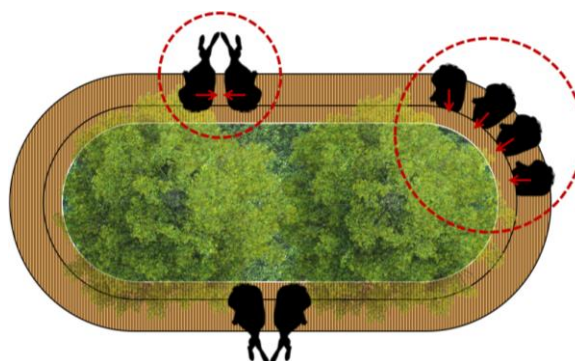


Figure 3 Interaction patterns of working women in using furniture that supports conversation activities at SCBD Park

3.4. Accessibility and Accommodation

SCBD Park offers an accessible and sustainable third place for working women through strategic design, transportation options, and spatial practices. The ease of access is a significant factor in sustainability and inclusivity. For those within the SCBD area, the park is easily reached on foot, due to the well-maintained pedestrian pathways that ensure safety and comfort. Additionally, the increase in urban sprawl has caused many working women who live far from workplaces to prefer going straight home.

"No, I don't stop by. I used to, but now because I have to commute home to Bekasi (Jakarta's satellite city). So it seems like the time (is limited and I) already tired on the road."

The presence of third place near workplaces provides an alternative for working women, allowing visitation to these spaces more efficiently. This convenience is consistent with principles of social equity by providing a space that is accessible to all people, regardless of the mode of transport or financial means. Working women, in particular, benefit from this accessibility as it allows the incorporation of visits to the park seamlessly into daily routines without relying on costly or environmentally taxing transportation since women use more public transport (Harumain et al., 2024). Despite the government efforts to improve public transportation with commuter lines, busses, mass rapid transport, and light rail transit, most commuters still rely on private vehicles, leading to persistent transport challenges (Shiddiqi et al., 2024). The condition of public transportation in Jakarta, although available, remains poorly integrated, with several urban public transportation projects even being canceled (Hansen et al., 2018).

Urban design and function of SCBD Park prioritize pedestrian accessibility while accommodating other transportation modes. For individuals using private vehicles, the availability of parking facilities ensures inclusivity. However, many working women consciously choose to walk, further enhancing the park role as a sustainable third place. Walking not only promotes healthier lifestyles but also minimizes environmental impact, as it reduces the reliance on fossil fuel-based transportation. The park design supports both individual well-being and broader sustainability goals. It is also connected to the area transportation network through shuttle buses. Although the shuttles do not drop passengers directly at the park, the short walking distance from shuttle stops encourages sustainable mobility practices. The combination of walking and public transport reduces the carbon footprint of visitors. This approach exemplifies energy preservation by promoting low-impact commuting options while decreasing vehicular congestion and emissions within the SCBD area.

SCBD Park reflects thoughtful environmental planning in the integration into the surrounding urban landscape. The prioritization of walkability reduces the demand for car-centric infrastructure and fosters environmentally friendly behavior. Moreover, the choice to locate the park within walking distance of major offices and commercial areas underscores the strategic role in bridging workspaces with recreational areas, reinforcing the value as a third place that supports sustainable urban living. The widespread preference among working women to access SCBD Park on foot contributes to minimizing air pollution in the area. By reducing the reliance on motorized transport, practices help lower emissions of harmful pollutants such as carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides, thereby improving overall air quality (Dey and Dhal, 2020; Lee et al., 2018). This contribution is particularly significant in a dense urban area, where vehicular emissions are a primary source of air pollution.

The decision of many working women to walk to SCBD Park directly impacts preserving energy. Practice is also consistent with broader sustainability goals by decreasing heat island effect caused by excessive vehicle use and promoting more sustainable patterns of urban mobility. The reduction of urban heat island effect can enhance the well-being of individuals engaging in activities within the area, creating a more comfortable and livable environment. Additionally, it contributes to business activities in the district, as excessive heat exposure may affect worker productivity and overall economic performance (Whulanza and Kusri, 2023).

3.5. Regulars

Working women who regularly visit SCBD Park incorporate daily routines with activities in this third place, showing how regularity fosters both personal convenience and environmental sustainability. Most visitors to SCBD Park are office employees within the area, and familiarity with the space enables more efficient travel patterns, reducing unnecessary energy expenditure. The park design, tailored to meet the needs of those working nearby, fosters short commutes, often on foot, minimizing reliance on vehicles and thereby contributing to reduced air pollution and lower carbon emissions.

This regularity also supports energy preservation by reducing the demand for energy-intensive transport and infrastructure, as the park is designed to seamlessly integrate into the surrounding urban environment and daily activities. The focus on providing a welcoming, functional space for routine visits is also consistent with principles of environmental planning, ensuring the park remains a low-impact, accessible venue that supports sustainable urban lifestyles.

3.6. (Not so) Low profile

SCBD Park, a public open space surrounded by commercial cafes and restaurants, offers unique opportunities and challenges in fostering social equity, promoting sustainability, and supporting the spatial practices of working women in urban environments. Although the park is freely accessible, the commercial nature of the surrounding establishments can discourage working women from frequenting these spaces due to perceived or actual financial barriers. Therefore, working women tend to interact more frequently in the open areas of the park, making it an essential space for promoting inclusivity and equitable access for diverse urban populations.

"I'm looking for, for example like this, where you can sit outside without having to pay to buy anything, I think that's nice. Because you don't have to spend money."

The park urban design and function reflect a blend of practicality, aesthetics, and sustainability. Compared to other third place in Jakarta, SCBD Park is not the most low-profile space. However, within the high-end SCBD area, it stands out as a relatively low profile. The focus on providing functional seating, greenery, and canopies creates a welcoming and accessible environment that supports diverse activities without excessive commercialization.

The materials used in SCBD Park construction further contribute to sustainability profile. The park integrates simple paving blocks as ground cover, which, while not the most water-absorbent option, still allows for some permeability, reducing runoff compared to fully impermeable surfaces. This design decision reflects a balance between functionality and sustainability, as it aids in minimizing water wastage and facilitates basic stormwater management as shown in Figure 4. This contributes to urban ecosystem, considering that human water needs can only be met by 1% of the earth water (Whulanza et al., 2024). The combination of carefully selected materials with greenery as ground cover and trees providing shaded areas helps prevent urban heat islands, as inappropriate ground cover materials can contribute to the condition (Ibrahim et al., 2018; Wibowo and Salleh, 2018). Open spaces with abundant greenery and providing shade for visitors further contribute to sustainability (Brontowiyono et al., 2011).

The extensive use of greenery, including grass and shade-providing trees, plays a crucial role in minimizing air pollution by absorbing carbon dioxide and filtering particulates from the air. These natural elements also create a cooler microclimate, reducing the need for artificial cooling systems, which supports preserving energy in urban settings. The availability of greenery in SCBD Park can also act as a noise reducer. Furthermore, the emphasis on natural elements and open-air design is consistent with the principles of preserving energy. By relying on natural lighting during the day and minimizing the use of energy-intensive features such as artificial cooling and heating, the park achieves a lower carbon footprint.

SCBD Park thoughtful design is evident in the canopy structures, which are constructed to resemble leaves. For working women, this design is particularly appealing, as it offers a space that provides comfort, shade, accessibility, and aesthetically pleasing.



Figure 4 Elements of SCBD Park as third place that related to environmental sustainability

"More like, let's come here, it's like aesthetic, let's go there, we can take pictures. Also looking for food. Oh, the food is here. Oh, it's delicious here, and the food here is like this."

Beyond the aesthetic appeal, the canopies provide essential shade and protection from rain, reducing the thermal load on users and limiting reliance on indoor, energy-intensive spaces for comfort. This creative combination of functionality and design ensures that the park remains a practical and attractive third place, specifically for working women who value aesthetically pleasing as well as functional spaces for relaxation and interaction.

3.7. Inclusivity

Inclusivity in SCBD Park directly contributes to social equity by creating urban space where working women can feel safe, valued, and represented. The design and functionality of the park foster equitable access and participation by removing barriers that often exclude women in urban environments, such as lack of privacy or male-dominated spaces. Features such as open seating arrangements, greenery that offers visual privacy, and accessible pathways allow women to use the space freely for activities ranging from unwinding to socializing. This inclusivity ensures that working women, regardless of socioeconomic status or cultural background, can equally benefit from the park as place for rest, interaction, or recreation. By addressing the unique needs and fostering a sense of belonging, SCBD Park not only promotes inclusivity but also reinforces social equity, making it a model for sustainable urban design that empowers women in the public sector.

3.8. Multifunctionality

SCBD Park has a high degree of multifunctionality, accommodating a wide range of activities that cater to diverse needs, particularly those of working women. Beyond serving as a space for conversation with colleagues, the park facilitates activities including having lunch, unwinding, putting on make-up, and even resting or napping (Figure 5). These varied uses underscore the park's ability to provide a sense of safety and comfort for working women, which is critical for fostering social equity. By offering a space where women feel secure engaging in personal and restorative activities, the park ensures equitable access to urban amenities, empowering women to reclaim public spaces for well-being.

Urban design and function are integral to multifunctionality. SCBD Park is intentionally designed to support both passive and active engagements, with open spaces, seating arrangements, and green areas offering flexible settings for diverse activities. For instance, the provision of comfortable seating and shaded areas supports casual activities, while the open layout allows for larger community gatherings, such as evening and weekend events including music performances or holiday celebrations. This adaptability enhances usability and also positions the park as a lively third place that strengthens social cohesion and supports urban vibrancy.

The space at SCBD Park is designed to be multifunctional, allowing it to accommodate a diverse range of activities without requiring significant modifications to the layout or extensive resource consumption. This adaptability ensures that various events and social interactions can take place seamlessly. Activities such as socializing, lunchtime breaks, and unwinding are carried out simultaneously, using existing infrastructure, and require minimal energy inputs, supporting resource efficiency. By actively contributing to the spaces, diverse communities—including working women, have provided opportunities for themselves to remain present and sustained in urban environment (Firazandy et al., 2024). Even during events, the open-air design reduces reliance on energy-intensive setups. By providing a space for energy-efficient leisure activities, SCBD Park promotes sustainable practices while enhancing the experience of working women in urban environments.

3.9. Homogeneous groups

SCBD Park, while hosting a diverse range of users, attracts a significantly higher number of working women during lunch breaks and after-office hours compared to other places in SCBD. It creates an environment that feels comfortable and welcoming for women, particularly those searching for a sense of privacy. The spatial design, which includes visual buffers from surrounding buildings, offers a level of privacy as shown in Figure 5. This sense of privacy is appealing to women, specifically Muslims who may prioritize spaces consistent with cultural or personal preferences for privacy (Alizadeh et al., 2022; Almahmood et al., 2017).

This spatial preference shows how SCBD Park contributes to social equity by fostering welcoming working women in urban spaces. It provides a safe and accommodating environment where women feel at ease engaging in activities, thereby addressing the gendered dynamics of public space usage. By prioritizing design features that support these preferences, the park ensures that working women, who may otherwise feel marginalized in more exposed or gender-dominated areas, have equitable access to recreational opportunities. This emphasis on equity strengthens the park's role as a sustainable third place, balancing the needs of diverse urban users while promoting comfort for homogeneous groups.

Based on the analysis of spatial practices of working women at SCBD Park, the characteristics of third place contribute to environmental sustainability. The most prominent environmental sustainability criterion identified from the characteristics of third place, particularly in the context of women workers, is social equity. As shown in Figure 6, third place such as SCBD Park have characteristics including neutral ground, leveler, inclusivity, accessibility, and accommodation, which provide a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment. These spaces allow women workers to take breaks, build social networks, and engage in informal discussions without the

hierarchical constraints often found in traditional workplaces. The inclusive nature of third place is particularly significant, as it fosters a sense of belonging and equal participation in urban public life, addressing gender disparities in access to work-friendly environments.

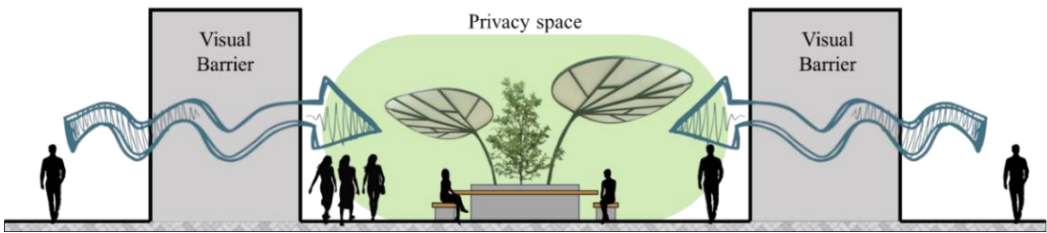


Figure 5 The buildings surrounding SCBD Park provide a visual barrier

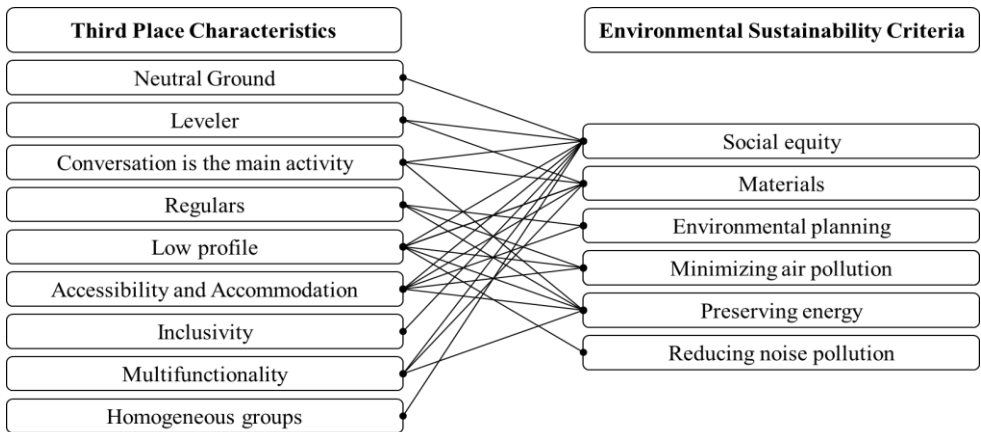


Figure 6 The relation of third place characteristics and environmental sustainability criteria

Additionally, the low-profile characteristic of third place is consistent with environmental sustainability by reducing material consumption, energy use, and noise pollution. The open and shaded spaces of SCBD Park provide natural cooling, supporting environmental planning by reducing reliance on artificial climate control. This is particularly beneficial for women workers who seek comfortable outdoor spaces between work hours, minimizing dependence on air-conditioned cafés or co-working spaces that consume significant energy.

The dominant activity among women workers in third place conversation contributes to preserving energy, as it does not require electricity or resource-intensive entertainment. Women workers often use these spaces for conversing with colleagues, having lunch, unwinding, putting on makeup, resting or napping, and for personal time, making interactions both socially and environmentally sustainable. Moreover, regular presence in third place shows that working women integrate third place into daily routines, promoting sustainable mobility by reducing unnecessary travel and lowering air pollution. By linking the characteristics of third place with environmental sustainability criteria, this study underscores how women workers actively contribute to a more sustainable urban environment. The presence and engagement in these spaces reinforce gender-responsive urban planning that balances social inclusivity with environmental sustainability.

4. Conclusions

In conclusion, the spatial practices observed in SCBD Park underscore how elements such as open space, visual barriers, attractive design, abundant greenery, and easy accessibility near workplaces are consistent with sustainability objectives. These features not only create a welcoming and inclusive space for working women but also contribute positively to the broader environmental goals of sustainable urban development. The integration of natural elements, including trees and vegetation, as well as the provision of shade further foster sustainable urban practices.

Additionally, by mitigating urban heat islands and reducing the demand for energy-intensive infrastructure, SCBD Park is an example of how third place can address both social and environmental sustainability. Based on the results, SCBD Park plays a crucial role by exemplifying how third place can foster social engagement and environmental sustainability through the provision of an accessible, low-energy space that enhances urban quality of life. The results are expected to ignite more discourse on the interconnectedness between third place and environmental sustainability. This study emphasizes that environmental and social sustainability do not exist in opposition but coexist and reinforce one another in the development of sustainable urban spaces. Furthermore, by acknowledging the critical role of women in third place, the results will contribute to ongoing discussions on environmental sustainability by emphasizing the importance of gender-inclusive approaches. This study is limited by the qualitative approach, hence, discourse about third place and environmental sustainability would benefit from quantitative evidence to better assess the direct impact on environmental sustainability. Additionally, given that this study is based on a case study of SCBD Park, the specific characteristics and sustainability benefits of third place may vary in other contexts. Future studies could explore a broader range of third place in different urban environments to identify sustainability elements that may not have been observed in this case.

Acknowledgements

This study was funded by PUTI Postgraduate Grant Universitas Indonesia contract number NKB-304/UN2.RST/HKP.05.00/2022.

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- Lathiyfah Shanti Purnamasari: Conceptualization, Methodology, Investigation, Data Curation, Formal Analysis, Writing – Original Draft.
- Antony Sihombing: Writing – Review & Editing, Validation.
- Achmad Hery Fuad: Writing – Review & Editing, Supervision.
- Mastura Adam: Writing – Review & Editing, Conceptualization (Urban Context).

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this article.

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