



**SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, BUILDING AND DESIGN
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**THEORIES OF ARCHITECTURE & URBANISM
(ARC61303)**

PROJECT 2

**COMPARITIVE ANALYSIS BETWEEN
PREAH ANG ENG AND JALAN HANG KASTURI**

Name | IGNATIUS JEE
Student ID | 0320069
Tutor | Mr. Nicholas Ng

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1. 0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Preah Ang Eng, Phnom Penh

Preah Ang Eng is located at the heart of Phnom Penh, the capital city of Cambodia. It was being named under the name of a new Khmer king, Ang Eng who was installed under Thailand's protection in the year 1779. Its history dates back to 1863 when the French listed Phnom Penh as the capital of Cambodia. This stated the beginning of a long process of urbanization of the French government followed by the locals once sovereignty was achieved.



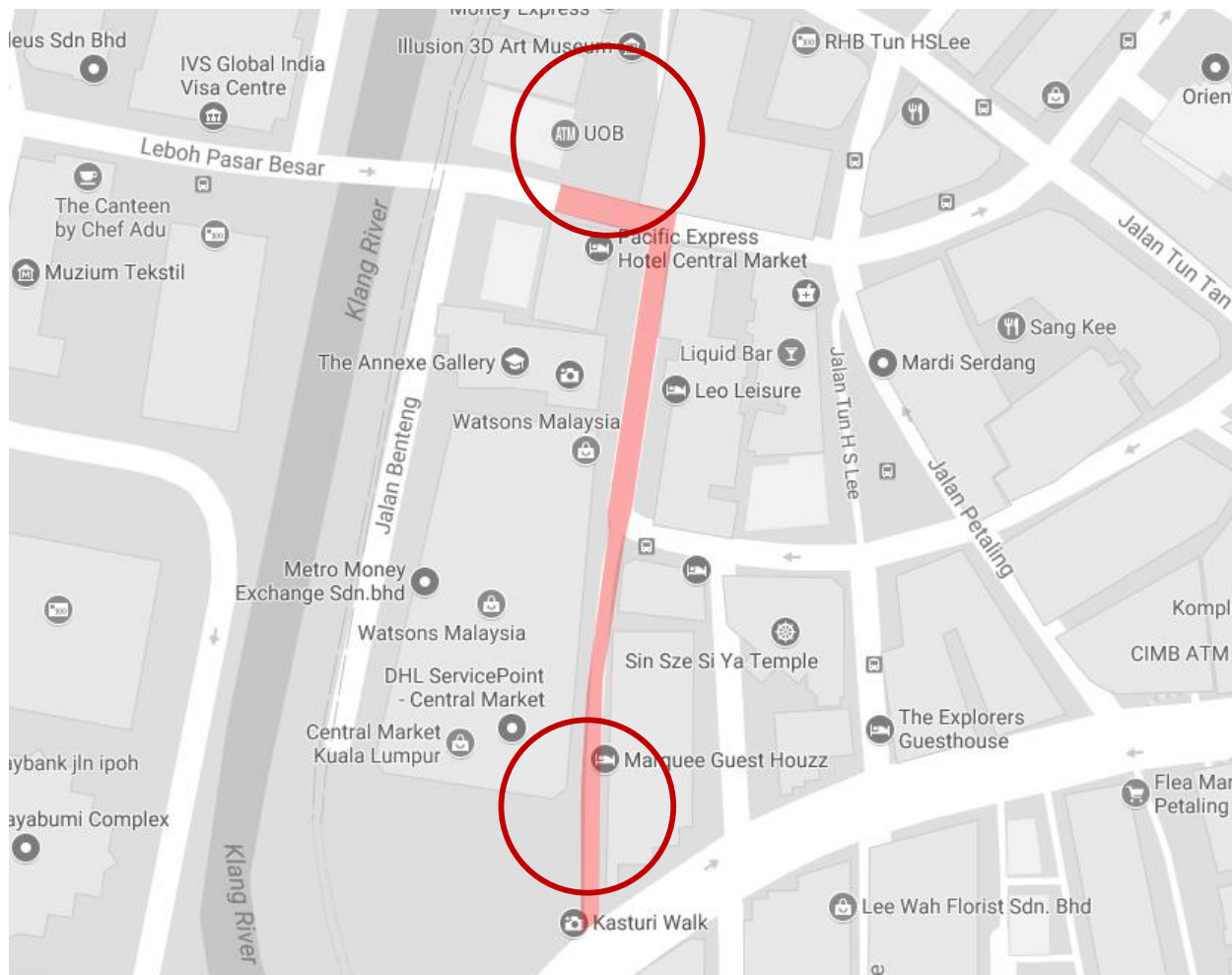
1.2 Jalan Hang Kasturi, Kuala Lumpur

Jalan Hang Kasturi is a one-way road located in downtown Kuala Lumpur, connecting Jalan Sultan to Medan Pasar public square. The stretch between Lebuhraya Pudu and Jalan Tun Tan Cheng Lock is a pedestrian zone called Kasturi Walk. Kasturi Walk features three pewter-coated polycarbonate Giant Malay kites as a symbolization of Malay heritage, in order to retain and promote the site's culture. Wooden food and souvenir kiosks were set up along the walk to promote local street business.

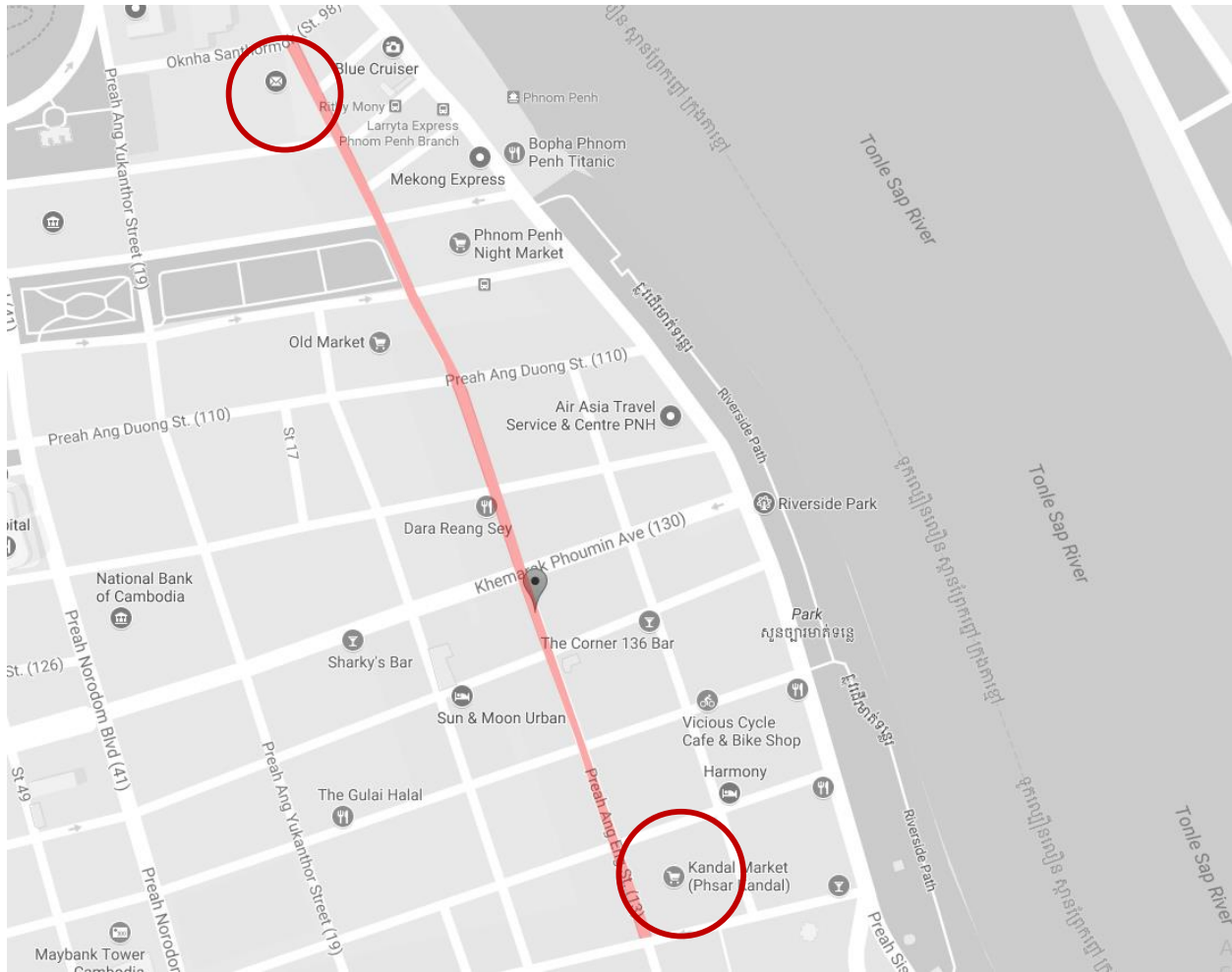


2.0 Comparative Analysis

Throughout the comparative analysis essay, comparison analysis is to be made from both findings of the street in Project 1 Case Study, Preah Ang Eng (Street 13) located in Phnom Penh, Cambodia and the local site Jalan Hang Kasturi in Kuala Lumpur, Selangor. The comparative analysis is conducted only on the selected sections of both streets. Along Preah Ang Eng (Street 13), the selected stretch starts from Cambodia Post passing through the Phnom Penh Night Market to the Kandal Market. Whereas for Jalan Hang Kasturi, the selected stretch starts from Medan Pasar Square leading through the Central market, with Kasturi Walk marking the end of the section.



Selected stretch along Jalan Hang Kasturi, Medan Pasar as starting point & Kasturi Walk as the ending point



Selected stretch along Preah Ang Eng, Cambodia Post as starting point & Kandal Market as the ending point

The selection of both sections are marked with their starting and ending points based on distinct nodes. The main framework of the comparative analysis is built upon the comparison based on the patterns of distinct nodes, and how does the quality of physical environment influence the intensity and frequency of contact at street level therefore, affecting the nodes within both streets.

From both the diagrams shown above, it is clearly seen that similarly in both contexts, the streets and alleys with closely arranged building footprints increase the sense of intimacy within the spaces, hence increase the chances for contact and social activities to happen. In other words, the frequency and intensity of contact and social activities are highly dependent on the physical environment of the spaces around; i.e. the scale of street itself, shadings, seating areas etc.

2.1 COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS ON STARTING NODES

The starting nodes of Preah Ang Eng in Cambodia is the Cambodia Post, whereas for Jalan Hang Kasturi, the selected starting node would be Medan Pasar Square. Both the starting nodes are dedicated open space situated next to the historical landmarks, the parking space in front of the Cambodia Post and the Medan Pasar Square itself which the historical timeline of Kuala Lumpur urban developments started from.

The similarities of both open spaces is that both of them are located right next to the main road, where high intensity of traffics occur. Being alongside to the main circulation has created a focal point within both the nodes, an informal bus hub located at the side of Medan Pasar Square and also the parking area at Cambodia Post. Hence, resulting in a higher rate of pedestrian circulation around site. Both the activities in the open spaces are cater for short time usage, hence causing low intensity and frequency of contact among people at street level.



Medan Pasar located right next to the main road, Lebuhraya Pudu Besar.



The parking space in front of Cambodia Post connected to the main street.

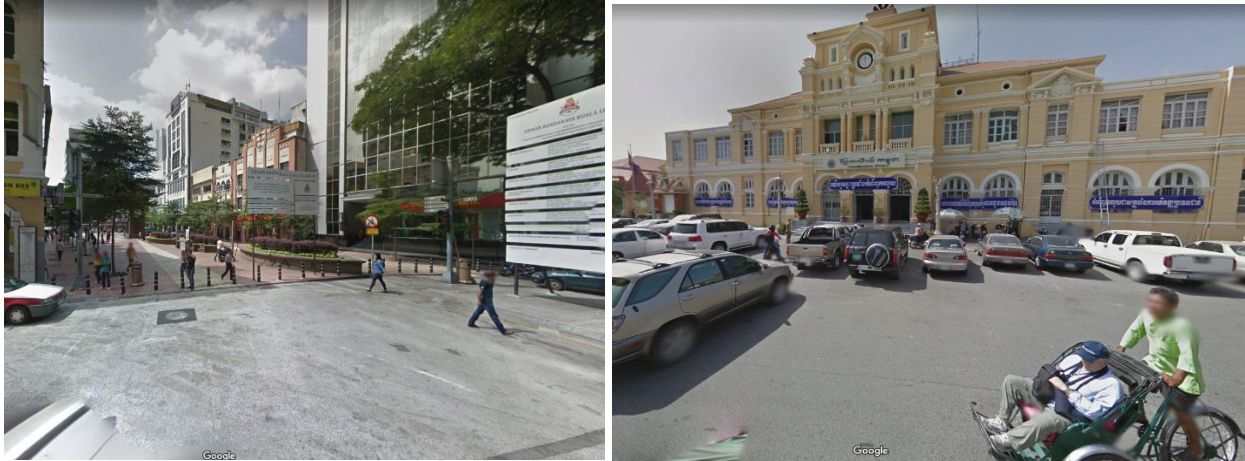
Next, both open spaces have insufficient amount of seating areas. The limited amount of seating in Medan Pasar Square and the seating opposite to the parking spaces in Cambodia Post has limit the development of optional and social activities around site. This has caused only the necessity activities (trading among foreigners in Medan Pasar and mailing/packageing among locals in Cambodia Post) to happen. This is a clear indication of how intensity can be affected by the existence of seating area.



Both photos showing the limited seating provided on site

On the other hand, both the plazas have a wide arrangement of streetscape, i.e. the buildings along the spaces. The widely arrange building footprints on both side and the large scale of space within both sites has difficulties in providing a better and pleasant environment for the people around site, causing minimum level of intimacy on human scale to happen, therefore the chances for contact and social activities to happen is affected. The scale of public space and the intensity of contact points are summarized in the diagrams below:

In terms of differences noted between these two plazas, Medan Pasar square has its boundary dotted with the concrete bollards and also strips of planter boxes with hedges at one side, it creates a sense of safer environment for necessary activities (people walking freely within the plaza and waiting for the bus) and social activities to occur. Whereas for the plaza located in front of the Cambodia Post, the boundary of open space is not defined clearly, leaving the spaces opened up. This creates a sense of insecurities towards people moving within the site as it is directly connected to the main road, safety issue on road has been taken care of. Hence, limiting different sorts of activities to be carried out. This has clearly indicated that safer physical environment has caused differences in the level of contact.



Comparison of space with and without boundary which triggers the sense of secure

Besides, the density of greenery is seen to be much higher in Medan Pasar square as compare to the Cambodia Post. Although both open spaces attempted to use greenery within site, the rows of trees in Medan Pasar creates a more pleasant physical environment for people who rest around in the area as it acts as a sun shading. Activities and contact tends to happen at a higher rate due to this favorable environment.

2.2 COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS ON ENDING NODES

As for the ending nodes, a comparative analysis is conducted between Kandal Market located in Cambodia and the Kasturi Walk right next to the Central Market in Jalan Hang Kasturi. Situated at the middle section of street Preah Ang Eng, Kandal Market is an intersection surrounded by numerous of shops and one of the most congested points in Preah Ang Eng. Whereas for the Kasturi Walk, it is formerly being used as a continuous road (Jalan Hang Kasturi) directly connecting Jalan Hang Kasturi to the Lebuhraya Pudu and was redeveloped into a pedestrian-friendly open-air market in the year 2011. Both the nodes serve as a trading spot for the local shoppers and tourists, attracting crowds throughout the day.

The similarities which fall between both the nodes is the fact that both nodes are located at the intersection point of the streets, enabling them to have higher intensity of contact as compared to other nodes along the street. With the necessary activities happening around at Central Market and also the shop lots along the street opposite to Kandal Market, an existing crowd is formed. According to the theories stated in 'Life Between Buildings' by Jan Gehl, "Wherever there are people – in buildings, in neighborhoods, in city centers, in recreational areas, and so on – it is generally true that people and human activities attract other people." Regarding this, the characteristics of both streets encourage stores and kiosk to be set up along the walkway and streets. This has turned out to be the necessary activity happening along the street, providing platform for chances of social contacts. For instance, a chance of contacts between the vendors, the buyers and also the vendors to buyers and tourists.

Besides, the seating area provided by the food kiosk in Kasturi Walk and food stalls in Kandal Market is also one of the similarities between both nodes. In relation to this, it is observed that people in both nodes doesn't only carry out necessary activity such as shopping, but also to conduct optional activities such as resting and chilling at the food stalls, and also to pay attention to activities happening around.



Seating are available in both nodes of Kasturi Walk and Kandal Market

On the other hand, the arrangement of buildings along the passageway of both nodes has created similarities as well. The closely arranged buildings has created a sense of intimacy on human scale, therefore increasing the frequency of social contacts and activities along both streets. Again, according to the theories in 'Life between Buildings', the fact that small scale of space in relationship with the crowd intensity has created a sense of high intimacy which attracts more people to the nodes, hence increasing the social contacts within.



The closely arranged buildings enhance the social contacts of both sites.

As for the dissimilarity, the fact that the implementation of shades in Kasturi Walk and the partially exposed environment in Kandal Market has posted differences to both the nodes. The fully shaded walkway within Kasturi Walk enables the whole stretch of Kasturi Walk being fully crowded with human activities. Whereas for the partially shaded Kandal Market, the exposed area of it (Along Preah Ang Eng street) limited the chance of human contact and activities, as people tends to stay under the shades more. The decreased possibility of people staying under a concentrated area would result in a shorter time frame and hence, decrease the chance of social contacts and intimacy among people.



2.3 COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS ON MAIN STREETS AND ALLEYS

On the other hand, the street and alleys that connect the starting and ending nodes are being compared and analyzed at both streets. The formation of streets and alleys are heavily influenced by building forms along. The similarities between both streets can be seen through the streetscape itself. First of all, it can be noted that both streets similarly have various types of building typologies such as commercial, residential, institutional etc. Other than that, both streets have alleyways branching outwards perpendicularly. The similarity is strengthened when both streets have their alleyways occupied by local vendors and social activities.

Even though the building height, concentration and various building typologies of both streets are the same, it has been noted that there are some differences in the pattern and frequency of social contact. It is more intense along the Jalan Hang Kasturi area right next to the Central Market as compared to the main street of Preah Ang Eng. It is obvious that the difference lies upon the scale of the streets themselves. The street connecting Cambodia Post to Kandal Market in Cambodia is actually a main road where 2 ways vehicular circulation occurs. Whereas for Jalan Hang Kasturi (Central Market Area), it is noticeable that the 2 lane street has been converted to a single lane street as the other lane is often occupied and used as parking spaces due to the fact that the street is not used as a main circulation. Jalan Hang Kasturi (Central Market) is narrower than the main street in Preah Ang Eng, the narrow width of street scale in this pedestrian-oriented street has enhanced the sense of intimacy between people, as street at a smaller scale provides more sensitive and closeness towards human scale. The physical environment in Jalan Hang Kasturi is able to provide more sense of interaction and secure to the human, unlike the environment of the street in Kandal market where it is opened up towards the main street.

According to 'Life Between Buildings' by Jan Gehl, "The significance of quality improvement to daily and social activities in cities can be observed where pedestrian streets of traffic-free zones have been established in existing urban areas." The pedestrian street, Jalan Hang Kasturi creates a consistent concentration of social activities along the whole stretch of walkway, with the various types of building typologies alongside of it contributing to the occurrence of necessary and optional activities. With the high concentration of contact along Jalan Hang Kasturi, this created a contrast with the condition observed in the main street Preah Ang Eng. The concentration of social activities can only be seen within the nodes itself and the stalls along the road. Minimum activities can be seen on the main arterial pathway as it is a road cater for vehicular circulation. Thus, the main street is only dominated by necessary activities rather than optional and social activities, where most of the people is seen to be on their vehicles and some crossing the streets.



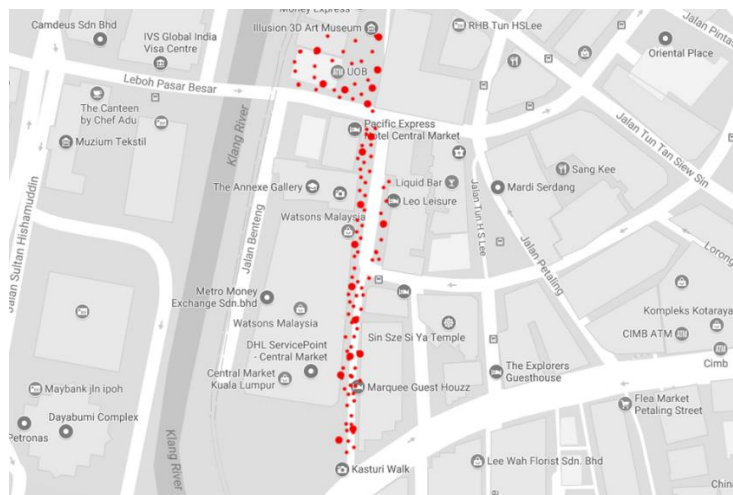
Photo showing the 2 lanes street being converted into 1 lane due to illegal parking which increase the intimacy of human scale in street level



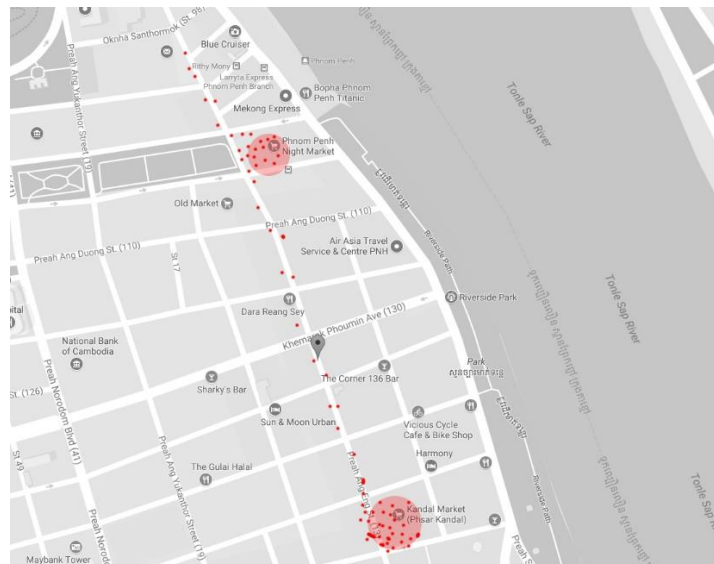
Photo showing the 2 lanes street which allows minimum sense of street intimacy

2.4 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NODES AND MAIN STREETS

After analyzing the streets, it is crucial to note the relationship between the starting and ending nodes, and the paths connecting them. Along the street in Preah Ang Eng, the concentration of social activities tends to be more concentrated at the ending nodes which is the Kandal Market, and having the least at the starting nodes which is an open parking space in front of Cambodia Post. The concentration of social activities seems to be more happening on the nodes rather than the paths connecting them. Whereas for the concentration of social activities in Jalan Hang Kasturi, the concentration seems to be spread more evenly along the whole stretch of streets, where there is performance and vendors along the whole stretch of the street. Therefore, the physical environment of main path along the Jalan Hang Kasturi tends to induce more of social contact due to its intimacy characteristics. Whereas for Preah Ang Eng, the fact that the street scale itself and the open spaces at the starting nodes which portrays minimum sense of intimacy result in the concentration of social contact at its nodes.



Jalan Hang Kasturi



Preah Ang Eng

3. CONCLUSION

All in all, it can be noted that physical environment plays an important role in influencing the intensity and frequency of contact directly. The comparative analysis is concluded with the result showing that how a good physical planning in urban cities is able to ensure the social contacts of a street, either through mentally influencing users by creating a safer physical environment as well as enhancing outdoor condition by increasing softscapes and also closely arranged building footprints to increase the intimacy level.

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