

Reinventing Informal Activities through Placemaking for Community Resilience: *Maguwoharjo* International Stadium, Sleman

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Abstract

The degradation of life due to the COVID-19 pandemic, whether physiological, psychological and economic, requires a comprehensive thought on community resilience according to the capacity and context. The placemaking experiences in The *Maguwoharjo* International Stadium (MIS) area indicates a positive community response through sports, recreation, and informal businesses than enliven the area. This study aims to strategies for reinventing existing activities using a placemaking approach, specifically through three variables, the Person, Procedures and Place. The hope is that when the MIS area is designed and developed as a Tourism Special Economic Zone (SEZ), these actors remain included a development stakeholder. This study using qualitative descriptive methods and categorized into primary and secondary activities in public spaces. The results highlight three points: alignment of MIS with MICE-based tourism policy, the importance of placemaking for physical resilience and informal business, and the need for landscape element to mitigate pollutants.

Keywords: *MIS Area; placemaking; reinventing activities; resilient communities*

Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on human life, both physically, psychologically, and economically, including on community life in Sleman, Indonesia. Various efforts and recovery initiatives have been undertaken to build and enhance community immunity, tailored to individuals' abilities, capacities, and life contexts. A few numbers of activities were developed, even created to adapt, and maintain life both physically, psychologically, and economically. Physical activity is developed in the form of regular exercise in the place of residence. Healthy walking, jogging, cycling, morning exercise, and so on are community efforts to maintain the quality of their physical life. Psychological activities in the form of entertaining recreation at affordable costs are the community's longing to build positive energy, so as to increase the passion for life. In particular, children who have been confined to their homes

due to the avoidance of crowds need psychomotor refreshment to relax their muscles through playing in the recreation area. Economic activities that have been relatively interrupted so far have even stopped, resulting in the degradation of the family's economy. The termination of employment from a few numbers of companies resulted in a decline in demand for commodities, resulting in the phenomenon of unemployment and a shift in economic activity. Informal activity in the trade and service sectors thrives to replace the old jobs that have been cut.

Maguwoharjo International Stadium (MIS), Sleman, Indonesia, is a social public space built by Sleman Regency to accommodate football sport events on an international scale (Toneino, 2018). The stadium, with a capacity of 31,700 spectators, is located in a strategic area of Sleman, as it is close to three existing tourist attractions (Setyawan, 2020) and settlements, making it easily accessible to the community, even on foot. The objects in question are Jogja Bay (water recreation object), *Embung Tambakboyo* (water recreation object), and *Candi Gebang* (historical site object). The surrounding settlements that access it are also significant, namely, housing of *Candi Gebang*, *Jambu Sari*, *Minomartani*, *Atmajaya*, *Krajan Indah*, *Purwomartani*, *Kadisoka*, and many more.

In its use, initially, MIS and its area (called MIS Area) were still limited to sporting events, such as football, volleyball, road race training, and so on (Sulistiyono, 2014). When night falls, this activity does not take place, so there is a potential for crime to occur. However, as time goes by, especially when the post-COVID-19 pandemic can be tolerated, the MIS Area comes alive day and night (Flona, 2022). Triggered by the policy of moving the "Sunday morning UGM" market (called *Sunmor*) to this area, activity during the day is very strong. *Sunmor* is a community activity around the settlement in the form of morning sports: gymnastics, jogging, cycling, etc., followed by the growth of business activities in the informal sector in the form of selling food, clothing, plants, etc. When night falls, the MIS Area open yard is filled with a night market whose contents are recreational activities for children (Flona, 2022). Various types of children's games are rented in this area and are welcomed by the surrounding community.

This positive response from the community is a placemaking phenomenon where the area is brought to life by community activities to build their survival, both physically, psychologically, and economically. The life of physical activity is shown by the enthusiasm of the community (all levels and ages) in utilising the MIS Area as a sports area to maintain body immunity. Psychological activity in life is indicated by the enthusiasm of children and families in utilising the MIS Area for recreational activities, namely: playing, walking, trying out current food innovations, etc. The life of economic activity is manifested by the response of the community in selling their businesses/businesses and services that meet the needs of the community. The variety of businesses that develop in this area is dominated by culinary diversity, ranging from locally dominated to international.

Local cuisine is still demanded by the community here: *pecel*, *mendoan*, fried banana, etc. International cuisine is also strongly absorbed, such as pizza, waffles, *tokpokki*, burgers, etc. The price is also affordable to the community, so that regardless of the sales volume, it is relatively absorbed by the market. However, the quality of service is relatively modest. Customers who want to enjoy food on the spot feel welcome and happy just sitting on a mat that is spread out on the sidewalk or sitting under a shady tree.

It seems that the phenomenon of the life of this activity is caught and always observed by the local government. The District Authority will direct it into a strategic area that needs to be developed. The local government of Sleman is currently looking at the MIS Area to become a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in the tourism sector, which is oriented towards MICE (Meeting Incentive Convention Exhibition), amusement parks, and sports tourism (Hapsari, 2019). This policy has been strongly proclaimed even though it is currently still in the study stage. DS. Ginting, Head of Sub-Division of Land and Spatial Planning at the Regional Development Planning Agency (Bappeda) of Sleman, emphasised the basis/reason for the policy of developing this area as a tourism SEZ. (DIMAS ADI PRABOWO, 2015) The reason is because of the calculation of the existence of facilities (nodes) that develop around MIS, namely the existence of Jogja Bay, Tambakboyo Embung, and Gebang Temple.

This policy has the potential to pose a threat to the activities of the community that has lived in the MIS Area, which incidentally is the urban informal. The urban development paradigm in general tends to be oriented towards neo-liberalism towards capitalism, which prioritises the power of large investors in utilising urban space. Banerjee points out that currently, there is a transformation of public space that reflects political, economic, and technological changes that make the community more aware and understand the implications (Banerjee, 2001).

The transformation in question is indicated by three main trends that generally arouse collective/mass anxiety. The first is the worldwide campaign of market liberalism. The second is the conflict of economic interests at the local level and above, the subordination of local public interests to the interests of global capital. Finally, there have been major changes in traditional concepts of individual and group identity, and the nature of everyday trade and social relations. Jahn Gehl underlines that the life or death of a public space is very dependent on the quality of the space that shows friendliness and systematic ability to welcome users in walking, staying, sitting, or enjoying the space (Gehl, 2012). The same thing is expressed by M Carmona et al that the United Kingdom Government and urban designers are very concerned about the phenomenon and the development of activities through placemaking as the basis for urban design considerations (Carmona, 2010). This is emphasised within the professional boundaries

of an urban designer that the essence and main element of regional design considerations is the focus on the structure of human activity, interaction, and social communication that develops in the public sphere.

In the context, the notion of reinventing the MIS Area is understood not as a future design intervention, but as a way to recognise how existing everyday practices have already reshaped the space. Reinventing highlights how informal and spontaneous activities rooted in community routines contribute to the transformation of place and become an essential foundation for interpreting current spatial dynamics (Nyseth, 2013).

Based on the study of the potential, weaknesses, threats, and challenges of the MIS Area, this paper examines the existing activities that have emerged through placemaking and identifies the typology of community-based activities that have developed in the MIS Area after the pandemic. This study conducted an analysis to examine dynamic placemaking patterns using three components: people, procedures, and place. The synthesis of the study was conducted to obtain directions for steps focused on the community playing a role in revitalising the area. This section is important in the future development of MIS, especially as a Special Economic Zone (SEZ).

The results of this study are crucial for identifying communities that play an important role as key players in the revitalisation process of the MIS Area. This is to ensure that this area will become an MIS Area, so it is necessary to consider the applicable regulations. The government, through the Public Works Agency, is carrying out the revitalisation process of the MIS area, particularly the MIS Building, in 2024-2025. During this year, the location of *Sunmor* was changed. *Sunmor* moved from within the MIS area to AdiTV Tajem Courtyard. In April 2024, *Sunmor* returned to the MIS. This study examines two important periods after the pandemic, during revitalisation and after revitalisation, and highlights the changes in activities at MIS.

Literature Review

Placemaking in public spaces has long undergone a paradigm shift as contemporary public spaces, particularly in response to challenges of social, economic, and environmental pressures. Public spaces can emerge from the human and built environment, creating collective experiences and a sense of belonging (Jacobs, 1961; Gehl, 2012). This explanation is reinforced by Carmona (2021), who states that placemaking today is not only about people interpreting their spaces. People provide meaning to their spaces through activities, identities, and social engagement. In the post-pandemic era, public spaces are emerging and playing a crucial role in restoring urban vitality through the revitalisation of community activities, integrating various aspects. This integration can be reflected in aspects of resident health, desires, and happiness (Lew, 2020; Stevens & Dovey, 2022). Therefore, the creation of public space is a crucial and essential foundation for carrying out adaptive spatial transformation to address rapid social and economic changes. In the context of MIS, communities of sports enthusiasts, culinary enthusiasts, and pedestrians emerge as drivers of this adaptive spatial transformation. This is further reinforced by research by M. Switalkshki, et.al. (2023), which measures the concept of placemaking into three points, as mentioned in the previous paragraph: person, procedures, and place. These aspects are crucial for determining the characteristics of placemaking in a neighbourhood.

Furthermore, the concept of reinventing space is part of the implementation of a strategic adaptive strategy to revitalise public spaces that lost their vitality during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to Madaniporu (2020) and Mehta & Mahato (2022), this concept is part of an effort to adapt the function of public spaces to meet new community needs. These needs include the need for safe social interaction, informal economic activities, and psychological well-being. This transformation often increases the intimacy and interconnectedness of spontaneous and temporary spaces in the use of space, which reinforces the flexible character of urban space. This is in line with the conditions of the MIS area. Informal activities that emerge spontaneously and temporarily provide a unique spatial transformation in the MIS area. Globally, urban spaces have undergone significant changes during and after the pandemic. As Gehl explains in his research, small changes in the function of open spaces and changes in community behaviour have given urban spaces a high degree of flexibility and spontaneity to adapt to new activities within small communities. In fact, this has provided strength and vitality during times of crisis (Gehl, 2021). In various cities around the world, changes in open spaces such as parks, plazas, and sports areas have been revitalised through community-driven design practices. Community-driven design manifests itself in MIS areas, and occurs in residential areas with activities emerging in their public spaces (Honey-Roses et.al., 2021). Therefore, The concept of reinventing space is not only about strengthening social resilience and reducing poverty levels in urban spaces.

Another perspective on reinventing place emphasises the changing nature of an area, shaped not only by strategic formal planning or physical interventions, but also by the everyday practices and informal activities that emerge organically within it. Nyseth (2013) argues that reinventing a place can occur through both deliberate planning efforts and the unplanned routines of local communities. These transform public space as a product of lived experience, not simply a development agenda. In the context of MIS, informal practices, including spontaneous sports, street vendors, and community interaction spaces, play a crucial role in strengthening social resilience.

Therefore, the future interaction of these informal community activities is crucial to ensuring that MIS development plans remain relevant, resilient, and applicable to the daily lives of its users.

The shift toward post-pandemic urbanism around 2022 and three years thereafter, the MIS area experienced a hiatus from key activities such as football matches and became deserted. After that, small communities revived the area. The combination of spatial placement and the reinvention concept is divided into primary, secondary, and tertiary spaces. This combination created a more resilient and inclusive public space. The discussion also explored how regional vitality and changes in the MIS activity area are key indicators of the success of its transformation. This is reinforced by Montgomery (2021) and Hamidi et.al. (2022), who state that this indicator depends on a balance between social, economic, and ecological activities. Post-pandemic public spaces must support the adaptive engagement of residents of all ages and social backgrounds. One example is the development of secondary and tertiary activities, such as sports other than football, culinary arts, and local cultural expressions, such as performances.

In 2022, MIS demonstrated its resilience in a community revitalizing its environment with *Sunmor* market. this change continued with the building's reconstruction in 2023 and its temporary relocation to the AdiTV Tajem courtyard. This situation returned in April 2025, when MIS reopened its space to *Sunmor* community. This is reinforced by S. Marvin (2023) on post-pandemic cities, who stated that the pandemic has accelerated the transformation of public space and urban policy and the importance of adaptive spaces to reduce unsustainable activities (Pacheco, 2024). This also shows that MIS is not only a primary space for football activities but also support the emergence of second and third spaces. Thus, placemaking and reinventing space are not only about creating function spaces, but also creating functional spaces, but also building dynamic, resilient, and sustainable social ecosystems or addressing post-pandemic urban challenges that remain relevant and used as methodological concept and planning tools in urban studies (Keidar et. al.,2023).

Placemaking demonstrates how people, in their daily routines, and the spaces they use, work together to shape shared experiences and enliven an area. The key components, people, procedures, and places, help explain how community-led primary and secondary activities can activate and sustain public spaces. In this study, people refer to the actors involved and the roles they play. Procedures describe the everyday pattern and spontaneous routines that shape how spaces are used, and the last one places focus on the physical settings that enable these activities to thrive. Recent research focuses on informal practices such as spontaneous exercise, small-scale commerce, and social interactions that are crucial for rebuilding social resilience after the pandemic (Madanipour, 2022; Gehl, 2021). The idea of reinventing place further suggests that meaningful transformation comes not only from planned interventions, but from the everyday life of communities that naturally revitalise spaces (Nyseth, 2012).

Methodology

This research employed a qualitative descriptive method. Data were obtained through exploration of primary and secondary data. Primary data were collected by the author through field observations, photography, and active participation in activities in the research area. The author collected data from 2022 (post-pandemic) and 2025 (post-revitalisation). Secondary data were collected from relevant published case studies, compiled according to the author's research direction. Data were analysed through categorising activities that support placemaking in the research area and exploring users within each activity. The discussion focuses on examining how the strategic direction of the research area's development is informed by findings from placemaking experiences and current policy directions. The research method is diagrammatically illustrated in Figure 1.

Fieldwork was conducted during peak activity periods. Specifically, it did on Saturdays and Sundays, in both 2022 and 2025. Observations focused on the architectural and spatial conditions of the MIS Area. This area, which was divided into three zones: Zone A, Zone B and Zone C. Zone A is located on the west side of the stadium near the VVIP entrance. Zone B is located at the stadium's main gate and the area immediately opposite. And then ZoneC is located along the highway corridor leading to the stadium. In each zone, data were collected through direct observation, activity photography, and mapping of behavioural patterns and spatial layout. To complement these observations, in-depth interviews with respondents were conducted to explore visitors' interpretations, experiences, and perceptions of the MIS area as part of the placement process.

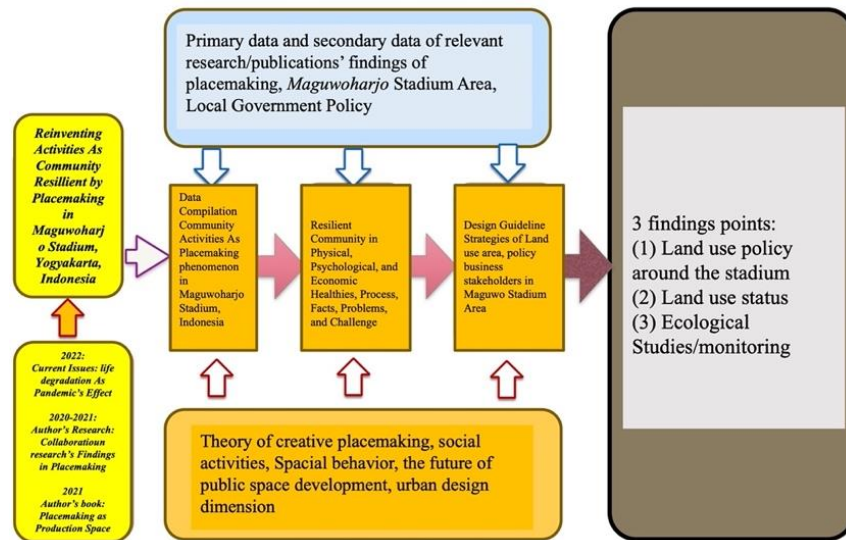


Figure 1. Method of Reinventing of Activities in MIS Area, Sleman, Indonesia

Source: Author, 2025

Result and Discussion

1. General Information of MIS Area

Maguwoharjo Stadium was built in *Jenengan Hamlet, Maguwoharjo Village, Depok District, Sleman Regency, Yogyakarta Special Region, Indonesia*. Designed for international-level football matches, it sits on 23.5 hectares of land. The total area of the building is 60,000 m², which can accommodate 31,700 Spectators in the building's stands equally on 4 wings. The west wing has 5 floors, the east wing has 4 floors, the north wing has 3 floors, and the south wing has 3 floors. The business areas are located on the east, north, and south wings on the 1st and 2nd floors. The stadium area is equipped with visitor parking spaces inside and outside the building. Indoor parking is placed at the 4 corners of the building, while outdoor parking is provided in an open area around the building within the stadium area. Audience parking access can be reached by private motorised vehicle through 3 road corridors, namely north (bordered by banyan trees), east (Jalan Cindelaras-Tugu Elang Jawa), and south, Jalan Kepuhsari (Atmaja, 2020).

The west side of the land is an open field for volleyball. The modes of transportation that can get to the MIS Area are private vehicles, public transport, and rental vehicles via *Gojek/gocar*. Public transport that operates is *the Transjogja* bus, which passes through the boulevard line in front of the stadium, so to reach the MIS building requires a walking distance of about 200 meters. Rental vehicles can use a *Gojek* or *gocar* by using an online application.



Figure 2. Location of MIS from Google Maps in 2022 and 2025

Source: Author, 2022 & 2025



Figure 3. Tourism Destination Near MIS

Source: Analysis Author with Google Maps and photo from Google.com, 2022 & 2025

1. Variety of Activities and Placemaking Phenomenon

The use of the *Maguwoharjo* International Stadium and its area (MIS Area) so far can be divided into two categories of activities, namely: primary and secondary. The primary activity of the stadium is the activity that is carried out as the main function of the stadium building is for football matches at the international level. The last international event, after the COVID-19 pandemic, which was held was the 2022 AFF U16 Cup Final football match against the Vietnam National Team, on August 12, 2022, at 20.00 WIB. This event recorded success in sucking up the audience until 31,700 tickets were sold out (Wahyuni, 2015).

Outside the building area, a number of motorised vehicle clubs often held training exercises to conduct road race exercises in the MIS Area before competing on the national level. Yamaha road race, RX King Regional Jamboree, etc., are strong clubs that use the MIS Area as a regional-level training area to prepare for matches at the national level. Road race in MIS uses the parking area as a training area. However, Road Race activities use parking as a training area; these activities are referred to by races from various regions around Indonesia in Figure 4 (Rudi221, 2015).

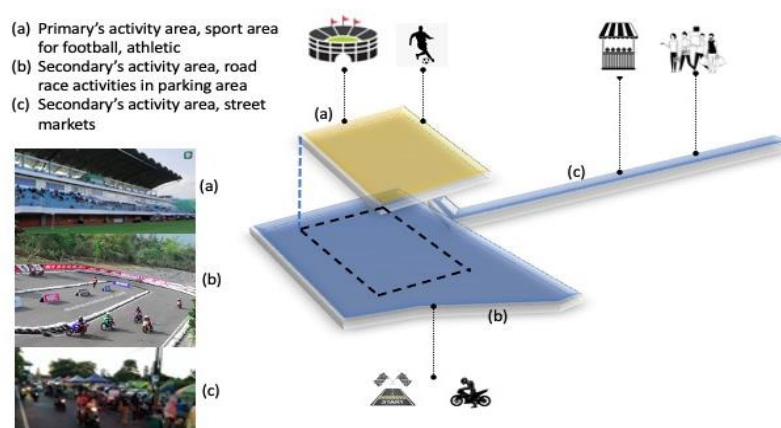


Figure 4. Activities Plan in MIS, 2025

Source: Analysis Author with google maps, 2022 & 2025

The MIS Area secondary activity is a spontaneous event organised to take advantage of this large and strategically located stadium area. This activity does not occupy the indoor area of the stadium, but is in the open area around the stadium building, including road corridors within the MIS area that are related to the environment around the area. Broadly speaking, significant activities are categorised into 3 major groups. The first is activities that are still related to sports that involve the community. Several variations of gymnastics for various age levels and interests were carried out by groups of the elderly, teenagers who were carried out in an area outside the stadium. Elderly gymnastics, healthy heart, taichi, *waitankung*, yoga, etc., have coloured the variety of sports created by the community. The second activity that developed was children's games involving vendors of kids' games, culinary tours, etc. The third activity that developed was the informal culinary, clothing, and service business. Overall, the typology of the variety of activities that developed in the MIS Area is summarised in Table 1.

Table 1. Categorisation of Placemaking Activities in MIS Area in 2022

Area Location	Activities			
	Primary	Secondary		
		First	Second	Third
Indoor	International football competition,	No activity	No activity	No activity
Outdoor	Jambore Merah, Training of Road Race Clubs,	Gymnastic variations, jogging, skates, green walk	Kids game, culinary tourism,	Informal sector and services

Source: Author, 2022

Table 2. Categorization of Placemaking Activities in MIS Area in 2025

Area Location	Activities			
	Primary	Secondary		
		First	Second	Third
Indoor	International football competition,	No activity	No activity	No activity
Outdoor	Jambore Nasional Holden Indonesia, Training of Road Race Clubs, Depok Expo, Music Concert	Gymnastic variations, jogging, skates, green walk, cycling,	Kids game, culinary tourism	Informal sector and services

Source: Author, 2025

Figuratively, the variety of activities described here is those that support the creation of placemaking. In this case, it is the primary and secondary activities carried out by the community in open spaces. The reason is that the activities created in this open space are spontaneous and organic, so that they are successful in naturally reviving the MIS Area, whether it leads to strengthening the physical/health, psychological, and economic community of the community. The activities through red jamborees, training of road race clubs, is a placemaking event that illustrates how the community brings the MIS Area to life in the form of open activities through red jamborees, training of road race clubs. This activity is able to invite a minimum of 10 thousand road race lovers, with an audience of no less than 50 thousand in the MIS Area. (Pantura SF Vlog, 2022; and Java Explore, 2022).

Secondary activities carried out by the community to maintain their physical stamina are in the form of various sports, both individual and communal. This activity is carried out simultaneously every Saturday, Sunday, and other national holidays. The morning, around 06.00 just before sunrise, is the choice of exercise time, which is considered

the most conducive because the air is still clean and refreshing. Occupying an open area with a movement construction that is comfortable to move, they choose a free space with fresh air.

Secondary activities carried out by the community for recreation are in the form of games provided by night market vendors and culinary tours. This night market invites many children and teenagers who are offered every night. Various types of games are offered for children aged around 5 to 15 years. Ferris wheel, *kora kora*, merry-go-round, tong devil, *odong-odong*, etc., are the choice of game services that invite many children to teenagers. This night market occupies an open courtyard to the east/front of the stadium building.

Economic activity is the most significant spontaneous and organic activity in this region. These informal business opportunities are spread throughout the MIS Area to pick up sports and recreation players. The variety varies, namely, culinary, clothing, ornamental plants, household equipment, including tent rental sellers/services. Culinary activity dominates economic activity. The offer varies, ranging from local to international snacks. Local snacks include *pecel*, *kupat tahu*, *batagor*, *ginger wedang*, and so on. The international snacks are pizza, waffles, tokpokki, burgers, and many more, which are mostly in demand by millennials. Their service starts from 06.00 until the material stock runs out. The purchase model is also flexible, can take away or eat on the spot. Customers who dine on the spot use a sidewalk with a mat.

The distribution of this secondary activity is diffuse and organic. They fill the area according to the options and opportunities that exist. In principle, they occupy an area that is crowded by place makers, especially those who are doing sports and recreation. Figure 5 is a phenomenal distribution of placemaking events in the MIS Area, and the author observes this as the object of research. The distribution of activities is grouped into 3 nodes, A, B, and C, while Figures 6, 7, and 8 are maps of the behaviour that occurs at each node of the activity in question.



Figure 5. Three Nodes of Activities in MIS Area, (yellow line) refer to spontaneous market managed by MIS, (blue line) refer to spontaneous market managed by the local government

Source: Analysis Author, 2025

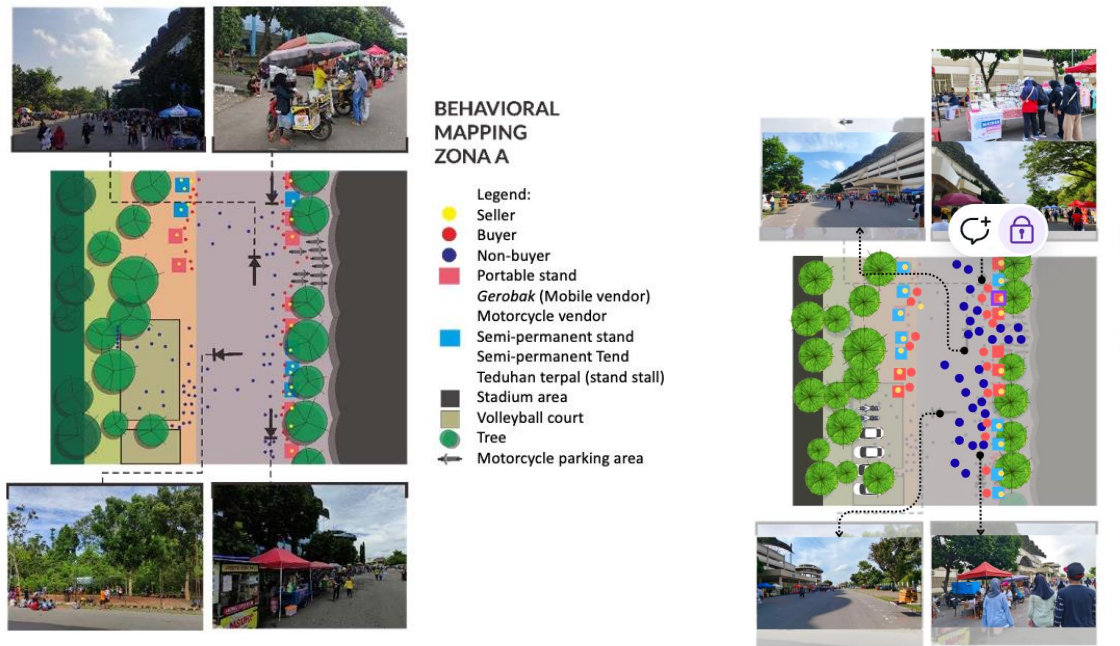


Figure 6. Activities of Nodes A in MIS Area
Source: Analysis Author & Ftriadi NI in 2022 & Author in 2025

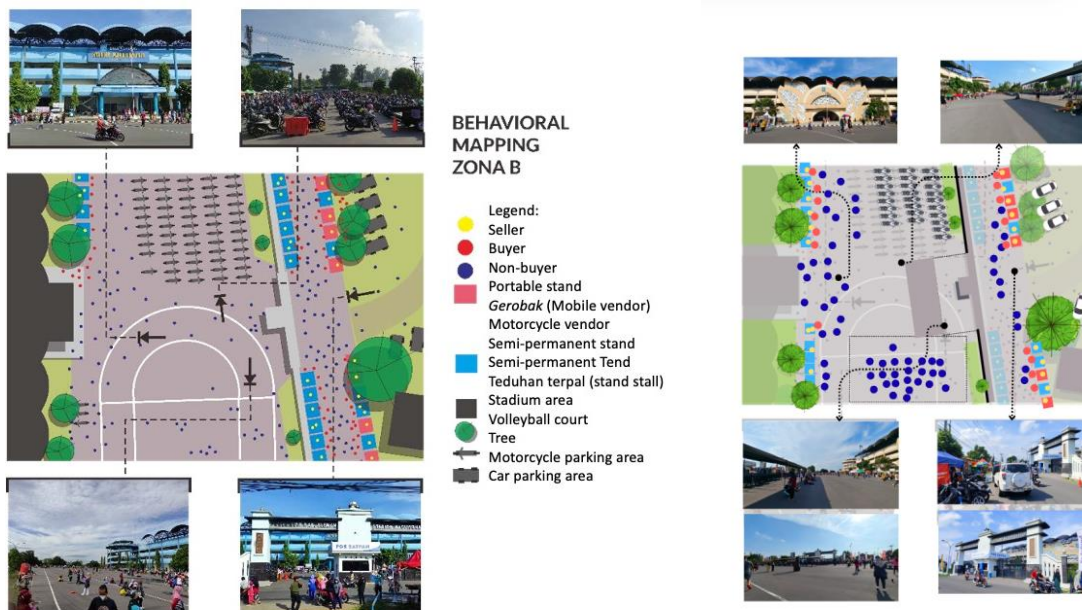


Figure 7. Activities of Nodes B in MIS Area
Source: Analysis Author & Ftriadi NI in 2022 & Author in 2025



Figure 8. Activities of Nodes C in MIS Area

Source: Analysis Author & Ftriadi NI in 2022 & Author in 2025

This study finds that the transformation of the MIS area is shaped not only by physical activities and facilities, but also by variations in non-physical dimensions that influence changes in spatial experiences. Community interpretations conducted through interviews provided additional findings related to personal stories and significant emerging social needs. This influences how individuals use, evaluate, and reinterpret MIS in their daily lives. The results of the in-depth interview are summarised in three important components of placemaking: people, procedures, and place. Table 3 shows the result of the deep interview related to the placemaking component.

Table 3. Interview Summary of respondent

Respondent*	PERSON (Interpretation & Experience)	PROCEDURES (Patterns & Routines)	PLACE (Spatial Behaviour & Zone Experience)
R1	Safe, inclusive, family-friendly; emotional relief and community bonding.	Morning walking, community events; adaptive family-oriented use.	Prefers Zone A; noise and movement conflicts in Zones B & C.
R2	Recreation + social interaction; values culinary variety and visual appeal.	Walking, food hunting, evening recreation; depends on affordable leisure.	Zone A comfortable; Zones B/C noisy, hot, and unsafe for pedestrians.
R3	Family recreation space; suitable for children; appreciates spaciousness.	Light exercise, strolling, weekend healing routines.	Zone A comfortable; vehicles create safety risks in play areas.
R4	Jogging + social strolling; appreciates vibrancy and activity mix.	Consistent jogging; food-buying linked to UMKM peak hours.	Zone A ideal; Zone C challenging due to vendor encroachment & conflicts.
R5	Emotionally attached through <i>senam massal</i> (dance); sees MIS as health-supporting.	Weekly dance, morning walks; organized community routines.	Shade in A/B but lacks seating; heat and odor limit comfort.
R6	Respecting MIS as a sports corridor, paying attention to welfare & safety	Running, watching football, routines influenced by the schedule of events	Zone A functional but formal; limited shade and weak CCTV coverage.

Finding in Person Variable

User interpretations indicate that MIS is perceived as a safe, open, and inclusive environment where people of all ages can engage in meaningful activities. Respondents described the space as offering support for physical and mental health, a place for children to return to outdoor play, and an opportunity for small businesses to restore their livelihoods. Based on these user experiences, MIS serves not only as a sports facility but also as a daily social environment that supports emotional well-being and community connections.

Finding in Procedures Variable

Daily routines demonstrate a consistent pattern of activity during the busy morning and evening hours. Jogging, mass exercise, leisurely food walks (*kulineran*), and informal selling create a repetitive rhythm that energises the area. These routines emerge in response to the affordable recreation, safe open-air gatherings, and flexible economic opportunities, and demonstrate how the community actively shapes space through self-organised practices.

Finding in Place Variable

Spatial analysis of zones A, B, and C shows how each area supports different types of activities. Zone A is considered the most comfortable place for exercise and family use; Zone B functions as a transitional node combining movement and commerce; and Zone C demonstrates its function as a social corridor characterised by walking and informal trading venues. Users interpret these spaces based on comfort, accessibility, protection, and security, explaining why placemaking occurs naturally and why certain locations consistently become centres of activity.

Overall, the findings in this study indicate that the power of place in the MIS area does not only arise from its physical form, but also arises from the interaction of interpretation, routine, and adaptive reuse. Non-physical elements, such as emotions, memories, meanings and social needs play a central role in the formation of MIS as a resilient, dynamic, and widely accepted public space. This is illustrated in Figure 9, showing the results of interviews that show the interpretation of zones filled with various activities that emerge from primary, secondary dan tertiary activities.

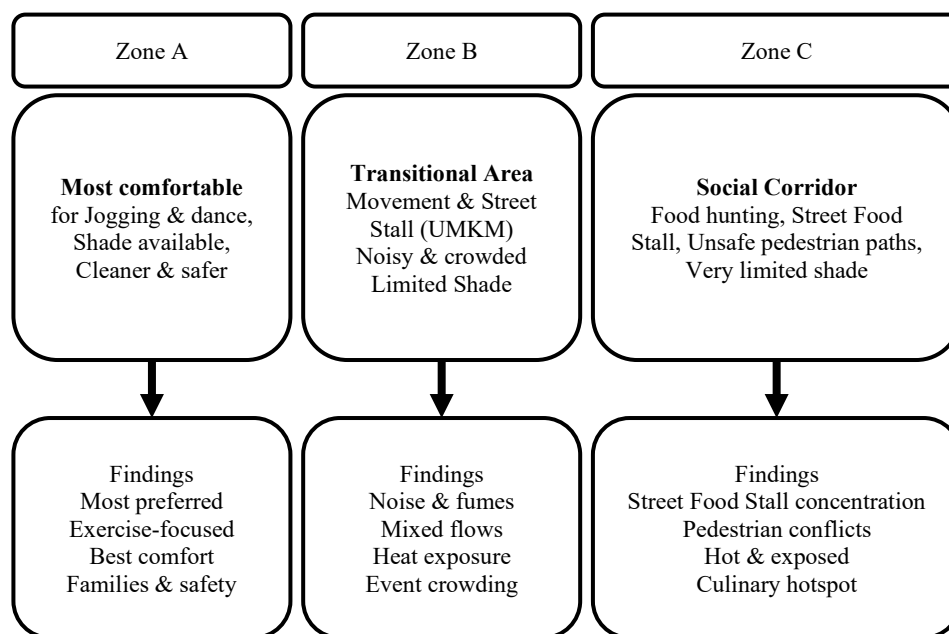


Figure 9. Summary of Zone's interpretation

Source: Analysis Author, 2025

2. Discussion

Periodic observations from 2022 and 2025, along with interpretations from in-depth interviews, show that the MIS area has transformed into a dynamic public environment. Formal and informal activities intersect. For three years, the area has consistently attracted visitors for morning exercise, afternoon recreation, selling, and weekend gatherings, creating a consistent rhythm of use and enhancing the spatial vibrancy of the MIS area. Direct observations and interviews indicate that MIS has become a social landscape, fostering secondary and tertiary activities. It also supports primary activities like a Football Match. It's connecting people with what they need, like

food and recreation areas. Along with the variety of supporting activities, various interactions arise from movement, commerce, and recreation, including mental health. This highlights the emerging spatial vibrancy, along with the need for strategic spatial management.

The spontaneous activities that grow organically in the open space of the MIS Area, although welcomed very positively by the surrounding community and Yogyakarta Special Province in general, still require attention and direction in order to minimise negative impacts. Activities created both primary and secondary have consequences for spatial quality. Informal business activities in the form of on-site culinary pose a risk to the comfort and safety of visitors. Burnt culinary, fried on the spot, etc., are types of snacks that are processed on the spot with a momentary process that uses fuel in an open area. The consequence that arises is hot smoke, which often disturbs the comfort of visitors. Moreover, the use of fuel (gas cylinders), which are placed openly in the road area, often poses a threat to the safety and security of visitors, especially for children who are agile in moving. Indications of this negative impact of the course need systemic regulation and control from the side of spatial planning. Negative impacts are also indicated when primary activities in open spaces are carried out. The road race exercise that uses tens or even hundreds of motorised vehicles creates very polluting smoke and noise. This requires the handling of spatial planning, especially landscapes that can absorb pollution. Vegetation selection and placement in open areas requires consideration in the design realm.

Based on the problems indicated, the possible direction of design in the regional realm requires a strategic concept to maximise potential and minimise negative impacts. The potential for both primary and secondary activities that succeed in reviving the MIS Area is expected to be included in future land use development. This means that the strategic design of the MIS Area as a tourism SEZ (Special Economic Zone) is expected to allocate land use zones for sports activities that support community health, recreation for children and adolescents, the informal sector of trade and services, both culinary, clothing, and hobbies. The selection of vegetation in the landscape concept is expected not only to support visual aesthetics but also to function towards the thermal comfort of the activity actors. The selection of vegetation with a wide and attractive theme, for example, is a functional choice to provide shade for the perpetrators of informal sector activities, both sellers and customers. Shrub vegetation with sharp colour separation may be considered as a landscape filler to absorb pollution and add beauty, so as to provide positive energy for recreational actors. Broadly speaking, the nodes map for the strategic recommendation through research findings in the MIS Area as a placemaking-based Tourism SEZ is illustrated in Figure 10.



Figure 10. The Nodes Map for the Strategic Recommendation Through Research Finding

Source: Author, 2025

Conclusion

The findings of this study indicate that community-based activities, particularly informal ones, play a central role in the revitalisation of the MIS area. These informal activities have transformed previously underutilised and vulnerable spaces into vibrant social environments that support daily activities and economic resilience.

The evidence that supports daily life economic resilience. The evidence from observations and interviews shows that these actors form the core users who sustain the area's vitality, especially during the post-pandemic recovery period.

In relation to future development directions, including the potential designation of MIS as a Tourism SEZ oriented toward MICE, amusement attractions, and sports tourism, the study identifies three considerations emerging from the empirical findings.

First, the area's main activity is football. This sport is communal in nature, which demands three main factors, namely sportsmanship, honesty, and fairness of actors, both players and other stakeholders. These three factors indicate the consequences of involving the level of the activity actor. Those who are currently actively involved in reviving the region are lower-level communities/communities engaged in the informal sector, so that their existence in the future development of the region needs to be considered.

Second, the consideration of involving informal communities is related to the level of logistics that is relatively affordable for the sports fan community (especially football), which is dominated by the lower classes.

Third, the allocation of amusement parks is expected to be oriented to the urban vulnerable. In this case, children's playgrounds, gymnasiums for the elderly, pregnant women, and people with disabilities are a priority space for them, both indoor and outdoor. They are the initiators of today's regional life.

This research still needs to explore further in-depth research, especially on the typology and variation of users involved in the activities found. The role of other spontaneously occurring public spaces is also necessary as a comparison within the diversity of spaces of the same type under other spatial problem conditions.

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