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ESTABLISHING ELEMENTS OF A GOOD CITY PLANNING: AN ANALYSIS OF CITY PLANNING THEORIES

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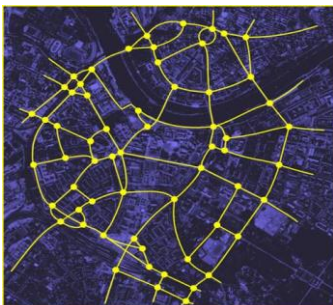
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Graphical Abstract

Abstract

Urban theory is fragmented. The relation of human purposeful activity (interaction) and city form is a major feature. However, some attention given to commentator's theory such as Jane Jacobs, Kevin Lynch and Alan Jacobs and Donald Appleyard in their taught toward city planning, in which the theories that explain the city planning's idea are reviewed. This study investigates comparison of ideology and theory of city planning. In order to search for the city planning theory, a qualitative method research which involves content analysis is the most suitable approach to be employed in this study. By the end of the research, this study will reveal the component of good city planning. This research will develop theoretical of city planning framework basis for making recommendation towards enhancement of city planning form. It is suggested a good city planning element by combining the theories to improve the quality of living in the city.

Keywords: Good city form, city planning, good city planning, urban theory, planning theory

Abstrak

Teori bandar sentiasa berubah-ubah. Perhubungan antara aktiviti manusia (interaksi) dan pembentukan bandar adalah adalah suatu ciri yang penting. Walau bagaimanapun, perhatian diberikan kepada pengulas teori seperti Jane Jacobs, Kevin Lynch dan Alan Jacobs dan Donald Appleyard berkaitan fahaman mereka terhadap perancangan bandar, sekaligus menjelaskan teori perancanagn bandar disamping mengkaji semula teori-teori tersebut. Kajian ini menyiasat perbandingan ideologi dan teori perancangan bandar. Dalam usaha untuk mencari teori perancangan bandar, penyelidikan kaedah kualitatif yang melibatkan analisis kandungan adalah pendekatan yang paling sesuai untuk digunakan dalam kajian ini. Di akhir kajian, komponen perancangan bandar yang baik perlu didedahkan. Kajian ini akan membangunkan teori rangka kerja asas perancangan bandar untuk memberi cadangan ke arah penambahbaikan bentuk perancangan bandar. Mencadangkan elemen perancangan bandar yang baik dengan menggabungkan teori bagi meningkatkan kualiti hidup di bandar.

Kata kunci: Pembentukan bandar yang baik, perancangan bandar, teori bandar, teori perancangan

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Cities are massive laboratories of trial and error, failure and success in city building and city design.

Instead of learning from cities as well as forming and testing their theories in this laboratory, planning practitioners and teachers in the discipline have ignored the factors which result in successfulness or

unsuccessfulness and the factors that lead to each result.

Besides, what indeed is the urban designer's substantive concern especially for those inspired by architectural education, the urban designer's task is the shaping of human settlements' physical features at scales larger than a single building or a single plot of land[1]. He or she does so through manipulation of the concrete elements of distance, material, scale, land area, road alignment, building style, and numerous other items that make up for built environment.

The questions are what the need to be considered as a good criteria framework to be a good city planning?

Nowadays, any debates that involved rambling discourses on validity without ever coming to grips with what the term means or how it can be used productively. Perhaps authorities, planners, architects, landscape architects, designers or others related in this field need to organizing frameworks and concerns about city planning[2]. The debate and criticism towards the performance of built environment purposes to set some framework of good urbanity which can be used as a criterion to enable the urban designers in rebuilding the city better and interestingly.

2.0 FRAMEWORKS OF THEORIES

It is the most important principle with excellent thoughtful of preferred known urban design or urban planning commentators such as Jane Jacobs, Kevin Lynch and Donald Appleyard. However, all are considered classic works that are still applicable and currently used [3]

2.1 Jane Jacobs

Jane Jacobs was a community activist when her ideas occurred of urban renewal, superblocks and skyscrapers in 1961[4]. Jacobs's critics the modern urban planning which attack on the principles and aims that have shaped modern, orthodox city planning and rebuilding.

She believed that luxury housing project can be one of reason the sacking of cities compared with low income project projects become worse center of delinquency, vandalism and general social hopeless than slums must be replaced.

Besides, Jacobs suggested streets, segregating motor traffic onto expressways and sidewalks for public areas of a city[5]. Thus, she believed that a well-used street and sidewalks is safer than a park.

Jane Jacobs defined the some necessary physical conditions for dynamic urban life such:

1.   Multifunction neighborhood district, and encourage as many of its internal parts as possible, necessity serve is more than one primary function. Hence, Jacobs stated that every day in social life must have trust among neighbors as well as makes room for the safety of urban inhabitants.

2.   For easy public use and encourage them to walk, the building block must be short and give opportunities to turn corners must be frequent.

3.   The district must socialize and mingle buildings that various level of age and conditions including a good proportion of old ones so that they vary in the boost economic [4].

4.   Appropriate dense concentration of people is a must, for anything purposes they can be there. This includes dense concentration in the case of people who are there because of residence. Jacobs was supports the diversity and public involvement in community.

2.2 Donald Appleyard and Alan Jacobs

Donald Appleyard and Alan Jacobs were focused about the practices of city form and rebuilding. The enormous area developed by privet and public developer such high rise building, separation of people, path and car, superblocks, separation of housing from streets and central common space and ownership land (Don Mitchell, 1995). Hence, the place becomes meaningless if pedestrians never feel variety of naturalness in urban patterns even though big developments can easy see from distance or moving car.

Since 1987, Alan Jacobs and Donald Appleyard were brainstorming and work together to complete 'Towards a New Urban Design Manifesto'. The idea that they distill out is a vital of urban physical characteristics, thus they suggested a number of structural qualities for good urban environment [6]. Based on Alan Jacobs and Donald Appleyard ideas, it will simply that there are five main of physical characteristics that need be adapt and practices for positive urban life [6].

1.   Good environments must be accessible to all. A livability neighborhoods and streets is one of good urban environment characteristics. While housing condition must including clean air, light, spaces, safe and calm to ensure the people healthy. A city must be a someplace that people can live in comfort. People nowadays seriously seek for their privacy, sleep, eat, relax and restore themselves. Because of that, well manage environment will avoid danger, pollution, noise and other unwelcome interruptions to enhance quality of life.

2.   Nowadays, the urban environment is increasingly by the large scale developers and public agencies. Alan Jacobs and Donald Appleyard suggested a minimum density of development and severity of land use. They suggested 15 houses per acre and up to 48 houses per acre. It because, massive density and unplanned

development can make people feel less sense of control over their home, neighborhood and cities.

3.   People must feel that environment is belonging to them either individually or collectively, that would make them care and responsible whether they own it or not. The good urban environment must have some activities and encourage people to become involved and precise themselves and act on it.

4.   People should have access to another housing and job choices, at another level they should find the city with different cultural experiences and to explore the new environment. The good public space enhances walkway areas' needs; such as no public life can take place towards people where they are still used a car. Besides, sidewalks or paths in the city become a generator for livable places.

5.   Good urban environments are more suitable and compatible with many separate, separate building with multipart arrangements and make relationships compare than huge buildings or superblocks. Besides that, smaller buildings have more entrances which placed on the public space and thus a livelier public environment.

2.3 Kevin Lynch

[7] Kevin Lynch comes out with 'rules' for 'interrelation of human purpose and city form' based on their Theory of Good City Form, 198. Based on in his book 'good city form', it can be concise that the requirements to be a good city in five points such as vitality, sense, fit, access, and control[7]. They are called performance dimension. Performance dimension can shortly summarize that good city is *vital*, that mean was focusing on safe and consonant; it is also *sensible* which is identifiable, organized, compatible, transparent, readable and significant; it is well *fitted* which that firm, manipulated, and resilient; it is *accessible* which is diverse, equitable, and locally controllable; and it is well *controlled* which consistent, certain and accountable. [2] Good city performance can be revealed by its ability of providing biological, psychological, social and cultural requirements to its surroundings. Once these been specified, it might be made offering that city is a good. [8]
  Kevin Lynch defined the Legibility of the cityscape as the ease with which its parts can be recognized and organized into a coherent pattern [9], such a city where people can ease imagine and understand the pattern and layout of cities. Hence, he defined imageability as the feature of a physical object which can view as vivid image. He concluded that a highly imageable city would be well designed, contains very separate parts and would be easily recognizable to the common surrounding areas.[10] So, understanding the legibility and imageability are

important required issues in the urban environment. He stresses out the elements of legibility as follows:

1.   Paths: The channels along which the user customarily, occasionally, or potentially moves such as streets, walkways, transit lines, canals and railroads. According to Lynch, the orientation problems occur from weak paths which cause by splitting and number of small changes along the pathway.
2.   Edges: The linear elements considered as paths by the user. They are borders between two phases, linear breaks in continuously by shores, rail road cuts, boundaries of development and walls.
3.   Districts: An areas with perceived internal homogeneity are medium-to-large sections of the city which that user mentally enters 'inside of,' and which are recognizable as easy identifying character such as center, midtown, town residential areas, industrial areas, train yards, suburbs and study area.
4.   Landmarks: As a type of point-reference, but in this case basically user does not enter within them, they are external. They are usually a rather simply defined physical object which makes one orient oneself.
5.   Nodes: The strategic spots or focus point in a city into which user can enter. The nodes may be concentrations, which gain their importance from being the condensation of some use or physical character, as a street-corner hangout or an enclosed square. And these elements when placed in good form, they increase the human ability to see and remember patterns, and it is these patterns that make it easier to learn.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

This study analyses some theories regarding city planning. Hence, city planning theory will be identifying and comparing the strengths and weakness of the theory based on authors' theory and ideas. Based on content analysis, several good city planning theory are highlighted at the end of the study.

4.0 ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Content analyses are used to determine the strength and weakness of the theories and ideas.

Table 1 Comparison of the theory

THEORY	STRENGTH	WEAKNESS
Jane Jacobs	Community involvement, Encourage people to use sidewalk, Support diversity and community in city.	Physically city form, Environment, Health.
Donald	Minimum density,	Physically city

THEORY	STRENGTH	WEAKNESS
Appleyard and Alan Jacobs	Health people condition in community, Activity among community, Good public space, Good environment for community, Interaction.	form.
Kevin Lynch	Physically of city, Easy for people understands and recognized the city (imagable and legibility).	Activity and community involvement, Environment, Open space.

For this study, based on Table 1, researcher found that strength theory and ideas by Jane Jacobs are more to encourage people involvement in community and also encourage people to use sidewalk. Thus, she supports the diversity in city community. Besides, this theory has some weaknesses such physically city form, environment and health. The weakness of this theory can improve if Jane Jacobs give attention on physically of the city such the paths pattern and design of the city. It is not only being more systematic but also can enhance safety, noise, healthy, good environment and others that contribute a batter quality of life in community. Kevin Lynch believed that orientation problems happen from weak paths design.

Comparison of strength and weakness in Donald Appleyard and Alan Jacobs theory and ideas, they were focused on active activities and interaction of people in community, thus control the density to avoid compact city. They also encourage participation of community, as same idea with Jane Jacob but they more aware about health of their community such sun, clean air, less pollution and others. The similarity of weaknesses with Jane Jacobs is a lack of attention on physical.

This study identified that the theory of Kevin Lynch is more physically. He aware the formation of city and concerned toward people understand the layout of their city, thus make easy imageable. But the weakness of this theory is lack of sense of community, interaction and neighborhood in city.

It can be simplified based on the study which several points can be highlighted as an element referring to be a good city planning;

1. **Community life**
   Nowadays, the need in good city is participation among citizens in community and public life. The neighborhood movement can change their closed private lives into active participation in communities. The public environment must be open to all members of community. No one should be excluded.

2. **Sense and identity of place**
   To give a meaningful sense and identity of place, urban development must reveal the elements that have characteristic, for example the building façade, design which can be a landmark of the place. It also makes people feel belongs to the place. Identifiable environment should include features expression of history, culture and heritage through of new development, thus create a distance that allows to pedestrians exploration to heritage.

3. **Livability**
   The condition of surrounding environment was defined our comfort's life. Well managed environment was included privacy, quality time, sleep, eat and others.

4. **Sidewalk of pedestrian**
   Sidewalks separated from the roadway are the preferred accommodation for pedestrians. Hence, sidewalks provide many benefits including safety, mobility, and healthier communities. Limiting building height in four or five stories makes reasonable density. Thus, encourage people to use sidewalk and also provide safety.

5. **Built environment connection**
   The built environment involves public and private spaces. Neighboring buildings and open spaces should be defined as built environment and places, included interior and exterior building. So, many separate building are helpful for legibility compared to block of building.

6. **Density size**
   Interaction and integration people in community required mixed use, pedestrian realm, accessibility because of city growth, increase of population and people movement to seek their need.

7. **Environment**
   Everybody must access a good environment. The role and public concern are important to balance our environment from pollution by encourage maintaining responsibility and sustaining of localism.

5.0 CONCLUSION

This paper is used to investigate comparison of ideology and theory of city planning. The conclusions of this study are as follow:

1. Based on the content analysis, it can be concluded that all theory which Donald Appleyard and Alan Jacobs, Jane Jacobs

and Kevin Lynch have their own expertise and yet still relevant in current but need some improvement. As a stated above in analysis, there are 7 element that researcher highlighted:

    i.   Community life
    ii.   Sense and identity of place
    iii.   Livability
    iv.   Sidewalk of pedestrian
    v.   Built environment connection
    vi.   Density size
    vii.   Environment

2. In addition, researcher not refuse that all element of each theory are strong theory, but if all theory will combine and do some refreshment and improvement, the great urban theory will be present.

3. Therefore, the role of planner, architect, decision maker and those related in built environment will discuss how to improve our city and living, especially in Malaysia.

4. A further study on the current issues such as affordable housing, traffic congestion, safety and social problems will be conducted to improve the quality of living in the city.

Acknowledgement

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