

## Menteng Park as an Urban Heritage

*Exploring Users' Cognitive and Affective Perceptions as Local Wisdom*

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### Abstract

#### Keywords:

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Cognitive Image; Local  
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Urban heritage extends beyond physical structures, encompassing collective memory, traditions, and everyday practices shaped by local wisdom. Rapid modernization threatens these intangible values in Jakarta, especially in historic districts like Menteng. The transformation of Menteng Park illustrates how cultural memory and identity can erode when user perceptions are overlooked. This study examines how users' cognitive and affective perceptions reflect and preserve intangible heritage, positioning Menteng Park as a dynamic urban space shaped by community knowledge. Findings show that perceptions differ by age: young adults focus on functionality, middle-aged adults on social interaction, and older adults on inclusiveness and comfort. However, all groups share a spatial understanding anchored in physical features and appreciate the park's tranquil atmosphere. These insights highlight the park's dual role as a multifunctional recreational area and a repository of living heritage. Users transmit local wisdom through intergenerational interaction, spatial familiarity, and environmental awareness. Their experiences reinforce the cultural significance of Menteng Park within Jakarta's evolving urban landscape, emphasizing the importance of perceptual and emotional engagement in sustaining urban heritage.

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## 1. Introduction

Urban environments are not merely physical settings but are spaces where layers of meaning accumulate over time through collective practices, traditions, and memories. Cities are dynamic entities that store and transmit histories while continuously evolving. They can be understood as forms of living heritage, where historical sites, landscapes, and public spaces are interwoven with layers of meaning reflecting everyday practices, local traditions, and community histories (Evans & Willcocks, 2023; Ginzarly et al., 2024).

Local wisdom refers to knowledge, norms, and practices passed down through generations to help communities face life's challenges. It plays an important role in

environmental management as a culturally embedded form of sustainability. According to Wahyuni and Hasanah (2016), in Marlina et al. (2020), local wisdom represents environmental awareness rooted in social life, connecting people to their surroundings. Rini et al. (2024) define it as all knowledge and practices developed by local communities to meet daily needs. It is dynamic rather than static, shaped by cultural and social bonds within communities (Putri et al., 2019). Embedded in everyday life, local wisdom supports environmental preservation, reduces harmful impacts on nature, and safeguards cultural values. It also promotes community participation in urban development and environmental planning, ensuring decisions meet local needs (Lestari et al., 2024). Thus, local wisdom plays a central role in sustaining community values and guiding strategies for sustainable urban development (Sibarani, 2018).

The identity of a city is deeply influenced by how its inhabitants interpret, appreciate, and attribute meaning to its elements (Ernawati, 2011). When individuals and communities develop emotional and symbolic attachments to a place, meaning-making becomes essential in preserving cultural heritage. This emotional attachment contributes to cultural value by continually constructing significance and identity (Bonacchi et al., 2023). In this context, visual perception is therefore crucial for understanding how people cognitively and affectively relate to urban environments (Amini & Adibzadeh, 2020; Deng et al., 2021).

Despite its importance, cognitive and affective dimensions are often overlooked in urban planning and heritage preservation, especially in rapidly modernizing cities like Jakarta. The drive for modernization has led to significant transformations of public spaces, frequently at the expense of historical continuity and cultural identity. Budiyantri (2019) argues that the absence of policies or regulatory frameworks protecting historical parks and green open spaces has degraded or erased their symbolic and historical functions. As a result, spaces once rich in meaning risk detachment from the social narratives and collective memories that once defined them.

Menteng is a historically significant urban area in Jakarta that was initially developed based on the Garden City concept. This planning model emphasized harmony between built structures and nature, characterized by leafy streets, green front yards, low fences, and communal parks intended to support public well-being and social life. However, modern development pressures have increasingly altered the character of the district. In several parts of Menteng, the Garden City vision has diminished alongside the loss of urban parks that once reinforced its identity (Darmawati & Sumadio, 2020). Moreover, adding new features inconsistent with the area's original character has diluted these parks' distinctiveness. Such changes risk erasing intangible heritage such as cultural values, collective memory, and the lived social experiences embedded within these spaces (Widjaja, 2023). If left unaddressed, this gradual erosion may weaken individuals' attachment to endangered public spaces and undermine the historical and cultural identity they embody. Johnston (1992) The first introduction of the concept of social value in heritage conservation emphasized the enduring role of place attachment in sustaining the cultural significance of public spaces.

Menteng Park exemplifies this tension. Initially built in the early 20th century as Menteng Stadium, the site was officially designated a cultural heritage landmark in 1975. However, in 2004, it was redeveloped into a modern urban park, a transformation that, while revitalizing the space as a public facility, also sparked public controversy and criticism. The renovation was seen by many as a symbolic erasure of the site's historic identity, particularly its strong associations with Jakarta's sports history and the collective

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memory of local communities (Budiyanti, 2019). Such transformations, though aesthetically appealing, can risk diminishing the “invisible” cultural values of urban spaces, such as shared identity, memory, and emotional connection

Given these concerns, preserving public space as urban heritage should not be limited to maintaining its physical form. It also requires a deeper understanding of how communities perceive, experience, and assign meaning to these spaces. Integrating cognitive and affective perception into the evaluation of cultural heritage is thus essential. This approach enables a more holistic understanding of how users physically, emotionally, and symbolically interact with space.

This study adopts a qualitative case study approach using visual illustration methods to explore users' perceptions of Menteng Park. It aims to uncover the cognitive image, how individuals spatially understand the park, and the affective image and how they emotionally relate to it. By analyzing these perceptions across different age groups, the research offers insights into how design changes and spatial organization influence the park's identity and the attachment users develop toward it. The findings of this study contribute to growing scholarship that emphasizes the importance of user-centered and emotionally aware approaches to urban heritage preservation. As cities evolve, safeguarding public spaces' physical and intangible heritage becomes increasingly vital. Urban planners and policymakers can ensure that modernization does not erase the qualities that make public spaces meaningful by prioritizing community perception, especially concerning collective experience, identity, and emotion. In doing so, heritage preservation can become more integrated with the lived realities of urban life, while strengthening the cultural vitality and livability of the city.

## **2. Literature review**

Local wisdom refers to ideas, concepts, or perceptions often characterized by prudence, cultural insight, and positive values, which are understood and practiced by the local community. Communication and shared values within a community are essential in guiding successful urban development and serve as a culturally rooted framework for planning strategies. Local wisdom represents a way of life developed by a particular community (Windah et al., 2022). The collectively constructed knowledge and ideology within this community play a crucial role in formulating development solutions. These, in turn, foster a sense of collective commitment to the conservation of urban heritage (Abdurahiman et al., 2022).

Visual perception is crucial for expressing cultural identity and public appreciation in urban heritage. It helps preserve symbolic values and lived experiences in urban heritage landscapes (Peng et al., 2025). Public spaces support daily social activities and become a living component of cultural heritage (Peña Pereda et al., 2024). People's visual perception of public spaces is strongly associated with individual spatial experiences, including movement, spatial aesthetics, and the readability of spatial components (Qi et al., 2024). The affective and cognitive processes involving elements in public spaces reflect users' preferences for individual and social activities, highlighting how users evaluate the usability and functionality of those spaces (Aguila et al., 2019). The affective dimension refers to individuals' emotional responses toward a place and the meanings they attach to it (Deng et al., 2021; Mele et al., 2021).

Humans understand their environment through subjective experiences, which are represented through their cognitive images. A cognitive image is a mental representation

of spatial objects formed through specific interactions with the physical environment or during spatial problem-solving (Manrique-Sancho et al., 2018). These images are shaped by cognitive processes that result in environmental assessments reflecting the individual's overall emotional response (Amini & Adibzadeh, 2020). The elements expressed by individuals reflect their behavior and serve as indicators of the primary characteristics of a place from the individual's perspective (Cai et al., 2021).

Visual perception of public spaces is inherently subjective. The emphasis on natural elements often represents the visual preferences of individuals, promoting more intensive space usage and contributing to the formation of place identity (Qi et al., 2024). Differences in cultural background and lifestyle lead to diverse interpretations of aesthetics and spatial preferences, shaping distinct patterns of public space use and spatial element prioritization (Alajmi & Hu, 2020). Visual perception is also age-dependent. For instance, playgrounds, pavilions, and central gathering areas are more important to older adults. At the same time, youth often value elements like topography, rivers, landscapes, and walkways (Zhang et al., 2022).

Several studies also reveal that individuals' visual perceptions are aligned with their specific needs: young users emphasize park features that support active engagement (Dai et al., 2022), adults tend to value green spaces that promote emotional well-being (Pratiwi et al., 2019), and older adults prioritize areas that support social interaction (Yung et al., 2017). Building on these perspectives, this study seeks to examine both the cognitive image, how individuals spatially perceive and understand the park, and the affective image, how they emotionally connect with it. By comparing these perceptions across different age groups, the research aims to reveal how variations in visual perceptions and spatial experience influence place identity and the attachment formed toward Menteng Park.

### **3. Methods**

This research adopts an inductive qualitative approach with a case study focus on Menteng Park, Jakarta. Data collection was conducted using visual illustrations. Participants were asked to express their cognitive images of the park by drawing. They were encouraged to depict their favorite places, frequently visited areas, memorable features, or routine activities within the park. Each participant was also asked to provide a brief written explanation, comprising several sentences or keywords, describing what they drew and why those elements were significant to them. These explanations complemented the visual data by providing emotional context and personal meaning, thereby facilitating the interpretation of the affective image.

Once collected, the illustrations were digitized for systematic analysis. The drawings were coded based on frequently depicted elements, and each code was grouped into broader categories according to thematic similarities. To ensure coding reliability, the coder conducted verification steps such as reviewing each drawing and written explanation multiple times, cross-checking the assignment of codes and categories, and reflecting on ambiguous cases to maintain consistency. Each drawing was then assigned a binary label (1 or 0) for each category, representing the presence (1) or absence (0) of that category. These binary labels were analyzed using RStudio software to calculate and compare the distribution percentages of cognitive images across different age groups.

Meanwhile, the affective image analysis was conducted using NVivo. The participants' written explanations were coded according to recurring words, phrases, or expressions, and the coding process was verified by repeated review and careful reflection

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to ensure consistency and accuracy. Codes that shared similar meanings or associations were then grouped into categories, which revealed various affective image themes described by different age groups. Lastly, a comparative approach was employed to demonstrate the consistency and differences in the concepts that emerged from the cognitive and affective datasets. The results were presented based on this comparison. The results from both cognitive and affective analyses were then integrated to explain the participants' overall perceptions that shape Menteng Park as urban heritage.



*Figure 1.* Location of Menteng Park (Author's Digitalized Map, 2025)

The research subjects were selected using a non-probability sampling technique, specifically quota sampling, which involves deliberately selecting subjects based on their presence at a particular time, with certain qualities or quotas that can reflect the phenomenon under study (Akkaş & Meydan, 2024). The selected category was age, with participants consisting of Menteng Park users aged 17 to 65 who were in the park at the time of data collection. To facilitate comparative analysis, the participants were divided into three distinct age subcategories: young adults (17–29 years), middle-aged adults (30–49 years), and older adults (50–65 years). Each age group was equally represented, with 20 participants assigned to each subcategory, resulting in 60 respondents.

#### 4. Results and Discussion

This study involved 60 participants at Menteng Park, with a majority being female. Based on demographic findings, most participants were active park users who visited the park regularly. The most common visit frequency was 2–3 times per week, indicating a consistent engagement with the space. This regular use suggests that Menteng Park is an important daily or weekly destination for recreation and social interaction. Despite this high frequency of visits, only 20% of participants reported being members of a specific community or organized group, indicating that most visits were individual or informal.

Table 1. Demographics Statistics of Participants

Category	Percentage (%)	Category	Percentage (%)		
Gender	Men	46.7	Time spent in the park	<30 minutes	15
	Women	53.3		30 minutes - 1 hour	25
Mode of transportation to the Park	Walking	6.7		1 - 2 hours	38.3
	Car	15	>2 hours	21.7	
	Motorcycle	48.3	Park visit companionship	Alone	16.7
	Public transportation	28.3		Family	31.7
Frequency of visits	Everyday	5		Community	0
	2-3 times a week	33.3	Friend	45	
	Once a week	25	Partner	6.7	
	2-3 times a month	23.3	Part of the community	Yes	20
	Once a month	10		No	80
Rarely	3.3				

Cognitive Image

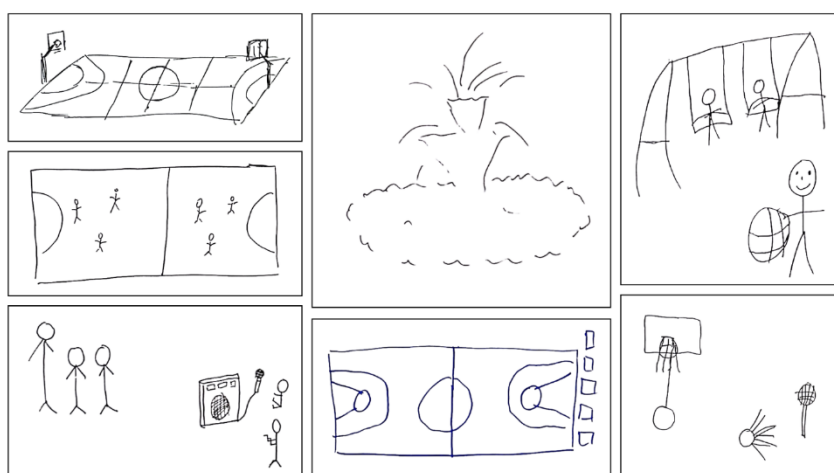


Figure 2. Some of the participants' drawings (Author, 2025)

Table 2. Frequency and Percentage of Drawing Elements by Participants

Category	Drawing elements (most to least)	Frequency and Percentage (%)							
		Young Adults		Middle-aged Adults		Older Adults		All age	
		Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Park features	Field, swing, fountain, bench, basketball hoop, slide, basketball court,	18	37,5 %	17	29,82 %	26	37,14 %	61	34,86 %

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Category	Drawing elements (most to least)	Frequency and Percentage (%)							
		Young Adults		Middle-aged Adults		Older Adults		All age	
		Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
	pathway, light, soccer field, goalpost								
Living beings	Human, tree, adults with children, cat, shrub, grass	10	20,83 %	21	36,84 %	20	28,57 %	51	29,14 %
Activity	Basketball, playing basketball, roller skates, people dancing, swinging, soccer, karate, badminton, dance, playing soccer, roller skating, gym, bicycle	16	33,33 %	13	22,81 %	10	14,29 %	39	22,29 %
Surrounding & Spatial Organization	Spatial organization, street vendors, parking building, mosque	4	8,33 %	5	8,77 %	12	17,14 %	21	12 %
Natural elements	Cloud, sun	-	-	1	1,75 %	2	2,86 %	3	1,71 %

Based on the results of the analysis conducted using RStudio software on image visualization data from each age category, it was found that there were significant variations in the elements displayed in the participants' cognitive images. The analysis showed that the element category most frequently depicted by the young and older adults was "park features", with percentages of 37.5% and 37.14%, respectively (Table 2). Meanwhile, the middle-aged adults group most often depicted elements of "living beings" in the park, such as "human", "tree", "adults and children", with a percentage of 36.84%

(Table 2). On the other hand, the least common category of elements that appeared in the drawings was “natural elements”. For the middle-aged and older adult groups, the “natural elements” percentage was only 1.75% and 2.86%, respectively. Meanwhile, in the young adults, “natural elements” did not appear in the analyzed images, making it the category with the lowest frequency in that age group.

Each age group differed in the prominence of certain elements when asked to describe Menteng Park based on their experiences. The cognitively drawn elements reflected participants' spatial experiences and emotional engagement with the public spaces they used. Individuals' selection of visual elements to represent a space reflects their subjective perception of its defining characteristics, shaped by personal needs, emotional engagement, and spatial experiences. These perceptions are further influenced by cultural background, lifestyle, social values, and patterns of space use, which vary across age groups (Alajmi & Hu, 2020; Cai et al., 2021). For young adults, the formation of a cognitive image of Menteng Park places more emphasis on the functional and practical aspects of space, for example, how the park can support physical activities such as sports or gathering with peers. Meanwhile, middle-aged adults tend to assess parks from a relational point of view, namely the extent to which the park supports social interaction, family activities, or a comfortable atmosphere for conversation. In contrast, older adults have similar perceptions to young adults, where “park features” are dominant because they play an important role in supporting personal activities.

While there were differences in the dominance of the element categories described, there were also similarities in perceptions among certain age groups. Young and older adults alike consider “park features” to be the most important element of Menteng Park. This similarity confirms that although the cognitive image formed by each age group is generally different, some elements have a collective perception and are of common concern. This finding aligns with Ginzarly et al. (2024), which indicates that certain aspects of public space can have shared values recognized across age groups, particularly those that play a crucial role in supporting community activities.

The provision of diverse sports and recreational facilities is the most important factor and reflects public aspirations regarding the role and services of urban parks (Wan et al., 2020). This insight aligns with the present study's findings, which showed that “park features” were the most dominant category in forming all participants' cognitive images of Menteng Park, with an overall percentage of 34.86% (Table 2). Elements such as “fields”, “swings”, “fountains”, “benches”, “basketball hoops”, “slides”, “soccer fields”, “paths”, “park lights”, and “goal posts” often appeared in the images. The presence of these elements illustrates how parks are not only judged by their beauty or vegetation, but by their capacity to support various forms of activity, both individual and collective. The spatial character of Menteng Park, which is multifunctional and supports a diversity of community activities, is a significant factor in the formation of cognitive images by visitors of various age groups (fig. 3).

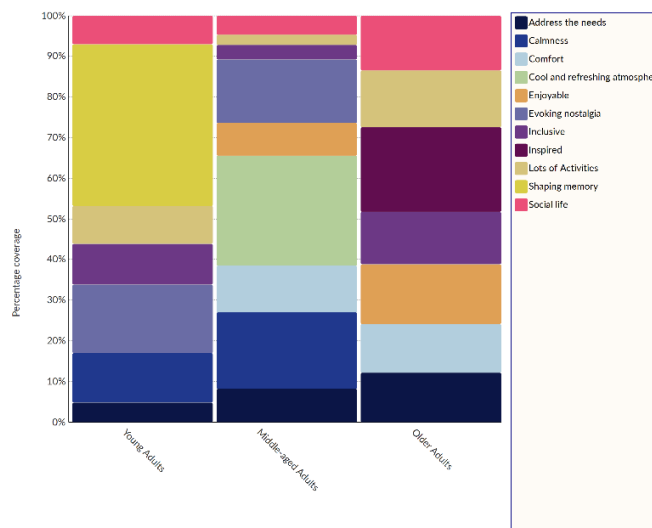
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**Figure 3.** Menteng Park with various activity spaces for the community (Author, 2025)

### Affective Image



**Figure 4.** Affective image of various age groups in Menteng Park (Author, 2025)

Findings from data visualization reveal variations in affective perceptions of public spaces across different age groups (fig. 4). The largest affective image category in young adults is “shaping memory” with a percentage of 39.74%. In comparison, it is a “cool and refreshing atmosphere” with 27.12% in middle-aged adults. For older adults, the largest category is “inspired” with a percentage of 20.85%. Among young adults, other categories such as “evoking nostalgia” and “calmness” reflect their perception of Menteng Park as a place for building personal experiences, fostering self-identity, and finding emotional tranquility. Activities that take place in areas that capture the attention of young adults often evoke thoughts of loved ones or memories from their childhood (Dai et al., 2022). The park is a recreational and reflective environment where memories and emotional

connections are meaningfully developed. This was explained by several participants, such as:

*"I find it memorable to watch children play and people playing basketball." (M44)*

*"I often spend time sitting around the calming fountain with my boyfriend." (M45)*

The affective image of Menteng Park among middle-aged adults reveals a broader range of psychological responses, emphasizing emotional well-being. Categories such as "cool and refreshing atmosphere", "calmness," and "evoking nostalgia" highlight the park's dual role as a restorative and reflective space. It offers physical comfort through shaded, green areas and supports introspection and memory recall. Shaded and green areas in urban parks consistently improve mental health and support psychological regeneration for middle-aged adults (Pratiwi et al., 2019). Participants expressed feelings of tranquility and sentimental reflection, indicating that the park is a mental refuge from urban life. This affective connection underscores the park's importance as a living urban space where emotional resonance and personal memories enrich the everyday experience of its users. This was mentioned by several participants, such as:

*"Sitting under the tree lets me enjoy fresh air and a cool atmosphere." (M10)*

*"I like sitting near the fountain, it gives me peace and a moment of healing." (M56)*

*"I usually commute to the park by bicycle and often visit this way." (M60)*

In older adults, affective perceptions of Menteng Park are strongly tied to social dimensions, with categories such as "inclusive," "social life," and "enjoyable" occupying nearly equal and significant proportions. This indicates that their emotional connection to the park centers on interpersonal interactions, community engagement, and a sense of belonging. The park is perceived as a welcoming space that fosters acceptance, joy, and inspiration. Older adults derive a strong sense of satisfaction from parks that foster social participation by offering inclusive spaces to engage with friends and build new relationships. It also enhances older adults' well-being (Yung et al., 2017). Older adults view Menteng Park as a recreational setting and a meaningful social environment where shared experiences and group activities contribute to emotional fulfilment and reinforce the park's value as a socially vibrant urban space. This was also mentioned by several participants, such as:

*"I practice roller skating with my community in the field." (M3)*

*"Portrait of me feeling comfortable and inspired in this park." (M17)*

*"Portrait of this park with many children and activities." (M20)*

*"I am happy when observing children's happiness." (M21)*

The affective image formed at Menteng Park develops differently according to life phase. For young adults, the park is a personal and reflective space; for middle-aged adults, the park is a place of psychological restoration; and for older adults, the park becomes a social space that strengthens connections between individuals. However, the categories described by each age category consistently create calm and relaxing park conditions. Deng et al. (2021) explained that affective evaluation indicates ways to improve quality of life.

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This explains that Menteng Park, which creates coolness and calmness for the community, can improve the quality of life for the community.

This study presents findings that differ significantly from those reported by Wan et al. (2021), who argued that there is no strong correlation between the physical features of urban parks and the emotional responses of joy, affection, and memory. In contrast, the results of this research indicate a clear association between specific physical elements within the park, such as fountains, play areas, and benches near open fields, and the emergence of emotional attachments and personal memories among users, regardless of age. These features are not solely appreciated for their functional or aesthetic value; they serve as symbolic elements that anchor individual and collective experiences. Their presence within the park landscape significantly shapes how users emotionally connect with the space. This was mentioned by several participants, such as:

*"The fountain, an iconic feature of this place, evokes childhood memories of taking photos with my father." (M27)*

*"My most memorable moments here are visits with my family, often sitting around the field." (M28)*

*"The playground for toddlers reminds me of my childhood." (M59)*

### **Menteng Park as an Urban Heritage**

Cognitive and affective images of Menteng Park play a central role in its recognition as urban heritage, particularly through the local wisdom embedded in daily practices and shared community values. Quality open spaces that combine natural and built elements shape individuals' urban identity and increase their daily satisfaction with the urban environment (Deng et al., 2021). Frequently depicted physical features in the drawings corresponded closely with elements participants highlighted in their explanations, such as areas used for recreation, social interaction, or daily routines. Emotional and symbolic bonds with specific spatial features are formed through collective memory, traditions, and socio-cultural practices, constituting the essence of local wisdom. These bonds become part of the park's intangible heritage value, as meaning is assigned to physical elements through repeated social interactions and cultural interpretation (Bonacchi et al., 2023).

In this context, Bandarin and Oers (2012) in Berg (2018) emphasize the need to integrate urban heritage preservation with sustainable development, highlighting the interplay between spatial design and the lived cultural values of communities. Menteng Park's historical evolution, multifunctional landscape, and ongoing use for inclusive social and recreational activities illustrate forms of local wisdom sustained across generations. These practices embed cultural memory and shared identity into the landscape, positioning Menteng Park not only as a public green space but also as a living representation of Jakarta's urban heritage. Several participants emphasized that the park is a vital space that supports daily routines and enhances their overall quality of life:

*"The park is full of kids and activities, and the trees provide fresh air for someone my age." (M20)*

*"I enjoy watching the older women's traditional dance group, which enlivens the park and fulfills communal and personal needs." (M32)*

*"I enjoy watching various park activities like basketball games, people with pets, and friends meeting up." (M38)*

*"Lots of diversity and community social activities in the park." (M49)*

Menteng Park's transformations show that intangible heritage is not static but evolves in response to changing social contexts. While the spirit of sporting culture has not disappeared, it has been reinterpreted: the space now accommodates a range of physical and recreational activities, extending the site's legacy beyond soccer. This aligns with Jigyasu (2014) view that intangible heritage should be understood through the adaptive practices of local communities within shifting socio-economic conditions. Community norms, inclusive use, and shared daily practices have re-established the site's emotional and symbolic value in its new form, making Menteng Park a living heritage space, open, inclusive, and meaningful across generations. Several participants also described this, such as:

*"Many basketball players here may not know me, yet they start conversations and invite me to play; anyone can join and interact." (M19)*

*"The park is welcoming to all ages, and I enjoy its variety of entertainment and refreshing activities." (M26)*

*"The park is environmentally friendly, lively, and for all ages." (M52)*

## 5. Conclusion

The study shows that perceptions of Menteng Park vary by age, emphasizing how individuals relate to and emotionally engage with urban public spaces. Cognitive and affective images of natural and built elements in public spaces play a key role in shaping the activity preferences of individuals and groups (Aguila et al., 2019). From a cognitive perspective, young adults emphasize the park's functionality and capacity to support physical and social activities. For them, Menteng Park serves as a flexible environment that accommodates a range of uses, from exercise to social gatherings. Middle-aged adults, by contrast, focus more on social interaction, seeing the park as a space where they can meet others and experience a sense of community. Older adults emphasize park features similarly to young adults, valuing the physical infrastructure that supports comfort, accessibility, and familiarity. Despite these age-based distinctions, there is a strong convergence around park features as central elements of spatial cognition, indicating a shared mental map that ties users of different generations to the physical layout and landmarks of the space. This reinforces the importance of physical infrastructure in shaping public understanding and use of urban environments, particularly in highly active, multifunctional parks like Menteng.

Affective perceptions also vary across age groups, revealing differing emotional and psychological needs associated with park use. Young adults frequently associate the park with memory-making and self-reflection, highlighting specific locations that trigger personal recollections or provide mental space. Middle-aged adults, on the other hand, identify Menteng Park as a calming and restorative environment, seeking its green spaces and shaded areas for mental reprieve from urban life. Older adults perceive the park as inclusive and socially engaging, a space where community members of all backgrounds and ages can come together, interact, and enjoy a sense of belonging. Notwithstanding these varied interpretations, one affective element appears to be consistent: the calm and tranquil atmosphere of the park is widely appreciated by all age groups. This finding underlines the importance of sensory and atmospheric qualities in shaping emotional responses to public spaces.

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By examining cognitive and affective perceptions through visual and narrative approaches, this study advances the understanding of how everyday users experience public parks as dynamic expressions of urban cultural heritage. The perception of landscapes plays a pivotal role in reinforcing individuals' emotional attachment to place and cultivating local identity, while place-dependence deepens this connection through repeated use and interaction (Yan et al., 2023). In the case of Menteng Park, the park transcends its role as a recreational site; it embodies a living urban heritage shaped by collective memory, evolving meanings, and daily community practices. Its identity is no longer solely tied to its historical function as a stadium but is continuously redefined through communal interactions, local traditions, and emotional associations. In this regard, Menteng Park becomes a symbolic landscape that encapsulates Jakarta's urban and cultural identity.

The park carries layers of meaning and significance embedded in its users' routines and memories, making it a vital expression of local wisdom in the urban context. While preserving spaces with clear architectural or historical value is often prioritized, the lived experiences and social sustainability that emerge from everyday use are equally critical to sustaining urban heritage. This research shows that spatial components anchor memory, emotion, and social interaction. These components become mediums through which people enact and transmit local wisdom, reinforcing the park's role as a living heritage site.

Based on these insights, this study proposes several strategies for preserving public spaces that embody layered urban life. First, preserving symbolic spatial elements, such as fountains, shaded seating, and familiar routes, is essential, particularly for younger users, as these features support emotional continuity and foster intergenerational attachment. Second, the design and maintenance of parks should prioritize environments that enhance psychological well-being for middle-aged adults, such as tranquil, green, and shaded areas that promote restorative experiences. Third, creating inclusive, socially vibrant spaces is crucial for older adults, who see such settings as opportunities for meaningful social participation and generational exchange. These priorities reflect cognitive and affective needs and community-based interpretations of space rooted in local values.

Ultimately, preserving urban heritage must extend beyond physical or aesthetic concerns. A meaningful conservation strategy should integrate the emotional, cognitive, and social dimensions of space as experienced by diverse users. By aligning urban heritage efforts with communities' lived realities and local wisdom, spaces like Menteng Park can continue to thrive as inclusive, evolving, and culturally rich components of Jakarta's urban landscape.

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