



Women's preferences for female-friendly public space design in Indonesia

Ajrina Rizkiananda Rusmana^{1}, Audrey Abigail²*

^{1,2} Interior Design, Pradita University, Gading Serpong Boulevard Street No.1 Tower 1, Curug Sangereng, Klp. Dua, Tangerang Regency, Banten, 15810, Indonesia

*Corresponding Author: ajrina.r.r@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyse women's preferences for female-friendly public space design in Indonesia, focusing on comfort, safety, aesthetics, and facility needs. The research method employed a questionnaire-based survey involving 30 female respondents. The results indicate that women prioritise design elements such as comfortable seating, good air circulation, soft lighting, and accessible spaces. In terms of safety, the presence of security personnel, CCTV, and adequate sanitation facilities are considered essential. Preferred aesthetic elements include live plants, pastel or neutral colours, and simple, functional lighting. Additionally, respondents highly value specific facilities such as mother-and-child rooms, fire extinguishers, and first aid kits. The findings imply that public space designers and managers should consider these preferences to create inclusive and comfortable environments for women.

Keywords: *women, preference, design, public space*

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis preferensi perempuan terhadap desain ruang publik yang ramah perempuan di Indonesia, dengan fokus pada aspek kenyamanan, keamanan, estetika, dan kebutuhan fasilitas. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah survei berbasis kuesioner yang melibatkan 30 responden perempuan. Hasil analisis menunjukkan bahwa perempuan memiliki perhatian tinggi terhadap elemen desain seperti area duduk yang nyaman, sirkulasi udara, pencahayaan lembut, dan aksesibilitas mudah. Dari sisi keamanan, kehadiran petugas keamanan, CCTV, serta fasilitas sanitasi dianggap sangat penting. Elemen estetika yang disukai mencakup tanaman hidup, warna pastel atau netral, serta pencahayaan sederhana yang fungsional. Selain itu, fasilitas khusus, seperti ruang ibu dan anak, alat pemadam kebakaran, dan P3K sangat diapresiasi oleh para responden. Implikasi dari penelitian ini menekankan pentingnya bagi perancang dan pengelola ruang publik untuk mempertimbangkan preferensi ini dalam menciptakan ruang publik yang inklusif dan nyaman bagi perempuan.

Kata Kunci: *perempuan, preferensi, desain, ruang publik*

Article History:

Sent:
November 2024

Accepted:
December 2024

Published:
December 2024

Citation:

Rusmana, A. R., and Abidail, A., (2024). Women's preferences for female-friendly public space design in Indonesia. *Sungging: Jurnal Seni Rupa, Kriya, Desain dan Pembelajarannya* 3(2): 145-152.

INTRODUCTION

Public spaces are a crucial element in urban planning, serving as venues for social interaction and recreation for all segments of society. In this context, the design of public spaces must be inclusive, taking into account the needs and preferences of diverse user groups, including women. According to Esariti and Dewi (2016), creating women-friendly public spaces is an essential step to ensure that all individuals can safely and comfortably enjoy the available facilities.

In gender studies, Esariti and Dewi (2016) explain that gender encompasses roles, functions, and responsibilities shaped by socio-cultural conditions. Therefore, implementing a gender-responsive concept in public space planning is crucial to meeting women's needs. The facilities provided should accommodate a wide range of activities for women, from recreation to social interaction, thereby fostering a more inclusive environment.

The design of women-friendly public spaces must consider various elements such as comfort, safety, and accessibility. These criteria include accessibility for all groups, attention to user needs, safety from potential hazards, comfort in using facilities, and environmental sustainability.

One of the challenges in designing public spaces in Indonesia is integrating a gender perspective into every aspect of planning and development (Moser, 2016). Urban planners need to distinguish between urgent practical needs that must be addressed and more complex design requirements. With the increasing awareness of the importance of inclusivity in public space design, local governments in Indonesia are expected to respond effectively to the needs of women in every public space development project.

Research on the preferences of women-friendly public space design in Indonesia remains limited. Therefore, this article aims to analyse how public space design can meet women's preferences and provide recommendations for enhancing the quality of public spaces in Indonesia to make them more responsive to the needs of all users.

METHOD

The method used in this study is a quantitative descriptive analysis method/data analysis calculation aimed at determining women's preferences regarding the elements needed in public spaces. This method is carried out in three stages: the preparation stage, data collection stage, and data analysis stage.

The preparation stage involves creating a questionnaire. The questionnaire is designed as a data collection tool based on a Likert scale to measure respondents' preferences and perceptions of various elements in public space design (Wulandari *et al*, 2022). The questions in the questionnaire are systematically structured to reflect respondents' preferences regarding aspects such as comfort, safety, aesthetics, and the facilities needed in public spaces.

The data collection stage involves distributing the questionnaire to a number of respondents. Respondents complete the questionnaire by providing scores on a Likert scale (1–4), reflecting the degree of agreement or disagreement with the statements provided. The collected data is then processed and compiled for further analysis.

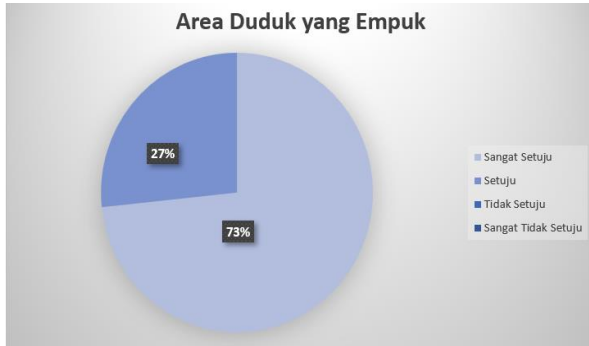
In the data analysis stage, the data obtained from the questionnaires is analysed by accumulating the total of each response, allowing for the identification of respondents' general preferences regarding public space design based on the factors studied. The results of this analysis are used to conclude the influence of women's preferences on the relevant elements of public space design.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

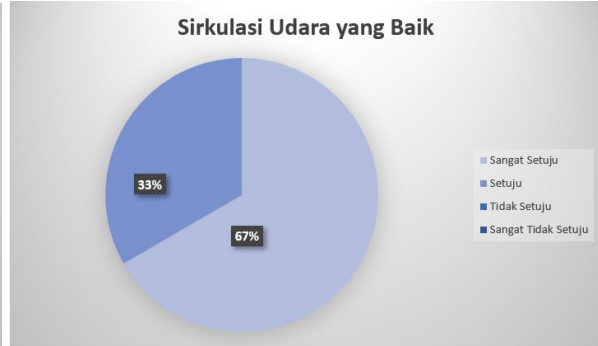
Several factors serve as guidelines for designing a friendly and inclusive public space, including comfort, security, aesthetics, and the provision of necessary facilities.

Comfort

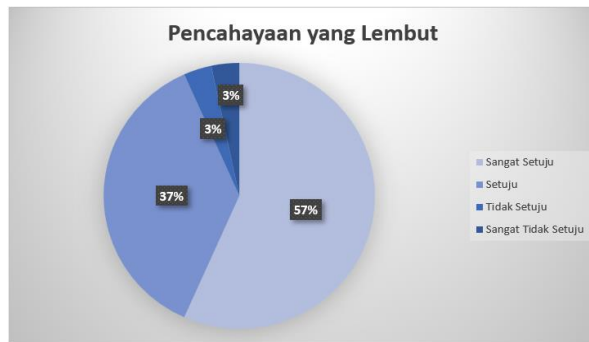
The analysis of comfort is based on elements such as seating areas, air circulation, lighting, and accessibility, which are generally integral to public spaces.



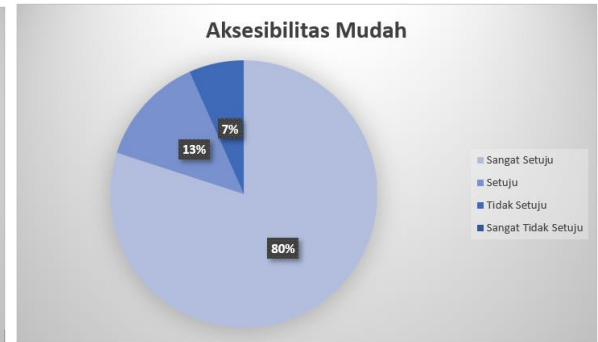
Picture 1. Seating area preference graphic



Picture 2. Air circulation preference graphic



Picture 3. Lighting preference graphic



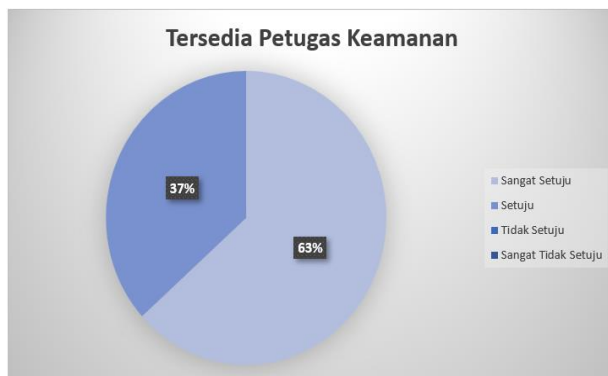
Picture 4. Accessibility preference graphic

According to the data, respondents placed significant importance on design elements that enhance comfort in public spaces. Regarding comfortable seating areas, 73% of respondents strongly agreed that this element improves comfort, while 27% agreed. The data shown in Picture 1 indicates that the comfort of seating is a key consideration. In Picture 2, the importance of good air circulation is also emphasised, with 67% of respondents strongly agreeing and 33% agreeing. This preference indicates that air circulation is a crucial factor for comfort in public spaces.

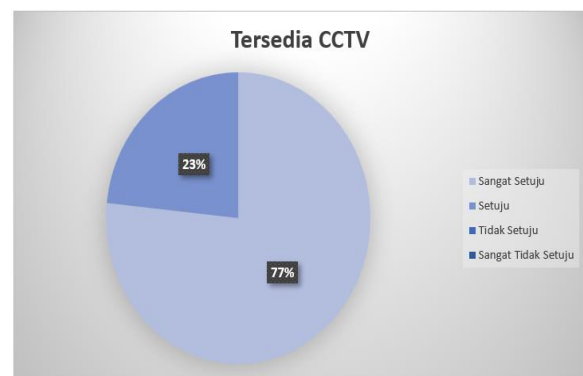
The data on lighting (Picture 3) shows that 57% of respondents strongly agree, 37% agree, 3% disagree, and 3% strongly disagree. Although there is variation in preference, the majority still emphasise the importance of soft lighting in creating a comfortable atmosphere. Accessibility also needs to be considered, with 80% of respondents strongly agreeing, 13% agreeing, and 7% disagreeing on the importance of easy access in public spaces.

Security

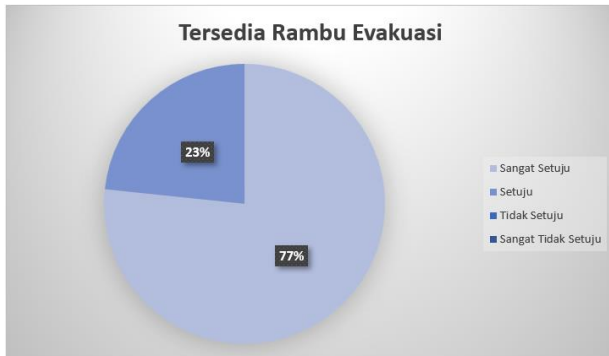
The analysis of security looks at elements such as the provision of security personnel, CCTV, and necessary sanitation facilities in public spaces.



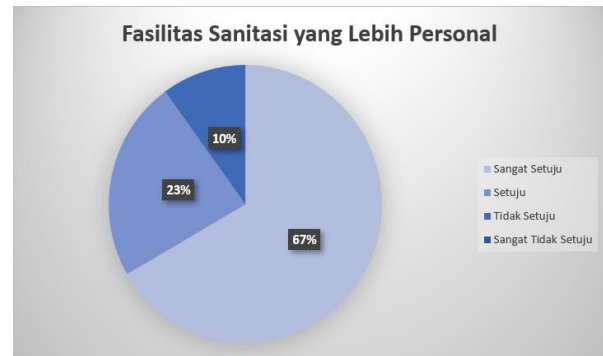
Picture 5. Graphic about security officers



Picture 6. Graphic about CCTV



Picture 7. Graphic regarding evacuation signs



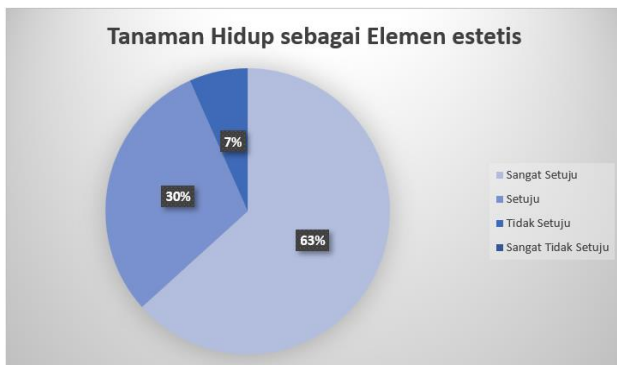
Picture 8. Graphics regarding sanitation facilities

Data on security and accessibility in public spaces show that respondents highly value features that contribute to a sense of safety and ease of access. Regarding the availability of security personnel, 63% of respondents strongly agreed that security personnel are essential for creating a sense of security, while 37% agreed. Additionally, the presence of CCTV was also deemed necessary by the majority, with 77% strongly agreeing and 23% agreeing that CCTV enhances security in public spaces.

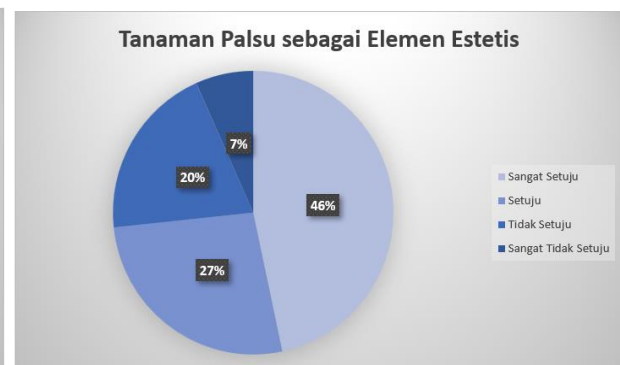
Not only security but the availability of evacuation signs is also considered essential, with 77% strongly agreeing and 23% agreeing that such signage is necessary for supporting user safety. The need for more personal sanitation facilities also varied in preference, with 67% strongly agreeing, 23% agreeing, and 10% disagreeing that this element is essential for comfort in public spaces.

Aesthetics

The analysis of aesthetics is based on elements such as aesthetic features, lighting, colour, materials, and forms, which generally play a role in creating aesthetic value in public spaces.



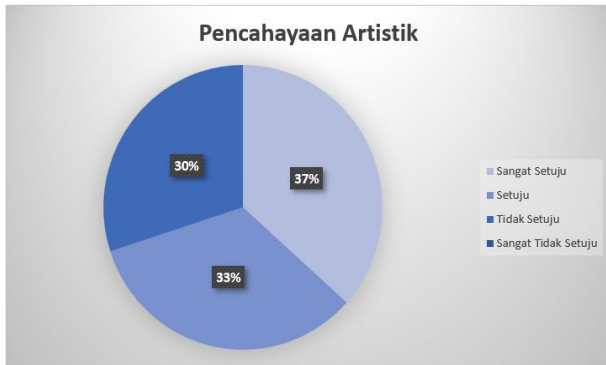
Picture 9. Graphics about living plants



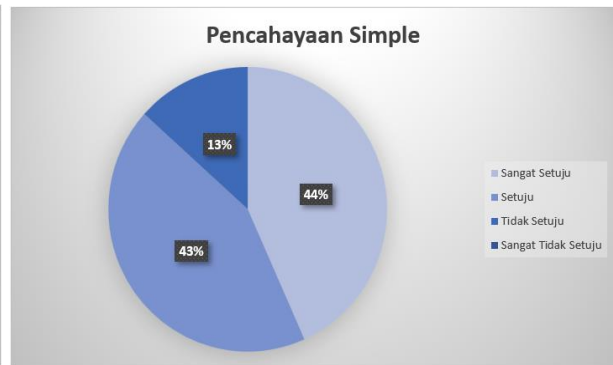
Picture 10. Graphic about fake plants

According to the graphs in Pictures 9 and 10, respondents favoured the use of live plants over artificial ones. Regarding live plants as an aesthetic element, 63% strongly agreed, and 30% agreed that these elements enhance public spaces. Only 7% of respondents disagreed with the inclusion of live plants, indicating that live plants are highly appreciated for creating a natural and comfortable atmosphere.

On the other hand, artificial plants, as an aesthetic element, showed more varied preferences. 46% of respondents agreed, and 27% strongly agreed that artificial plants can serve as an aesthetic feature, while 20% disagreed, and 7% strongly disagreed with their use. Despite some interest in artificial plants as aesthetic elements, a portion of respondents were less supportive of their use.



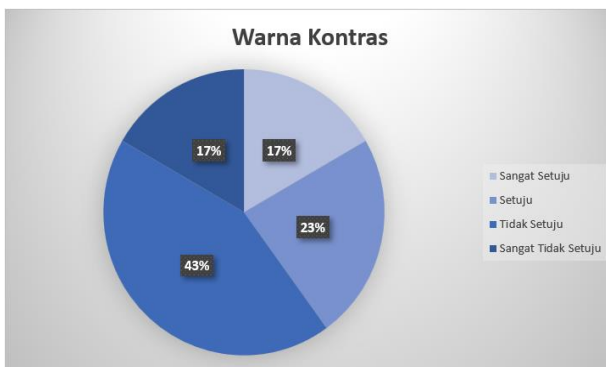
Picture 11. Artistic lighting graphics



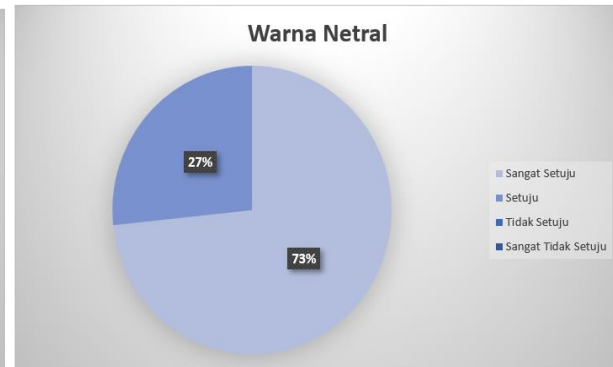
Picture 12. Simple lighting graphics

Pictures 11 and 12 show that respondents preferred simple lighting over artistic lighting. For artistic lighting, 37% strongly agreed, 33% agreed that it could be an element in public spaces, and 30% disagreed. This suggests differing opinions among respondents, with some supporting artistic lighting for visual impact while others were less convinced.

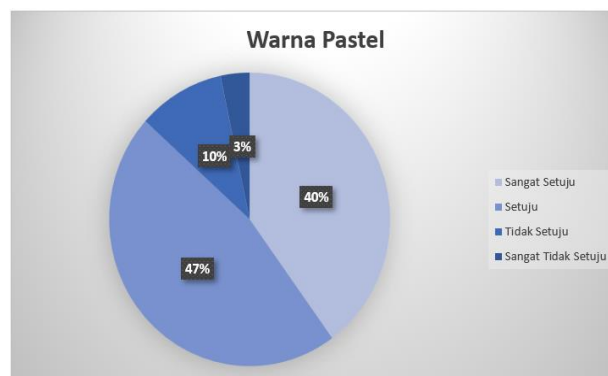
Simple lighting, on the other hand, garnered stronger preference, with 44% strongly agreeing and 43% agreeing. Only 13% disagreed with simple lighting, indicating that this option is more widely accepted as functional and practical for public spaces.



Picture 13. Contrast color graphic



Picture 14. Neutral color graphic

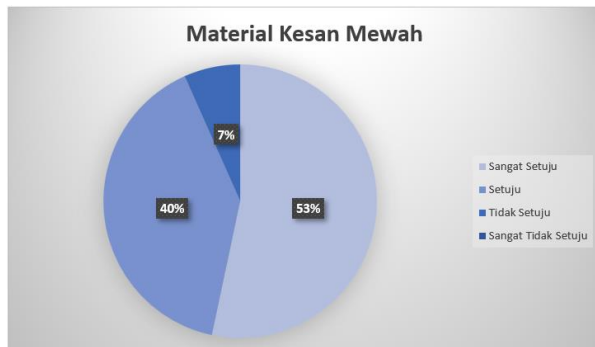


Picture 15. Pastel color graphic

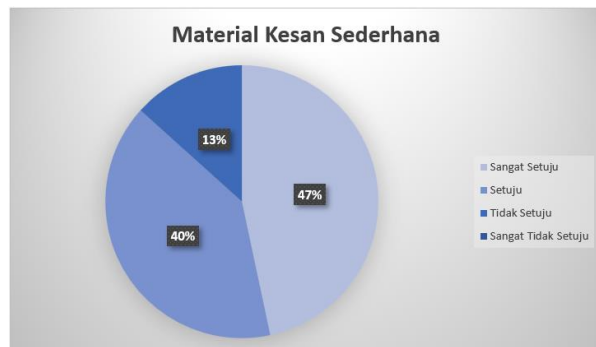
The analysis in Pictures 13, 14, and 15 reveals varied preferences for the use of contrasting, neutral, and pastel colours. For contrasting colours, 17% strongly agreed, and 23% agreed with their use in public spaces, while 43% disagreed and 17% strongly disagreed. This suggests that contrasting colours are generally less favoured, although some respondents supported their use.

Neutral colours saw much higher agreement, with 73% agreeing and 27% strongly agreeing. This indicates that neutral colours are perceived as more comfortable and less striking, making them more popular with the majority of respondents.

Preferences for pastel colours also showed a range of opinions, with 40% strongly agreeing and 47% agreeing that pastel colours should be used in public spaces. However, 10% disagreed, and 3% strongly disagreed, indicating that while some favour pastel colours, they are less appealing to others.



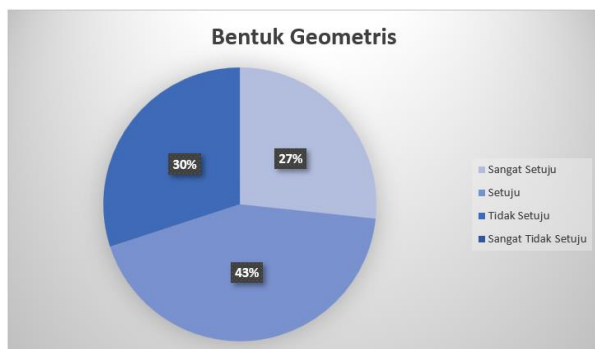
Picture 16. Luxurious impression material graphics



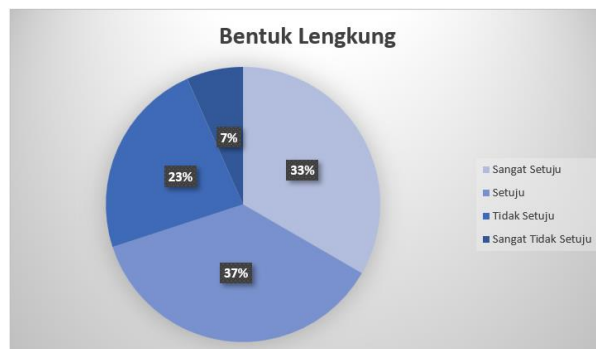
Picture 17. Simple impression material graphic

The analysis of the materials in Pictures 16 and 17 shows varied preferences for luxurious and simple materials. For luxurious materials such as marble, granite, tempered glass, and solid wood, 53% of respondents strongly agreed, and 40% agreed, while 7% disagreed. This indicates that luxurious materials attract a majority of respondents, although some find them less suitable.

More straightforward materials, such as ceramics, laminates, plywood, and vinyl, received support from 47% who strongly agreed and 40% who agreed, while 13% disagreed. This suggests that although simple materials are relatively well accepted, some respondents do not favour them.



Picture 18. Geometric shape graphic



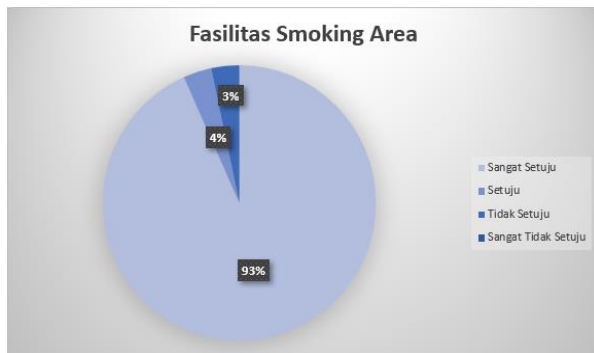
Picture 19. Curved shape graph

The analysis in Pictures 18 and 19 shows varied preferences for geometric and curved shapes in public spaces. For geometric shapes, 27% strongly agreed, 43% agreed, and 30% disagreed. This indicates a relatively good acceptance of geometric shapes, with a majority either supporting or leaning towards liking them.

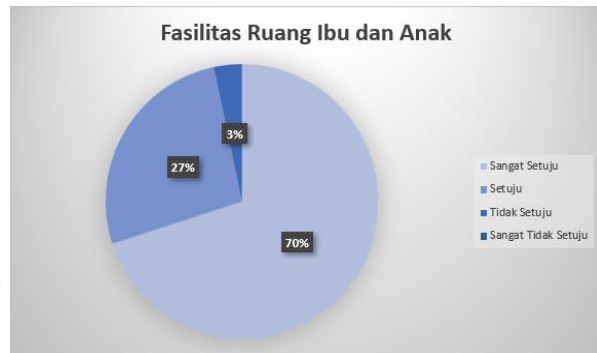
For curved shapes, 33% strongly agreed, and 37% agreed with their use, while 23% disagreed and 7% strongly disagreed, suggesting a smaller group of respondents did not favour the use of curved forms in public spaces.

Public Space Facilities

The analysis of the need for facilities in public spaces addresses how critical specific amenities are to women.



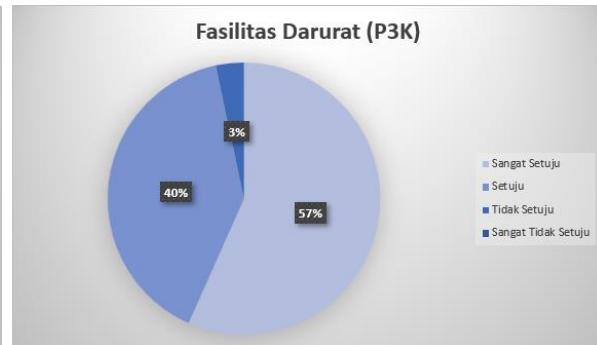
Picture 20. Smoking area graphic



Picture 21. Mother and child room graphic



Picture 22. Fire extinguisher graphic



Picture 23. First Aid Chart

Based on the data, the four facilities—smoking areas, mother and child rooms, fire extinguishers, and first aid kits—received varied responses from respondents. The smoking area was well accepted by the majority, with 93% strongly agreeing, 4% agreeing, and 3% disagreeing. This indicates that smoking areas are considered quite important and widely accepted.

The mother and child room received 70% of respondents strongly agreeing, 27% agreeing, and 3% disagreeing, showing that the allocation of this space is an important consideration. The fire extinguisher facility received 69% strongly agreeing and 31% agreeing, while the first aid kit received 57% strongly agreeing and 40% agreeing, with 3% disagreeing. These results demonstrate that these facilities are regarded as crucial and essential by nearly all respondents.

CONCLUSION

This study highlights the preferences of women in the design of women-friendly public spaces in Indonesia, leading to several important conclusions. Aspects of comfort, security, aesthetics, and facilities have been shown to influence women's preferences in public spaces significantly.

In terms of comfort, women prioritise soft seating areas, good air circulation, soft lighting, and easy accessibility. Security factors, including the presence of security personnel, CCTV, evacuation signs, and adequate sanitation facilities, are also considered top priorities. Aesthetically, the use of live plants, simple lighting, and neutral and pastel colours are preferred, while materials with a simple appearance and curved shapes are also more accepted by women. Furthermore, specific facilities such as smoking areas, mother and child rooms, first aid kits, and fire extinguishers emphasise the importance of considering the unique needs of women in the design of public spaces.

REFERENCES

- Dewi, D. I. K. (2015). Pemanfaatan ruang terbuka publik berdasarkan gaya hidup di Kota Semarang. Dalam *Conference on Urban Studies and Development: Pembangunan Inklusif: Menuju Ruang dan Lahan Perkotaan yang Berkeadilan*.

- Efendi, Y. (2020). Urgensi infrastruktur ramah gender dalam usaha pencegahan kekerasan seksual di ruang publik. *Qawwam: Journal for Gender Mainstreaming*, 14(2), 1-24.
- Elfira, M., & Setiawan, B. (2021). Elemen Pendukung Keamanan Ruang Publik Berdasarkan Aspek Keamanan dan Keselamatan Remaja Perempuan di Kampung Cokrodirjan, Yogyakarta. *Tesis Magister Perencanaan Wilayah Tata Kota*.
- Esariti, L., & Dewi, D. I. K. (2016). Pendekatan Responsif Gender Dalam Penyediaan Sarana Lingkungan Perkotaan. *Ruang*, 2(4), 324-330. <https://doi.org/10.14710/ruang.2.4.324-330>
- Irwan, M. (2018). Pengaruh ruang terbuka publik terhadap tingkat kenyamanan sosial penghuni di Perumnas Tlogosari Semarang. *Jurnal Riptek*.
- Mikhailov, S. M., Mikhailova, A. S., Khafizov, R. R., Nadyrshine, N. M., & Nadyrshine, L. I. (2023). Gender settings in city design. *Vestnik of Saint Petersburg University. Arts*, 13(4), 760–775. <https://doi.org/10.21638/spbu15.2023.409>
- Melania., & Erwin, F. (2021) Meng-Empu-Kan Perempuan: Desain Ruang Publik yang Aman dan Nyaman Bagi Pekerja Perempuan Di SCBD - Jakarta. *Jurnal Muara Sains, Teknologi, Kedokteran, dan Ilmu Kesehatan*.
- Mahdani Prahaditya, M. N., Sutikno, F. R., & Surjono. (2024). Inklusivitas perempuan di ruang terbuka publik dengan studi kasus Taman Kali Ngrowo Tulungagung. *Jurnal Departemen Perencanaan Wilayah dan Kota Fakultas Teknik Universitas Brawijaya*, 13(1), 55.
- Mahdani Prahaditya, M. N., Sutikno, F. R., & Surjono. (2023). Preferensi perempuan terhadap desain kawasan bantaran sungai di Karangwaru Riverside. *Lintas Ruang: Jurnal Pengetahuan & Perancangan Desain Interior*, 11(1), 50-56.
- Moser, C. (2016). Gender and urban planning: A critical review. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 40(4), 835-850: <https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-2427.12381>
- Rachmadi, R., & Adriani, M. (2018). Analisis hubungan peran gender pada kenyamanan ruang publik: Studi kasus Atrium Ambarukmo Plaza, Galeria Mall, dan Jogja City Mall di Yogyakarta. *Jurnal Arsitektur SiA*, 27.
- Wulandari, D., Halim, M. A., Firmansyah, R., Astuti, M. Y., and Tranggana, W. L. (2022). Relevansi pemahaman komposisi nirmana terhadap kemampuan penyusunan ruang tepat guna dalam desain interior. *Sungging: Jurnal Seni Rupa, Kriya, Desain dan Pembelajarannya* 1(1): 19-31.