

**'Kampung Kota' as Third Space in Urban Setting,  
case study of Surabaya, Indonesia**

Rully Damayanti

[arp11rd@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:arp11rd@sheffield.ac.uk)

PhD supervisor: Dr Florian Kossak, Dr Stephen Walker  
*School of Architecture, University of Sheffield*

Most cities in the East are confronted with urban slum phenomenon mainly driven by poverty and the unregulated occupation of urban space; known as *informal city*. According to Bhabha (1994) and Soja (1996), this condition can be classified as a *Third Space*, which is an understanding of intermediate space where people feel neither here nor there. Bhabha highlighted this phenomenon as an expression of an ambivalence reality of urban wealth in any city.

The paper will compare approaches of formal and informal city development abstracting from several positions in Post-Colonial Theory. Specifically it will explore the notion of Third Space through the inner-city quarter/slum of Kampung Kota in Surabaya, Indonesia. It is neither a real slump nor is it really poor area; the houses are permanently built, and have legal ownership or tenant documents. Yet, although located in the center of Surabaya it has the social condition of a combination between urban and rural, hence alluding to the notion of hybridization of social as it is characteristic for the Third Space.

While the existence of 'Kampung Kota' brings benefits to the city; it is the home of medium workers mostly working in the central city area, it is also under constant threat as the location has high land value leading to ongoing negotiations and insecurity for the residents. Relating to the notion of Third Space and other Post-colonial position in urban development the paper will describe threats of and possible prospects for 'Kampung Kota'.

Keywords: third space, informal city, slum area