



Sense of Place and Indigenous Wisdom: Exploring Cultural and Environmental Sustainable Practices in Ubud Palace, Bali

I Gusti Ayu Canny Utami¹, Freddy Hendrawan², Ramanda Dimas Surya Dinata³

¹ Institut Desain dan Bisnis Bali, Indonesia

² Institut Desain dan Bisnis Bali, Indonesia

³ Institut Desain dan Bisnis Bali, Indonesia
cannyutami@gmail.com

Abstract. One of Bali's most important cultural sites, Ubud Palace, is a platform for the preservation of both culture and the natural environment. This research intended to explore the significance of the Ubud Palace's architecture, ceremonies, rituals, and community engagements in generating a profound sense of place and practicing sustainable development. This research uses a qualitative content analysis approach to interpret the data derived from a combination of readings and observations of behavior. The qualitative content analyzes textual and behavioral information gathered from literature, historical records, and visual materials. This study provides an in-depth understanding of the religious and socio-cultural practice of Hindu-Balinese knowledge and wisdom in generating and valuing their sustainable built environments. The result shows that the religious and cultural practices of Hindu Balinese people, architecture, and community engagements are significant factors in shaping a sense of place in Ubud Palace, Bali.

Keywords: Sense of Place, Indigenous Wisdom, Sustainable Practice.

1 INTRODUCTION

The preservation of cultural heritage and sustainable environmental practices has become a crucial priority during a time of growing globalization and urbanization. Indigenous groups, who have a wealth of traditional knowledge and traditions intricately entwined with their particular ecosystems, have long recognized the complex interaction between human cultures and their environment. This study examines the intricate relationship between sense of place, indigenous knowledge, and sustainability via a thorough investigation of Bali, Indonesia's Ubud Palace. Ubud, a lovely town tucked away in Bali's verdant surroundings, is well known for its vibrant cultural life and commitment to Balinese customs. The Ubud Palace is a masterpiece of architecture that serves as a cultural center and sits at the center of this town.

Indigenous wisdom, often rooted in centuries of accumulated knowledge, embraces a holistic understanding of nature, emphasizing the interconnectedness of all living beings. This wisdom forms the foundation of sustainable practices that enable

communities to thrive in harmony with their surroundings. Ubud Palace stands as a living embodiment of these principles, showcasing the intricate ways in which traditional architecture, local customs, and spiritual beliefs intersect with ecological awareness.

As global concerns about climate change, loss of biodiversity, and cultural homogenization intensify, there is a growing recognition of the need to revisit and adapt indigenous knowledge and practices. The Ubud Palace, with its rich history and intricate design elements, provides a unique case study for understanding how sense of place and indigenous wisdom can be leveraged to foster cultural resilience and environmental sustainability in the face of contemporary challenges.

Through this research, a multidimensional exploration of the Ubud Palace embarked, aiming to uncover the profound relationship between its architecture, cultural significance, and environmental consciousness. By delving into the indigenous wisdom embedded in the palace's design, rituals, and daily practices, we seek to highlight the lessons it offers for contemporary societies striving to strike a balance between progress and preservation. Ultimately, this study contributes to the ongoing dialogue on sustainable development by emphasizing the importance of cultural heritage and traditional knowledge in shaping a more harmonious coexistence between humanity and nature.

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Factors in Forming Sense of Place

Sense of place is the relationship between man, his image, and environmental characteristics. This concept on the one hand is rooted in the subjective experience of people (memories, traditions, history, culture, and society) and on the other hand, is affected by objective and external influences of the environment (landscape, smell, sound) that these lead to various association of a place. This means that sense of place is not a predetermined phenomenon, but is created from interaction between people and places. Thus people give some preconceived images of places that live there.

The factors contributing to the formation of a sense of place explores how individuals and communities develop emotional, psychological, and cognitive connections to their environments based on various factors. These factors encompass emotional experiences, social interactions, cultural meanings, environmental attributes, architectural features, and temporal dimensions. This theory acknowledges that the sense of place is not solely rooted in physical attributes but is a complex interplay of personal experiences, social interactions, historical contexts, and cultural significance. It provides a framework for understanding how people's attachment to a particular location is influenced by a combination of emotional responses, social connections, cultural values, and physical attributes of the environment.

Various scholars and researchers have contributed to the development and elaboration of the Sense of Place Theory, including those whose works were referenced earlier.

This theory is an important framework for studying human-environment interactions, understanding the role of places in people's lives, and informing strategies for sustainable development and community well-being.

In literature review, it is clear that the factors which create a sense of place, are divided into two categories: cognitive and perceptual factors; physical characteristic (Steele, 1981). In another research, Jorgensen (2001) in his studies on the theory of "attitude", defines three dimensions for place. People's feelings about place are sign of emotional dimension, their beliefs about place shape the cognitive dimension and their function in a place is a symbol of behavioral dimension of place (Jorgensen, 2001). So the creating elements of a place as form, function and meaning (Canter, 1977b) are corresponding to cognitive, behavioral and emotional dimension. The literature review shows that physical characteristics of environment, not only are lead to differentiate between different places but also effect on the meaning which people percept from those. Steele explains the physical parameters which effect on sense of place as: Size, Scale, Components, Diversity, Texture, Decoration, Color, Odor, Noise, Temperature. He also explain that Identity, History, Fun, Mysterious, Pleasant, Wonderful, Security, Vitality and memory also has an effect on the way people communicate with places (Steele,1981).

As cited in previous literature, physical attributes not only serve functional purposes within a location but also contribute to the establishment of a sense of place through the attribution of meaning. This process is influenced by factors such as the legibility of the environment and the satisfaction individuals derive from its elements. Through the comprehension of meanings, symbols, concepts, and identity, a cognitive affiliation with a place is established. Stedman's perspective is that the concept of sense of place is intricate and challenging to define and quantify.

2.2 Human Interaction with Places

Sense of place, a multidimensional concept deeply ingrained in human experience, encompasses the emotional, cognitive, and symbolic connections individuals and communities establish with their surroundings. It emerges from the interplay of various factors that contribute to the formation of a unique identity tied to a particular location. This section delves into the multifaceted nature of sense of place, highlighting the diverse factors that shape it across different scales.

Shamai determined three major - belonging to a place, place attachment and commitment toward a place stages. Shamai further categorized it into seven levels : knowledge of being located in a place, belonging to a place, attachment to a place, identifying with the place goals, and sacrifice for a place.

Jennifer described different types of connections with place into six types of relationships: biographical, spiritual, ideological, narrative, commodified, and dependent.

Table 1. Relationships to Place (Jennifer, 2001)

| Relationship | Type of Bond | Process |
|---------------------|--|---|
| Biographical | Historical and Familial | Being born in and living in a place, develops over time |
| Spiritual | Emotional, Intangible | Feeling a sense of belonging, simply felt rather than created |
| Ideological | Moral and Ethical | Living according moral guidelines for human responsibility to place, guidelines may be religious or secular |
| Narrative | Mythical | Learning about a place through stories, including: creation myths, family histories, political accounts, and fictional accounts |
| Commodified | Cognitive (based on choice and desirability) | Choosing a place based a list of desirable traits and lifestyle preferences, comparison of actual places with ideal |
| Dependent | Material | onstrained by lack of choice, dependency on another person or economic opportunity |

In summary, sense of place is a complex and multifaceted concept that emerges from the interplay of emotional, cultural, environmental, architectural, social, and temporal factors. Understanding how these factors interact across different scales provides valuable insights into the ways in which individuals and communities forge meaningful connections with their environments. The subsequent sections of this research will explore how the Ubud Palace embodies these factors and integrates indigenous wisdom to create a profound sense of place that supports both cultural preservation and environmental sustainability. The concept of sense of place and its various influencing factors have been extensively explored in academic literature and research across disciplines such as geography, psychology, architecture, and anthropology. Numerous studies have investigated the intricate relationships between individuals, communities, and their environments. Existing research often focuses on specific dimensions of sense of

place, such as emotional attachment or architectural design, without fully considering the combined impact of these factors. This fragmented approach may overlook how these dimensions reinforce and shape one another. While indigenous wisdom and practices are acknowledged as vital contributors to sense of place, research often lacks in-depth exploration of their influence. Understanding how indigenous communities integrate multiple dimensions of sense of place can offer valuable lessons for sustainable development.

The gap theory of lacking integrated approaches highlights the need for a comprehensive study that considers the intricate interactions between emotional, cultural, environmental, architectural, social, and temporal factors shaping sense of place. Bridging this gap is essential to advance our understanding of human-environment relationships and to guide sustainable practices in the context of cultural heritage and ecological conservation. Through the exploration of the Ubud Palace as a case study, this research aims to contribute to the holistic understanding of sense of place and its implications for sustainable development.

2.3 Cultural and Environmental Sustainability

There are several ways to maintain cultural and environmental sustainability there are by preservation of cultural identity, community engagement, cultural revitalization, tourism management , ecological awareness , and resilient communities. Sense of place research helps identify the cultural elements that contribute to people's attachment to a particular location. By understanding the significance of rituals, traditions, stories, and practices associated with a place, efforts can be directed toward preserving these cultural aspects. A strong sense of place fosters a sense of belonging and ownership among community members. This can lead to increased community involvement in cultural activities, events, and decision-making processes, thereby ensuring the transmission of cultural knowledge to future generations. Through an exploration of the cultural factors influencing sense of place, research can contribute to the revitalization of endangered traditions and practices. By recognizing their importance in shaping identity and attachment, communities are more likely to actively engage in their preservation. Understanding the cultural significance of a place can inform sustainable tourism practices. Responsible tourism strategies can be developed that respect local customs, minimize cultural commodification, and contribute positively to the local economy without compromising cultural integrity. Sense of place research often highlights the strong connection between individuals and their natural environment. This heightened awareness can lead to a greater understanding of local ecosystems, encouraging responsible behavior and conservation efforts. Communities with a strong sense of place are more inclined to adapt to environmental changes and challenges. This resilience can lead to the development of strategies that mitigate the impacts of climate change and promote sustainable resource management.

3 DESIGN CONCEPT

This research examines the complex interaction between sense of place, cultural wisdom, and sustainable practices using an interpretation method. This approach involves studying literature, and visual materials, immersing in the surroundings and observing how local people and tourists interact, rituals, practices, behavior, and activities of individuals within the context of the Ubud Palace in Bali. Interpretation methods provide structure and rigor to the analysis process, ensuring that the data collected are systematically examined and aligned with the research objectives. The interpretation method plays a crucial role in influencing the results and guides researchers in identifying key information and insights that might not be immediately apparent from the data.

4 FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1 Physical, Social and Culture of Ubud Palace

Figure 1. Physical Attributes of Ubud Palace

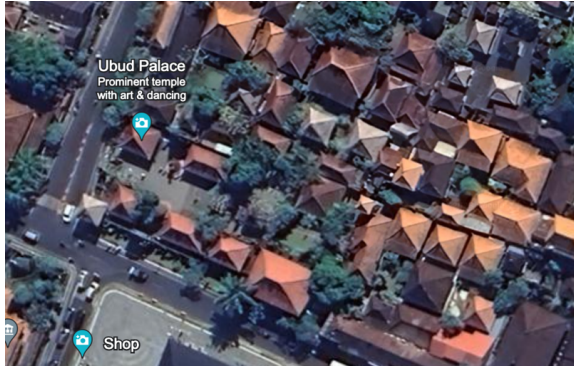


The Balinese Traditional Architecture design principle is reflected in Ubud Palace. Compound building with open pavilions, ornate gates, ornamen and intricate carvings not only showcase the rich cultural heritage but also contribute significantly to overall ambience and sense of place.

Figure 2. Social and Culture Attributes of Ubud Palace



Figure 3. Ubud Palace Map of Feeling



Scan the barcode to see the video of the Ubud Palace area. From the video, the presence of Balinese traditional ceremonies, rituals, traditional cultural activity, Balinese dance practices, and performances give significant feelings and play a crucial role in shaping a unique sense of place. Those things are deeply rooted and create a vibrant and authentic atmosphere for both residents and visitors. The strong community engagement highlighted the importance of interaction and the harmony between local people and tourists or visitor in shaping the sense of place. The active involvement of the community in preserving cultural practices and welcoming tourists fosters a sense of belonging and authenticity that is distinct to Ubud Palace.

The synergy between indigenous wisdom and sense of place factors is illuminated through the lenses of various user groups. Royal Family Members, Local People, and Tourists each bring unique perspectives to the intricate tapestry of a place. Indigenous

wisdom permeates these interactions, enriching the sense of place with cultural heritage, ecological insights, and spiritual depth. The diverse factors shaping the sense of place reflect a blend of physical attributes and intangible elements, emphasizing the holistic nature of our connection to the environment.

Table 2.Indigenous Wisdom and Sense of Place Factors

| Indigenous Wisdom | Sense of Place Factors | User Groups |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| Tri Hita Karana | | |
| Human with God | Physical Aspect : Family Temple | Royal Family Member & Local Community |
| | Social & Culture : Ceremonies & Rituals | Royal Family Member & Local Community |
| Human with Human | Physical Aspect : Balinese Traditional Architecture Design & Layout | Royal Family Member & Local Community Tourist |
| | Social & Culture : Ceremonies & Rituals Cultural Performances Palace Functions Community Engagement Tourism & Education Symbolic Roles Spiritual Leadership | Royal Family Member & Local Community Tourist |
| Human with Nature | Physical Aspect : Sacred Grounds Garden & Landscapes | Royal Family Member & Local Community Tourist |
| | Social & Culture : Ceremony : Ceremonies & Offerings Cultural Identity | |

4. 2. Relationship to Place

The interaction of different user groups with a place is, at its core, a reflection of their distinct relationships to that place. Local inhabitants, the royal family, and tourists all

bring varied perspectives and experiences that stem from their individual relationships to the environment. Local inhabitants' daily lives and spiritual practices are intertwined with the landscape, fostering a profound relationship that shapes their sense of place. The royal family's historical ties and custodianship amplify their connection to the place. Tourists, with their diverse backgrounds, encounter the place through the lens of their unique relationship to their own culture and surroundings.

In essence, the relationship to place serves as a unifying thread that weaves through the indigenous wisdom, sense of place factors, and user groups in the table. It is the foundation upon which the sense of place is built—a foundation that encompasses historical, cultural, and spiritual bonds individuals and communities hold with a specific location. This dynamic relationship enriches the sense of place and informs the interactions of diverse user groups, painting a comprehensive picture of the intricate interplay between humans and their environment.

Table 3. User Groups and Relationship to Place

| User | | Interaction | Type of Relationship |
|---------------------|---------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Royal Member | Family | <p>Plays a crucial role in preserving the cultural and historical traditions associated with Ubud Palace</p> <p>Serves as symbols of Balinese cultural identity and continuity</p> <p>Engage with the local community, not only during major events but also in day-to-day interactions.</p> <p>Involved in educational initiatives that promote Balinese culture, history, and values</p> | Biographical , Spiritual |
| | Local People | <p>Participate in temple festivals, dance performances, processions, and traditional rituals</p> <p>Engage in daily prayers, offerings, and rituals within these spaces.</p> <p>Community discussions, workshops, and educational event</p> <p>Symbol of their identity as Balinese. It represents their cultural roots, artistic</p> | Spiritual, Ideological |

| | | |
|----------------|---|------------------------|
| Tourist | <p>expressions, and the unique heritage of the region.</p> <p>Focus on the visual and sensory aspects of the palace, appreciating its architectural beauty, historical significance, and cultural performances</p> <p>Seeking a deeper connection may engage in guided tours, workshops, and cultural experiences offered at the palace.</p> <p>Delve into the history, architecture, and stories associated with the palace</p> <p>Participate in palace ceremonies, interact with the local community, and immerse themselves in the Balinese way of life</p> | Narrative, Commodified |
|----------------|---|------------------------|

4.3. A Profound Impact on Environmental Sustainability

The interconnectedness between cultural heritage, indigenous wisdom, and the natural environment shapes behaviors and practices that contribute to the preservation of the local ecosystem. Here's how the sense of place in Puri Ubud influences environmental sustainability:

Stewardship and Preservation: The strong sense of place nurtured within Ubud Palace cultivates a sense of stewardship over the surrounding environment. People who feel emotionally connected to the palace and its surroundings are more likely to engage in behaviors that protect the environment. This can include responsible waste disposal and conservation of local flora and fauna.

Cultural Rituals and Eco-Spiritual Practices: The sense of place at Ubud Palace is closely intertwined with cultural rituals and eco-spiritual practices. Ceremonies and offerings that honor natural elements, such as water, mountains, and forests, reinforce a sense of respect for the environment. These rituals serve as reminders of the intimate connection between humans and nature, encouraging behaviors that prioritize its well-being.

Architecture in Harmony with Nature: The architectural design of Ubud Palace often reflects principles of harmony with the natural environment. The integration of open spaces, gardens, and water features not only enhances the aesthetic appeal but also

highlights the importance of coexisting with nature. Such design choices promote the value of sustainable architecture that minimizes ecological impact.

Environmental Awareness and Education: The sense of place fosters a heightened environmental awareness among visitors and the local community. As people engage with the palace and its cultural significance, they also become exposed to its ecological significance. Interpretive displays, guided tours, and educational materials can further enhance this awareness, encouraging sustainable practices beyond the palace grounds.

Sustainable Tourism Practices: As Ubud Palace attracts a diverse range of visitors, the sense of place can influence sustainable tourism practices. By emphasizing the importance of responsible tourism and educating visitors about the environment, the palace can contribute to minimizing the ecological footprint of tourism activities in the area.

Community Engagement in Conservation: The sense of place fosters a strong sense of community and shared identity among local residents. This sense of unity can extend to environmental conservation efforts, where community members collaborate to protect natural resources and biodiversity in the surrounding area.

The sense of place in Ubud Palace, Bali, has a profound influence on environmental sustainability. The combination of cultural heritage, indigenous wisdom, and a strong emotional attachment to the palace and its surroundings promotes behaviors and practices that prioritize the well-being of the environment.

5 CONCLUSIONS

The concept of a sense of place in Ubud Palace is complex and includes various dimensions, including social, symbolic, and physical aspects. Local inhabitants perceive the palace as both a social arena and a symbol, while royal family members attribute a deep sense of sacrificial significance and social status to it. The physical attributes such as size, scale, components, and sensory qualities like texture, color, and odor contribute to shaping people's perception of this place. Additionally, intangible factors like identity, history, mystery, and emotions like pleasure and security also play a pivotal role in how individuals connect with this space. Differences in the scale of the sense of place perception exist between local residents, the royal family, and tourists. However, there's an intriguing projection that in the future, tourists might develop a more pronounced sense of place in Ubud Palace compared to the local population. This anticipation raises questions about the dynamics of change, cultural exchange, and the evolving relationship between individuals and their surroundings.

The extent to which tourists develop a deeper sense of place than locals hinges on a constellation of variables. Factors such as the duration of their stay, their cultural understanding, the accessibility to information, emotional attachments formed, engagement in daily life, preference for authentic experiences, and their relationship with the environment all contribute to shaping their connection with Ubud Palace. It's essential to remember that the concept of a "better" sense of place is highly subjective and varies depending on personal perspectives and priorities. As Ubud Palace continues to attract visitors from around the world, the intricate interplay between these diverse factors will

define the evolving landscape of the sense of place in this cultural treasure. This phenomenon showcases the complex ways in which people interact with their surroundings and underscores the dynamic nature of cultural heritage and its interpretation.

When local people, royal family members, and tourists develop a strong sense of place in Ubud Palace, it can lead to a heightened sense of responsibility and care for the environment. This emotional connection fosters a desire to preserve the cultural and natural heritage associated with the palace, leading to more conscious behavior towards conservation. People who have a deep-rooted connection with a place are more likely to engage in sustainable practices, advocating for responsible tourism, reducing waste, and supporting eco-friendly initiatives. By recognizing the intricate connections between culture and nature, Ubud Palace serves as a model for how a sense of place can drive sustainable behaviors and contribute to the preservation of the local ecosystem.

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