

# Recommendations for Placemaking in Kerala Urban Context

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**ABSTRACT:** Placemaking is a concept and method of improving the comfort, safety, attractiveness and vitality of streets and other public open spaces so that everyone can use and enjoy them. This concept of placemaking has been used in the foreign countries to improve their public places. They western cities are known for their respect for public places which lack here in India. This research paper covers the factors of great public places, this research paper also covers the social and economic importance of public spaces and how public space make a city work. This research paper is to investigate what are the problems and major issues in Kerala public places which discourages people from using it and why previous attempts fail in Kerala context. The research has been done to study what are the barriers against a good public place. A brief study of the historical background of public place has been done to understand the importance of those place. Also, a study of elements and principles which makes a normal public place to a great public place. Case studies have been done on western public places and Indian public space to study the negative and positive points of Indian public places and the various factors that are responsible for it.

**KEYWORDS:** Placemaking Movement, Public Place Plan, User Friendly Street, Streetscaping

## I. INTRODUCTION

[1] Placemaking gained its traction in the 1960s, when PPS mentors like Jane Jacobs and William H. Whyte introduced groundbreaking ideas of designing cities for people, not just vehicles and shopping malls. Their work focuses on the cultural and social importance of lively neighbourhoods and inviting public space: Jacobs encouraged everyday citizens to take ownership of public space through the idea of “eyes on the streets,” while Holly Whyte outlined key elements for creating vibrant social life in public space. Applying the experience of these

urban pioneers, since 1975 PPS has gradually developed a comprehensive Placemaking approach.

Effective placemaking techniques can yield a number of benefits for communities of all shapes and sizes when it comes to activating public space. Placemaking can be implemented in various place, such as an entire downtown district or a single neighbourhood, to improve the local quality of life. These techniques can also be used to help our communities to attract and retain talent through improving the quality of their key junctions, nodes and corridors, and providing a wider range of housing, transportation, entertainment and recreational opportunities.

[2] Placemaking can assist in economic development at the regional level, where regionally significant locations can be targeted for Strategic Placemaking projects, which can lead to regional economic development plans as areas that are priorities for new investment. Local governments can also benefit from placemaking as, over time, their ability to move more quickly from project planning to action is increased. Placemaking also helps these entities to create focus on their investment priority areas and projects to agencies, which assists them in seeking and receiving targeted support. From all levels of governments to the average citizen, placemaking techniques help to transform everyday public spaces into active places that develop economic development, and are exciting places to live, work, play, shop and learn.

## NEED OF THE STUDY

Much of our experience of a city depends on its public space. Cities are fundamentally about people, and where people go and where people meet are at the core of what makes a city work. So, the public spaces in buildings them are even more important than built structures in a city are the public spaces in between them. What people feels

about a city or region depends on their experience of its public spaces.

- Are these streets and open spaces safe?
  - Are they fun and user friendly to walk down?
  - Are there lots of activity to do, apart from eating in side cafes?
  - And where will the children play?
- Public space can change the way how you live in a city, how you feel about a city, whether you chose one city over another, and public spaces is one of the most important why you stay in a city.

### AIM

**The aim of this research is to study how we can create healthy, productive and enjoyable public spaces in Kerala urban context.**

It also aims to provide design recommendations for such spaces for their better environment quality.

### OBJECTIVE

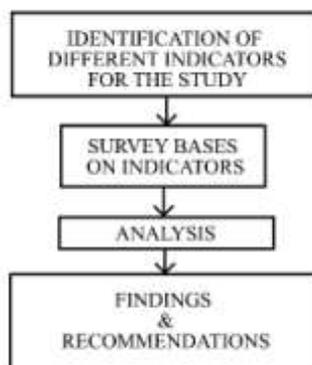
The research has five objectives:

- To understand the theory of Placemaking.
- To identify parameters for a successful placemaking.
- To understand the issues in placemaking by doing case studies.
- To understand the potentials, challenges and transformation of public spaces in Kerala urban planning context.
- To develop design recommendations for increment of public open spaces.

### LIMITATION

- The application of the research result is focusing the city of Kerala. The study is limited to placemaking in open spaces, public spaces and street in urban planning context.

## II. METHODOLOGY



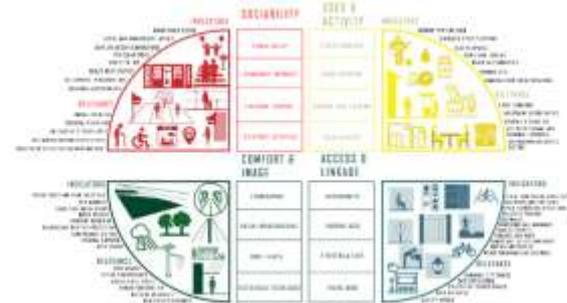
## III. LITERATURE

[4] Placemaking is a movement which seeks to improve public spaces in towns and cities

by involving the local community in the design, to create places which are welcoming to citizens, facilitate social interaction and are aesthetically pleasing. Project for Public Spaces is an organisation which assists communities with placemaking projects, and initiated the Placemaking Leadership Council which has members worldwide dedicated to best-practice placemaking, including in Adelaide (Project for Public Spaces, 2013). Placemaking is having an impact in cities such as San Francisco, Vancouver, Melbourne, Stockholm and Singapore (Kent, 2014). This Section will address the concept of place before discussing the ideals of placemaking.

Placemaking refers more specifically to creating places in the built environment. From the 1960s, concerns about auto-centric planning and bad public spaces began to emerge, as insights into human-scale movement and social interaction in the built environment were created. Influential works include Lynch's The Image of the City (1960), which presented 17 empirical research on how individuals navigate the urban landscape, and Jacobs' The Death and Life of Great American Cities (1961) which described the interaction between people in her home of Greenwich Village, New York. Jacobs (1961) argues that for pedestrian safety and wellbeing, protection and civic trust comes from other people's "eyes on the street" (p. 45). These works were fundamental in illustrating the link between the built environment and social wellbeing.

## KEY INDICATORS DERIVED FROM STUDY



Indicators

## IV. STUDY AREA

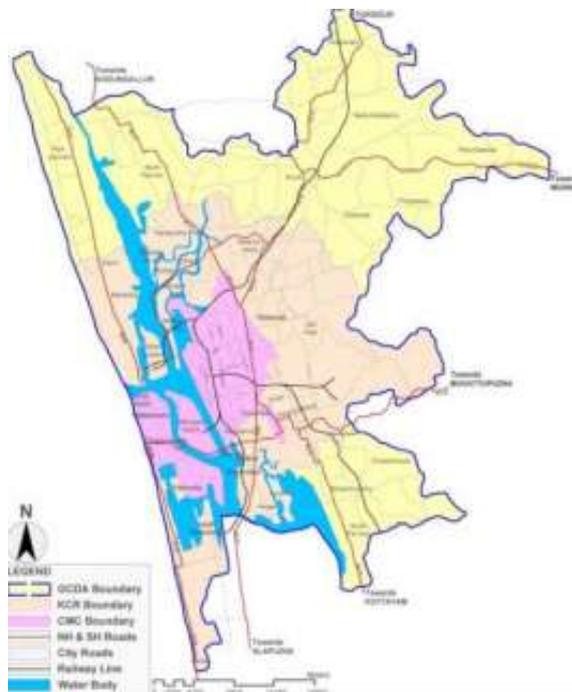
Kochi was formerly known as cochin and it is a major port city on the Malabar Coast of India bordering the Laccadive Sea, which is a part of the Arabian Sea. It is part of Ernakulam district in the state of Kerala and is commonly referred to as Ernakulam. Kochi is the most populated city in Kerala as of 2011, it has a corporation limit population of 677381 within an area of 94.88 Sq km

and a total urban population of more than of 2.1 million within an area of 440 Sq km making it the largest and most populous metropolitan area in Kerala district.

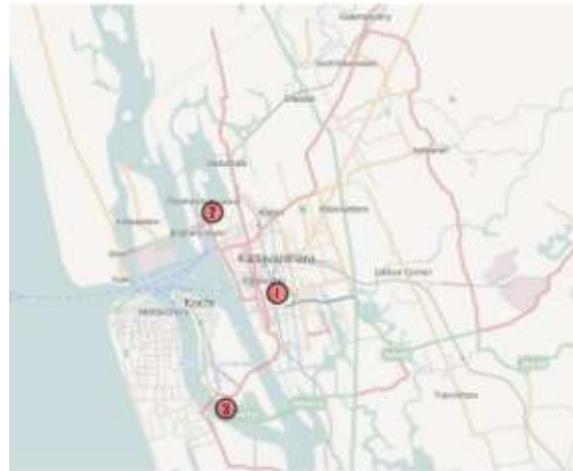
The urban landscape in Kerala is marked by the disappearance of open space available for people to use due to enclosure of the open spaces in tune with the rise in the real estate price. The restrictions on the use of existing available open spaces also deprive the people the facility. In a place like Ernakulam apart from the highly saturated Marine Drive area and Durbar Hall Ground open spaces available are quite limited in the main central business district.

Aimed at promoting child-friendly, pedestrian-friendly and safe and happy / active public spaces / streets in Kochi, Cochin Smart Mission Limited (CSML) has invited designs from the public and designers for the Streets for People challenge.

It is an initiative by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and Smart Cities Mission to encourage people to create a better public place, flagship walking initiative in cities, focusing on placemaking, liveability, and pedestrian-friendly neighbourhoods.



**[7] Kochi Corporation Area**



**[9] Open Street Map Showing Placemaking area Under Smart City Cochin**

**SITE SELECTION CRITERIA  
 PANAMPILLY WALKWAY**



**Panampilly Walkway, Kochi**

- Social: High Footfall Attraction
- Economic: Street Vending
- Physical: Ample Street Space
- Environment: More open & Green Space

**QUEEN'S WALKWAY**



**Queen's Walkway, Kochi**

- Social: High Footfall Attraction
- Economic: Street Vending
- Physical: Ample Street Space
- Environment: More open & Recreational Space

### AVENUE WALKWAY

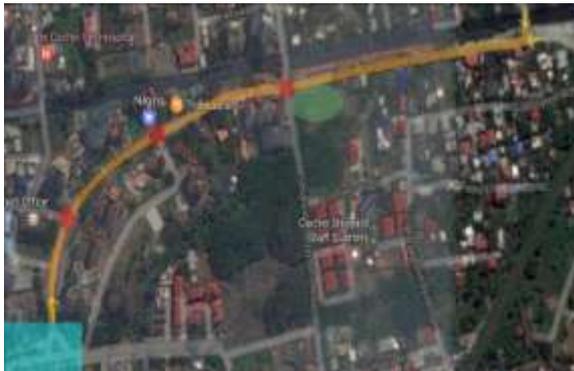


Avenue Walkway, Kochi

Social: High Footfall Attraction  
 Economic: No Activity  
 Physical: Ample Street Space  
 Environment: More open & Recreational Space

#### DETAILS OF THE STUDY AREA

THE NEW WALKWAY, PANAMPILLY, KOCHI  
 [7] Panampilly Nagar In Kochi Is a Busy Area Just One Km East of Mg Road. This area has been given importance because of its residential and commercial importance .so kmrll proposed connecting this area to Kadavanthra metro station.



Location Panampilly Walkway, Kochi



Schematic Plan Panampilly Walkway, Kochi



Issues in Panampilly Walkway, Kochi

#### Physical Elements in Walkway

- Modern and model footpath of average 4m wide
- Dedicated cycle path
- Drain work on the space where it's not available
- Utility ducts
- Street poles and pedestrian lights
- Green space of average 4m wide after the foot path
- Pedestrian crossing with standards
- Fencing in canal side with creeper plants
- Shrubs and tree planting
- Road and pedestrian signages
- Garbage bins
- Concrete Bench

#### Social Elements in Walkway

- Safety
- Interaction
- Recreational Activities
- Good Accessibility
- Comfort

#### Activities

- Cycling
- Walking
- Relaxation

AGE GROUP	TIME	Gender	TIME
  	Morning - 13% Noon - 8% Evening - 24%		Morning - 60% Noon - 50% Evening - 75%
	Morning - 33% Noon - 20% Evening - 40%		
 	Morning - 25% Noon - 20% Evening - 55%		
	Morning - 10% Noon - 8% Evening - 15%		

People Flow



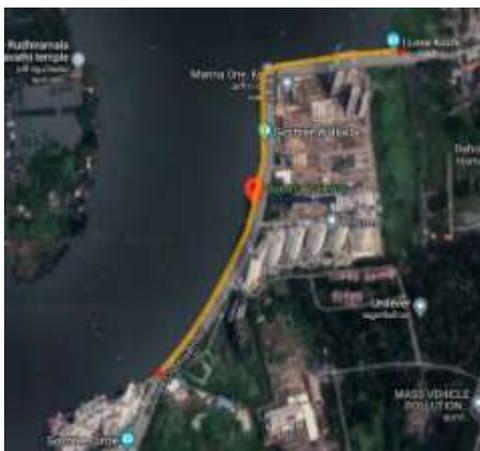
Rating for Panampilly Walkway, Kochi

**Activities**

Recreation	-	50%
Relaxation	-	30%
Commercial	-	20%

**QUEEN'S WALKWAY, KOCHI**

[7] The Queen's Walk Way in Kochi is a 1.8 km long walkway in the city of Kochi. It is a walkway that stretches from the start of Goshree Island Development Authority Road to Chathyath Church and is a hangout place for the locals. The Queen's walkway is situated at around 1.5 km away from the High Court Junction and 2 km away from Marine Drive.



Location Queen's Walkway, Kochi

**Physical Elements in Walkway**

- Modern and model footpath of average 4.5m wide
- Drain work on the space where it's not available
- Utility ducts
- Street poles and pedestrian lights

- Green space of average after the foot path
- Pedestrian crossing with standards
- Fencing in kayal side. Material used metal fencing.
- Shrubs and tree planting
- Road and pedestrian signages
- Garbage bins in some locations
- Metal Bench

AGE GROUP	TIME	Gender	TIME
	Morning - 20% Noon - 14% Evening - 16%		Morning - 40% Noon - 45% Evening - 70%
	Morning - 28% Noon - 18% Evening - 60%		Morning - 60% Noon - 15% Evening - 30%
	Morning - 45% Noon - 23% Evening - 55%		
	Morning - 20% Noon - 16% Evening - 40%		

People Flow



Rating for Queen's Walkway, Kochi

**Activities**

Recreation	-	50%
Relaxation	-	40%
Commercial	-	10%

**AVENUE WALKWAY, KOCHI**

[7] Cochin Port Trust (CoPT) Avenue walkway is a newly renovated 2.1 km long walkway that connecting Thoppumpady bridge and Kannanghat bridge where people come for morning walks and evening strolls. There is also a kid's play area and park available nearby, hence it is a complete family spot.



Location Avenue Walkway, Kochi

AGE GROUP	TIME	Gender	TIME
	Morning - 14% Noon - 8% Evening - 18%		Morning - 70% Noon - 70% Evening - 70%
	Morning - 20% Noon - 15% Evening - 22%		
	Morning - 25% Noon - 12% Evening - 30%		Morning - 30% Noon - 30% Evening - 30%
	Morning - 12% Noon - 0% Evening - 20%		

People Flow

**Physical Elements in Walkway**

- Modern and model footpath of average 2.5m wide
- Street poles and pedestrian lights. Not sufficient.
- Green space of average after the foot path in walkway
- No Fencing near waterbody.
- Tree cover are not available.
- No Provision for shade
- Pedestrian signages not available.
- Garbage bins in some locations
- Metal Bench but not sufficient.



Rating for Avenue Walkway, Kochi

<b>Activities</b>		
Recreation	-	50%
Commercial	-	20%

**Table 1 Recommendations**

		RECOMMENDATION			
		PARAMETER	PANAMPILLY WALKWAY	QUEEN'S WALKWAY	AVENUE WALKWAY
SOCIALITY	ON-STREET ACTIVITIES		Inputs in street furniture	Add street furniture and interactive features	Add street furniture and interactive features
	FOOTFALL/USER GROUPS		Vehicular speed reduction at intersection points	Peak hour traffic management with effective tactics	Introduction of age centric and women centric infrastructure
	COMMUNITY SERVICES		Installing public toilets and timely maintenance	Installing help desk	Installing public toilets and timely maintenance
	PUBLIC SAFETY		Shop front zoning	Alignment of on street parking bays	Installing cctv at regular interval
USE S&A CUI	DEDICATED SPACES		Street enhancement for	Development and management	Introduction of recreational economy

		street vendors	of space for street vending	to attract footfall
	SEATING	Providing temporary seating to support street vending	Providing temporary seating to support street vending	Providing temporary seating to support street vending
	POWER LIGHTING /	Provisioning authorized electricity	Provisioning authorized electricity	Provisioning authorized electricity
	WATER WASTE /	Provisioning regular water supply and sanitation facility	Waste segregation and proper disposal	Provisioning regular water supply and sanitation facility
COMFORT & IMAGE	RAIN GARDENS	Providing rain gardens	Providing rain gardens	Providing rain gardens
	permeable paving	Permeable paving material use	Permeable paving material use	Permeable paving material use
	TREES & PLANTING	Planting trees in open space	Planting trees in open space	Planting trees in open space
	CURBS & GREEN STRIP	Providing grass lanes	Providing grass lanes	Providing grass lanes
	GREEN MEDIANS	Providing low shrub line	Providing low shrub line	Providing low shrub line
	SIDEWALKS	Providing continuous and clear pathway	Providing continuous and clear pathway	Providing continuous and clear pathway
	CROSSINGS & MARKINGS	Marked crossing with signals and stop control, raised elements	Marked crossing with signals and stop control, raised elements	Marked crossing with signals and stop control, raised elements
ACCESS & LINKAGES	RAMPS & TACTILE PAVING	Install pedestrian ramps at every pedestrian crossing and level change	Tactile pavements for visually impaired to navigate	Install pedestrian ramps at every pedestrian crossing and level change
	SIGNAGES & MAPS	Easy illustrated sign and maps	Easy illustrated sign and maps	Easy illustrated sign and maps

	DUSTBINS	Frequenting provisioning of wastereceptacles	Frequenting provisioning of wastereceptacles	Frequenting provisioning of wastereceptacles
	TRAVEL MODE	Provide continuous walkways	Provide continuous walkways	Provide continuous walkways
	PARKING	Strict restriction and finingon carriageway parking	Provide dedicated parking lots	Strict restriction and finingon carriageway parking

### V. CONCLUSION

Placemaking in Kerala urban context is discussed in this dissertation and the various social, economic, environmental and physical factors that influence the quality of public place are studied. Context specific factors are also analysed and findings from the context are used to develop recommendations for placemaking in Kerala urban planning context. During the study it was observed that the factors other than social, economic, environment and physical factors. Maintenance and organizational set up of authority that manage public place also plays a big role in maintaining the great public places.

It was observed that major factor that influence in failing of great public place in Kerala urban planning context is due to lack of infrastructure provision and lack of periodic maintenance of public place. So the study is concluded by doing context specific analysis of existing condition of public places in Kerala urban planning context based on identified indicators from the study and recommendation are suggested to improve the quality of public place. It was concluded that the identified components (Social, Economic, Environmental and Physical) of Place making have to be fulfilled at site to create a great Public Space in Kerala Urban Context and necessary monitoring and maintenance has to be done periodically for long run.

The factors that influence public places is analysed with public places created under smart city mission in Kochi region and further need for improvement of existing public places were analysed and recommendation were proposed. From this analysis it was concluded that necessary of number of physical elements should be provided to make people welcoming and comfortable, and

should establish an effective relationship with surrounding. All User groups should be Equally Treated. Their needs have to be taken care and satisfied. Necessary infrastructure should be made available at site (Toilets, Drinking Water etc). The arrangement of different Physical elements in relation to each other should be carefully done. Input from community or user groups can be taken and improvements can be done to make places lively and more comfortable.

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