

Architecture & Interior Design Magazine



ARCHITECTURE OF SENSES - ARCHITECTURE FOR WELL-BEING

Architecture mission and responsibility is to build an environment where spaces become places and where people feel good.

Human needs a live environment, not a deaf one that can't hear his needs, or a dump one that tells nothing. If the environment doesn't support human physical and moral necessities, it will not be a part of his interest, and as a result of that, human will not be satisfied, and he may face an unbalanced life.

Architecture and Urban Design beside their functional mission, are a form of art that communicates with human in a non-verbal language.

Buildings should not act as a container for humane activities; buildings should be the environment that evokes people's inner soul and create unity.



Human senses are the interpreter of architecture and urban design's words of silence, this interaction between human senses, buildings and places makes its existence in human scope. If the physical world cannot be sensed or perceived, then it does not exist in human perception, therefore human senses can perform a mental image, subsequently, the attachment will be ready to take place.



PLACE ATTACHMENT IN ARCHITECTURE HISTORY

PLACE Attachment discussed and studied by diverse number of researchers since 1963 and until today. The first mention of places bonds and its influence was in the study by Marc Fried 1963.

It was on the Psychological effects of the forced dislocation of the population of a Boston suburb. Fried proposed that forced

transfer from a PLACE causes an interruption with individuals, which is sense of continuity; it affects two essential components of identity, spatial identity and group identity. In addition, Fried in his later studies from 1982 to 1984 uses the term attachment to mean satisfaction with one's neighborhood.

For twenty nine years, attachment was not



included among environmental psychology researches. At this time, studying the cognitive and behavioral aspects of attachment was more important than the phenomenon itself. Then by 1992 Irwin

Altman and Setha Low published their book, PLACE Attachment. It was a part of series about Human Behavior and Environment, "That book offered a working definition of PLACE attachment as the bonding of people to place, but the discourse was new enough that the debate about that definition, and how PLACE attachment related to constructs such as PLACE identity, sense of place, and PLACE dependence, was only looming on the horizons."

PLACE Attachment book was also designed to highlight the potential importance of PLACE attachment for research and for environmental design, it was designed to lay the foundation for conceptual

and sustainability of urban PLACE identity, Norsidah suggested that "psychological sense of PLACE has an important contribution in sustaining PLACE identity. PLACE Attachment and familiarity provide emotional and functional indicators of PLACE significance."

Then in 2010 Scannell, Gifford, Altman and Low predicted that the PLACE attachment concept would move from a concept development stage to an application stage. In that time PLACE attachment was still in development stage in theory and methodology, and the application of PLACE attachment worked continuously in the social sciences and design disciplines and went to topics like, pro-environmental engagement, social housing, and community design. A need to permit architecture with multi-sensory information.

All past studies mentioned that human to PLACE attachment has a strong impact and it can define the human identity and improve the quality of



framework to guide future researches. "Since then, the importance of PLACE attachment became well established."

In 2003 Giuliani, M. V. published the book of Theory of attachment and PLACEattachment, the book discussed the importance of the emotional bond with places that qualifying the human existence. In 2008 and in a paper by Norsidah Ujang, it was about PLACE attachment, familiarity



humans existence as individual and as a group, as it has a positive impact in identifying the human identity, and enriching life with values, goals and significance.

Interior Design and human senses



HUMAN BODY, THE LOCUS OF PERCEPTION

Human body can be defined as the locus of perception, thoughts and awareness, besides human body is where senses are articulating, storing and processing the responses and thoughts; and this is to reach the potential of perception in order to accomplish the impact of the memory.

Human body in its movement from PLACE to PLACE absorbs the experience of the spatial journey.

Human body and senses' interaction with environment; can produce memories in every PLACE human visits, therefore multi-sensory architectural experience provides an effective field for senses to experience the quality of the place, and to improve the existential experience.

Human senses are the way to



recognize places, understand it, interact with it, and then remember it to finally get ready to attach to these places.

There are five ways in which the human senses connected to places to produce sensed environment, it's about cooperation between, senses, hierarchy, sequence of sense after another, level of environment effect on senses, and finally reciprocal relations of senses with the environment.

Human senses use different cues in identifying the PLACE and its features, and that affects perception range. Touch, smell and taste are haptic space sensors and that means, they are the senses that gives information about the near-space features; however vision and hearing can percept the far-space features.

So, to achieve a complete recognition of a space or a place, human should experience the PLACE completely and it happens through the use of all the senses together to insure a comprehensive and an effective perception.

Each journey in human's day is a kind of discovering different types of spaces and places, and in these daily journeys different tangible elements are included.

Therefore, realizing and recognize these elements needs a communication between human and



space or PLACE elements, and from an architecture perspective, the human should find the architecture elements and urban places as the stimuli to human senses. It's already experienced by human that some cities has its own charm because of its impact on human perception, "A city such as San Francisco is recognized by its unique settings, topography, skyline, odors, and street noises."



HUMAN VISION IN ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIOR DESIGN

"In English, I see means I understand" , and seeing is the major sense to recognize the environment. Seeing recognized as not only stimuli of light but also a selective process.

In seeing, environmental stimuli organized into a flowing structure, and that structured flow of light waves provides meaningful signs to the eye.

From early cultures of human being, and in classical Greek culture; thoughts certainty were based on vision and visibility. "The eyes are more exact witnesses than the ears" And "During the Renaissance, five senses were understood to form a hierarchical system from the highest sense of vision down to touch"

To see and recognize, it's a process of visual system that requires communication between its major sensory organ which is the eye and the core of the central nervous system which is the brain, and this is to interpret an external stimuli in a shape of light waves to produce images.

Eyesight perception depends on more than factor like angle, distance, period of seeing, texture, light, shades, clearness, color, simplicity, complexity and shape or form.

Human eye is the mind's data collector; data collected entered the short or long-term memory and that depends on the details.

Eye sends free forms and complicated shapes to the short-term memory that used to recognize these details and to keep it for a short time of period so it cannot be remembered after a while, that makes complicated shapes interesting each time people see it. While eye sends the simple forms to the long-term memory and that can be remembered for a long time.

This relation of lines, forms and shapes, and the memory can help architects and urban designers to use these features to attract human sense of vision, and to construct designs that can be stored for long time in human memory, it is about forming a visual mental image that can help in human to PLACE attachment.

The human considered as visionary beings, and this is why architects focused on vision and forgot about other senses, and that led human to isolation,



senses



detachment and exteriority.

"Modernist design has housed the intellect and the eye, but it has left the body and the other senses as well as our memories and dreams, homeless." One of the recommendations for architects is to focus on the relation between vision and all other senses, and to connect senses all together.

Satisfying vision is not enough to reach multisensory environment.

It's already discussed that some senses are supporting each other in recognizing the place, sense of seeing is a far-space sense and it's supported by touch which is haptic-space sense, and the sense of touch is the unconscious of vision, and it provides a three-dimensional information of the form.

Sound will also take the vision to the undetected areas, plus body movement that will open more areas of details by changing angle and distance; to help vision in creating a clear and complete image of the place.

Observing spaces, places, shapes, forms and lines should be studied by architects to realize human perception system, so they can apply that to the design process.



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