



Environmental Psychology in Surroundings and Urban Environments

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ABSTRACT

The factors in creating a good feeling in a subjects surroundings, more precisely environmental psychology and its effect on people are the basis of our study in this paper. This article tries to investigate the use of environmental psychology in urban areas, the different factors that are involved and the effect of use on subjects exposed to it. In fact, the feelings about a 'location' are created by things such as connection level, mental imaginations and the attributes related to that specific environment. This meaning has a root in cognitive experiences such as memories, culture, tradition, rules and the society and in another way it's affected by outer components like smell, color, pattern and sounds. This shows us that the feeling of 'place' is a complex structure of feelings and human attachments to the environment which is created by his use and the process of recognition. It's the everyday use that creates the description of 'place' and 'location' in our minds. A person attributes to a location his actions and reactions and their effect. These also create his further reactions to the environment. On that basis, backed up by many solid findings, this study tries to define the needed attributes and structures in an urban environment.

Keywords Environmental Psychology; Urban Structure; Memories; Evolving; Mental Attachments.

INTRODUCTION

Humans are part of nature. Mankind needs to be knowledgeable on the rules of nature and environment to have a comfortable life in all times and seasons by following the order our surroundings pose on us. On the other hand, neglecting such issues creates numerous problems on all fronts including financial, environmental and psychological. 'Sense of place' is a combination of two words; sense and place. Sense as defined by the Oxford dictionary has five meanings: one of our five primal senses, feelings, emotions and love[1]. In psychology it is the recognition of a visionary sense in a specific way. The judgement made after understanding the target can be good, bad, exciting etc. All in all we can say that sense is complete understanding of something by alive beings. But the word sense, as in sense of place, is pointing out to the emotions, feelings and any physical or non physical judgments that we have about our surroundings. Research shows that these surroundings also have non-physical, spiritual messages and secrets for the inhabitants who de-code it based on their own expectations, emotions, roles and other factors and then pass judgment about it. This broad feeling which is triggered about a specific place is what's called 'sense of place', it's also a very important factor in organizing the person and the place together for better use of it, satisfaction and a sense of belonging and stability. The relationship between mankind

and his surroundings is a mutual one. People get what they give to their environment whether good or bad[2]. A place can cause many different feelings in different people based on their personality and past experiences. When traveling in a foreign country there is a sense of indifference about it meaning that it's not yet associated with happy or sad feelings. When meanings attach to a place it becomes it becomes a living being to us. The space needs to be recognizable and memorable for it to create the sense of place. In 2000, Morris and his colleagues concluded that the sense of place evolves and changes overtime. If a building, city or nature doesn't trigger a feeling in a person, it will be derived from any personality in his opinion. If he finds himself out of place he might feel like a stranger to that location. Now that the lingual meaning of our subject is defined it will make our work easier but still there remains the issue of how to sync with our surroundings[3].

PLAN DEFINITION

1- When people enter a certain place they have a feeling about it. This feeling can be happiness, sadness, anger, fear etc. The feeling is the same every time they enter the place. Sometimes there is a shared sense of place between a group of people which is called mutual sense of place and has the strongest effect on prejudices and opinions before realized interacting with the place[4].

2- Sense of place is what we get when we are put somewhere or go there. Society passes judgement on a place based on its environmental qualities and then evaluates its living qualities as a habitat. The very base

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to engineering any structure or location is sense of place and the plan maker needs to get every possible information about people's expectations and sense of place to offer a good plan.

3- Added to the comfort that the sense of place brings with itself, it also supports the cultural values, social norms and relations and the beliefs of its inhabitants in a certain place. By doing so it brings about the sense of belonging for its people which leads to recognition and remembering of past experiences for a stable definition to their personality.

4- Sense of place affects the local architecture. Every person gets a feeling when put in a specific place but it varies from one to another [5].

5- This research wants to study inner attributes of places and its effect on people's sense of place. The feeling of belonging is a very important factor in improving environmental quality, better relation between people and environment and protecting our surroundings. Based on Counters model, this inner attributes improve with better design, help establish meanings and activities and by satisfying mental, physical and social needs cause a series of contentment and understanding feeling which lead to sense of place.

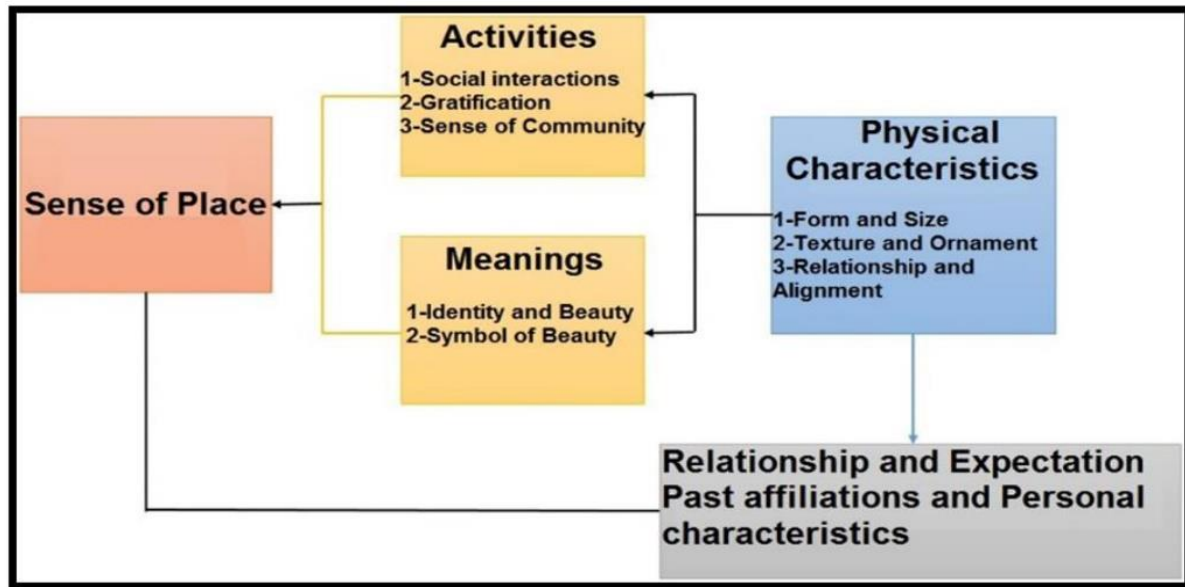


Fig 1.Counter model (factors influencing the formation of a sense of place and how it is)

PROCESS OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR

To explain this process we need to start with the cradle of every behavior, environment. Humans are surrounded by the environment. Part of it which is made of triggers that the person shows sensitivity to it is called behavioral space[6]. Place can be the cradle of

cognition, recognition and spatial behaviors. These are heavily influenced by social or personal mental models. These models are in direct correlation to human needs and wants. The very same models complete human cognition and so this creates a cycle between cognition, spatial behaviors and mental models.