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NATURE IN CITIES:AN APPROACH TO PROMOTE THE SENSE OF BELONGING INURBAN COMMUNITIES

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NATURE IN CITIES:AN APPROACH TO PROMOTE THE SENSE OF BELONGING INURBAN COMMUNITIES

Abstract

During the second half of the twentieth century, a time that has been noticeable by rapid urbanization of societies, urban environments have become diminished and dysfunctional. Particularly in the practice of forming urban space and in addition, the design of buildings has been allowed to be bloomed, with the lack of both social and environmental responsibility have turned into revolting influences of the plot. With regards to the Urban Environment, sociological consequences will undermine the amenity value of the social environment if the community and the end user are not satisfied by the incompetence to meet the cultural needs. The absence of cultural perception and environmental ethos proposed by the contemporary buildings and urban landscapes, obviously through ignoring the approaching depletion of natural resources. Architects and urban designers should not disregard signs of global stress that are of social and ecological major consequence. Therefore this paper aims to study the urban environment within architecture and urban design. Based on scientific methodology, the paper reviews the contemporary literature of the environmental goals for the new world through analysing current contemporary work and illustrating the environmental elements in shaping the urban landscape. Finally, the one of the important conclusion is that the Humanistic and environmental resource elements should manage innovative powers in architecture and in shaping the urban landscape.

Keywords

Space, Urban Community, Sense of Belonging, Natural Cities, Cultural Perception

NATURE IN CITIES: AN APPROACH TO PROMOTE THE SENSE OF BELONGING IN URBAN COMMUNITIES

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ABSTRACT: *During the second half of the twentieth century, a time that has been*

noticeable by rapid urbanization of societies, urban environments have become diminished and dysfunctional. Particularly in the practice of forming urban space and in addition, the design of buildings has been allowed to be bloomed, with the lack of both social and environmental responsibility have turned into revolting influences of the plot. With regards to the Urban Environment, sociological consequences will undermine the amenity value of the social environment if the community and the end user are not satisfied by the incompetence to meet the cultural needs. The absence of cultural perception and environmental ethos proposed by the contemporary buildings and urban landscapes, obviously through ignoring the approaching depletion of natural resources. Architects and urban designers should not disregard signs of global stress that are of social and ecological major consequence. Therefore this paper aims to study the urban environment within architecture and urban design. Based on scientific methodology, the paper reviews the contemporary literature of the environmental goals for the new world through analysing current contemporary work and illustrating the environmental elements in shaping the urban landscape. Finally, the one of the important conclusion is that the Humanistic and environmental resource elements should manage innovative powers in architecture and in shaping the urban landscape.

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1. INTRODUCTION

“All great ages of architecture are known by their grand period titles - ours will probably be known as ‘Architecture

in the Age of Consumerism’ arising from the self-indulgent intemperance of the developed world, the declining quality of urban life globally, and a universal disregard for proper stewardship of the natural resources of the planet.”(Derek, 2002). Due to the interference of modern architecture and technology, most of Arab countries nowadays focus on having contemporary buildings that do not allow cultural and urban spaces to bloom. For this purpose, architectural pieces are lacking from a sense of belonging, and hence losing the inclusion of the influential spirit of social lifestyle. Psychologically inhabitants are mostly in need of this cognitive perception. Incompetent urban planners are responsible for the absence of the natural environmental features.

Therefore, this paper is structured into five sections, which aims to study the exertion that innovates and offers the individuals variable facilities to enlighten the social community interaction, in addition to the correlation between the government and the consumers to achieve ideal natural cities. This introduction defines the first section, the second section consists of keywords and definitions that are related to the context of the paper. This is fulfilled via a scientific methodology, which discusses an analytical review of the western urban life that holds five main points in the third section. Furthermore, the fourth section illustrates the community culture needs as a frame work that enhances the fulfilment of safety and satisfaction of one self. Briefly, the last section concludes by targeting the usage of the environmental elements that are mentioned in the fourth section to empower architects and urban planners to merge with the societies in raising a healthy and wellbeing social environment.

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1 Space:

According to Oxford Dictionary, Space is a continuous area which is free, available, or unoccupied. To Hillier (1996) space is never simply the inert background of our material existence. It is a key aspect of how societies and cultures are constituted in the real world, and, through this constitution, structured for us as 'objective' realities. According to Lefebvre (1998) space is a social product; it is not only supported by social relations but also produced by social relations. Lawson (2005) identifies that space creates settings which organize our lives, activities and relationships.

2.2 Urban Community:

According to Oxford Dictionary, Community is a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common. To James (2012), a community is a small or large social unit who have something in common, such as norms, religion, values, or identity. Canuto (2000) mentions in archaeological studies of social communities the term "community" is used in two ways, paralleling usage in other areas. The first is an informal definition of community as a place where people used to live. The second meaning a community is a group of people living near one another who interact socially. Sociology Group (2017) identifies Urban Community is something which an individual thought as, an area with high density of population, an area with the availability of basic requirements, an area of good resources, the area has lots of opportunity of employment and such an area which can be considered as life-giving for luxurious desires of human or individual. Generally speaking, the Urban Communities are identified as large, dense and heterogeneous

2.3 Sense of Belonging:

The BC Atlas of Wellness noted that a Sense of belonging to one's local community is a measure of the degree of connection that individuals have built up within their neighborhood or community. This may be achieved through membership in local organizations or through helping others out when needed and vice versa. McMillan (1986) considers that sense of belonging involves the feeling, belief, and expectation that one fits in the group and has a place there, a feeling of acceptance by the group, and a willingness to sacrifice for the group. The role of identification must be emphasized here. It may be represented in reciprocal statements "It is my group" and "I am part of the group."

2.4 Natural Cities:

Khosla and Soni have adopted that a Natural Cities simply regenerates an interdependent relationship between human beings and nature that has always existed. "These are cities where you live naturally and where renewability, regeneration and sustainability are the guides for day to day living that places utilitarianism within a wider pursuit for being a part of the natural world" (www.natural-cities.com). An explanation is proposed by Jiang and Jia (2011), they believed that the Natural Cities are mainly divided by basing on human activities and it can define as: Where there are human activities, there are cities.

2.5 Cultural Perception:

Psychologist Gaines Arnold defines Cultural Perception is how people gather information, learned within their specific culture, to inform themselves about their world. This takes into account all aspects of the individual's life. How a person sees art, language, religion, etc. is all informed by how those elements of the world are seen within the context of their culture. Meanwhile Nisbett and Masuda (2003) find that people from different cultures have differentiated habitual patterns of attention and perception.

3. WESTERN URBAN LIFE

3.1 Western civilizations

The pattern of architectural history in Western civilizations demonstrates distinctive 'cause and effect' tendencies, where the architectural styles of certain period react nearly to social, economic and cultural needs, from one perspective, and the availability of technical and technological means on the other.

However, modern susceptibilities in architecture and urban design show a poor response to contemporary, and even traditional parameters, where lessons from the past could show the way.

Humanistic and environmental useful resource principles have to emerge as the using creative forces in architecture and in shaping the urban landscape. To restore architecture to its rightful place in the public and private geographical regions, a new responsiveness should be rise up, to emerge built

environments that enhance the urban experience. Architecture that is based on conceptual philosophizing and expression, matching trends in art and sculptural shape, can easily become removed from the realities of

daily urban living and not anymore be of social relevance. An apt diagnosis of the malaise is delivered by the visionary extraordinaire, Hundertwasser in his call for action to the Western world:

- “The time has come.
- The time of surveillance has past.
- The time of waiting for paradise is past.
- The time of fruitless talking is past.
- The time for action has come.” (Rand, 1991

3.2 Technology Effect

Aside from the need to engage with social troubles, technology which become designed to raise human lives, indeed human habitat, has produced unexpected byproducts which includes ‘sick building syndrome’. In impact, this impose for concern as to how healthy homes and offices definitely are, since actually relied on artificial, excessive energy consuming to accurate what cause a terrible architectural design.

Buildings constructed of insufficient world’s resources, and using methods cause to produce toxic wastes lead dangerous squanders generation, are giving to the assault of the environment and harm the human health. Hundertwasser identifies a cure: ‘The Architect Doctor: Our houses have been sick for as long as there have been indoctrinated urban planners and standardized architects. They do not fall sick, but are conceived and brought into the world as sick houses... The simple task of the architect doctor is to restore human dignity and harmony and nature and human creation’ (Rand 1991). Architecture should not involve financial aspects only, and the aesthetic should not be the outcome of the haphazard use of mechanistic drawing aids. The decline of Modernism is largely associated with those tendencies in architectural practice throughout the developed countries. ‘The resultant universalization of style has become seamless with the prevailing culture’ (Thomas, 2002).



Figure 1: Aerial views of the Houston, Texas, Source: Carol M. Highsmith (2014)

3.3 Gaia Movement

Aside from aesthetic and amenity components in architectural propositions, concerning the resources of the planet are today found looking in recognize of spiritual dedication and dedicated environmental stewardship. In terms of architectural design the widely interpreted concept of ‘sustainability’ begins to take on a significant and urgent message.

James Lovelock’s book, Gaia: A New Look at Life on Earth is a new perception emerged in the middle of 1980s, a significant contribution to understand human habitat. Lovelock propounds a compelling hypothesis: that the earth and all its life systems are an organic entity. Gaia (the ancient Greek earth goddess) is self-sustaining, and has the characteristics of a living organism. The major man-induced interventions threaten the capacity of the organism to sustain its functions - a demonstrable example being the depletion of the ozone layer and global warming which have induced extremes in climatic behavior as evidenced during the past decades (Thomas, 2002, p13).

3.4 Baubiologie

furthermore and advocating the usage of conventional, natural materials and building methods, the Baubiologie (building biology) philosophy became a force for change in German-speaking countries.

Baubiologie expects to impact the design of buildings to meet human biological, physical and spiritual

needs. The house satisfies basic living capacities, and the buildings texture should be harmoniously emerge with inhabitant and the environment. ‘The constant exchange between the inside and the outside depends on a transfusive, healthy ‘living’ indoor environment’ (Pearson, 1989).



Figure 2: Left: The 25 Guiding Principles of Building Biology. Source: IBN (2018) Right: Dallas, Texas, USA: Hyatt Regency Hotel (1970s): Clad of reflective glass that requires conditioned air to offset heat loss and gain daily and seasonally. Source: Thomas (2002)

3.5 Community Architecture

Knevitt (1985) encourages ‘Community Architecture’ as a movement founded on social idealism where the views of residents in new and existing residential environments are solicited rather than ignored. The concept simply means that, as a project comes on-stream, research must first be undertaken to assess users’ needs and aspirations in advance of the first brick being laid; and then, on completion the need to establish whether these have been fulfilled (Thomas, 2002, p14).

The history books report widespread examples where in complete residential districts had been later raised to the ground as failed environments. Pruitt-Igoe (St Louis, Missouri USA, 1972) become possibly the most famous of failed urban renewal projects due to ‘inappropriate design, misunderstood social needs, and poorly conceived public spaces’ (Trancik 1986). Earl’s Way, Runcorn, UK, fell into the same category: humanless, rigid and unresponsive housing scheme of the 1970s and subsequently demolished due to its dysfunction and imposed mechanistic qualities (Thomas, 2002, p15).



Figure 3: The Pruitt-Igoe, public housing project constructed In St. Louis in the 1960s. Source: Oscar Newman (1996)

Thomas (2002) presented that there is a growing case for the end of the skyscraper, that genre of North American technological mastery, spawned mainly by corporate narcissism and founded on the belief that ‘height excites’. The patterns of the workplace are changing, fast. Conventional offices are perceived to be big, tall, hierarchical, hermetic, modular and efficient but are also located in city centres and served by vast energy-consuming systems of transportation to bring commuters to their nine to five employment.

‘All this leads me to predict a renaissance in city life, although following a far more complex choreography than the crude and rigid temporal and spatial conventions that have cramped so many lives since the middle of the nineteenth century... Architects are faced with the task of inventing the urban landscapes of the 21st century, the salient features of which will be mobility, transience, permeability, interaction, pleasure, sociability, creativity, stimulus, transparency. We might do better to use our imagination than to continue to rely for urbanistic imagery upon the conventional office skyscraper...’ (Duffy, 1999).

In the time of cultural diversity, any idea and style may prosper need to be acceptable, this change is currently an objective. People request better community environment with privacy through which to enhance their daily lives. They can realize change with understanding of their privilege to feel secure with

better urban landscape. Architects and urban designers must control their creative endeavors into more prominent responsibility.



Figure 4: Houston, Texas, USA: escape from air pollution and noise in the public space. An urban solutions provide little opportunity for community development.
Source: (www.dilemma-x.com)

4. THE COMMUNITY CULTURAL NEEDS

In response to cultural priorities, the organization of space in a city, town or village will vary from the vibrant commercial market places to agriculturally productive land within the urban area. Efficient use of the available land resource should determine the distribution of the cultural activities that over time will become entrenched rites.

4.1 Response of Lifestyle

African colonial cities show different types cultural landscapes. They are most recognized by European suburbs and central areas, workers' camps, Indian or Arab zones, African components of great variety, depending on origin, culture and the utilization of various materials with business all over the place: so that no path was without them.

At the same time activity shifts among areas - at dawn it is the central market, in the afternoon the small local outdoor markets in each quarter, then shifting markets as itinerant merchants stop on any piece of open land (Rapoport, 1977).

The object of this enlightening perception by Rapoport is to represent how the cultural landscape of cities and towns can become imprinted by the diverse, moving needs of a populace. It takes after that if urban form is a declaration of culture, then 'the city is ideally a series of areas of varied culture and subculture character'.

Afterward Rapoport observes, a number of design imperatives follow:

- It is necessary to understand the cultures of the various groups involved and the influences on form of their values, lifestyle, and activity systems.
- The goal is conflict resolution on an urban scale.
- Open-ended design with some frameworks which relate them is the logical application.
- Open-ended design ideally creates environments which allow more degrees of cultural expression.
- Forcing people to modify and evolve is as bad as the inability to do so.
- Urban social spaces should permit freedom of social action.

4.2 Open Social Space

The utilization of environments as stage sets and props to assist people both in enacting their social roles and escaping from them needs serious discussion in everyday life (Goffman, 1959). In the Western world, squares in the older cities are far more than many meters of open space.

In Italy, for instance, the piazza is a social space and represents a way of life, a concept of living. The piazza is not only the augmentation of the Italians' living space, but also expresses either 'the mediaeval concept of highly enclosed space of picturesque rather than emotional charm', or 'the sophisticated and mathematical centralism of the static Renaissance', or 'the dynamic feeling of mass movement in space of the Baroque' (Kidder-Smith 1956). The Italian piazza, for instance, expresses the dignity of man with strong cultural imagery, in this way a protected feeling of intergenerational continuity in the open space settings.

It is sensible to expect that given an opportunity, people will shape a suitable environment for themselves and that 'this is the most important way in which people assert a sense of mastery and control over their environment and that is an important factor in their well-being'. 'This factor prompts the concept of 'open-ended design' which is 'a form of design which determines certain parts of the system, allowing other parts, including unforeseen ones, to happen spontaneously' (Rapoport 1977). Along these lines requirements on the specific utilization of a space are expelled and a level of personalization of that space is made conceivable. Open-endedness liberates social space for communities to make their own cultural landscape. Such strengthening of the user to assume an active role in the shaping of their own urban environment presages greater achievement.

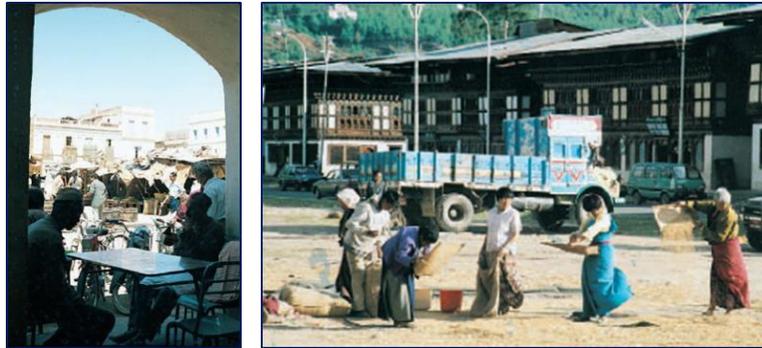


Figure 5: Left: An Algerian city: Public space, animated, noisy and colorful with the bustle of traders and social encounter. Right: Paro, Bhutan: In autumn the main public space becomes part of the agricultural life of the region. Source: Thomas (2002)

4.3 Sense of Community

A feeling of having a place is established in the minds of city inhabitants, and frequently given expression as a geographical boundaries within the urban environment. With their practically stereotyped character, the ethnic 'Chinatowns', typically found in closeness to a central business district, for reinforcing a 'sense of belonging'.

Communities are imperative for strengthening a sense of belonging, both for the individual and the extensive group. Design elements by means of physical separations can fortify a collective sense of community, the placement of local centres, the diversion of main trafficways, the abuse of irregularities, or terrain and other physical nature differentiations.

Allocating common land for a neighborhood is in keeping with the concept of clustering, and assists in the gradation of 'publicness' that ultimately characterizes the urban fabric (Thomas, 2002).

A clear distinction should be made between three kinds of residential neighborhoods - those on quiet backwaters, those on busy streets and those in between (Alexander et al., 1977). Each neighborhood should be given an equal number of each type. 'Since the basic issue is one of control, neighborhoods should be strengthened and reinforced by spatial form, allowing the urban dweller's options to range from the escape from stress to social interaction' (Lynch, 1981).



Figure 6: Minneapolis, USA and Dallas: Customized to the vehicles, where no urban users appear between the remaining spaces buildings. Source: (www.marthaschwartz.com), (www.tarillovue.com)

In a residential neighborhood, the use of main gateways giving entry to clusters is a device creating a psychological shield against overexposure to public activity. The gateways should be solid elements, visible from every line of approach, and could even be a hole through a building.

Alexander et al. define the image of a neighborhood square as being a public outdoor room, a partly enclosed place, possibly a structure without walls which is useful to, and maintained by, the community.

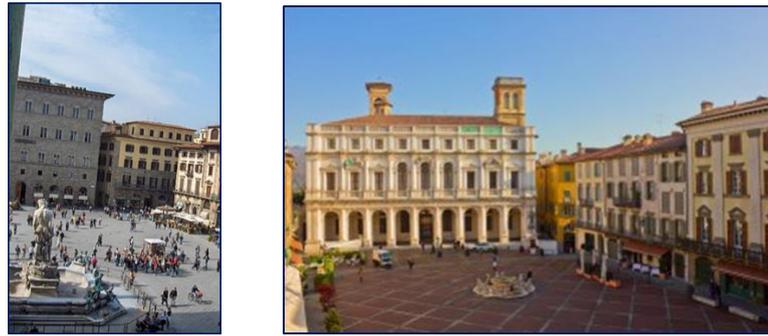


Figure 7: Left: Piazza Signoria, Florence, Italy: A famous old square. An open air with sculptures works by great masters, for public meeting and forum. Right: Central piazza, Bergamo, Italy: Space for traditional gathering place and ease access for vehicles. Source: Jansoone (2005), (<https://lenews.ch/author/christopher/>)

Thomas (2002) mentions that In Radburn, New Jersey (USA), in the 1930s, Clarence Stein's concept of the segregation of pedestrians and vehicles was implemented. The Radburn concept responded to the increasing hazards from the growth of car ownership. Designed specifically for the safety of children, the idea of traffic segregation seemed to offer a solution to the more hazardous consequences of an increasingly traffic-dominated society, in which a high premium is placed on door-to-door mobility. 'In the UK the Radburn idea revealed that the early expectations of the Radburn concept were only partly met. A generally sound accident record is often counterbalanced by other deficiencies: children play in garage courts; pedestrians walking in roads rather than footpaths; problems of accessibility to facilities; high cost of maintenance; high capital cost and duplication of hard surfacing; and larger areas of land' (Schaffer, 1982). However, Radburn concept was more Security for children and flexibility of trafficways.

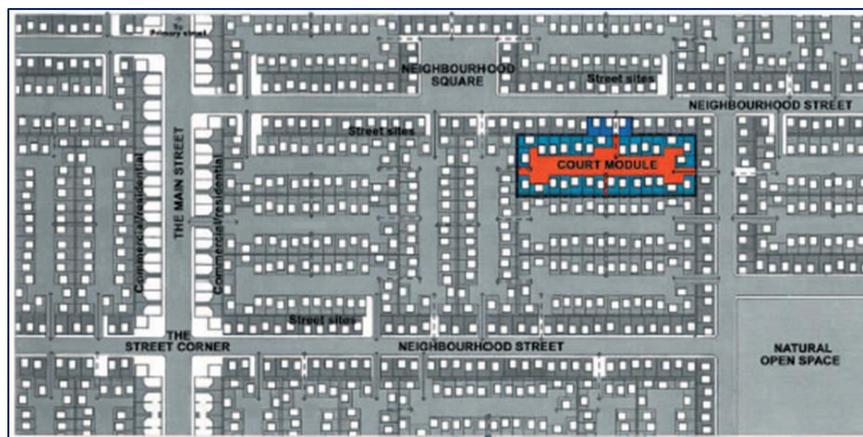


Figure 10: SHARED COURT CONCEPT a stylized layout within a hierarchy of streets, illustrating a graded segregation of pedestrians and vehicles. The spatial organization provides for privacy and security in the residential zones forming a shield against unwanted public intervention into the privacy. Source: (Schaffer, 1982)

Linking with the above key points, in the post-Radburn situation the application of the woonerf concept achieved a greater flexibility in traditional streets. More particular in parts of Holland and Germany, it is a concept which combines traffic management through physical constraints in the design of the residential street, with increased opportunity for play, to socialise and for leisure. The liveability of existing neighborhoods is thereby greatly enhanced (Thomas, 2002).

The Halton Brow scheme in Runcorn New Town, UK, implemented in the 1960s was the first of many attempts to reconcile pedestrian safety with vehicular traffic. Typical features that have been identified as being central to permitting vehicular intrusion into a pedestrian zone should include (Baker, Thomson and Bowers 1985):

- A road hierarchy in the neighborhood eliminating through-traffic;

- Narrow, even circuitous carriageways;
- Materials and textures more associated with pedestrian areas, i.e. cobbles, brick paving and less conventional road surfaces;
- Shared pedestrian/vehicle access ways or ‘shared spaces’ and absence of pavements which, as a form of zoning, might suggest separate provision for pedestrians and vehicles and signal vehicle priority to a driver;
- Reduced visibility;
- Short vistas; and
- Rumble strips.

While the concept was applied to existing as well as new settings, the effect of the woonerf concept on leisure activities has demonstrated that children’s play was the main action. On the other hand, due to a prominent increase in the length of stay by inhabitants in the streets, the measure of cooperation noticed expanded correspondingly. It is observable that, ‘children and their parents seemed to feel more secure, allowing for a multiplication of types of play and children gained more contact with adults, which would not have been conceivable in playgrounds or other segregated play facilities. The woonerf concept provides more alternatives for children next to their home base, and subsequently adds to a better quality of urban life.



Figure 11: Typical shared court module where pedestrians take priority over motor traffic, a layout similar to the ‘woonerf’ concept. Source: Ahrens (1987)

Some negative exceptions of the woonerf principle in built up neighborhoods. ‘In existing neighborhoods which undergo demographic change, conflicts invariably arise between the established older order and newly arrived residents’ and by ‘the different behavior of various age groups, which have an impact on the usability of public open space’ (Eubank-Ahrens, 1987).

4.4 Optimum standards for Shared Streets

Where traffic flows are fewer than 250 vehicles per hour, Shared spaces are only possible, and the majority of the traffic has its destination in the area itself. No area of street designed on the ‘shared space’ principle should be more than 500 metres from a ‘normal’ vehicular street (Thomas, 2002).

Also, each street in the area should have directional changes every 50 to 60 metres, but additional changes could be necessary (Bentley et al.1985):

- Two-way traffic should be encouraged throughout the area, to reduce vehicle speed.
- The section should be kept narrow with occasional widening.
- Raised objects should not be higher than 750 mm, to allow good visibility to motorists in case of play activity on the street.
- Adequate parking of the on-street type for residents and visitors must be provided.

4.5 Streets and Pedestrians

The intensity of pedestrian traffic need to be given exceptional consideration in a vehicular street. A pedestrian zone can be differentiated with roads of trees in precise way. In spite seating, smartphone kiosks, cycle racks and bus shelters can no longer recommended in all at the outset, space need to be left for their consideration lately

In general, private outdoor space is limited in a lower income neighborhood. Due to the fact backyard spaces are small and usually used as storage areas. These narrow open space may be provided with

greenery and paved open spaces, 'located along the highest activity route in the area' with easy accessible and be a part of the community external space (Dewar and Uytendogaardt, 1977).



Figure 12: Barcelona, Spain: Icaria Avenue planted with steel sculptures in the middle enclosed by motor traffic. Source: Maurer (2008)

4.6 Security through the Presence of Others

Cities that have developed radially through simple movement by car, in the suburbs the community life has been discovered needing unorganized supervision. In dense communities street life has been difficult to characterize. Even for protection and more privacy, fences around homes and gardens detaches the family from contacting with others who live in the area.

'In high density residential situations it is possible to provide a spatial system that provides for the watchful presence of others, either from those living in the street or those in transit through the street. Using the principle that nodal points should always be visible along street axes ensures that there will be a point from where the important foci can be seen' (Thomas, 2002).



Figure 13: Barcelona, Spain: Barceloneta, traditional home of the seafaring. Source: Thomas (2002)

4.7 Regional Needs

In communities with high density development, overcrowding is an essential aspect threatens the private space of the individual, and a sign of possible disappointment in some high density environment.

The regional needs of trade business and commercial completely vary from community. 'The very idea of modestly fitting into the collective city is antithetical to corporate aspirations and the chest-beating individualism of the American way' (Trancik 1986). In fact the public resource turned into private companies for their own particular purposes, and the shared space in the city converts into private symbols. There are suggestions that 'open-endedness is also intimately linked with territoriality since it allows personalization, an important way of defining individual and group domains. By allowing group signs to develop and define rules of occupancies, not only noticed and understood, but willingly obeyed. Such rules are subtle and frequently understated, and also change subtly, and the designer cannot provide for them. It is a principal way of giving to the environment' (Rapoport, 1977).

4.8 Commercial Opportunity

In a modern city which spread by nature, requires a quick transportation methods for facilities ease access, 'the economic or physical means to 'close the distance' (Thomas, 2002). This is normally the

benefit of the prosperous in modern cities. Additionally, the measure of achievement will be found by the simplicity of poor people mobility and individuals by walking, instead of vehicle needs. These amenities that are provided to the inhabitants covers a variety of activities and opportunities. 'If essential city facilities and opportunities are so located and dispersed through space that they are easily available to the poor as well as the wealthy, the entire system is richer' (Dewar and Uytenbogaardt 1984).

People want to be close to shops and services, for convenience, and excitement, but they also want to be away from intrusive services for quiet relaxation (Alexander et al. 1977). The distribution of the community facilities do nothing in the life of the city. To accomplish a balance, 'according to some commentators, nodes of activity spread about 300 meters apart provide the most viable concept. Ideally at the centre of the node, a small public square should be created, surrounded by a combination of community facilities and shops which are mutually supportive, the objective being to stimulate vitality within the urban mix' (Thomas, 2002).

Rather than what mentioned above Girardet (1992) comments that, 'Le Corbusier was the most vocal guru of modernism, advocating large, angular building shapes to house hundreds, even thousands of people under one flat roof in vast unrelieved landscapes. Le Corbusier also believed that pure geometry was the solution to planning cities and buildings. He called for the rule of the right angle and the straight line; there was no place for nostalgia and traditional, vernacular shapes. His proposed blocks had nothing personal and intimate about them; apartments to him were "cells".' Le Corbusier was only able to build one of his *unité d'habitation* concepts, but his followers have seeded the concept for him all over the world. Also, 'His tamed natural world was designed to be visual rather than palpable.



Figure 8: Left: Marseilles, France: Le Corbusier's Unité d'Habitation, 1946-52. Right: Montreal, Canada: Residential megablock built for the athletes at the 1976 Olympic Games, and thereafter meant to house a residential community. Source: kozlowski (1997), Thomas (2002)

The contemporary situation is different and the high-rise block for housing the urbanising masses has fallen into unsavoriness. Utilizing informality however the user-discipline to accomplish protected, helpful social spaces that function independently, collectively, formally or informally, that provide street users, especially children, with more informal human-scale environments. In order to finish this, careful attention has to be given to the road layout in estate planning.



Figure 9: sengafora 1960: Neighborhood Park, shared social space in residential environment, affording a sense of community. Source: (www.innovationmagazine.com)



Figure 14: Charing Cross, London: Railway Station. Source: (www.londontown.com)

A feature concerning old city is the promenade. A method would not be worldwide, without the capability that ‘a promenade will not work unless the pedestrian density is high enough.’ (Alexander et al. 1977). Most of urban inhabitant have shared the same activities like some type of night life. The gathering areas and clustering facilities will increase the intensity of pedestrian activity at night encourage individuals out to the same few spots in the town. Transport terminals can make perfect opportunity for specific kinds of night time activity.

4.9 Space for Informal Marketing and Jobs

Utilization of the social space basis in the urban context should be motivated to support financial movement, such as, open gatherings, carnivals, theater, occasional markets, is an essential utilization of social space. Otherwise, ‘Most planners conceive of the street as a transitional space and do not allow for it to act as an open space, activity space, or social space, yet it can play an immensely important role in the design and planning of many cities, as we have seen in Mexico, Africa and elsewhere..’ (Rapoport 1977).

Universal enclosed shopping center reduces the social and commercial part of the traditional street, ‘have siphoned shopping and entertainment off the street, which no longer functions as a gathering place’ (Trancik 1986). Social space can offer vital outdoor venues for small trading ventures. These venues can contribute financial development.



Figure 15: The informal trading in Tunisia streets is positive sign that commercial activity is opportunistic and streets are not transitional spaces only. Source: Smadhi (2014)

The most urban communities are constantly full with street cafés that give exclusive venues to individuals to mix in public, parks, squares, along promenades and roads. Mobile food vendors should be accommodated so that public seating can be utilized to enjoy a snack while seated. Some rules for food stands include (Alexander et al. 1977):

- They should be concentrated at road crossings where they can easily be seen.
- They should be free to take on the character of the area around them.
- They can be either portable stands, built into the fronts of buildings or mobile carts.

In cities in developing countries diversified forms of informal trading and small business enterprise permits a greater decentralization of work. The relationship between a workshop and a public street is a special one, and is potentially a way to enlarge the connection between the worker and the community, from

which every member of the community will benefit, provided that it can be seen from the street and that the owner can 'hang out a shingle' (Alexander et al. 1977).

4.10 Recreational Needs

There is a requirement for places for healthy recreational spaces in the urban societies. Informal or formal, with or without equipment, the method of recreation is experienced or appreciated is part of the cultural lifestyle of any assumed urban community. Around cities blessed with natural landscapes and particular climatic conditions, hiking trails or skiing for urban inhabitants might be the pattern for recreation. Then, in conditions where winters are long and natural features less distinguished, the local government should provide structured amenities for the urban inhabitants to enjoy the therapy of play.



Figure 16; Toronto, Canada: In a winter climate such as that of North America, there is a great need to enjoy the short summer sunshine, indicating a popularity of structured water playgrounds. Source: Thomas (2002)

4.11 Urban Culture and Natural schemes

The concrete manifestations of urban cultural life regularly appear as huge regions of hard surfaces with buildings spread horizontally or raised excessive in dense conurbations. Microclimates of their own created by these man-made urban environments and, can affect adversely depending on the intensity of any developmental intervention into Nature, on the macroclimatic conditions of a whole region.

Beside the site contextual considerations, the unavoidable climate change, in addition to the social and cultural paradigms of the times, urban designers and architects should attempt to ensure the permanent sustainability of the natural systems within the urban environment.

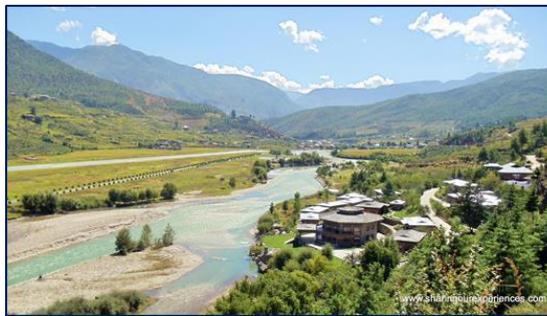


Figure 17: Paro, Bhutan: A large town based largely on the production of rice sustained by an agrarian economy. Source: Gupta (2015)

5. CONCLUSION

This study shows that contemporary landscape architects are knowledgeable about the findings of this paper and have absorbed many of them into what they call intuition, the tool relied on most to inform design decisions concerning the social aspects of a space. The ultimate purpose is to enhance a designer's ability using the environmental elements that are mentioned in this paper to:

- Create socially sustainable spaces that support the needs of people use them.
- Provide absolutely perceive of divergence in the mainstream of architectural history.
- The Humanistic and environmental resource principles should manage innovative powers in architecture and in shaping the urban landscape.
- Social and environmental lifestyle could improve by creating potential for community where the exterior is as well designed as the interior for its responsiveness to critical social and environmental issues and evaluating it to successful precedents in architecture.

- Analyzing current contemporary work, urges the architects and urban designers, to communicate with societies to satisfy the changed the environmental and cultural paradigms.
- Finally In this way architecture could restore its integrity in the eyes of the ordinary people and elevate the qualities of the social environment to enhance the urban community experience and sense of belonging as well.

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