

Bulletin

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International Association for People-Environment Studies aims to improve the physical environment and human well-being

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**The negative effects of lighting
in low vision people**

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2006 IAPS CONFERENCE: LIBRARY OF ALEXANDRIA - EGYPT

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Dear IAPS members and colleagues,

Early this year, as an IAPS member, you elected or re-elected a number of members of IAPS to work on your behalf on the Board of Trustees and the Strategic Committee. As you know, the new Board of Trustees Committee now comprises: Jeanne Moore, Tony Craig, Angela Castrechini, Ombretta Romice and myself. The Strategy Committee includes, Marino Bonaiuto, Carole Deprès Hulyat Turgut, Florian Kaiser, Karine Weiss and Ricardo García-Mira and myself. This new Board of Trustees together with the Strategy Committee, in turn, has have elected a new President. I have been designated to assume this task. It is therefore with great pleasure that I address myself to you as the new President of IAPS.

First of all, I would like to thank the IAPS Board and Strategy Committee and through them all members of IAPS, for the trust they have accorded me on this occasion. Without any doubt, IAPS is in an excellent state and in an ascendant phase. David Uzzell, as Past President, has left us with a highly visible organisation, in a very good financial state, and with more members than ever before; we are now about 600 researchers and professionals in people-environment studies. One of the key challenges faced by David as President was to oversee the changes in our legal status to reflect more appropriately the international basis of our membership. The major problems of the last few years have been successfully resolved, especially the deregistration of IAPS as a company and our sole registration as a charity in UK; this corresponds much more sympathetically with the aims and goals of our association. A very useful and attractive website has been developed, complemented by an excellent virtual library of IAPS publications and conference material to which 11,000 references have recently been added. The accumulated material is of easy access and I am sure that it is already now a really valuable resource well for researchers as well as practitioners. Some of our networks are very active, and organise successful and important conferences in odd years. The Bulletin has undergone several transformations, and is now ready to provide regularly indispensable information to all our members, and to be a platform for new ideas. The publication of the selected best papers of the last three conferences by an international publisher (Hogrefe and Huber, Göttingen, Germany) is on course and is likely to transform itself into a regular IAPS publication to a high scientific standard.

It might seem that nothing more could be done to improve IAPS at this stage! However, there is always work to be done. With these changes behind us, and with some major tasks having been successfully achieved, I would like, with the help of our new Board and Strategic Committee, to set the following priorities and to develop these initiatives in the next few years in order to provide more value to our present and future members:

- (1) IAPS has to be a place of dialogue and collaboration between the human and social sciences, the design professions and the natural sciences in terms of research programmes as well as in terms of intervention. People-environment studies can only gain through increased collaboration between the different disciplines involved. We have to foster and strengthen interdisciplinary approaches to people-environment relations. One way to do this is by facilitating and promoting interdisciplinary approaches within the networks and the symposium and paper sessions during the IAPS bi-annual congresses, and in building up contacts with professional and scientific organisations in the various fields of people-environment concerns. Our visibility within these various professional organisations can only be of benefit to our members.
- (2) To widen the attraction of IAPS for countries outside Europe and North America (Latin America , but also Middle-East, North Africa and Africa in general); this will be another important task in the coming years. In Latin America, IAPS has already existing contacts especially with Brazil and Mexico, but also with Chile, Venezuela and Colombia. These will be reinforced through the sponsoring of regional meetings and a presence at regional congresses. For this, IAPS needs the help of all those IAPS mem-

bers who are active in these regions of the world. Vienna has opened us the door to Eastern Europe, and many of you have built up contacts with colleagues in these countries. Our next conference in Cairo will be an extraordinary opportunity to make new contacts with the countries round the Mediterranean, and to position IAPS as a truly international organisation facilitating international exchange.

- (3) Today's students are the future of our profession. IAPS has to develop a real strategy towards the students in the field of people-environment research. We aim to work on two things: first, to strengthen the pre-conference doctoral workshop where doctoral students in different fields confront their work; and second, in order to facilitate interchange, introduce a junior section in conferences where doctoral students can discuss their work with and prominent researchers and/or practi-

tioners in the field. This could perhaps, in a near future, lead to the organisation of a regular summer-school.

I would like to end with two suggestions to old and new members. The liveliness and energy of an organisation is not only measured by your attendance at our conferences; it is also apparent through your participation in the network(s) which best reflect your interests, through your contribution to the Bulletin with information, short notes on research progress, bibliographic references you would like to share with other members, and by interchange through the IAPS Listserv <IAPS@JISCMail.AC.UK>.

I invite you to join us to continue to develop IAPS as a vibrant, international forum for discussion and collaboration.

Sincerely, Gabriel Moser



David Uzzell

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THANK YOU... From David Uzzell

It was a great honour and privilege for me to be President of IAPS between 1998 - 2004, and play a role in leading our organisation. There have been so many exciting developments over that period such as the excellent conferences in Paris, A Coruña and Vienna and their associated post-conference books, the high quality Bulletin, the increasingly active Networks, the Young Researcher Award and the Doctoral Student Workshops, the additional services provided to the membership ranging from online membership payment through to the new Digital Library. I was very fortunate in having an excellent group of colleagues on the Board over that period; none of these initiatives would have been possible without their commitment and hard work.

While all these developments have been important there have been some other changes which have been even more rewarding and exciting for me and in the longer term more significant for IAPS.

I have seen a change in the 'spirit' of IAPS - this is most apparent at the conferences where there has been so much interest and enthusiasm. IAPS conferences are truly stimulating experiences with very high quality papers and debate. I have come away from every IAPS conference with a feeling that not only is this a vibrant area of scholarly activity but that the membership of IAPS are playing a leading role internationally in ensuring environment-behaviour research is making a significant contribution to policy and decision-making. There is also a good spirit in our conferences in that they are very friendly and convivial occasions. IAPS has become an important community for a group of researchers who are, by virtue of their size, dispersed and often working in isolation in their own organisations.

For many years we have been trying to encourage more diversity (e.g., age, gender) amongst those involved in IAPS activities. This is clearly happening now and most visibly reflected in the composition of the new Board. We still have some way to go, but I know that under my successor, Gabriel Moser, IAPS will go from strength to strength.

With best wishes to all IAPS members



DR RICARDO GARCÍA MIRA,
IAPS Bulletin Editor
E-mail: fargmira@udc.es

GREETINGS FROM THE EDITOR AND CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Dear IAPS member:

IAPS is a association that uses diverse strategies to analyse the relationship between people and the environment. The IAPS Bulletin, together with our IAPS Digital Database, is our main form of communication and dissemination to our members. We hope to reflect the scientific spirit and character of our association by providing an important information service, disseminating the research activities that IAPS members are carrying out in their respective fields from every corner of the world.

We work hard to maintain and develop the Bulletin, so that it fulfils its key functions as well as facilitates contact among our members. It is for this reason that we invite you to participate in its development. We welcome your contributions, book reviews, conference, symposia or other meetings announcements of interest for our members, editorial novelties, and any other material that could be of interest to IAPS members.

With your help, we are confident that the Bulletin will continue to reflect the important work of people in the field of people-environment studies.

Thank you for your collaboration with IAPS Bulletin. Thank you also to Jeanne and Tony for their collaboration in this issue.

Please, contact us for any matter concerning this and future editions.

Looking forward to hearing from you.
 Happy New Year 2005!!

With our best regards

Bulletin
 of People-Environment Studies

Dr Ricardo García Mira, *Editor*
 Dr Angela Castrechini, *Assistant Editor*
 Dr Ombretta Romice, *Bulletin Support*
 Dr Hulya Turgut, *Bulletin Support*

- > PLEASE, SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE No 26 BEFORE MARCH, 15TH 2005 BY E-MAIL OR POST.
- > THE MAXIMUN WORD LENGTH FOR ARTICLES IS 2000 WORDS.

NOTICE WITH REGARD TO THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN YOUR MANUSCRIPTS.

Although we welcome all our members to submit material, any paper or other material submitted for publication in the Bulletin must be written to high standards of English grammar and punctuation. To help the review process, such material should be checked by a fluent English speaker before submitting it to the Bulletin. I am sure that the publications of IAPS will improve in quality with this assistance.

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It is well known that illumination can be negative in two different ways. First of all, directly modifying the task difficulty when there are insufficient light conditions (that it is impossible to see) or modifying the conditions of the performance of the visual system when there is too much light. These conditions cause glare and originate reflections and points of brightness on the task causing bad effects in our capacity of detection, recognition and discrimination. Secondly, it can indirectly affect the efficiency when creating bothering, dispersive conditions of work or tiredness, in a special way when it produces an intermittence or fluctuation of the lighting source.

These are facts that we know that occur in all people, independently of the condition of their visual system or health (Kers, 2000). We know that the visual system is the most important sense for a person to face the situations that occur in their daily life. Almost all our judgments on the environment are determined, under normal conditions, by the visual system. One of the great problems for the low vision

THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF LIGHTING IN LOW VISION PEOPLE

people is the knowledge of the built space surrounding them as well as their movement and orientation.

In a research project carried out in the NUPEA (Architecture and Urbanism Research Center) of the Universidade Católica de Pelotas (UCPEL), RS, Brazil, a group of students of Architecture and Urbanism, verified that these effects are extensive. They had verified that the illumination of public buildings is executed under normative criteria that do not consider the requirements of all people, as it does not adapt to the specific requirements, thereby causing different impacts in its users.

Since the architecture aims at serving, among other objectives, the full space experience of its users, there is nothing more suitable than studying how the illumination of the built spaces affects the efficiency and the visual comfort for the activity that will be developed in various environments.

One thing that is frequently mentioned (Mata Wagner, 1992) is the suppression of physical barriers, for the universal accessibility of the buildings and urban spaces, but we forget the lighting barriers, caused by bad use, excess or lack of lighting in the environments. The buildings, intentionally designed to serve as a shelter for the people, many times become an aggressive environment. Thus, an element such as stairs, which are drawn as a component of utility of a space, may be hostile to low vision people.

When we mention accessibility, or the suppression of architectural barriers, all the problems and solutions that affect the displacement of subjects with different types of deficiency are often included. The concept of impaired people considers not only those with physical and sensorial impairments, but also the blind as part of this group of users, and doesn't take into account that they have different difficulties when using the buildings.

The eagerness to unify the solutions of accessibility for each of the groups takes to incoherences such as to try to improve the mobility of the low vision people by constructing slopes in the buildings or introducing suitable bathrooms as they do for the physical impaired. Evidently, the architectural barriers in the case of blind or low vision people do not suffer such environmental modifications, since they can normally access the stairs. No doubt, a person with low vision lacks of normal faculties such as orientation and the forecast of some obstacles.

In this work, we aim to show that the function of the illumination is to help low vision people to detect the architectural barriers eliminating the lighting barriers caused by the illumination, if considered an accessibility parameter.

The study carried out by these subjects, through their affective answers, will add significant dimensions to this environment: without this kind of study, the internal representation of the environment is incomplete, reducing the environmental meaning to the cognitive configuration of mere space concepts, such as distance, position, etc.

The study of the affective dimensions may not only provide basic information for the understanding of the emotional



states of the subject in its physical landmark, but also a precise evaluation of the significant dimensions of the environment in relation to the goals and ends, and relevant information for the adequacy of the environment to its function.

Based on these affirmations and the PhD thesis of the professor who orientates the research (Freteiro, 2002), who worked with low vision people in Spain, the students performed a qualitative evaluation of the effect the illumination of some public buildings of Pelotas, RS, Brazil, provokes in the low vision people.

The study enlisted six people with normal vision and six with subnormal vision, these last proceeding from a School for Blind people, with diverse pathologies and visual acuity, and chose the buildings to be analyzed. These nine buildings are concentrated in the Pelotas' historical center, and all involve daily activities of users with normal and low vision. They were analyzed in some aspects, as its accessibility (in which they respect or not the Brazilian Norm of Accessibility, NBR 9050-04), through a questionnaire; in terms of its lighting conditions, in a "likert" scale questionnaire based on the methodology of Knez (1995); and in terms of the emotional impact that these buildings provoke in the people, with a questionnaire used by Corraliza (1987). The people who participated in the experiment, evaluated the buildings, answering all the questionnaires, after having gone through a determined path in these buildings

As the work is still in development, we can come up with a series of hypotheses of its results. Referring to the accessibility, being the illumination one of the evaluated criteria, the building considered "more" accessible will have to be the one that presents the higher temperature of color, even with accessibility problems such as inadequate signals, floor without texture, main entrance without prominence, etc.

Respecting lighting conditions, the methodology of Knez (1995), allows the evaluation of the reaction of the people to the different forms of illumination of the analyzed buildings. The preferential factor of each person is important when choosing the illumination of one environment specially for people with low vision. For them, the psychological factor is a condition of their efficiency in the space. The hypothesis is that the accessible buildings will be the ones that have lighting characteristics as "soft" and "hot"; and that the less accessible buildings will have its illumination classified as "cold", "intense" and "bright", without many differences in its levels of illuminance.

It was verified in the experiments, that all participants, independently of their degree of vision or pathology, followed the path in a satisfactory way in all the buildings. The difference was that their degree of satisfaction when doing this task was completely different. This verification makes us think that many times the efficiency is not always the most important factor, as the great difference is in the subjective perception of the illumination.

The changes that this study may indicate in the norms of illumination of the public spaces, will affect all the users of these buildings. No doubt, they will improve the quality of the spaces, since one of the constant comments made was that, for the people, the comfort factor is one of the most important for the accomplishment of a task.

We believe that the development of projects for people with subnormal vision, when leading to the necessity of elaborating investigations that study the non visual perceptions and, through this, the satisfaction of a specific demand, will also lead to the understanding of the possibility of a richer and full reading of the architecture.

The architectural project must be related with all the sensorial perceptions of the space. Surely the purpose of the research of the processes of perception by the visually impaired will not be the development of a specific theory for a special group of architecture users, but to use the diverse theories and models as elements of reference and a reference point for the elaboration of an architectural project, in which the individual finds itself comfortable enough to perform its activities, perceiving the space in the most complete possible way.

This study, far from being a concluded subject, will lead to further investigation.

The possibilities are endless, and in some fields of performance: the lighting parameters of the buildings, the psychological effect of the illumination, and also the necessary illuminations contemplating specific tasks.

The challenge is launched: it aims at finding alternative ways so that the architecture really adapts itself to the various requirements of different groups of people.

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INTRODUCTION

As once confirmed by L. Khan (Alexandria, 1984, p. 174), *windows could never be considered as mere holes in walls*. It might be of some interest to recall that window design development followed simply the course of technological progress passing from the most intelligent design concept during the pre-industrial era where subtle illumination indoors were provided by daylight (ex: St Sophia, Roma Basilica and so on) to the standardised window or the totally glazed façade (Baker & al., 1993, p. 1-12, H2; Rouag-Saffidine, 2001).

Today, whether simple or sophisticated, the general features of window design (size, form, orientation, position, glazing, framing, and shading devices) are increasingly expected to support the performance of a complex range of functions which in turn are expected to satisfy users both physically and psychologically. Many studies have paid particular interest to this latter aspect, for instance, Collins (1975) who tackles the matter of *'psychological reactions to environments with and without windows*, and Larson who investigated *'the effect of windowless classrooms on children'* (Larson, 1965). In this sense, this particular research describes an experiment, part of a study related to an investigation of shading devices (Rouag-Saffidine, 1987), which revealed how *cultural and social background criteria may visibly affect attitudes to shading means*.

Note that window shades should primarily act as a selective control of sunlight, admitting it when desired but capable of excluding it whenever necessary. However this requirement will itself be dependant upon the way a space is used. A domestic building for instance might well require considerations of factors different from of a working place such a school or building office and so on. Yet, beside the range of physical factors (such as the exclusion of solar radiation) *there are those related to particular lifestyle, cultural needs or may be just architectural precedents* and which are broadly discussed in this report.

METHOD

• SELECTION OF SUBJECTS

A sample of two groups comprising each 25 subjects from respectively two different social

SOCIAL BACKGROUND AND REACTIONS TOWARDS THE USE OF SHADING DESIGN

backgrounds (respectively Algerian and English) have been selected for the experiment. In general, the subjects from both groups (in a total number of 50) met similar characteristics (table 1) which refer mainly to educational background and age. Note, that the subjects number was mainly dictated by the number of Algerians pre-sent in the place of work (i.e Bath; England). Nevertheless, for this particular field experiment, this number was believed quite representative in reference to other relevant lighting research (Fletcher, 1983; Tikannen, 1976 and Grangaard, 1993) involving a wide range of subjects number which vary from 09 to over 100.

Table 1: Characteristics of Each Group Subjects.

GROUP CONDITIONS	ALGERIAN GROUP	ENGLISH GROUP
Number of persons	25 (21 males & 4 females)	25 (19 males & 6 females)
Age group	22 persons between 20-30 3 persons aged above 30	4 persons aged under 20 21 persons between 20-30
Occupation	24 students: - architecture/ engineering 17 - others 7 1 lecturer	22 students: - architecture/ engineering .. 16 - other 6 3 lecturers

• SELECTION OF ENVIRONMENTS

Being part a whole series of other surveys (Rouag-Saffidine, 1987), this investigation was undertaken in the same environment or more precisely under the artificial sky of Bath university lighting laboratory (Baker; Fanchiotti and Steemers., 1993; Rouag-Saffidine, 1987; Bell and Burt, 1996). This later simulates a uniform sky with a brightness distribution conform to the CIE standard overcast Sky (Hopkinson, 1963). To simulate sunny conditions a lamp simulating the sun was placed within the artificial sky.

The indoor environments selected for this essentially subjective appraisal were a domestic place (a kitchen) and a working place (an office) as it was believed that for most people those spaces are perhaps most important in their everyday lives. To represent both spaces scale models (with a viewing hole on the side) have been used (figure 2).

Scale models are a simulation of the real world but at a smaller size. If carefully designed (at the right scale), their use is commonly recognized as a valid technique in lighting studies and proofs were provided that assessments of internal environments in full size mock-ups or scale models are quite similar (Rouag-Saffidine, 1987; Hopkinson, 1963; Lau, 1972 and Evans, 1980). Beside, only scale models were believed to minimise the bias of assessment throughout the unified picture offered to the two concerned groups.

• ASSESSMENT METHOD

To collect the required data, a questionnaire form was used. Generally, the major problem in the design of a questionnaire for attitude measurement concerns its clarity and length of questions which might be closed or open (Oppenheim, 1968). If open questions are used, it leaves more spontaneity and freedom of expression to respondents, but when closed a question is more restricted, quicker and easier and above all offers the same choice of alternative replies to all respondents. Thus, to achieve this particular goal and hence facilitate the comparison of the two group answers, a closed questionnaire was used.

Also, to minimise interventions by the interviewer, the questionnaire was designed as a self administered questionnaire where the purpose of the inquiry was put clearly on the questionnaire form. The following two questions which were preceded by an illustration of typical shading devices (Rouag-Saffidine, 1987), to eliminate any confusion amongst the two subjects naming them, refer to the search aspect tackled in this paper were:

QUESTION 1: Given that you need choose a shade from the following selection, which shade would you select for a kitchen (a domestic place) and would you prefer for the office (a working place).

SELECTION OF SHADES: *shutters, overhangs, vertical louvers, internal or external Venetian blinds, Internal curtains, Vegetation screen, other (state please), none (no shading at all)*

QUESTION 2: Given the functions below attributed to shading devices, will you please indicate how important (from your own point of view) is each function for both an office and a kitchen.

FUNCTIONS: *keeping cool, daylight control, sunlight control, provide privacy, reduce view out, reduce noise, provide a feeling of quietness, external decorative elements.*

A 'feeling state' questionnaire using 4-point scale (*Very Important, Important Not Important, Don't Know*) was used to collect these self-evaluation data.

• PROCEDURE

The whole experiment took place in the lighting laboratory where each observer had to get inside the artificial sky (environment of concern), sit facing the model shown to him by the interviewer (in this case the first author), then was left to read the questionnaire form given to him. Note that while the second part of the questionnaire was reserved to visual appraisal of a series of shading design models (not discussed in this report), the first part –which forms the core of this current discussion– paid a particular interest to social background and reactions towards shading. Thus, for this latest part, it was not really necessary to keep watching within the space models but to keep them in mind as reference places.

RESULTS

Questions and collected data were processed by the means of SPSS program (Norman, 1975). Cross tabulations were also set up (Rouag-Saffidine, 1987) to define the correlation of variables among the two groups for different shading devices preferences and the feeling state

of the various functions they may perform and the results can be summarised as follows:

- WITHIN THE DOMESTIC SPACE: The Algerian group preferred first *internal curtains* (32% of the group), second *shutters* (28%) and in third position *vegetation* (20%). The English group showed a preference for the *vegetation* first (40% of the group), for the *internal curtains* second (24%) and then for *internal venetian blinds* (16%).
- WITHIN THE WORKING PLACE: Both the Algerian & the English groups showed similar preferences and the device selected was the *internal venetian blinds* with respectively (60% of the Algerian group) and (48% of the English group).

The functions attributed to shading devices in the two spaces showed a wider range of responses varying from *very important* to *not important*. Note that at no time the alternative answer 'Don't Know' was given and this only shows the interest paid to the answers by both groups.

For the *working place* the Algerians judged the *reduction of noise as very important* (60% of the group), feeling of quietness as *important* (48%) and the *external decorative elements as not important* (64%). Whereas, the English group judged the *sunlight control as very important* (64%), the *feeling off quietness important* (52%) and the *reduction of view out as not important* (88%).



For the *domestic space* the Algerians judged *no function as very important*, *sunlight control is assessed as important* (68% of the group) and the *reduction of view out as not important* (68%). In its turn, the English group judged *keeping cool as very important* (32% of the group), *sunlight control as important* (76%) and the *reduction of view out as not important* (92%).

DISCUSSION

Different devices are preferred for different spaces (i.e. the kitchen and the office). Yet, although the differences have somewhat similar trend they differ from one situation to another.

For instance the English group has shown a preference for the *vegetation* for a kitchen, it is probably because in the UK people are more used to garden houses and green spaces are by far more frequent than in Algeria. For the same space (i.e. *the kitchen*), the Algerian group has shown a preference for internal *curtains* and then *shutters*. Note that shutters are amongst the most popular design for shades in Algeria and a previous survey (run in three Algerian cities) has shown an obvious preference for shutters as shading means (around 50 % of the interviewees sample) (Rouag-Saffidine, 1987). In that same survey internal curtains were also mentioned but with a much lower rate than shutters.

With regards to the importance degree of the devices functions, it was noticeable that it was not always assessed in a similar way by both groups and in both spaces, except for the functions judged *important*, these were the *feeling of quietness* in an office and the *sunlight control* in a kitchen. This might be due to the office being a working space where a quieter atmosphere is required, and the kitchen being a domestic place where sunshade is attributed a first thought.

The importance of *view reduction* is mentioned (with a high rate) for both spaces by the English group and in the kitchen only (with a lower rate) by the Algerians. This allowed us to assume that the contact with the external world may not be seen as really important by the English group. Such a remark may be seen as paradoxical when thinking about the introverted lifestyle of the Algerian, or just normal when thinking of the English having more opportunity to lead life outdoor, and therefore little consequence is given to the outside world (view out)once indoor.

CONCLUSION

This experiment has provided results which stimulate interest, especially the strong *correlation between the social background, the architecture precedents and the responses*.

Yet, it might be expected that a person from any background may react in a different manner towards an existing and an abstract situation. Nevertheless *precedents of architecture implements* and of *environmental conditions* were found to play *an effective role in peoples' reactions towards similar conditions*. Also the experiment has show that even though the assessments were operated upon scale models they were a faithful recall of the real physical environment.

Although as with many experimental results this conclusion cannot be generalised for all situations, it could however serve as a basis for further research enlightenment of the *necessity to consider users' backgrounds* and opinions before attempting any design with of course *some alertness to not consider human beings as the only meters to rely upon*. Building designers need to pay a particular attention to environmental effects upon people's both physiological and psychological well beings as cited in some search works (Rouag-Saffidine, 2003; Russel and Daniel, 1995; Gifford, 1987). Indeed, it is only through genuine interest to these aspects that designers would achieve least stressful and most both physico-psychologically appropriate environments.

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ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES AND PUBLIC SUPPORT OF BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

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At present one per cent of the world's described species are threatened with extinction. The most pervasive and overriding threat is habitat loss and degradation due to human activity such as agricultural practices and fishing, but also the development of human settlement and infrastructure. In order to secure the public's support of conservation measures, understanding, trust and participation among the local population seem critical. The main objective of the present study was to identify the local populations' personal motives for biodiversity conservation in a Swedish municipality. A second aim was to analyse these motives in the framework of Stern, Dietz and Guagnano's (1995) hierarchical social-psychological model of environmental concern adapted to biodiversity conservation.

According to Stern and colleagues (1995) individuals are embedded in a social structure that shapes their basic values. In turn, these values guide the formation of values oriented toward more restricted parts of the environment, e.g. ecological worldview or environmental value orientation (Schultz & Zelezny, 1999). Stern and Dietz (1994) distinguished between three environmental value orientations, an egoistic orientation based on beliefs about the effect that environmental destruction may have on the individual, a social-altruistic orientation, based on human benefits or human goals, and a biospheric orientation centred on the inherent value of the natural environment. Basic values and environmental value orientation are considered to be causally antecedent of more specific attitudes and beliefs, such as the attitude towards conservation of biodiversity. At the following levels, beliefs and attitudes are thought to guide behavioural intentions, and overt behaviour.

It was hypothesised that persons from different social structures would differ in their environmental value orientation. Persons of differing environmental value orientation were further hypothesised to adhere to different motives for conservation of the local biodiversity. All the motives were in turn presumed to be related to a positive attitude towards conservation of the biological diversity in the local environment. The

level of basic values as well as intentional and overt behaviours were excluded in the present study. Biological diversity encompasses the genetic diversity within each species, the range of species in a given ecosystem and the diversity of species across an entire region (Primack, 2000). The present study was limited to species diversity and the diversity of ecosystems. Species that may elicit strong and negative emotional reactions, such as large carnivores, snakes and spiders, were however deliberately avoided.

The empirical study was carried out as a postal questionnaire survey among 271 persons in Kristianstad Municipality, Sweden (corresponding to a response rate of 44%). In order to catch people from different backgrounds the sample included five categories of the local population (public $N=80$, members of an out-door organisation $N=50$, farmers $N=48$, businesses managers $N=67$, and officials at the municipality and county administrative board $N=26$).

As measured by an index of the perceived priority of conserving 31 different local biotopes, groups of animals and plants it was found that the participants held a positive attitude towards conservation of the local biodiversity. This result is well in line with previous research, where Swedes have been asked about their views on preservation of plants and animals.

After focus groups discussions representing the five categories of participants 20 different motives of local biodiversity conservation were formulated. By means of factor analysis, these motives could be reduced to three main dimensions. The reliability of the corresponding variables created ranged from Cronbach's $\alpha=.77-.85$ and the validity was supported by the links to previous research on human-nature relations. Items loading high on the factor expressing the importance of biodiversity for *human well-being and recreation* included words such as relaxation, beauty and harmony. The second factor represented the need of a biological diversity for *human survival* in terms of resources and financial support. The third factor related to the necessity of biodiversity conservation of *respect for nature*, which encompassed ethical and moral aspects of the need to protect the planet's species.

The participants' level of agreement with different environmental value orientations was measured by Schultz's (2001) instrument translated into Swedish. This instrument differs between, a biospheric orientation, an egoistic orientation, and a social-altruistic orientation. The three-factor structure of the measure could be confirmed. The participants' mean value was highest for the social-altruistic orientation ($M=5.75$), followed by the biospheric orientation ($M=5.50$) and the egoistic orientation ($M=4.26$).

Each step of the proposed hierarchical structure was tested by multiple regression analysis. The first step concerned the influence of social structure variables (age, gender and category belonging) on environmental value orientation. In none of the three analyses (one for each value orientation) age and category belonging could significantly explain the variance in environmental value orientation, whereas women to a

higher degree expressed a social-altruistic orientation than did men. It might be a result of omitting the level of basic values and/or that these persons who lived or worked in the same area did not provide differences large enough.

In the second step the relations between environmental value orientations and motives were explored in three analyses with each one of the motives as the dependent variable and the three environmental value orientations as independent variables. The variation in respect for nature was predicted to 11% mainly by a biospheric value orientation. Human survival could to some extent (10%) be predicted, largely by an egoistic value orientation. Only a tendency to explain the variation of the human well-being index by a biospheric value orientation exists.

In turn the overall attitude towards conservation of the local biodiversity could to 39% be predicted by the three motives, mostly by motives related to human well-being and human survival. Moreover a tendency was found for motives related to the respect for nature.

It is suggested that an understanding of the underlying environmental values among policy makers could assure that arguments for conservation are brought forward that persons of different views of nature can relate to. The motives identified suggest that policies and actions for individual biotopes and species could benefit from being formulated accordingly.

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PSYCHOLOGY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Review by
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Edited by
**Peter Schmuck &
Wesley P. Schultz**

Kluwer Academic Publishers (2002)

The increasingly evident and urgent environmental crisis that we are now facing as humankind, with particularly concerning consequences in phenomena like the global warming or the accelerated biodiversity loss, has generated in recent decades many critical approaches from several scientific disciplines, normally from the assumption that complex problems (as no doubt the need for sustainability is) do also require complex solutions, and coming from different perspectives.

In line with this, social sciences –and particularly the field of Environmental Psychology– have recently developed an extensive set of studies and theoretical models that, in general, show very consistently how important the human behaviour dimension can become in order to understand more precisely a number of the most relevant environmental problems of our time.

The book “PSYCHOLOGY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”, edited by Peter Schmuck & Wesley P. Schultz constitutes a rigorous, updated and broad enough approach to some of the most fruitful and evoking research orientations of those that throughout the world are now exploring the relationship between the environmental (here seen in relation to the sustainability issue) and the behavioural dimension. In its some more than 300 pages of text and graphics the authors of the different chapters review several alternative approaches –normally convergent– to the question of how a systematic analysis of individual or collective behaviour can help to understand and manage more efficiently a wide variety of environmental problems. All of this is offered with an adequate contextualization on the exact meaning of the topic that titles the book: sustainable development. In fact, the discussions about what this concept means (and what not), its limitations and those aspects that apparently lie behind its normal definition, are disseminated through the majority of the chapters, often from a critic perspective, in which, though assuming its advantages and achievements as a starting basis, the authors tend to support its overcoming.

The book structure is clear and quite coherent: along with the first three chapters, aimed at contextualizing the issue and the approach followed in the book, the remaining chapters are structured in three

parts: the first one analyses those aspects of the relationship between human behaviour and the need for sustainability that should be studied from an individual perspective, including matters such as inclusion with nature, genre-related issues, the role of emotions and an interesting proposal regarding a biographic approach to the comprehension of environmentally-friendly lifestyle. The second part complements this by focusing on some issues that undoubtedly have a social and cultural basis, and, so, topics as the role of values, cultural differences between northern and southern societies, or the problem of global overpopulation (and particularly some psychocognitive recommended strategies to stop and revert it) are here discussed. Finally, the third part of the book reviews some interventions carried out in different countries, and then discusses the extent to which the results obtained can be generalized to other contexts. All of these interventions had in common that the behavioural dimension of environmental problems had been carefully considered. In addition, a summarizing chapter by Stuart Oskamp offers some final conclusions and puts the previous chapters in relation, giving a valuable overview of the whole book.

Regarding the main subjects of the book, in the introduction the editors point towards two key questions that, from a psychological perspective, must be addressed in order to achieve a truly sustainable society: fossil resources consumption and global demographic boom. But, in fact, the task of analysing the consequences of human behaviour in relation to sustainable development necessarily implies a mention to many other aspects apart from these two grand topics. Actually, and even though the authors have tried hard to give answers instead of enumerating unsolved problems, every single chapter shows how many research possibilities are still unexplored from the perspective here discussed. Particularly, for instance, it is notably stressed the need to reconsider the western conception of quality of life, and it is evidenced how unless this conception can be unbounded of the current incremental consumption of resources many efforts to approach our society towards sustainability can be in vain.

Among all the different approaches to the issue of "Psychology and Sustainable Development" the paradigm of social dilemmas seems to be particularly powerful and evoking, doubtless justifying the inclusion of a chapter discussing this topic in the introductory section of the book. Assuming that "many, if not most, environmental problems are products of decisions where desirable individual, short-term, or local benefits are chosen at the cost of negative group, long-term, or global consequences" (p. 39), the book reviews the state-of-the-art of this theoretical approach, and gives some guidelines for further explorations of the structural and psychological causes that normally difficult the engagement in cooperative behavioural patterns in different contexts.

Also, the chapter by Albert Bandura on the achievement of "environmental sustainability through deceleration of population growth" (p. 209) becomes an opportune and relevant reflection on the need to elaborate and put in practice efficient



strategies of psychosocial intervention to revert the current exponential demographic growth, which, if not stopped, will severely threaten any possible effort in the direction of sustainability. In fact, as Stuart Oskamp stresses in his conclusions, a considerable portion of the environmental problems of our time can be seen to a great extent as the result of having trespassed the threshold of the carrying capacity of the ecosystems around us, and not necessarily as the result of essentially different styles of relationship with nature than those of ancient times.

However, and since it is strongly evident that most of the environmental problems of our time are originated in the most developed countries, a few more arguments should be given in order to understand the reasons why Stuart Oskamp exposes that it is the responsibility of the USA and the rest of the western, richer states to lead the change towards sustainability ("the U.S. and other industrialized nations have an obligation to lead the world into sustainability just as they have led it into its current unsustainable predicament", p. 323); actually, it might be more accurate to say that it is the world as a whole who is demanding these countries to change its development model. Probably, in a book entitled "Psychology and Sustainable Development", the expected and coherent point is to rely upon people (and not upon governments or entire countries) in order to fix the agenda towards a really sustainable society.

In addition, the scope of the book might have resulted more complete if a chapter or a section on environmental management (in companies and other institutions) had been included: nowadays, it is in the field of business management -and its environmental impacts- where a number of significant environmental "battles" are being fought. Topics like CO2 emissions and global warming, waste management or energy saving can hardly be understood as a global reality without a brief review of what is going on within the pale of our industries (and, more importantly from our perspective, within the mind of its managers). Also in relation to this perspective social and environmental psychologists are now in a good position to offer some recommendations and general opinions of what can be done.

But never mind these objections, "Psychology and Sustainable Development" is, in a few words, a must-read book to understand how Psychology can -and must- be useful to comprehend and manage the environmental and social issues to address in the path towards sustainability. And what is more, the book is also a call to urgent action, and tries to give some significant clues so that this action can be theoretically solid and effective. In words of the editors, "*now* is the time to speak out about the environmental problems around us. *Now* is the time to act" (p. 4). Thus, and even despite the usual limitations of books edited as a sum of nearly independent chapters (normally involving issues as the occasional lack of continuity or coherence in the style and the contents), the book now being reviewed is sufficiently relevant and rigorous as to deserve the attention of those academic or occasional readers on Sustainable Development and Environmental Psychology.

Review by
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Lawrence**

Timothy Beatley
"GREEN URBANISM: LEARNING
FROM EUROPEAN CITIES."
(Washington DC;
Island Press, 2000)

**Judith Corbett and
Michael Corbett**
"DESIGNING SUSTAINABLE
COMMUNITIES: LEARNING FROM
VILLAGE HOMES."
(Washington DC;
Island Press, 2000)

**Margrit Kennedy and
Declan Kennedy (eds)**
"DESIGNING ECOLOGICAL
SETTLEMENTS: ECOLOGICAL
PLANNING AND BUILDING.
EXPERIENCES IN NEW
HOUSING AND IN RENEWAL OF
EXISTING HOUSING QUARTERS IN
EUROPEAN COUNTRIES."
(Washington DC;
Island Press, 2000)

SUSTAINABILITY AT THE LOCAL LEVEL: FROM PRINCIPLES TO PRACTICES

During the last decade there has been a rapid growth of interest in the interrelations between global, national and local policies and programmes that deal with ecological issues, economic liberalism and globalisation and socio-demographic dimensions of change. Many academic contributions have dealt with some of these topics from a theoretical perspective. In contrast, the three books in this review essay are explicitly concerned with principles and practices at the local level. To their credit, the authors of these books are also aware of many issues at the global level.

"GREEN URBANISM: LEARNING FROM EUROPEAN CITIES", written by Timothy Beatley is a book that presents in both theoretical and pragmatic ways how and why cities can contribute to the promotion of a global objective to promote sustainable development. This book is based on the author's knowledge of fundamental principles about the ecological, economic and social dimensions of urban development, as well as his interviews, site visits and bibliographical research of 32 cities in 11 western European countries including Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Switzerland, Sweden, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. The cities discussed in this book are not meant to be representative of all European cities. Rather, the author uses them as exemplars of good practice, of innovative projects, and of policies to promote sustainability

The author argues and illustrates how local Agenda 21 –the blueprint for more sensitive development at the administrative and political level of cities– can be a vehicle for a shift towards sustainability at a period in history when data and information show stark increases in population growth, global environmental degradation (such as depletion of the ozone layer), and loss of agricultural land, forests and biodiversity. The author clearly illustrates how the layout, construction, functioning and management of cities can create unsustainable urban development or promote solutions to deal with sustainability at the local level. The author argues that the most progress to date has been made in cities in several western European countries. He discusses this progress topic by topic and then shows how the examples of European good practice could be reapplied in North American cities. The transfer of knowledge and good practice across the Atlantic is important because the author underlines that too often many cities in North America have been constructed without an understanding of the ecological limits, or the environmental constraints of the Earth's ecosystems. In this respect it is noteworthy that in many North American cities, during the 1990s, rates of land consumption exceeded rates of population growth.

The book includes 13 chapters that are grouped into 4 parts. Part one is titled "Context and Background" and it includes the Introduction which clearly presents the aims, methods and rationale of this book. Part two is on "Land Use and Community". It includes chapter 2 on land use, urban form and the planning of compact rather than dispersed cities. Chapter 3 discusses innovative projects for housing and living environments and it is illustrated by concrete alternatives to suburban sprawl. Part three is titled "Transportation and Mobility in Green-Urban Cities". It includes three chapters that show the important function that public transport systems can assume in reducing the strong reliance on private motor vehicles. The possibility of pedestrian areas and networks of bicycle paths are presented and illustrated by innovative projects in several European cities. In Part four, three chapters consider the layout and functioning of "Green organic Cities". Chapter 7 presents key principles in urban ecology and concrete ways of promoting greener urban environments. Chapter 8 is titled "Urban ecocycle balancing" and it deals with the need to recycle and reuse waste products, materials and water. Chapter 9 considers renewable energy sources in urban planning and building construction. The



fifth part of this book is titled "Governance and Economy". It includes chapter 11 on "Ecological Governance", and chapter 12 about "Building a Sustainable Economy: Innovations in Restorative Commerce.". For readers of this periodical these two chapters do not discuss the globalisation of economic production and consumption processes, or the important role of regulation by those who are politically responsible for the functioning of cities. It is a pity that this broader perspective, which frames urban development in cities today has not been addressed in this book. The concluding part is titled "Learning from Europe" and it includes the thirteenth chapter on the potential of green urbanism in North America based on the lessons that can be learnt from European cities. This last section also includes an impressive list of references, two appendices and a thorough index.

"DESIGNING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES: LEARNING FROM VILLAGE HOMES", written by Judy and Michael Corbett, provides an interesting account of the development of village Homes, a well known ecological and social community designed by the authors in the 1970s and completed in 1983. The book is not limited to Village Homes, because the authors discuss key principles they identify with sustainable development at the local level, as well as the lessons to be learnt from 25 years of lived experience in this development. The authors not only want to show why but also how it is possible to design and construct communities that are responsive to the ecological and the social principles of sustainable development. The authors present an interesting combination of basic principles and good practice which is not common in publications by architects and planners.

This well-illustrated book includes 10 main chapters plus a foreword, a preface and an index. Chapter 1 is titled "From Piecemeal Planning to Sustainable Development." It includes a brief account of why current mainstream approaches in urban development and building construction should change, followed by some recent initiatives that show change in North America. (Compared with the two other books in this review essay it is noteworthy that there is no discussion about recent practice and innovative projects in Europe). Chapter 2 presents a chronology of the development of the Village Homes Community which the authors instigated in the early 1970s. This development comprises 242 housing units, plus other mixed-use buildings and community facilities, on a 60 acre site inspired by the principles of the "Garden City" proposed by Ebenezer Howard. Village Homes is located in a neighbourhood of Davis, California and its designers have applied principles related to the topography of the site, natural site drainage, the local climate, passive solar energy, the cultivation of fruit and vegetables, communal indoor and outdoor facilities, and controlled traffic circulation for walking, cycling and road vehicles. The authors include an interesting account of the obstacles they faced when they tried to get approval from the local authority for their project. Chapter 3 includes 8 basic assumptions that the authors argue from the framework for sustainable development, whereas chapter 4 shows that although self-sufficiency is not feasible there should be more reliance on locally and regionally made produce. The fifth chapter

deals with energy, including renewable sources (hydroelectric, solar and wind generation) as well as geothermal sources, biomass, and the need to rethink waste disposal and lower energy consumption in terms of lifestyle rather than "technological fixes." In chapter 6, the authors argue the need for less dependence on imported goods and sources of energy in order to promote security and stability at national and local levels. Chapter 7 presents key issues related to site location, size and density. The authors clearly state that the location of urban development has been commonly determined by short-term monetary calculations and political choices not based on ecological criteria. Chapter 8 argues that designers and urban planners need to work with nature rather than destroy it. This chapter presents key features that can be incorporated to promote this objective and those included in Village Homes are explained. In this chapter the authors conclude that the optimum size of future communities should be about 500 persons which is not that different to the point of view of Margrit and Declan Kennedy (see below). Chapter 9 discusses the processes involved in designing communities like Village Homes. The authors stress the need for citizen participation using appropriate tools and methods not commonly applied by architects and urban planners. They acknowledge the possible contribution of citizens in doing some of the construction work to create these communities, and they stress the crucial role played by local government too. Again they remind the reader that there are significant obstacles that need to be overcome. The last chapter present case studies of several interesting developments in North American cities on suburban or inner city sites that illustrate how the key principles presented in this book have been applied in the 1990s.

"DESIGNING ECOLOGICAL SETTLEMENTS: ECOLOGICAL PLANNING AND BUILDING. EXPERIENCES IN NEW HOUSING AND IN RENEWAL OF EXISTING HOUSING QUARTERS IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES" includes contributions by several authors that have been edited by Margrit and Declan Kennedy. This well-illustrated handbook reports the conclusions of the New Sustainable Settlements Project conducted by the European Academy of the Urban Environment in several western European countries. This project, based on practical experience, examined new projects. However, in this book, the editors not only consider new constructions but also ecological design principles for urban renewal projects. They ask the question whether the same principles apply for new and renovated neighbourhoods.

This book includes an introduction, seven examples of new ecological settlements and five examples of ecologically designed urban renewal projects. The seven new projects are located in Austria, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Switzerland and the Netherlands, whereas the five renovation projects are located in Austria, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland and the Netherlands. Each of the twelve projects is presented with information about its size, location, cost and the ecological principles that were explicitly addressed. These ecological dimensions include health, radioactivity, toxic substances, indoor climate and comfort; renewable energy sources and reduced consumption; building materials and construction reuse and ecological technology; district combined heating and

power generation plants; rain water collection and water recycling; layout and design of human settlements and community planning for social and ecological purposes; and waste collection, recycling and disposal systems. All these ecological dimensions were common to both new and renovated projects. Each dimension is presented in a chapter of this handbook.

Readers of this periodical may be interested in the fact that this handbook explicitly addresses the interrelationships between ecological and economic principles. In two chapters, the authors discuss pragmatic topics, such as the recycling of building construction materials, or the reuse of other industrial products made from concrete, glass or rubber. These contributions show why ecological principles can reconcile both short- and long-term economic criteria if medium- and large-scale neighbourhoods (of not less than one hundred housing units are constructed). The chapter by Hansen and Wächter on Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) of ecological construction, and the chapter by Hoffmann and Schlüter on the cost effectiveness of decentralised services and infrastructure are important contributions because they discuss the monetary benefit of ecological construction in relation to the economy of scales of the overall development and some of its features (e.g. individual solar heating units per building compared with district combined heat and power plants).

The editors of this handbook note that many of the ecological principles have not been incorporated into mainstream architectural design, building construction or urban renewal projects. Therefore, this book can serve as a benchmark for ecological building and urban planning in western European countries, based on achievements until 1995. In principle, it is necessary to think in terms of neighbourhoods or human settlements rather than individual buildings, and it is important to optimise each feature of a project but the combined effect of many by applying a holistic perspective. These contributions show that ecological building construction has lower monetary costs than commonly used construction materials and services in both new and renovated buildings.

The three books reviewed in this essay show that during the 1990s there has been a growing interest in the contribution of housing, building and planning to issues about sustainability. Although this interest was endorsed by Agenda 21 at the United Nations Summit on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, it is noteworthy that the pioneering contribution of people like Judy and Michael Corbett in the 1970s should not be forgotten. There was a lot of debate and examples of good practice at least twenty years before sustainable development became a political catchword.

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- * Type /lastName:Uzzell to find records with one line of lastName field exactly equal to Uzzell.
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HOUSING, SPACE AND QUALITY OF LIFE

**Ricardo García-Mira,
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J. Eulogio Real
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(Editors)**

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Houses, and other spaces and environments in which people spend their time, have a crucial impact on quality of life. We are increasingly living in multi-cultural cities and communities, and this too significantly affects how we feel about spaces in which we live. This volume brings together psychologists, architects, designers and planners to discuss issues of housing, space, sustainability and multi-culturalism. In doing so, the book provides an insightful critical analysis of space, place and the quality of life. It also addresses the implications of intercultural tension on quality of life and on the way in which people use and interact in a multi-cultural space.

With case studies from Spain, Turkey, Brazil, the UK, the USA and Israel, it discusses issues such as low-cost housing, security, environmental conservation and sustainability, alternative building techniques, cultural diversity and its impact on housing and urban design.

Contents

Housing, space and quality of Life: Introduction, *Ricardo García Mira, David L. Uzzell, J. Eulogio Real and José Romay*; Perception of urban space from two experiences: pedestrian and automobile passengers, *Ricardo García Mira and Myriam Goluboff*; Space use, dwelling layout and housing quality: an example of low-cost housing in Istanbul, *Ahsen Özsoy and Gülcin Pulat Gökmen*; An evaluation of "the Feeling of Se-curity" in a new mass housing compound in Istanbul, *Suat Apak, Gokhan Ulken and Alper Unlu*; Transfer process of self-built houses in environmental protection areas in the region of Campinas, Brazil, *Silvia A. Mikami G. Pina, Doris C.C.K. Kowaltowski, Regina C. Ruschel, Lucila C. Labaki, Stelamaris R. Bertolli, Francisco Borges Filho and Édison Fávero*; Assessing the acceptability of alternative cladding materials in housing: theoretical and methodological challenges, *Anthony Craig, Leanne Abbott, Richard Laing and Martin Edge*; Neighbourhood quality of life - global and local trends, attitudes and skills for development, *Ombretta Romice*; How does immigration impact on the quality of life in a small town?, *James Potter, Rodrigo Cantarero, X. Winston Yan, Steven Larrick, Heather Keele and Blanca E. Ramirez*; House design as a representation of values and lifestyles: the meaning of use of domestic space, *Ritsuko Ozaki*; Student preferences for University accommodation: an application of the stated preference approach, *Harmen Oppewal, Yaniv Poria, Gerda Speller and Neil Ravenscroft*; Theoretical and methodological Issue: Culture and architecture, *William Thompson*; The influence of developmental maturity in the environmental representation of the city: an empirical approach, *Ángel Fernández González*; The home as a territorial system, *Mariann Märtsin and Toomas Niit*.

Order address: www.ashgate.com

METHODOLOGIES IN HOUSING RESEARCH

Edited by
**Yonca Hurol,
Dick Urban Vestbro
and Nicholas
Wilkinson.**

Based on the realisation that research methods are often neglected in scientific conferences Dick Urban Vestbro, (Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden) and Roderick Lawrence (University of Geneva) organised a conference only focusing on research methods in housing. The papers in this book are drawn from that conference held in Sweden last year, 22-24 September, 2003, at the Royal Institute of Technology, (KTH), Stockholm. The cross disciplinary character of the contributions is the main strength of the book. This is enhanced by the range of methodologies covered going from methods and case study methodology, to quality of life, participatory planning, the gathering and analysis of data and the relationship between method and problem. Starting with the four keynote papers on Methodologies in Contemporary Housing Research (Lawrence, University of Geneva), Case Study Methodology (Johansson, Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden), Environmental Quality (Marans, University of Michigan, USA), and Participatory Planning (Horelli) the editors have put together a series of state-of-the-art papers addressing this subject.

CHILD-FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENTS APPROACHES AND LESSONS

Edited by
Liisa Horelli and
Miretta Prezza,
Helsinki University of
Technology, Centre for
Urban Regional Studies.



COSTS AND BENEFITS OF INNOVATIVE WORKPLACE DESIGN

Dr. Theo J.M.
van der Voordt

Center for People
and Buildings,
Delft in co-operation
with Centrum Facility
Management,
Naarden, 2003.

This collection of ten articles is a comparative study on the theoretical and empirical findings of the conditions and characteristics of environmental child-friendliness. The book discloses that the current trend of urban degradation is deeply constraining the favourable conditions for children to grow up. The normative and participatory structures that some governments are currently providing for children and young people do increase children's opportunities for participation and even improve some of the settings to a certain degree. Unfortunately, however, the good efforts are often too rhetorical. The leitmotif running through the articles is that a theoretical and practical clarification of environmental child-friendliness is needed, which can be applied both by decision makers, professionals, parents and children themselves in the enhancement of everyday life contexts.

The content of the book is the following:

In Search of child-friendly environments, *Liisa Horelli and Miretta Prezza*;
Environmental child-friendliness, a challenge to research and practice, *Liisa Horelli*;
Community psychology as a frame of reference for child-friendly cities, *Miretta Prezza*;
A comparison of the normative and participatory structures as an influential context in Finland and Italy, *Lotta Haikkola and Antonella Rissotto*;
A comparison of the models for children's participation in Rome and Helsinki, *Francesco Tonucci, Antonella Prisco and Liisa Horelli*;
Characteristics of urban child-friendliness: a study in Rome, *Maria Giuseppina Pacilli, Miretta Prezza and Valentina Valeri*;
Interpretations of environmental child-friendliness in a neighbourhood of Helsinki, *Lotta Haikkola and Liisa Horelli*;
The role and significance of children's autonomous mobility for environmental child-friendliness in the light of the Bullerby-model, *Marketta Kytta*;
Children's independent mobility in Italy, *Miretta Prezza*;
Future challenges and collaboration on environmental child-friendliness, *Maria Nordström and Pia Björkli*

Orders can be sent to:

Helsinki University of Technology, Centre for Urban and Regional Studies
Library, P.O. BOX 9300, FIN 02015 HUT, faxed to: +358 9 451 4071
or e-mailed to: ytk-tilaus@hut.fi

About the book

Cellular offices where all employees have their own personal workplace can no longer be taken as read. Modern information and communication technology is making it increasingly easy for people to work where and when they want. Already, various types of innovative offices have been realised which make flexible use of a wide range of activity-related workplaces. A crucial question is whether such innovations actually lead to improvements. What do the users think? How do managers view the situation? Are people working better and more efficiently at lower costs? What are the risks involved? How do we measure whether our targets have been met?

In this book these questions are addressed based on desk research, project evaluations and conference participation. Core issues are the effects on employee satisfaction, labour productivity and facility costs. Measuring techniques and the results of empirical research are held up to critical scrutiny. Each chapter concludes with a reflection on the findings and suggestions for further research. Hot items for follow-up research are the compilation of a list of standardised measuring techniques, interdisciplinary project evaluations, in-depth thematic monographs and a database of innovative office projects.

How to order?

This publication can be ordered by sending an e-mail to info@cfpb.nl mentioning the number of copies you want and where they can sent the copies to.

Summary: Workplace innovation: backgrounds, objectives and conceptual analysis; Costs and benefits: an exploration of the State of the Art; The effects of workplace innovation; Gaps in knowledge and points of interest for follow-up research; Desired results of follow-up research

**Medio Ambiente y
Comportamiento
Humano**
International Journal
of Environmental
Psychology
2003, Vol 4 (1)

Director:
Bernardo Hernández

Special Issue:
**People-Environment
Interaction and
Environmental Action**

Special Issue Editors:
**Ricardo García-Mira
and J. Eulogio Real**



The social and behavioral sciences have taken up the interaction between individuals and the environment as their contribution to the analysis of environmental problems. That is to say, not only the influence of the environment on individuals, but, reciprocally, the effects of individual action on the environment. In this regard, an increasing effort has been made to develop deeper explanatory models of this complex interaction, models that try to analyze the human dimensions of environmental action.

This Special Issue of the International Journal of Environmental Psychology "Medio Ambiente y Comportamiento Humano" brings together five selected papers from the 17th Conference of the International Association for People-Environmental Studies, which was held in Corunna in 2002. The papers address a number of applications: R. García-Mira and J.E. Real, *People-environment interaction and environmental action. An introduction*; G. Francescato, *Person-environment knowledge: Instrumentality, Interpretation, Promotion*; O. Romice, *New partnerships for action. Building on the capital of environmental psychology and architecture*; J. Regueiro and R. García-Mira, *Social and Spatial Segregation of The Moinantes in Carballo (A Coruña)*; M. Johansson, *Social dangers as constraints for po-environmental travel modes. The perception of parents in England and Sweden*; V. Pestana, M. Rosich and N. Codina, *Life, environment, self, and sport satisfaction*.

Together, these works illustrate some of the approaches to understanding people-environment interaction, and they demonstrate the complexity of the aspects involved in this special issue. However, there is still a long way to go in our understanding of the relation between the individual and the environment. We would particularly like to underline the need for a higher level of collaboration between disciplines, such as Architecture and Psychology, in order to cast light on all aspects which may be relevant to the theoretical development of this developing scientific field.

For more information regarding the journal people can go to <http://webpages.ull.es/users/mach/index.htm> and there they will find all the subscription information.

If you are interested in download some of the papers in this issue, please, go to http://webpages.ull.es/users/mach/Numeros/V_4_1.htm



**Rethinking Design
Studio Teaching
Practices**
Between traditional,
revolutionary,
and virtual models

**Call for Contributions-
Open House
International**

Guest Editor:
Dr. Ashraf Salama

The issue of Open House International (March 2006) explores studio teaching practices by investigating pedagogical aspects that associate different studio teaching models; traditional, revolutionary, and virtual. Research papers in this issue will introduce cases that shed light on paradigmatic shifts in studio teaching practices in the developed and the developing worlds. Papers may reflect on a wide spectrum of studio types including architectural, interior, landscape, urban, and community design studios. While some papers will place emphasis on creativity and social responsibility as integral components in studio teaching, others will explore dialectic relationships between contents, methods, teaching/learning styles; process-product mechanisms; problem representations vs. exploring solutions; competition vs. collaboration; and the tools utilized by studio educators to achieve their studio teaching objectives.

Contact Dr. Ashraf Salama, Guest Editor at asalama@kfupm.edu.sa

For further information on submission dates and guidelines

International Journal of Psychology 2005, Vol 40 (1)

Announces a
Special Issue:
**Environmental Perception
and Cognitive Maps**

Special Issue Editors:
**Ricardo García-Mira
and J. Eulogio Real**

Medio Ambiente y Comportamiento Humano International Journal of Environmental Psychology

Director:
Bernardo Hernández

Announces a
Special Issue:
**People-Environment
Relations and
Architecture**

Special Issue Editors:
**Ricardo García-Mira
and Myriam Goluboff**

Perception has always been conceptualized as one of the most relevant processes within General Psychology. Perception theories also constitute one of the most firmly grounded roots of psychological knowledge, and their increasing scientific contribution has been recognized and used in many different disciplines and fields of research.

Environmental perception plays a similar role within the framework of Environmental Psychology. Theories and research in environmental perception are interested primarily in the processes involved in the development and processing of mental representations developed by subjects to better interpret and understand what surrounds them.

One of the first and principal concepts developed to investigate the mental representations of an environment is the cognitive map. Since Tolman coined the term, the concept of cognitive map has evolved to integrate many different sources which can influence such mental representations. The first of these sources is the environment itself. Studies on spatial orientation and spatial perception are primarily focused on the way that physical characteristics of the environment influence knowledge, wayfinding ability or orientation capabilities of the subjects.

All the works in this special issue are proof of the complexity of aspects involved in the understanding of the nature of the relation between people and the environment, as well as the high number of disciplines needed to deal with it. At all events, this issue seeks to shed some light on every aspect which may be relevant or may contribute to theoretical development in this scientific field.

Price: £17.95 Pounds Sterling / \$29.95 US Dollars.

For more information regarding the journal people can go to www.psypress.co.uk and there they will find all the subscription information.

Over the last few decades, the development of studies in the social and behavioural sciences of the relations between the environment and human behavior has been matched by the emergence of a culture of participation and the integration of a more 'human perspective' in architecture and urban development, and in environmental design in general. Thus the particularities and idiosyncrasies of local cultures, their ways of life and values, have been elevated to a position of respect in urban transformation programmes.

The following seven papers, selected from the 17th IAPS Conference held in A Coruña in 2002, discuss how architecture and urban planning is closely linked to the development of people-environment studies: R. García-Mira and M. Goluboff, *People-Environment Relations and Architecture*; R. Tyrrell, *Culture climate place. A cultural perspective of sustainable architecture*; L. Siregar, *Ethical and ecological realization facing the globalization: a contribution from vernacular architecture*; A. Blanco, J.L. Losada and M.T. Anguera, *Data analysis techniques in observational designs applied to the environment-behaviour relation*; M.J. Azurmendi and I. Olaizola, *Sustainable quality of life: cultural diversity, environmental law and building citizenship*; S. Hess, E. Suárez and B. Hernández, *People-environment studies in Spain*; D. Kos, I. Marusic, M. Polic and T. Zupancic Strojjan, *People-environment studies in Slovenia*.

All these papers - both those coming from the urban planning and architectural fields, and those from environmental psychology illustrate the scope and utility of this research field and provide examples as to how it can be addressed. They demonstrate the importance of cross-disciplinary work in the analysis of people-environment relations in helping to build a better world in which the quality of life becomes a key expression of our values and our cultures.

For more information regarding the journal people can go to <http://webpages.ull.es/users/mach/index.htm> and there they will find all the subscription information.

FUTURES OF TRANSDISCI- PLINARITY: A DEDICATION TO JONATHAN SIME

A recent Special Issue of the scientific periodical *Futures*, guest edited by Roderick Lawrence and Carole Després, has been dedicated to the late Jonathan Sime. Jonathan initiated a symposium on transdisciplinarity at the IAPS 16 Conference in Paris in July 2000. He also began to organise a second symposium for the EDRA Conference held in Edinburgh in July 2001.

Transdisciplinarity is a word à la mode. However, few of us are aware of the context of its origins, of what it meant at that time, and how it has evolved as a concept in recent decades. In what ways do transdisciplinary contributions differ from the more familiar interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary ones? Is transdisciplinarity applied frequently, and if so by whom? For what reasons and types of problems can it be used? Last, but not the least, how is transdisciplinarity operationalised in research and professional practice? Collectively, the contributions in this special issue provide a picture of what transdisciplinary research is, as well as why and how it is being conducted in European and North American countries.

REFERENCE:

Futures of Transdisciplinarity. In *FUTURES*, Vol. 36, No.4, 2004: pp. 397-526.

Consult: www.elsevier.com/locate/futures



IAPS 18 IN VIENNA EAST MEETS WEST



This year the Vienna University of Technology hosted IAPS 18, the eighteenth Conference of the International Association for People-Environment Studies from 7-10 July 2004. Almost 400 delegates from 52 countries presented a total of 387 contributions to this, the largest European showcase for Environment & Behavior Research. IAPS 18 comprised: 23 Symposia (with 144 papers); 34 Paper Sessions (with 174 papers); 3 Workshops; 10 Network Meetings; a Poster Session with 45 contributions and a Young Researchers' Workshop with 24 contributions. Central thematic blocks included Participation, Tourism, Environmental Protection, Health, Safety, Special User Groups, Gender, Creative Environments and Environment Simulation.

IAPS 18 was held under the slogan "Evaluation in Progress" and concentrated in particular on the new EU member states. The Congress kicked off with a Europe-related keynote session with Dr. Josef Hochgerner (Sociologist, ZSI), Dr. Wolfgang Petritsch (High Representative in Bosnia) and Viennese Green Party politician Mag. Christoph Chorherr. Speakers from Poland, Hungary, Slovenia, Romania and Slovakia organized an IAPS Forum East. One of the excursions took delegates to nearby Bratislava in Slovakia where they visited not only the old city but also the concrete jungle of Petralka.

The IAPS 18 content was organized by Prof. Dr. Bob Martens, Vienna University of Technology, and Dr. Alexander Keul, University of Salzburg and Vienna University of Technology. There was also time during this major Congress for private discussions, catching up on old friends and making new acquaintances in the relaxed Viennese atmosphere so much loved by visitors to Vienna. The event attracted great media interest √ ORF (the Austrian broadcasting company) presented a radio programme and two news articles were published through the Austrian Press Agency.

The initial outcome of the joint East-West work is an IAPS 18 CD with the Abstracts not only from all the 2004 papers but also the Abstracts from all the IAPS Conferences since 1969 (about 2,500 in all). They are stored in a database in the Slovenian SciX format which permits a full text search through the history of environmental psychology. The CD is available for 35 Euro from Österreichischer Kunst- und Kulturverlag (Freundgasse 11, A-1040 Wien) and can be ordered at: office@kunstundkulturverlag.at

INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON PSYCHOLOGY IN EMERGENCIES AND DISASTERS

Havana, Cuba
15-19 November 2004



An international meeting on psychology in emergencies and disasters was held in Havana, Cuba in the framework of the *Fourth International Conference on Health Psychology*, sponsored by the Cuban Society of Health Psychology. In addition to the meeting, a workshop on this subject, co-ordinated by Dr Alexis Lorenzo Ruiz, was also held in the Latin American Centre of Disaster Medicine. Thirty specialists in psychology, psychiatry, and representatives from state organizations linked to disaster management from Mexico, Chile, Bolivia, Spain, Venezuela and Cuba, attended to the workshop.

The workshop included presentations from a group of specialists from Cuba (Dr Alexis Lorenzo Ruiz, *University of Havana*), Venezuela (Dr Juan Carlos Branger Núñez, *Red Cross*), and Spain (Dr Ricardo García-Mira, *University of Corunna* and Lic Paloma Losada, *Psychologist Association of Navarra*). Presentations ranged from a discussion of disasters from a social and psychological perspective; stages of the life cycle of disasters, as well as the role of psychologists in a disaster or emergency. In addition, the Latin American Centre of Disaster Medicine in Cuba in collaboration with other international organizations. discussed their experiences in the field. The workshop was conducted in a very active and stimulating environment, analyzing the new trends and current problems in this field.

**THE 4th DOCTORAL
EDUCATION
IN DESIGN
CONFERENCE
(4 DED)**

**College of
Architecture and
Environmental Design
Arizona State University,
Tempe, Arizona
June 25 to 28, 2005**

**For further information,
please contact:
4DED@asu.edu**

**International
Conference
RESIDENTIAL
ENVIRONMENTS IN
PEOPLE'S MINDS**

**Delft University of
Technology, The
Netherlands**

**Further information:
Dr Marco van der Land.
E-mail: land@otb.tudelft.nl**

Under the theme, From Master to Doctorate: The Challenges of Transition, the conference will encourage the discussion that surrounds the recent shift in design education from the master's degree as the terminal degree to a situation in which the doctorate is becoming the accepted qualification.

Under this banner, the following sub-topics could serve as areas for discussion and exploration:

The interrelationship between graduate education and industry; Interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary models of graduate education; Collaborative initiatives in graduate education; Alternative models in graduate education; and Design education that is occurring outside the normal territory of design.

Papers on these or related topics in graduate design education are sought for presentation at the 4 DED. Papers from PhD students and other atypical sources are of particular interest. We also welcome case studies of successful doctoral education, examples of best practice in education, teaching, learning, supervision and successful programs and/or initiatives. The emphasis should be on practical advice about elements of doctoral education that appear to be successful.



There is growing acknowledgement of the fact that mental aspects of the relationship between people and their residential environment are of crucial importance to the way neighbourhoods are appreciated, used and –in the end– develop. Mental geography plays a role in the motivations and attitudes of residents, potential residents, real estate owners, store keepers, companies, professionals, passers-by and policy makers. It helps determine whether or not a person wants to be, live or invest in a certain place.

Concepts such as place identity, status, image, reputation and stigma are often used in connection with mental geography but are still rather 'sensed' than well understood. The same applies to certain classification principals of (potential) residents, such as life style, bonding and other 'psychographic' characteristics used to link resident categories to neighbourhood types. Also the link between individual mental geographies and collective representations is a matter of much debate.

Mental geography takes place in the minds of people, and this complicates matters. It is an individual process, but also a collective one. How does it differ from person to person and from group to group? How does perception of the residential environment relate to the presence and the perceptions of others? Mental geographies are also materialised in objects. What do these objects signify and how do they relate to the everyday life in residential environments?

Both the growing acknowledgement of its importance and the intangibility of its content make this theme a challenge to both policy makers and scholars. This conference aims at contributing to the understanding and building of relevant concepts and theory. This is achieved by the exchange of knowledge, by cooperation, mutual stimulation and inspiration and debate.

LIFE IN THE URBAN LANDSCAPE

**Göteborg, Sweden:
May 30 to June 4, 2005**

Please, contact the
Conference Co-ordinator for
more information:
Henrik Normark E-mail:
Henrik.Nolmark@formas.se
www.urbanlife2005.com

Urban life and urban culture have always been at the heart of civilization and economic development. Cities all over the world are facing great challenges attempting to meet the dynamic and contradictory trends of today. With the globalisation of economy and environmental systems on the one hand and individualisation of everyday life and politics on the other, we see new urban landscapes and processes coming into being.

In times of rapid change there is an obvious risk of a city losing its soul. Local history, identity and culture clashing with new populations, influences and lifestyles are raising questions about the competitive, attractive and exciting city. At the same time there is tremendous pressure on cities to be ecologically sound and socially balanced. The new context is unfamiliar for many of us, and with an unclear balance of responsibilities, mandates, resources and power we face the risks of following every trend uncritically or getting stuck in complacency or wishful thinking. Therefore, we need to develop new approaches that can accommodate uncertainty and change.

With the conference Life in the Urban Landscape we wish to: Stimulate innovative urban professionalism and knowledge; Support creative and responsible leadership in cities; Contribute to the evolution of co-operative and cross-border approaches to urban development work and urban learning.

THIRD INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF IAPS-CSBE 'Culture and Space in the Built Environment' Network

SOCIAL CHANGE AND SPATIAL TRANSFORMATION IN HOUSING ENVIRONMENTS

**Istanbul, TURKEY
July, 3-7, 2005**

For further information,
contact to:
Hülya Turgut
Istanbul Technical University

E-mail: space@itu.edu.tr
ITU Website: www.itu.edu.tr

The twentieth century is marked as the century of the urban transition. Cities throughout the world have experienced fundamental social, cultural and economic transformation in recent decades. Socio-cultural and urban identities have been transforming radically; globalization, internationalization, and the rapid flow of information have played a significant role in changing cities and their people; and ongoing migration process and increasing concentrations of people in big cities have accelerated socio-cultural and spatial differentiation and diversity. This process has also affected continuity and development trends in urban-housing environments and quality of life. The multidimensional outcomes of this transformation are manifest in peculiarities of activity patterns, behavioral relationships, and socio-cultural norms, as well as in architectural and urban configurations. These rapid economic and social changes demand continual redefinition of urbanization and housing concerns. It is also essential to understand how users define and strive to achieve 'good quality environments', especially within newly emerging urban areas. We also need to explore more vigorously how housing environments can be made more sustainable in social as well as economic and environmental terms.

Rapid changes in living conditions and the contradictions between the global world culture and local traditions create new paradigms and change culture-space interactions. These transformations impact significantly on housing environments and call for new evaluations in both theory and practice. Within this context, theoretical and applied research studies at various scales of the housing environment need to be examined and evaluated. The purpose of the symposium is to open up discussion and debate amongst international scholars in order to more fully understand socio-cultural and spatial diversity in rapidly changing housing environments.

Topics: 1. Theories and concepts in culture-space studies of transformed housing environments: Can we identify new critical approaches and policies? What are the most appropriate methodologies for researching culture and space interactions?; 2. How are cultural, social and individual identities reflected in changing housing environments? Housing and neighborhood quality, preference and user satisfaction; 3. Case studies and projects in housing settlements: recent trends in housing design. Contradictions between globalization and local and regional housing cultures.

7TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RUSSIAN SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS

Saint Petersburg,
Russia.
June 23-25, 2005

The Seventh International Conference of the Russian Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE Russian Chapter) in Saint Petersburg, Russia will offer an opportunity to discuss advances in ecological economic approaches to environmentally sustainable policy making. Interdisciplinary and international as well as intercultural dimension of the conference will help to create a multitude of links among the scientists of the world across geographical as well as disciplinary boundaries. The conference will place particular emphasis on international and regional environmental problems, importance of the protection of the Baltic Region, application of the new methodological approaches of ecological economics, as well as the role of information sciences and modelling in environmental-economic management.

The program will include a session on "Environmental Psychology and Ethics," which will co-chair by Irina A. Shmeleva and Robert Gifford.

Please, contact for more information with Dr Stanislav Shmelev (s.shmelev@open.ac.uk) or visit the website: www.rsee.org

CELA 2005: A TIME FOR PLACE

University of Georgia
School of Environment
and Design
Athens, Georgia
September 21-24, 2005

At this time we might describe our place as both global and local. Since society has turned place into a commodity, what is our role as a discipline and as a profession facilitating a cultural rediscovery of the essential connections within nature and community? If it matters that expressions of the local are disappearing - our vernacular landscape, our regional ecology and unique lexicon of community - how do we construct new frames of reference for ideas of place in the 21st century?

The CELA 2005 conference will focus on the dialectics of culture and nature, connection and disjunction, the global and the local, process and form.

CELA 2005 will be hosted by the School of Environmental Design at the University of Georgia. Created by an act of the Georgia Legislature in 1785, the University is the oldest state-supported public university in the U.S. Events are planned at both the Classic Center in downtown Athens as well as on the historic north campus of the University.

For further information, contact:
Judith Wasserman 706-542-4325. E-mail: cela2005@uga.edu.

6th BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE GERMAN ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY DIVISION

Ruhr University
Bochum, Germany
September 19-21, 2005

On behalf of the German Environmental Psychology Division of the German Association of Psychology, we would like to invite you to its 6th Biennial Conference on Environmental Psychology, which will take place from September, 19th-21st, 2005, in Bochum, Germany.

The conference will include the following topics: Conservation Behaviour; Environmental Decision Making, Environmental Risks, Living in Built Environments, Methods in People Environment Studies, Mobility Behaviour, Psychology of Noise Annoyance, Psychology of Sustainability.

The conference will include, but is not limited to, the following topics:

Papers from all areas of environmental and conservation psychology are welcome (Deadline for submissions: April, 30th, 2005). Conference language will be English. Three renowned scientists in the field of Environmental and Conservation Psychology (Tommy Gärling, Liisa Horelli, and Paul Stern) will give keynote addresses. There will be plenty of opportunity to meet with colleagues and peers. Conference host is the Workgroup of Cognition and Environmental Psychology at the Department of Psychology of the Ruhr University Bochum. For more information (key dates, fees, etc.), see <http://www.eco.psy.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/conference>.

We look forward to seeing you in Bochum!

Further information: Please contact: Rainer Guski and Ellen Matthies, Ruhr-University Bochum. E-mail: conference@eco.psy.rub.de

**CONFERENCE
ON 'WASTE:
THE SOCIAL
CONTEXT'**

**Edmonton, Alberta
Canada
May 11 to 14, 2005**

The history of waste in the last 100 years is a vivid reflection of the industrialized world's move towards mass consumption and the rise of a throwaway ethic.

While the solutions to our waste problems are often focused on technology, the environmental and social aspects have been widely neglected. Waste - The Social Context provides a forum for discussion on the broader implications of waste.

By bringing together researchers and practitioners from a wide variety of disciplines, the conference will provide a holistic perspective of waste management - its challenges and solutions.

More than 130 abstracts from over 20 countries were selected for presentations.

Please, contact for more information with: Dr Jerry Leonard
E-mail: jerry.leonard@edmonton.ca
Website: www.ewmce.com

**IAPS 19
ENVIRONMENT,
HEALTH AND
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

**Alexandria, Egypt
11-16 September, 2006**

The United Nations has set eight "Millennium Development Goals", four of which address health and environment factors. The different countries have, therefore, channelled serious efforts towards the achievement of these goals. This conference is hoped to be one of the many global pursuits in this context. It aims, as such, to address the issues related to environment, health, and sustainable development through an interdisciplinary approach, whereby a number of relevant sub-themes are investigated.

To know more about this forthcoming conference, please contact:
Aleya El-Hady at aleyah2000@hotmail.com



**9th SPANISH
CONFERENCE
OF SOCIAL
PSYCHOLOGY
Building the
Europe of
The Peoples
and The Cultures**

**University of A Coruña,
Spain
20-23 September, 2005**

The expansion of the European Union and approval of a new European Constitution during 2004 offer a unique cultural, economic, and historical framework for discussion by social psychologists. The need to form, from a coalition of distinct individual countries, a new social entity where different peoples and cultures can be mutually recognized and respected gives us the slogan for this conference: *"Building the Europe of The Peoples and The Cultures"*.

This Conference will provide a forum for social psychology researchers and professionals, and other social science professionals, to share research results and ideas on issues impacting the future of a new unified Europe. It is an opportunity for open presentation of research interests and discussion from diverse points of view within this new socio-political space of intercultural coexistence.

The backdrop for this conference is A Coruña, a gracious city with a pleasant mix of old and new in the Finisterrae of Europe.

Please, contact the Conference Chair for more information:
José Romay, E-mail: 9cps2005@udc.es
Website: www.udc.es/dep/ps

CHILDREN IN THE CITY: AUTONOMOUS MOBILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACCESSIBILITY

Sandrine Depeau

PhD Director:
Pr. Gabriel MOSER
University René
Descartes - Paris 5
CNRS Research Unit of
Environmental
Psychology UMR 8069

Which are the social and environmental conditions under which autonomous mobility emerges in 10 to 12 year old children?

The objective of this thesis is to define environmental accessibility in terms of environmental constraints on the one hand, parental context and children's own experience on the other hand, implementing a transactional approach of children's autonomy, taking into account the social, spatial, behavioral, cognitive and evaluative aspects.

A sample of 10 to 12 years old children and their parents living in three distinct urban environments were interviewed. Three sites were selected according to type of urban structure and pedestrian safety design : a district with modern layout, a traditional district and a district with "traffic calming" design in Paris and its near suburb.

Each interviewed child was asked to sketch-map his home-school journey then, to draw it on a city map and finally to fill in a questionnaire on independent mobility in city, the social representation of danger, parental guidelines, environmental evaluation and persons escorting him. For each child, we assessed the distance and the difficulties of road-crossings by inserting the drawing of his home-school journey into a Geographical Information System (GIS). Parents were interviewed separately by way of a questionnaire on the same issues as their children.

Results show distinctive types of emergence of autonomy according to urban structure of environments. In traditional environments where pedestrian safety design are lacking, spatial, cognitive and behavioral dimensions of autonomy are more developed. Moreover, children who are the least experienced in crossing the road during home-school journeys, those living in a modern town layout, are more confined to their home-district and more centered on peer groups.

The experience of autonomous mobility during home-school journey contributes to general access to autonomy in the city. Furthermore access is differently encouraged and directed for boys and for girls. Finally, results concerning the relation between representations of danger and independent mobility allow us to discuss two premises for the developing of children's autonomy in urban environments: a territorial versus a "trajectory" logic.

Key-words: autonomous mobility, environmental accessibility, representation, dangers, urban environments, children, safety design, cognitive map, home-school journey.

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RECENT DOCTORAL THESES IN ENVIRONMENT- BEHAVIOUR RESEARCH

In this series the Bulletin of People-Environment Studies presents abstracts of recently completed doctoral theses. Guidelines for submission: the abstract must contain name of the author, name(s) of the thesis advisor(s), name of the university, year of completion and, if available, the ISBN number of the thesis.

The maximum length of the body of the abstract is 500 words. Only abstracts from theses that are completed within a year before the date of submission will be accepted.



ENVIRONMENTAL ATMOSPHERE: OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS FOR DESIGN AND EDUCATION

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The primary goal of this thesis was to develop an Expert checklist for assessing and developing outdoor residential environments. The checklist was utilized by 5 experts in the fields of architecture, landscape architecture, and urban planning who were all familiar with the concept of architectural psychology.

The checklist was validated against a Post-occupancy evaluations form (POE) that was developed especially for this purpose. The POE was administered to over 400 residents in Lund, Sweden, and rendered five factors: Attachment; Outdoor Enjoyment; Aesthetics; Sustainability, and Social Interaction. By means of the checklist it was possible to predict the first three of these five factors.

Further studies using the Expert checklist showed that the form could be used in a cross-cultural context. Twenty-two planning professionals, who came from Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and South America participated. A test was also performed to discover if cultural differences would affect the way the built environments were assessed.

Additional studies were performed to expand the usefulness of the Expert checklist by evaluating two recent large-scale housing areas that had been developed and organized as housing exhibitions within southern Sweden. Six experts in the fields of architecture and landscape architecture utilized the checklist to assess these two new and innovative areas.

Finally, the checklist was used in a course for architecture students and the outcome indicates that using this tool can enhance the understanding of the students related to the needs of end users, specifically regarding their outdoor environment.

The thesis consists of five studies incorporated into four papers which are all related to the development of the Expert checklist. The five studies have shown that the checklist is a valid and reliable method for assessing the outdoor environment in order to identify essential environmental qualities that individual's desire as well as a useful tool for teaching architecture students about these qualities.

Keywords: architectural education, cross-cultural, environmental atmosphere, expert checklist, housing environments, housing exhibitions, outdoor environment, POE

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STRATEGIES FOR THE EVALUATION OF HOUSING ADAPTATIONS

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Housing adaptation is a common intervention, granted in Sweden by municipal authorities for those in need, and performed in order to remove environmental barriers and enhance daily activities. In spite of increasing costs, efficient strategies for evaluation of the intervention are lacking. In this thesis, occupational therapy clients living in a south Swedish municipality and receiving housing adaptation grants were followed over time in a housing adaptation process. The overarching aim was to generate knowledge useful for development of strategies for evaluating housing adaptations. A multi-dimensional methodology for assessing and analysing housing accessibility, usability in housing, and ADL dependence on the client level was developed, optimised, and applied. In particular, the Usability in My Home instrument developed in this thesis represents a novel approach to assessment in relation to housing adaptations. A complex pattern of improvements and decline was found. Accessibility and usability improved over time, and independence in the activity of bathing increased. The prevalence of functional limitations and dependence on mobility devices among clients increased, while the number of environmental barriers in their homes declined. Even if several outcome dimensions remain to be investigated, the methodology seems useful for systematic evaluation of housing adaptations, and implementations for practice and research on client, group and population levels are discussed. The results have practical implications for occupational therapy and for public planning of accessible and usable housing. Recommendations useful for practitioners aiming at evaluating housing adaptations are given, and further research needs are outlined.

Key words: Activity, adaptation, ADL Staircase, community, environmental intervention, functional limitation, home modification, Housing Enabler, methodology, occupational therapy, outcome, person-environment fit, person-environment-activity transaction, rehabilitation, Usability in My Home.

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NEWS

- **Arza Churchman** has been appointed the Dean of the Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel.

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- **Ricardo García-Mira** has been elected President of the Institute of Psychosocial Studies and Research "Xoan Vicente Viqueira" at the Faculty of Educational Sciences, A Coruña, Spain.

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CHILDREN'S GEOGRAPHIES

Editor:

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AIMS AND SCOPE:

Children's Geographies is a peer-reviewed journal that provides an international forum to discuss issues that impact upon the geographical worlds of children and young people under the age of 25 and of their families. The journal aims to be accessible to new researchers, including postgraduate students and academics at an early stage of their research careers, and to practitioners with an interest in children, youth and families. Study of the geographies of this kind whilst emphasising the importance of place, space and spatiality, inevitably cuts across inter- and intra-disciplinary boundaries. The journal provides a forum for academics and practitioners with an interest in these multi-faceted geographies, enabling new insights into the diverse and multiple realities of young people's lives.

The journal allows a more sustained focus on the disparities of what it is like to be a young person within different societal contexts, but also enables geographers to link more effectively with colleagues in other disciplines who share similar interests (for example, Sociology, Anthropology, Cultural Studies, Economic Development, Education, Psychology, Legal Studies, Social Policy, Political Science, Urban Design and Architecture). Coherence of this sort further ensures that the findings of geographical research are taken seriously in ongoing public policy debates on children, youth and families.

Visit the website for more information:

<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/14733285.asp>



The Networks are interest and research groups formed by IAPS members. They carry out debates, discussion groups, publications, often possess their own website and organise symposia and conferences. For example, the Culture and Space in the Built Environment Network organised a very successful meeting in Istanbul in 1997, and the Spatial Analysis Network organised a conference on 'Spatial Analysis in Environment-Behaviour Research' in 1995 in Eindhoven, The Netherlands.

Find below a complete list of those currently operating within IAPS, and get in touch with them for more information!

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Children, Youth and Environments

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 - Maria Nordström, Department of Human Geography, University of Stockholm, SE-106 91 Stockholm, Sweden; Tel: + 46 8 164839; Fax: +46 8 164969; E-mail: maria.nordstrom@mail.humangeo.su.se
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Go to the Culture and Space in the Built Environment webpage: <http://www.iaps-association.org/Culture/CSBE.htm>

Gender and the Built Environment

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- Ana Mancheno Gren, Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden; Email: anamgren@infra.kth.se

Listserver for the gender network is available through the coordinators.

Environment and Gerontology

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A listserver is available for network members. To subscribe, contact the coordinator. Webpage: <http://www.iaps-association.org/gerontology/>

History and the Built Environment

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A listserver is available for network members. To subscribe, contact the coordinator. Webpage: <http://www.urban-research.net/iapshistory.html>

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The IAPS 'Members Area' of the website is a new service for IAPS members. This area provides members with access to the most recently published issue of the bulletin in PDF format, and there is also now a facility allowing people to check their membership status.

The membership area can be found at the following URL: <http://www.iaps-association.org/members/members.html>

Log in to both options using the following login details

username = iaps

password = membersonly

IAPS AIMS and OBJECTIVES

One of the priorities of the IAPS Board is to encourage more young researchers to join and be active within IAPS. Apart from special student rates for joining the Association (half the normal cost) and reduced rates for attending conferences, we have instituted a Young Researcher Award which recognises the best paper from a young researcher at the IAPS Conference. We also have a Doctoral Student Workshop linked to the Conference at which doctoral students can discuss their work with leading EB researchers and fellow students in a supportive environment.

We are also looking to further and facilitate international collaboration. This is best achieved by working with other EB organisations, but we are also currently looking to see how we can facilitate the setting up of a network of EB Research Units and Laboratories. This could potentially be highly beneficial for both international collaborative research funding and the teaching and training of young researchers.

In particular the Objectives of IAPS are

- To facilitate communication among those concerned with the relationships between people and their physical environment.
- To stimulate research and innovation for improving human well-being and the physical environment.
- To promote the integration of research, education, policy and practice.

To Achieve its Objectives the Association

- Facilitates contact and exchange of ideas between members all over the world.
- Holds regular conferences and specialised symposia and seminars in English and French.
- Publishes a newsletter, conference and seminar proceedings and a membership directory.
- Develops relationships with similar organisations (EDRA (N. America); MERA (Japan); PAPER (Australasia)).
- Maintains study networks which regularly organise Network Symposia and publish Newsletters.

Benefits of Membership Include

- The right to vote and stand for membership of the Board and Strategy Committee.
- Reduced fees for attending conferences and seminars.
- Free copies of the IAPS newsletter. This contains research summaries, articles, reviews, letters, lists of references, and general news of the research field.
- Reduced subscription rates for specified journals.
- The right to be listed in and receive a copy of the Directory of IAPS members.

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