

“Place Advantage: Applied Psychology for Interior Architecture” - Sally Augustin

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Chapter 2: Foundations of Human Interactions with their Physical World

Place Science: uses structured thinking to establish how the place you're in physically influences the state you are in mentally and then determines what changes need to be made in a space to achieve personal and professional objectives.

Questions focused on by *Place Science*:

- How and why does ceiling height matter?
- How does personality influence the kinds of places in which people flourish?
- Are there some sorts of physical environments in which people are more creative than others?
- How should color be used in place design? How should national culture influence color selections?
- What sorts of landscape views are most refreshing?

A room that is not too bright relaxes people, where the lighting is task oriented. People are more creative when the space surrounding them is putting them in a good mood. All people are, “fundamentally the same when it comes to how they want to interact with the world around them.” = **comfortable, secure, and valued**.

**important to recognize all of the functional needs that should be met in a space (all of the functions of the space should be considered)

Chapter 3: Basic Human Needs Satisfied Through Space Design

The information being taken in from a space can influence a person at both an emotional and rational level, meaning that a person will make one action or another based on the space they are in. Most of human behavior is based on emotions because they can elicit reflexive responses which makes rational responses easier to assess and modify in a space. Places influence emotions of the people in them.

“The different sensory experiences that you are having at any one time are completely intertwined and combine to create one common mood or impression.”

People in a space tend to “mirror” the behaviors they see in a space = **place based behavior**.

Reiss (2004) - 16 basic motives to propel humans through their lives - guide space design:

1. Power: spaces provide information (both indirectly and directly) of which one person can have influence over another.
 - a. Example: judges sit at tall desks on raised platforms - when we look up at something we feel respect for it
2. Curiosity: a space can provide opportunities for learning and self-enhancement. Human beings have an “inborn drive to change themselves in ways that they feel are desirable.”
3. Independence: if a space is assisting people to control others’ access to them or accomplish other desired objectives, it can enhance independence.
4. Status: the placement of a group in a space can indicate the status of the group and the leaders of the group.
5. Social Contact: uncontrollable social contact is not good for people but at the same time, people need regular contact with others. Place-based rules...
6. Vengeance
7. Honor: tradition. A space may be viewed as more traditional if a large number of people can anticipate the elements used in it. Traditional designs indicate a stronger adherence to the prevailing value system.
8. Idealism: symbols communicate our ideals to others in a space.
9. Physical Exercise
10. Romance: any mutually acceptable space
11. Family: similar to tradition.
12. Order: the use of cabinets and closets encourage a systematic organization.
13. Eating: increasing in acceptability in common spaces
14. Acceptance: people communicate their desire for approval in a space by following the pre-set social conventions of groups.
15. Tranquility: spaces can reduce stress and tension and optimally provide restorative opportunities.
16. Saving: storehouses for the things we value.

Spaces are communicating more truthful information than verbal statements and we are internally motivated to try and figure out what is going on around us. People have great accuracy when it comes to making judgements about the personalities of other people and the cultures of groups based on the spaces they occupy.

Chapter 4: Universal Features of Well-Designed Spaces

“A well-designed space is a place where the right things happen.”

A well-designed space: provides people with energy and supports their need to communicate with others and supplies inspiration and comfort to enhance lives on a continuing basis. - being in a space like this leads to a desirable emotional state.

Criteria for well-designed spaces:

- Complying with the planned activities
- Communicating important information about the people who are in use of the space and provide opportunities for people to choose to socialize or not. **Most important criteria.** Information about ourselves and others creates the context for social interaction.
- Comforting by meeting the psychological needs for a person's perceived control over their environment. Restock mental energies of people.
- Challenging by providing opportunities for personal growth and development. Help a person execute their life plan.
- Continuing across time and evolving in appropriate ways.

Complying

- Helps people complete tasks
- Provide proper mechanisms for tasks

Communicating

- Nonverbal = communicate / spoken language = socialize
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