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A Social Learning Perspective on the Restructuring of Oud-Charlois

"The bricks and mortar approach to solving social problems is dangerous because it wastes scarce resources, raises community expectations, and results in disillusionment and alienation" Cafferty, 1979, p. 508

PROBLEM NEIGHBOURHOODS? Or problems *in* neighbourhoods

250

Bruinho

NEIGHBOURHOOD EFFECTS Poor neighbourhoods make people poorer

ITS CAUSE: SOCIAL LEARNING Especially where children are concerned

NEIGHBOURHOOD MATTERS And so does the school environment



OSG HUGO DE GROOT "Superschool" in Oud-Charlois

"How can spatial design interventions aimed at facilitating the social learning experiences of children and adolescents support the restructuring of Oud-Charlois?"



SOCIAL LEARNING

Social —

Social Science

Social Contagion

People with a network outside the neighbour-hood are less prone to neighbourhood effects; spatial layout of routine activites.

Collective Socialization

Isolated neighbourhoods adopt deviant social norms as dominant, increasingly the occurance of deviant behaviour.

Social Cohesion & Control

Neighbourhoods close to areas with more affluence and high in close, exchange and control have more collective efficacy.

Social Networks

If enough people from the same background live close by, they stop socializing with others.

Competition

A neighbourhood that is too heterogenous lacks interaction and social binding.

Relative Deprivation

Continuous confrontation with one's own disadvantage causes negative effects.

Social Learning ENVIRONMENTS



CHILDREN'S NEEDS

Social —

Social Science

Primitive Space

Perceived by children in the first sensorimotor stage of development, it is the space of physical action and sensory experience.

Perceptual Space

Perceived by children in the second pre-operational stage of development, it is the space of sensory imagery and imagination.

Existential Space

Perceived by children in the third, concrete operational stage of development, it is the space of impressions and context.

Cognitive Space

Perceived by children early in the formal operational stage of development, it is the space of perspectives and representation.

Abstract Space

Perceived by children and adults in the later formal operational stage of development, it is the space of abstract concepts and relations.

Children's ENVIRONMENTS



Social Science

Urbanism

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0-2: "Sensory" Space

Children in these ages require spaces to meet basic needs (physiological and safety), allowing them to see and feel the world.

2-7: "Discovery" Space

Children in these ages require space to meet all deficiency needs, so they can start to discover the world safely and comfortably.

7-11: "Explorative" Space

Children in these ages require space to meet "growth" needs, allowing them to search for new knowledge and perceptions.

11-16: "Self-Actualizing" Space

Children in these ages require space to meet "being" needs, allowing them to express themselves and discover who they are.

16+: "Mini-Adult" Space

Children after the age of 16 can be considered "miniadults", they require the same type of spaces they do to continue to develop.

A PATTERN LANGUAGE Alexander (1977)

4 AGRICULTURAL VALLEYS*



... this pattern helps maintain the INDEPENDENT REGIONS (1) by making regions more self-sufficient agriculturally; and it will create CITY COUNTRY FINGERS (3) almost automatically by preserving agricultural land in urban areas. But just exactly which land ought to be preserved, and which land built upon?

* * *

The land which is best for agriculture happens to be best for building too. But it is limited—and once destroyed, it cannot be regained for centuries.

In the last few years, suburban growth has been spreading over all land, agricultural or not. It eats up this limited resource and, worse still, destroys the possibility of farming close to cities once and for all. But we know, from the arguments of cITY COUNTRY FINGERS (3), that it is important to have open farmland near the places where people live. Since the arable land which can be used for farming lies mainly in the valleys, it is essential that the valley floors within our urban regions be left untouched and kept for farming.

The most complete study of this problem that we know, comes from Ian MCHarg (*Design With Nature*, New York: Natural History Press, 1969). In his "Plan for the Valleys" (Wallace-McHarg Associates, Philadelphia, 1963), he shows how town development can be diverted to the hillsides and plateaus, leaving the valleys clear. The pattern is supported, also, by the fact that there are several possible practical approaches to the task of implementation (MCHarg, pp. 79–93). Therefore:

Preserve all agricultural valleys as farmland and protect this land from any development which would destroy or lock up the unique fertility of the soil. Even when valleys TOWNS

are not cultivated now, protect them: keep them for farms and parks and wilds.

hills for building



* * *

Keep town and city development along the hilltops and hillsides—city country fingers (3). And in the valleys, treat the ownership of the land as a form of stewardship, embracing basic ecological responsibilities—the countravise (7)...

Pattern nº 4

Alexander (1977, pp. 26-28)

A COMPLEX LANGUAGE Salingaros (2000)



FROM RESEARCH TO DESIGN Social Learning Environment Pattern

PEN NEIGHBOURHOODS

🤄 [META-PATTERN]

[L] Daily Urban System
[L] Public Facilities

Creating an open and outwardly oriented neighbourhood morphology will benefit disadvantaged neighbourhoods by integrating it into the morphology of adjacent, non-disadvantaged, areas, which decreases its isolation.



Context - Contact with peers or other residents and users of a disadvantaged neighbourhood can negatively impact individual's behaviours, attitudes and aspirations.

Problem - Local social norms are generally conveyed through neighbourhood role models and other social pressures. Negative role models are abundantly present in disadvantaged neighbourhoods, whereas positive role models are not. This increases the likelihood that youth will adopt these deviant local norms and start to display the same negative behaviours, attitudes and aspirations (e.g. teenage pregnancy, academic disinterest and lack of labor force participation).

29

 $\dot{\dot{V}}$. Solution - By transforming disadvantaged neighbourhoods in open, outwardly oriented neighbourhoods, the social isolation of that neighbourhood will diminish. A more diverse social structure can be created by improving the visual links between neighbourhoods and their typology and physical form (Shibu, 2010). In achieving this, it will be important to pay attention to the design of the urban open spaces, most importantly the streets (Thompson, 2002). Moreover, recent research shows that chosing to either adhere to or contradict existing homogeneities and regularities such as architectural elements or urban block patterns to be effective urban design tools in stimulating urban tourism (Gospodini, 2001).

FROM RESEARCH TO DESIGN Children's Environment Pattern



It is important to incorporate elements of risk in the environments of young people, irrelevant of their age or gender and the type of space.



Context - It is important to provide children with an environment that engages and challenges them to discover all it has to offers, alone or with peers or caregivers, in a way that allows them to feel accomplished about their actions.

Forces - The opportunity to engage in activities that are challenging and even offer an element of risk is a vital element of children's development and, furthermore, engages them in the most active types of play, both physically and cognitively. Clarification - An extensively documented theme in the literature on the developmental effects of children's play is the benefit of risk and risk-taking (Gleave, 2008). The ability to engage in challenging and risk-taking play is reasoned to provide children with important abilities to cope with the unpredictable nature of our world in adulthood (Gill, 2007). Furthermore, risk-taking is considered to benefit the development of confidence and an "I can do"-attitude (Dweck, 2000), as well as other desireable personality traits such as creativity (Ball, 2002). Some researchers even claim that shielding children from challenge and risk is "deliberately disabiling and ethically unacceptable" (Hughes, 2001, p.53). Flickr; Matthew King © Children require spaces that offer challenges and ri

51

It is therefore important to incorporate elements of risk in the environments of young people, irrelevant of their age and gender or the type of space (Jones, 1997; Acar, 2003; Steampfli, 2009). This can be done through the inclusion of natural elements (Shackell et. al., 2008), which offer a greater variety of relatively safe risk-taking opportunities (climbing a tree, sliding down a hill). It should be mentioned however that it is necessary to provide a balance between opportunities for risk and keeping children reasonably safe from harm (Moorcock, 1998). This can be done by designing environments to mitigate the effects of risk-taken gone awry through, for instance, materialization (e.g. soft grass, sand, or even water beneath climbing structures).



[C] Individual Adventures

O J Parental Supervision
O J Individual Adventures
O J Natural Environments
O J Artificial Environments



ROTTERDAM

618.109 inhabitants 317.855 households

102.271 children up to 15 years 92.347 households with children





CHARLOIS

64.488 inhabitants33.812 households



11.576children up to 15 years9.843households with children



13.094 inhabitants6.701 households

2.378 children up to 15 years2.011 households with children







NETWORK ANALYSIS Where do people go and how do they move?



SOCIAL & SPATIAL ANALYSIS Which people live here and in what conditions?



OBSERVATIONAL ANALYSIS How do people use the public spaces?



CONCLUSIONS Problems, Qualities & Opportunities



AND HOW DO THEY PERCEIVE THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD?



Groep 5: Ages 7-8 Photo Workshop















Groep 5: Ages 7-8 Design Workshop













Klas 2: Ages 13 & 14 Photo Workshop













Groep 5: Ages 7-8 Design Workshop













SOCIAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Applying the patterns to generate a vision



Rotterdam Centre





Open Space Network



Mixed Neighbourhood



10

Communal Spaces





SOCIAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Applying the patterns to generate a vision





Incorporated Patterns:







ONE RECOGNIZEABLE NETWORK



"Fun" Eye-Catching Elements



Physical "trail" in the sidewalks



Glow-In-The-Dark Road Paint



CONNECTING SCHOOL & NEIGHBOURHOOD







Object Ambiguity



18

i.Ť.

Gender Design



Outdoor Education



Structure sketches



CONNECTING SCHOOL & NEIGHBOURHOOD



Skate park with green character



Quiet grass areas with flowers



Sunken "theater" for gatherings







0 25m





SKETCH 3D Principles behind visualization





ATTRACTIVE BLUE-GREEN CONNECTION & DESTINATION



Enclosed path for children to explore



Added biodiversity to create natural banks



Wooden walkway with subtle edges







5m





SKETCH 3D Principles behind visualization



NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB FOR SMALL CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS



02



Materials

Discovering



Parental Supervision



Structure sketches



NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB FOR SMALL CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS



Earth beds with plants and flowers



Safe yet attractive materialization



Opportunities for parents to sit closeby









15m

0





SKETCH 3D Principles behind visualization



FACILITY HUB SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF TEENS





Structure sketches



FACILITY HUB SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF TEENS



Graffitti wall to be painting by teenagers



Community garden as parent - child space



Water elements in schoolyard for play













REDEVELOPED HARBOUR AREA WITH CHILDREN FACILITIES



Inidvidual Adventure

12

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17

Cognitive Activites

18

Mobility Level



Structure sketches



FACILITY HUB SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF TEENS



Rope bridges as path for the children



Outdoor workshop to build and create



Maintaining harbour character







15m







"How can spatial design interventions aimed at facilitating the social learning experiences of children and adolescents support the restructuring of Oud-Charlois?"

REFLECTION Proces, Product & Pattern Language

MILL

Architecture & Urbanism Master Students Pattern Workshop









