



Doctoral School on Engineering Sciences

Università Politecnica delle Marche

Extended summary

L'architettura del benessere:

strumenti multidisciplinari per la qualità della vita

Curriculum: Analisi e Progetto dell'Architettura e del Territorio

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Abstract.

The aim of architecture is to act in the interests of man, to be between man and natural environment in which he lives. Its main aim is to maximize the satisfaction of the man's physiological and psychological needs. The designer has to consider the environment and the human reality which coexist and influence each other within the architectural space. The purpose of this research is to develop a methodological interdisciplinary framework, a support to the design process that could generate new knowledge and theories, and proves that the health and well-being can be enhanced through conscious and aware projects of architecture. The man is a "bridge" between different science: architecture, electromagnetism, informatics, neuroscience, psychology and historical and philosophical culture. Comparing data of multidisciplinary analysis, guidelines arises for efficient requalification of urban areas, for the optimization of working and educational environments, for the humanization of hospital, and to design domestic space where man find protection, safety, peace. This multidisciplinary methodology considers the discipline of architecture as a means to achieve homeostasis, and it considered the architectural space as a place where it is possible to create the best conditions for the man: physical comfort (sound, light, air quality,



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etc..) psychological and social well-being (the space can promote or inhibit social relations): the ultimate aim of architecture is to "produce" well-being.

Keywords.

Biofeedback technology, environment psychology, man, multidisciplinary methodology, well-being.

1 Problem statement and objectives

The aim of this work is to consider the architectural space conscientiously. It must be included in the design phase all the factors that interact, coexist and influence inside an environment. Man is the main actors of this way of conceiving architecture, the main of new space. This space doesn't consider man in a static way but in a dynamic one in a constant flux of stress. The main of architecture must be the achievement of well-being. This can only happen if there is a dynamic balance between the needs of the man and the means that derived from the spatial characteristics in the environment.

Man perceives and interprets the architectonical space with the help of mind maps that derived from his culture, personality, age and physical shape. All these factors influence his judgment.

If his verdict is negative, man tries to change the environment in which he is. He tries to optimize some characteristics for the achievement of well-being.

If this attempt to change the spatial conditions is not possible, the man tries to adapt to unfavourable environmental characteristics. He reshapes his expectations, limits his freedom and changes his behaviour. Each adaptation strategy involves an expenditure of energy and forces. It can triggers stress and anxiety phenomena, that can lead to disease. The architecture must be conceived to minimize the adaptation of the man in each space and it must be considered as a means to achieve the homeostatic balance. It must produce optimal conditions in space where everyone get your bearings both from a physical point of view (air conditioning, humidity, lighting, sound insulation, air quality, etc.) and psychological and social point of view (the environments that promote or inhibit possible social relations). The architecture must produce well-being.

2 Research planning and activities

Today more and more different expertise open out to useful comparisons (architecture, physiology, psychology, engineering, automation, neuroscience, medicine etc.) trying to indicate the possible guidelines for a healthy and conscientious way of building.

The dialogue between the different disciplines can avoid the tyranny of space on the man the are considered a new evil in the XXI century. For example, the social unrest in the suburbs, the non-places of super places and the consequent desertion of the historical city centers, the stress in the workplace, the increasingly frequent diseases that related to the sick building syndrome.

This work identifies some disciplines some disciplines for a thorough reading of the external or internal environment, and for each of these are identified welfare indicators and possible corrections design essential for the achievement of the condition of homeostasis. Subsequently, the thesis proposes a technological method to test the veracity of the statistical optimal spatial combinations. This can be suggest to the individual or to the community (designers, municipalities). This will make everyone conscious of the spatial reality in which to live, to work, to interact, and how this reality can be improved.

3 Analysis and discussion of main results

The result of this thesis is an interdisciplinary methodological framework, a support to design that can generate new knowledge and new theories, that explain how the health and well-being can be enhanced through a conscientious and aware way of making architecture.

In the first time the various disciplines, that were involved in spatial analyzing, do a thorough reading of the external or internal space (0 state) and in the second time they follow some possible combinations for the optimization of architectural space (design guidelines).

The possible combinations are test in special immersive environments (rooms technology which aim to reproduce the real environment), with the help of technology of biofeedback. In these environments are examined the emotional and physical reactions of man within of the found environmental combinations. In these immersive environments are monitoring the achievement of homeostasis through non-invasive medical technologies (electroencephalogram, galvanic skin resistance, temperature, etc.).

The optimal combination (ideal state), resulting from multidisciplinary dialogue, is suggested and proposed to the individual or to the community.

4 Conclusions

Summary Today the architectural sector requires, more and more eclectic, interdisciplinary and elastic training which takes into account all the characteristics of the environmental and human reality.

The architecture should make possible the free and optimal development of the specific activity, ensuring both the physical and mental well-being of the man.

The multidisciplinary methodology proposed in this thesis, considered the discipline of architecture as a means to achieve homeostasis, and it considered the architectural space as a place where it is possible to create the best conditions for the man: physical comfort (sound, light, air quality, etc.) psychological and social well-being (the space can promote or inhibit social relations): the ultimate aim of architecture is to "produce" well-being.

Although it makes use of advanced technologies, the adopted interdisciplinary methodology deeply rooted in the tradition of building. If science and technology are characterized by an almost linear development, history is cyclical with moments of splendour and decadence.

In the methodological framework proposed is possible to trace the rules of the ancient Eastern doctrine of Feng Shui, this discipline never considers the project as an act abstract, but as an action oriented according to the principles of "good building", and it involves multiple disciplines.

The smart house and smart city are the possible projects that can use this multidisciplinary approach.

in the first through a database that contains automation welfare indicators, the environment can interact with the organism by modelling in order to institute the condition of homeostasis in the individual. The second multidisciplinary methodology can suggest design solutions to local or territorial government in order to improve the perception of the urban space from the psycho-physical point of the man.

The aim of the thesis is to provide the necessary tools for a more complete analysis and design. A more conscious, efficient and conscientious design is an act aimed to the welfare of the individual. The multidisciplinary of the topic, adds to the Vitruvian triad (firmitas, utilitas, and venustas), the size of sensory and mental health.

To design an architecture for man who lives it with the body, the brain and the mind is "the architecture of well-being."

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