Usefulness in architecture accessibility, inclusion and usability as spatial sensory experiences

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overview:

1. study about increasing awareness about accessibility and usability;

2. location: the School of Architecture at the Royal Inst. of Technology, KTH in Stockholm;

3. setting: continuing education course offered at the school;

4. eight participants, 7 women and 1 man (2 architects);

5. promote three-dimensional understanding of accessibility and usability.
Sweden is ageing, 19% older people aged 65 years and older (Sweden Statistics).

architecture about exterior appearance with effect on inner experiences of space

architects: experts on the fit between human needs and spatial adjustments and requirements: see the inner person (homunculus)


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inspirational input:

2. accessibility and usability addressed during practice-oriented and studio-based learning.
3. Therapeutic Screening Scale for Nursing Homes, TESS-NH, version 2003
4. positive outcome of using TESS-NH during 5 courses on architecture and ageing
5. Research-based learning on architectural experiences
1. TESS-NH instrument, 2 questions a holistic assessment on a 10 graded scale of homelikeness and pleasantness of the architectural space

2. Similar answers from female and male respondents, however, assessors with architect background inclined to lower grading than care professionals

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curriculum:

1. Architecture for all – accessibility, inclusion and usability

2. 6 five-hour long lecture-seminar-excursions;

3. 4 types of built environment to assess with an assessment protocol with 6 sensory aspects: acoustics, functionality, kinetics, thermality, olfaction, and visuality on a five-graded scale, where 1=poor, and 5=excellent
4 types of built space:

- School of Architecture, KTH
- Östra Station, train station
- KTH central campus, courtyard (winter view)
- Fältöversten, shopping mall

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Acoustics, touch and spatial experiences
literature:

4. Independently chosen additional literature to solve assignment
Intentions for selection of literature

1. increase knowledge about the fit between the architectural design and individual user needs;

2. promote spatial thinking;

Spatial interpretation of the residential building that is the backdrop to the events that unfold in Perec’s book.

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preliminary conclusions:

1. the confirmation of vision as the primal sense;
2. relationship between architecture and other senses due to the type of design, the intended use or attractions available;
3. the participants showed an increased awareness on the relationship between the architectural design and the fit with user needs

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assignment on wayfinding:

Bild 5. Tormt med bilar och diverse. Var är vårcentralen?


Figur 3. Beslutspunkter på väg i Bagarmossen □ = skylt, ○ = beslutspunkt

Bild 7. Första skyllen för vårcentralen

Bild 8. Entrén visar sig runt hönet.

Figur 4. Beslutspunkter på väg till Sophiahemmets område, □ = skylt, ○ = beslutspunkt

Source: Zyto, A, 2013: Vägen till vårdcentralen (Finding the primary care centre)

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assignment on wayfinding:

Source: Delilbasic, R, 2013: Tillgänglighet i entréer och närmiljöer till nyproducerade flerbostadshus

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over-arching conclusion

...accessibility, usability and inclusion are spatial constituents that need to be activated on a personal level by the individual designer...
references:


Andersson, JE, 2014: Architecture and the TESS-NH instrument, forth-coming

references:


Zyto, A, 2013: Vägen till vårdcentralen, pdf-publ. See www.kth.se/polopoly_fs/1.399482!/Menu/general/column-content/attachment/V%C3%A4gen%20till%20v%C3%A5rdcentralen130521.pdf
thanks for listening...

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