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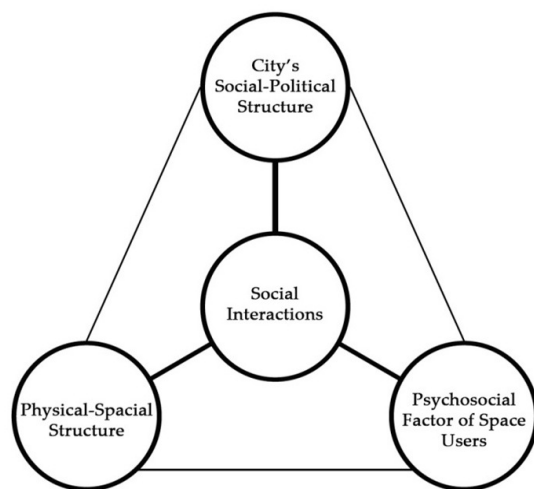


Figure 1. Significant features influencing social interactions in urban areas (Ghanbaran and Jafari, 2014).

Research Paper

Flexible Urban Public Spaces and their Designing Principles.

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Abstract

Urban public spaces are available for everyone regardless of race, age or gender and are democratic social places for citizens and the society. A public space in the neighbourhood is an available opportunity for neighbours to have communications, like friendly chats in a fenced garden or even public meetings in local parks, and social-cultural interactions as results.

Although architectural landscapes and public spaces are totally specified places, but for various reasons, such as creating good connectivity with other spaces and between space users, they may need some changes in design patterns. For example, in some cases there is a need to change the dimension and increase or decrease the measurements. Therefore, possibilities of changes in both structure and functions of the spaces should be predicted in design process of the spaces. According to diminution in social interactions and the increasing isolation of people in societies, paying attention to the factors which can rise social interactions in public space design is an important issue. Flexibility is one of key elements in sustainable urban public spaces and paying attention to that can affect citizens' behaviours and surge interactions. In this regard, according to the available and predicted facilities for changing the spaces, the amount of flexibility will be different. Flexibility has become a tool for solving the social issues in urban spaces and also answering space requests in societies, which are speedily changing. Flexible architectural design of public spaces, is a way to promote social connections and sustainable development. This research is a descriptive-analytic study, with use of library research method for data collecting, and describes the importance of the flexible designs on social life in public spaces. Some practical solutions for designing a flexible urban public space are determined in the final section of the research.

Keywords: Social-Cultural Interactions; Sustainable Urban Public Spaces; Sustainable Development; Flexible Architectural Design.

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