

Tracking Third Places in Cities along Time

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Abstract

Third places are those which have emerged to become points of positive social interaction between users of cities. They allow more connection between people in a way that fills the blank in communities. This paper tracks, studies and analyses types of third places along time and how they have been formed to fulfill and suit needs of people. It also compares between different types regarding communities and users. It hypothesizes that suitable third places differ from a place to another according to types of users.

Keywords: Third Places; Social Interaction; Connection

Introduction

Cities are growing every day and are meant to achieve some goals and fulfill their users needs. This requires them to be designed in some certain way to be able to grow and have its people wanting to live more in them. All cities are composed of certain uses making them achieve different needs of people. Such uses differ in their size, percentage and diversity from a city to another according to many factors.

Literature Review

Analysing cities and their components from time to time helps having them become better. Some studies show that neighbourhood infrastructure of an area does have a major impact on residents' quality of life (Carley et al, 2001; Buonfino and Hilder, 2006; Goodchild, 2008). While there are a number of ways that this happens, one of the most important is the impact it has on social interaction.

Malls as third places

Malls in this era are considered one of the most remarkable third places. They are a gigantic closed space where they include shops, booths, brand shops, cafeterias, restaurants and food courts. Analyzing the combination of such different commercial uses, they have diverse places for many activities to be done for many kinds of users. In shops, women can spend their time in buying clothes, perfumes and having fun if they are a group together. Booths are considered to be a simple addition where people can buy and sell in a small area without being in a closed space. Cafeterias provide some formal and informal spaces where groups, couples and singles can sit, drink, think, have some comfortable time and even eat some fast food. Restaurants can be able to provide food for those who want to eat when they want to skip shopping when they feel hungry. Food courts, in their modern style in this era, can be some good third place inside the third place of the mall. They are the intervention in the mall where people can meet and eat in a big space. In addition, cinemas are provided in some malls to have some fun watching new movies. Some malls include hypermarkets selling all needed groceries and house requirements. Bank branches can be included in some malls to manage financial issues for all users.

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