



#### SOCIAL INTERACTION AND HOUSING

## Amir Bahmani Chahestani<sup>1</sup>\*, Ehsan Davarpanah<sup>2</sup>, Hojat Ghaedi<sup>3</sup>, Razieh Ghaedi<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Faculty of Architecture, Iran Technical and Vocational University, Iran <sup>2</sup>Faculty of Architecture, Iran Technical and Vocational University, Iran <sup>3</sup>Faculty of Architecture, Iran Technical and Vocational University, Iran <sup>4</sup>Lecturer of Ministry of Education, Iran

#### ABSTRACT

Functional unit spacing (e.g. suburban Buildings, Building Rooms) and common functional services (such as Building entrances, Corridors etc.) will affect social interaction patterns among residents in residential areas and people working in organizations and commercial entities. Functional spacing is the degree of difficulty in order to access different parts of construction units. Directions and corridors that directly connect different parts reduce the distance. Long Distances, traffic congestion, and path interference would increase the functional spaces of connected parts. Central functionality is defined by the ease of access to shared features and the time (and frequency) of places in which certain behaviors occur. Most of these issues have been considered in the implementation of pedestrian access. In the process of defining these issues, moving vehicles are important and should be considered. One of the most important factors shaping the central functionality is whether the unit can be used in daily activities or not. These places should make people relax and comfortable. The view should be visible to all pedestrians. Such places are public or semi-public domains with symbolic barriers that are clearly separated from another. These observations are applicable at different ranges. In this paper we have tried to examine the obstacles of housing design in Iran (mostly urban area. I.e. walking path and roadway design in contrast to building constructions. At the end we have presented strategies to overcome these issues.

KEYWORDS: Housing, public, semipublic, social, welfare.

# INTRODUCTION

Basically, housing is a physical location used as a shelter to provide basic household needs. But in a broader definition it is considered more than a physical location and includes all the services and facilities necessary for human well-being. The concept of housing, in addition to physical location, also encompasses the residential environment that includes all the services and facilities necessary for a better family life and employment schemes, education and of individual's health. In general, the definition of the concept of housing is not limited to a condominium or a home; it consists of the residential environment. In other words, housing is more than just a physical shelter and must have all public services and facilities for people. It should also be able support its users to use it for a long period of time and safely. Addressing housing characteristics is a key planning tool that constitutes its main base. It's the most critical stage of planning. The field of social housing (in addition to residential units) also takes the surrounding environment. The need for housing has both quantitative and qualitative dimensions. In the quantitative dimension, the need for housing requires us to understand certain phenomena, including the issue of lack of shelter and access to it. The need for housing is the main focus in this dimension, regardless of its desired quality. By qualitative aspect, different issues and phenomena arise. For example the homeless, poor housing and cramped housing are the focus for this type of research.

Housing quality indicators are discussed in the following numbers:

- 1. The desired form of housing
- 2. The strength of the housing
- 3. Housing security
- 4. Residents access to facilities and services, as well as physical distance of neighborhood
- 5. Access to green and open spaces.
- 6. The provision of equipment and facilities (infrastructure) needed for housing
- 7. Neighborhood housing with compatible applications

In general, the seven factors listed above are the most important criteria in defining good quality housing. Considering this factor in construction can enhance the daily activities of residents, helping them to find sustainable





urban life. Changes in the concept of housing are broader than traditional notion of housing (i.e. a simple physical location). This radical change of our generation would create a symmetrical relationship between different housing programs (Such as health, education, employment, sports, entertainment, communication, etc.). Housing can be viewed as a need to survive. It gradually fades out of the range of geometric and invisible aura and is seen as continuous components of a mixture; a mixture put in a complex network of urban communication services. This way of living has expanded to speed up the process of intensification of social evolution. At the same time it changes with new developments in the field of communication and promotion of new ways of living together. If residents are not homogeneous, spatial proximity can lead to negative connections. Especially when there is no room for families. When a low-income family resides in a middle-class section of a city, they lead an isolated life. Some apartment complexes and office buildings are designed based on the assumption that meeting people and walking pass them in shared grounds can cause more social interaction. While this conclusion may seem obvious, it should be treated with caution. Because erroneous results may lead to the design and location of public facilities. When parents watch their children's playground, they open the door to dialogue; People who share public parking in an apartment stop and talk about daily issues. The same applies to people who are engaged in public washing laundry. It seems that functional proximity affects children's social interaction and closed ethnic communities more than anything.

Even if adults living in a residential area do not know each other, children are more likely to know one another. Children are walking in the streets and neighborhoods with joy. This is where the real social life is happening. As far as children are concerned; attractive places, simultaneously, give them the sense of security and risk. Lack of opportunities for youth gatherings and legal relationship would increase the probability of participation in anti-social activities (Lang, 2002).

## SOCIAL INTERACTION AND BUILT **ENVIRONMENT**

Normative theory in environmental design has many advocators which comment about how the social interaction of people should be. Urban designers have discussed this issue a long time ago, but the discussion is also applied to many large architectural projects.

"We've designed the space so that managers and employees working together have a chance to meet each other." Such statements are expressed too frequently by the architects. Regarding the interior design, they say "Hierarchy of space is built so that people can establish social relationships". The underlining hypothesis is that the formation of joint movement paths and placement services social affects social interaction. This is why social interaction and involvement of people in social activities are important, because they are tied together.

# HOUSING AND HUMAN BEHAVIOR

**Human Emotion** 

Louis Kahn expressed the code of silence and light. Understanding the nature of architecture is mainly based on the particular case of the human imagination. Socioeconomic examination concluded that construction starts in the streets as a place for meeting with others. "Most likely avenue is the first training center for communities, a hall that has no roof'. To achieve the truth, man must have acquired the means by which nature operates. The passion to fly led to creation of airplane; the passion to connect the mountains led us to create bridge. A bridge with only one entrance. This made human more comfortable with his environment mentally and physically. In the same way pyramids were built. The Greeks were able to understand and create the first column. Indeed, the first step in the art is "crossing the silence and light" (Renaldo, 1998) Louis Kahn's ideas about human remains close to his thinking about the place that suggest a specific meaning. Location is a general term that usually determines the existence. It encourages the human desire to live in, owned it, and sometimes wastes it. Place mainly and foremost reflects the human condition and of ideology. According to Kahn, location is not solely a physical quantity to be pictured. It's a combination and intervention of human actions and thoughts about his environment. Louis Kahn works on details so he could express deeper and more complex aspects that nature has provided. These complexities happen in the environment and living things. Perhaps architecture has been long before human think of it as only a building. It starts with decision to provide a place for work. This place requires a space for thinking. There are different places that Kahn designed perfectly: Phillips Exeter Academy Library, Salk Institute for Biological Studies and Yale University Art Gallery.





### Spatial behavior

The human observer learns the meaning of things that discovers.

Special features are classified into major and minor categories, according to their similarities and differences and even without having to learn how to work with objects, they have only their very own characteristics. The theory has been proposed by Hershberger. How and why people use the common organization of the environment is one of our concerns in the design theory. The links between normative theory and performance oriented architecture and other disciplines has been the environmental design. Spatial behavior of people is directly visible. So the explanation of the processes of perception and cognition is not our concern. In fact many economists, sociologists, anthropologists and sociologists emphasis on different aspects of behavior and explain the differences among them. There are two shades of research in these efforts. The first have spent time on a wide range of community activities, people gatherings and places in metropolitan and regional scale. Environment and landscape architects, and urban designers deal with small-scale behavior. Such as neighborhoods and urban areas. People characteristics and personalities are different and unique. The features will act on social, cultural and geographic aspects. The qualities of the built environment for an individual or a group of subsystems would work on understanding the processes of cognition, emotion and behavior of a known space. It is therefore a useful classification system for individual and group differences in the use of the built environment (Lang, 2002).

## • Understanding the behavior of the design

"Understanding the role of the built environment in the lives of people needs the understanding of human nature. This topic is the study of sociology. Behaviorists only pay attention to the perception of human behavior. Although it may be a general agreement on the main processes. But there is no such agreement about how these processes work. There are some ideas with little connection to design theory, but some of them are more associated with theoretical framework. Notions of interior design, architecture, landscape architecture and urban design environment are based on the concepts of human nature. If designers claim that they are not aware of the speculative nature of architectural theory, it means they are fooling themselves. Understanding the basic principles and topics describe and explain about human behavior will help we understand the relationship between environment and theory. This knowledge helps architects to know that the needs of people with different backgrounds, experiences and aesthetic patterns would provide different activities. This knowledge also enables us to confidently predict that we rely on our knowledge. "(Lang, 2002)

## • The relation between man and the built environment

The geographical features and cultural relations have internal similarities and some similar behaviors can be provided. The capabilities of a specific set of potential environment for humans are created in one place. Not all of these capabilities are being understood by people. The amount of participation of people in social activities and their perception of values and rewards are in a direct relationship with the usage of environment. Processes of perception, cognition, and behavior affect the merits of individual and group space as well as the built environment. However, it should be noted that people will adapt to the conditions that threatens "human values". If the environment is adapted to be able to adapt to behaviors, it doesn't mean that such behaviors will certainly occur.

# URBAN DESIGN, VITALITY AND SOCIAL INTERACTION

Public spaces with undesirable social-physical quality and municipal services such as large squares with little function that only adds to the traffic would lead to aversion. In such circumstances, social discontinuity and lack of freshness and vitality that is necessary for the public health will threat urban areas. Present comparison shows that the most serious accidents occur in urban spaces with poor design. In these places fewer opportunities to participate in physical activities such as walking and shopping centers and sports bike paths and safe places for children and adults are provided. Weak social ties, such as a lack of commitment and social responsibility and lack of membership in voluntary groups and charities in health damaging behaviors such as alcohol and drugs, mental disorders, psychosis, schizophrenia, accidents, and suicides are seen. "(Jackson, 2003). Thus providing an environment of safety, security and public health for citizens are significant.

### The Image of the City in Urban Areas

Kevin A. Lynch was a theoretician of urban space, and he studied the concept of city and its structures from a psychological point of view. His studies were on Boston, Jersey and Chicago. It was concluded that the city's image





include: 1- road 2- edge 3- signs 4- node 5- The neighborhood.

#### 1- Road

Road is the most important element in the mental image of the city and urban space Roadway characteristics are as follows: 1- the most important role in shaping urban spaces .2- Main orientation in urban space and the most important role in creating it . 3- Help us to understand directions 4- The most amount of energy is spent on creating roads, highways and other transport links 5. The links have the most important role in the design of urban projects. 6- Roads have an effective role in the creation of urban spaces. 7. Behavior and use of space are initiated by design space form. In the context of the integration of micro-elements and components of urban design Such as urban furniture, architecture, urban design patterns in the body (floors, etc.) have direct relationship with these elements and their performance.

### 2- Edge

Edges are the spaces between the two cutoffs or spaces that form, fit and function between two similar or different level. There are two types of edges: 1. Artificial like railways, highways, 2-Natural like rivers, mountains....

#### 3-Node

Node is a center for aggregation or accumulation of spaces. It also has space functions that are called nodes. There are different types of nodes:

They have regular or irregular geometric shape and sometimes the nodes are based on geometric shapes. Such as intersection and squares. Old spaces have an irregular shape. 2) Sometimes they are included in the study based on their function. Such a way the concentration of economic activity in the same markets is used.

### 4- Signs

Signs are elements that their existence will penetrate to the minds of people and remains as an image of the city. After all they are special and a specific feature of the city.

### 5- Neighborhood

Neighborhood are similar to the human communities that respect the cultural and social aspects. For example Social aspects of image recognition of Azerbaijani community.

## PROBLEMS AND BARRIERS TO HOUSING DESIGN IN IRAN

## • Problems of the housing problem in Iran

A growing trend in recent decades has forced massive displacement. The policies that were adopted in the aftermath of the country's growth and development, created difficulties in housing. This issue is called Housing crisis. In the meantime, the views and opinions of those who have actually been effective in housing policies are different. The crisis is rooted in the inability to establish a balance between supply and demand. But other people believe that the problem is more fundamental than what is thought and are seeking for a solution.

# Biggest obstacles for housing design in Iran (and its surroundings)

1. A Lack of understanding of the relationship between residential areas and the environment

The Urban Design (environment) in addition to the physical image with issues such as social psychology and economics had been the main focus in many studies. In an urban design we must consider forming the city and urban with spatial visualization. For example, a house, a school, a cultural center, a cinema, a hospital ... are good examples but it's not a significant component in the design and has no relationship with the environment. These elements (housing and environment) allowing the creation of a set of independent a collective identities which are not certain part of construction in Iran.

2 .Lack of urban planning, urban design, and architecture between mobility specialists makes it hard for many. Hence we see that science is used in this field. 3. Neglecting the urban furniture design, urban design and urban furniture elements and architectural details such as flooring passages, trash cans, dining tables, boards, the body and existing buildings on the site (the study area) openings, façade and facade materials would damage the overall life quality. 4. Lack of designing buildings and structures needed for forming the body base 5. The lack of attention to the design of tissue volume. 6. Failure to identify the status quo, including the identification of the precise scope of the study (the precise scope of the study is limited). 7. The lack of analysis of the current situation (in all aspects of the analysis). 8. Lack of attention to the axis (direction) in the design of a building.





# STRATEGIES TO RESOLVE THE HOUSING IS DESIGNED WITH THE ENVIRONMENT

#### The integration of urban and residential units

The old city's housing units in Iran were joined together by a central courtyard and an integrated setup. An architect who designed the house in the land recognized the principles and advance form were like adjacent houses. Coordination and integration of residential units formed as a result of these principles. The main body of the house yard space was to determine the size of the confining space. Components such as a pool and garden courtyard and the three-door and five-door room and veranda size and the size of the rooms and windows were all along to discipline. The quality of any space, whether large or small, high or low and wide or narrow were based on criteria of visual features that could be associated with reactions and human feelings. The current tendency in the West after a long experience in building apartments groups was to build a small residential area of residential space. The human mind is the most important element of space. He needs to find space and human scale.

# Indicators of quality of an affordable housing in neighborhoods

"Housing is one of the recent phenomena, the first human ever to wrestle with issues that are always changing". The housing is necessary but not every house is good enough to live. Access to affordable housing is the ideal goal. Therefore, one must know what is affordable housing. In general categories of housing, we have a very broad and complex concept which is composed of various dimensions. Therefore, it is not possible to provide a comprehensive definition. Family and employment schemes, education and health of individuals are all important (2003). According to this concept, we must know what the role of planning Housing is. Most experts in planning, housing, urban planning framework have long been defined, because housing has always been and is presented as an integral part of the urban space (Maleki, 2003). Generally factors in housing that define quality are our main focus. Such factors are described in the neighborhood scale.

- 1. Desirable housing | Since housing is one of the basic needs of human beings, the right to housing, in turn, has a determinant role in meeting this need. To meet and achieve the desired form, at least 5 factors should be considered in this respect: land, financial resources, manpower and technology, management and supervision of construction materials.
- 2. The strength of the housing | This must always be considered by engineers and architects, so the need for Geotechnical Building Materials that resistant satisfy. The method of retrofitting structures and materials and the need to revise the laws and regulations is necessary.
- 3. Security | among the most essential human needs is the need for safe shelter. Security, the protection of property and equipment against direct and indirect factors that cause harm to the housing and the lack of security is very essential. There are a direct factor that threatens security, including robbery, fire, etc. Indirect factors are the pollution of water, air and earth. In this category there are natural factors such as flood, earthquake, storm and etc. All these factors are detrimental to the safety of its residents and are located in the housing that causes an adverse effect on the quality of housing.
- 4. Safety, comfort and accessibility (comfort, convenience and hygiene)

In addition to providing shelter, providing a safe and healthy housing facilities, residence plays an important role in ensuring the health and physical well-being. Considering the facilities and services, these parameters increase the promotion of health, housing, and thus the health of its inhabitants. Among the factors that may be of benefit in the category of residential units, are the enjoyment of basic services such as national grid, gas plumbing, kitchen facilities, telephone, air, light, sewer systems, etc. (Gholizadeh, 1999).

5. Access to nature and open green space | We can truly say that green space is the most important tools for achieving sustainable development. It should be noted that the increase in the population forces us to increase public green





space. Despite the importance of green space in urban neighborhoods, we must not ignore the truth that vital green space in urban areas is vital for its users. So they are not against each other. In general, there must be reasonable relationship between environmental space and natural spaces in urban neighborhoods. Green spaces are very essential in the life of busy, complex and turbulent cities, and are just relaxing and finer elements which humans can refer to. The use of trees and green space in urban neighborhoods should be regarded as an important part of design. Green spaces in communities, improve community perspective and the beauty of the environment because they are refining the increased humidity and air temperature.

- 6. Housing facilities or needed infrastructure | Facilities and infrastructure are a wide range of elements that are mostly located in urban areas. In general, it includes all the urban infrastructure, which are needed for urban residents in different places like work, rest, leisure. These can generally enhance the quality of urban life. In other word, a set of necessary functions are possible and may be combined to form urban spaces. This is called urban infrastructure. Facilities and infrastructure are the main criteria to evaluate and define a healthy city.
- 7. Compatibility with adjacent functions | The main effort in urban planning is the separation of land uses incompatible with residential users in urban areas. Functions who create smoke, odor, noise and to other users, particularly residential users, should be separated. This separation is not absolute, but in some cases it is possible to exert. Those troublesome uses that have adverse effects should be limited. Generally, functions that are in each other's sphere of influence should be compatible and consistent with other activities. They shouldn't Bother and not interfere with other activities. The main effort in urban planning is the separation of land uses incompatible with residential users in urban areas. Housing functions that create smoke, odor, noise to other users, particularly residential users should be separated. Especially from cultural spaces. This separation is not absolute, but in some cases it is possible to limit these troublesome adverse effects. The separation of the user space, cost factors, interest and their relative autonomy is extremely needed.

# Residential units (and detailed characteristics of walking path)

Each residential unit shows the way the human family as a social unit comes together. Each residential unit is formed for the needs of a family or household living space, in other words, the development of residential units are distinct from each other and represent social groups at the same time. (Sultan Zadeh, 1989). In designing a residential complex, direction is one of the most important parameters which can include pedestrian traffic and roadway design, design of bicycle routes, route planning, especially for public transport support equipment, and continuity of the implementation and design for the disabled.

Another indicator of affordable housing in neighborhoods and urban areas is specific characteristics and detailed design of the network which includes following elements: 1.directions 2.Route Details 3. Width 4.Oriented elements 5. Side water 6.Edges 7.Middle Section 8. Track water's surface. Walking paths are one of the principles of sustainable development in urban areas and urban design projects. Middle path is embedded in the sweep paths, and can be either green or in the Guard rail. Above elements should be considered in the design.

## **CONCLUSION**

Housing design principles is focused on how to handle the replacement of housing units that could have a decisive impact. Generally, this requires two dimensions, quantity and quality. The presence of housing and access is dealt in quantitative aspect. From a quality perspective, this can be good indicators of the quality of housing in the neighborhood scale which is divided into 7 categories: 1.Satisfactory housing 2.The strength of the housing 3.Security 4 .Safety (Easily accessible to the residents of the neighborhood along Physical Facilities and Services. 5. Access to nature and open green space. 6. The provision of equipment and facilities (infrastructure) for housing 7.proximity of land uses compatible with housing. By adding privacy and walking path and roadway design to the projects, they can be the most important factors in forming characteristics suitable housing.

In order to achieve them according to the values of traditional architecture and contemporary architecture, we should exert much more influence .there are many factors to consider: Adequate housing, Comfort, Access, Security,





stability And durability of structures, Adequate lighting,, Ventilation, Basic and appropriate infrastructure such as water, health and education, Healthy environment, Appropriate and accessible place of work and basic facilities, as well as developed and strengthened relationships between family members (horizontal communication) and neighborly relations (vertical). Contemporary and future architects should consider these values. Using both of these values are important in order to enhance the quality of housing. These buildings can shape, correct and enhance the urban life.

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