

OPP: SUSTAINABILITY & CRISIS

Could healing architecture help in acquiring a healthy inclusive environment?

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Purpose This study is a trial to review whether Healing Architecture could be an important dimension of the aimed at Healthy Inclusive Environment. The present study will focus on explaining the meanings of Healthy Inclusive Environment and Healing Architecture and their main characteristics and their relation to each other. **Method** A Desk Research that is a form of secondary or complementary research that focuses on gathering information and data from existing sources that has already been acquired and documented. **Results and Discussion** Healing Architecture is providing space allowing the well-being of its users and helping patients to recover speedily. It could be considered a holistic approach to wellness, recognizing that physical health, mental well-being and emotional comfort are interconnected. It addresses the needs of the whole person not just his medical condition (Nickl-Weller & Nickl, 2017). This conforms with the aim of Gerontechnology or Assistive technology that is better aging and reducing elderly problems from all aspects. That while a healthy environment is the one in which people should not be exposed to health hazard contaminants at levels over the internationally prescribed standards (WHO Environmental Health). According to the World Health Organization A Healthy Environment is the one that “could prevent one quarter of the Global burden of disease[3] Such environment would provide its users with clean air, stable climate, adequate water, sanitation and hygiene, safe use of chemicals, protection from radiation, healthy and safe workplaces, secure agriculture practices, health supporting cities and built environment, as well as preserved nature. In this definition it was found that it includes a lot of exaggeration regarding the protection from radiation and preserved nature. This definition neglects the fact that difference of opinions and conflict of interests lead to wars and army confrontations where the used weapons pollute the atmosphere by producing energy travelling in the form of waves, to which people as well as soil, water and food are exposed. This leads to the spread of diseases affecting millions of individuals around the world (World Health Assembly). “Radiological weapons are generally suitable of terror. The radioactive material acts as a toxic chemical to which exposure eventually proves harmful or fatal” (Cordesman, 2024). For an Environment to be Inclusive, there is a need to spread the culture of mutual respect, effective relationships, clear communication as well as explicit understanding of expectations. Inclusive Environment is where there are values of diversity acceptance and respect of differences. In an inclusive community everyone - regardless of their origin, ethnicity or ability- can collaborate in a constructive way. There is a need, then, to address existing barriers whether physical or discriminatory to allow all community members to access opportunities and resources.” Healing Architecture minimizes health hazards through the design strategies that increase industrial hygiene, air filtration with sanitation” (archscience.org). When one designs for healing and well-being. it creates peace with nature, specially designed places that are healthily balanced in order to promote wellness, stimulate creativity and healing within the built environment. There is a need, then, to address existing barriers whether physical or discriminatory to allow all community members to access opportunities and resources. The design strategies used by architecture could integrate” natural elements such as greenery, water features, natural light” (archscience.org) and color, space organization, form and building systems as well as building envelope to promote good health and help in the recovery of users whether physically, emotionally or psychologically (Chinwe, 2023). **Recommendations that should be taken into consideration on various levels include** Teaching new generations the meaning of Healthy Inclusive Environments and their characteristics and impact on society members. Architects should be taught these concepts and how to apply them to their designs. Above all Leaders, Politicians and Decision Makers should have more awareness of the importance of the characteristics of Healthy Inclusive Environments before taking any crucial decisions.

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