

RESHMA M GEORGI | Dr. Manoj Kumar K

Paedocentric Perception of Urban Neighbourhoods

This paper attempts to understand how children perception can contribute to the better design of urban environments.

At its inception, urban planning and design was intended to create better places for people. The ideas behind the Garden City movement and suburbia were in response to the poor living conditions following the industrial revolution. Presently urban environmental and health issues are on the rise, with predictions that by 2030, 60 percent of all city dwellers will be under the age of 18. Children, on one hand are seen as universal indicators of human development, and on the other hand they also have the least say in their built environment. Shouldn't design be responsive to the needs of this large portion of our demographic?

Similar to older people, children experience social spatial-marginalization through their interaction with built forms of everyday spaces. The neighbourhood, a first place of contact beyond the home for many, is one of these environments. Fear of traffic, lack of inviting interesting spaces, and safety concerns have limited children's interaction with their street and beyond, within their neighbourhood.

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