
Human-Physical Environmental Dynamics

Dynamique Environnementale

Intensives

Potthoff, Joy (Bowling Green State) and **Davidson, Alice Ware** (Ware Davidson Environmental Consulting) *Creating Health Promoting Environments: From Assessment to Making it Happen*. Techniques to involve the designers, owners, staff, and users in the knowledgeable creation of health promoting environments using theory, research, and practical experience are HAPPENING. This half day intensive will highlight the innovative work of Health Network members that will be submitted as a collection of papers for publication in a special issue of a journal focused on Environmental Design Research. Members' expertise includes assessment and evaluation criteria of therapeutic environments, techniques to educate owners and staff on how to create therapeutic environments, and demonstration projects being implemented across the country. Discussion with the audience will seek assessment and education knowledge gained by researchers and designers focused upon other user groups. Participants include: **Wayne Ruga** (The Center for Health Design), **Margaret Calkins** (IDEAS), **Margarette Beckwith** (Beckwith Chapman Associates, Inc.), **Stephen C. Boelter**, **Wolfgang Preiser** (Cincinnati), **Dan Stokols** (California, Irvine), **M. Powell Lawton** (Philadelphia Geriatric Center), **Mary Kalymun** (Rhode Island) and **Molly McCormick**.

Symposia

Kuo, Frances E. (Illinois, Urbana-Champaign); **Hartig, Terry** (Uppsala); **Sullivan, William C.** (Illinois, Urbana-Champaign) and **Ulrich, Roger S.** (Texas A&M) *The Power of the Environment in Difficult Times: Support and Restoration Through Thick and Thin*. What role can the environment play for individuals finding themselves in difficult life circumstances? Three empirical papers present new findings showing the diversity of ways in which environments can be helpful to people in adversity; each shows that the positive effects of a single setting containing natural elements/stimuli can substantially mitigate the negative impacts of a difficult larger context. The first describes how, for public housing residents struggling to raise children in conditions of poverty and violence, the presence of a "green" area outside their apartment building can serve as a place from which supportive social networks grow. The second describes how, for this same population,

the presence of such green areas can reduce mental fatigue, giving residents the capacity to face the most difficult challenges in their lives. The third describes how, for persons facing a painful and threatening surgical operation, the presence of visual and auditory nature stimuli may reduce the tremendous anxiety and stress of the experience. The fourth, theoretical paper uses an ecological perspective to provide a framework for understanding the impacts of a single setting in the larger context of a person's life.

Paxson, Lynn (Iowa State) *Contestation Between Ghosts and the Living: The Example of the Little Big Horn Battlefield, Toronto and Montreal, and Great Neck, NY Irish-Americans*. This symposium builds on previous work regarding 'contestation' in public space. Issues of contestation are particularly relevant to the theme of the EDRA conference this year, because contestation, or a desire to control it, heavily influences both the design and management of spaces. A preliminary taxonomy of contestation which is under continuing discussion (contestation?), will be a part of the initial presentation in the session. We need to begin to try and critically unpack the nature of these contestation(s), and in the process continue to refine the taxonomy of contestation. This should allow us to develop an understanding of contestation, and how it functions in public spaces, life, and behavior; how it shapes both initial development and design of spaces; AND how it shapes their ongoing use and management. Some contestations are about establishing a public identity for contested users, or debating actions or activities, or questioning who is in control or who manages (either the use or the contest). This session will provide one forum for the continuing exploration of this issue. Following a brief introductory presentations the organizers will facilitate a discussion among the session participants. Participants include: **Joseph B. Juhasz** (Colorado, Boulder), **Gary Gumpert** (Communication Landscapers) and **Susan Drucker** (Hofstra).

Workshops

Drucker, Susan (Hofstra) *Place Making in Cyberspace II: Social Implications of New Information Technologies for Environmental Design and Research*. What are the connections between environmental design and research and the revolution in communication technologies? If Cyberspace is a social setting, exactly what