Asian Conference on Environment-Behaviour Studies, AcE-Bs2015, 20-22 February 2015, Tehran, Iran

Islamic-Iranian Regionalization of Rapoport’s Environmental Behaviour Study (EBS) Model for Home Space Design

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Abstract

This study aims to present an adapted model of Rapoport’s environmental-behavioural study model for home interior spaces design according to family relations in Islam. Suggested model is designed in regards to Islamic content in the boundaries of Islamic-Iranian concept. The research results were confirmed by the use of Delphi Method. Proficiency examination of this model, introduced as an educational tool of home space design model, was carried out through two undergraduate student groups of analyse and control. Results show that the analysed group designed their home space system in relevant to Islamic thought by high percentage, whereas no much difference is noticeable in creativity and aesthetic aspects of both examined groups.

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Peer-review under responsibility of AMER (Association of Malaysian Environment-Behaviour Researchers) and cE-Bs (Centre for Environment-Behaviour Studies, Faculty of Architecture, Planning & Surveying, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia).

Keywords: Environmental behaviour studies; home space design model; design education; Islam

1. Introduction

Home as the main place for settling the family requires a special structural organization. Family is an organization consists of both internal and external relationships, and home, as a place allocated to family requires certain special division which fulfil the family requirements, activities, and relationships. Therefore, separation of personal and non-private (public) spaces and their connections in the home designing are crucial issues. Spatial
organization delivered from Islamic lifestyle determines cultural values in relation to religious culture of community. Understanding the home spatial organization based on the Islamic family relationships, has a vital importance, which influences on the promoting of the student’s plan content. In this regard, it is necessary first to recognize the family needs and relationships to represent them in the interaction between the spaces. The main idea behind establishing model for home spaces values is the visual boundary, visual connections, accessibility and hierarchy of spaces between private and public spaces of the home. The successful application of the suggested model in “home design studio” will be measured based on the level of creativity and application of conceptual factors in their final design.

2. Literature review

The interaction between environment and behaviour (Environmental Behaviour Studies (EBS)), has been the topic of many studies. (Lang, 1997, Rapoport, 2005, Miess, 1989, Horayangkura, 2013, Sanoff, 1971, Noiprawa, 2011, Ujang, 2010, Collado, 2011, Kamarul Zaman, 2012, Azmi, 2013, Alexander, 1977, Latif, 2013, …) According to Rapoport Anthropology has a crucial impact on the environmental behaviour and at the same time culture plays a dramatic role in human’s behaviour. There are different kinds of environment-behaviour systems that are shown in the Fig. 1.

![Fig. 1: The kinds of Environment-Behaviour Systems in EBS (Rapoport, 2005).](image)

Based on his opinion the culture is the main factor in all three cases. And it is necessary to study the relationships between culture and environment in the EBS framework. EBS is a quite a multidisciplinary field which include various knowledge. Among all them, “Anthropology” can be directly linked to EBS as it can also cover many cultural aspects. (Rapoport, 2005) According to Rapoport (2005), home is a multifunctional structure, influenced by social, cultural, environmental, religious and economic factors. As far as Building a “House” is concerned it is a cultural phenomenon in which its formation and organization are influenced by the culture that has produced the house. The “shape” and “organization” of it, is also influenced by its basic culture.(Rapoport, 1969, p.46) Gifford(1998) believes that, most people prefer to live in homes that meet their cultural needs. Because the settlements that promote a culture accomplish the behavioural patterns of that culture. Organizing the spaces shall comply with the requirements of any ideology and their values.(Rapoport, 2005, p.39) Diagram below indicates the interactions between different parameters in analysis and design of the spaces.(Rapoport, 2005, p.142)(See Fig. 2.)
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