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Title: Space and Sociological Approaches

Other Titles: An Interdisciplinary Perspective in Architectural Design

Language: Greek

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ISBN: 978-618-228-075-1

Subject: ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY, HUMANITIES AND ARTS

Keywords: Architectural design / Carrying capacity / Sustainable tourism / Environmental inequality / Gender

Bibliographic Reference: Georgiadou, Z. (2024). Space and Sociological Approaches [Undergraduate textbook]. Kallipos, Open Academic Editions. <http://dx.doi.org/10.57713/kallipos-305>

Abstract

This book refers to human-centered design and its interdisciplinary dimension. It stems from the need to address designers as part of a wider framework that uses combined data from scientific areas, collaborates equally in interdisciplinary groups and approaches the design process critically, as part as well of an ideological position that promotes society and has the potential to ensure equal conditions of good quality of life. The connection of education and, after that, of the profession with real social conditions and problems, the participation in a holistic process, the recognition of diversity, important social issues, experimental processes, self-activity and the possibility for designers to choose themes of their interest are those, in our opinion, that can characterize contemporary architectural design; they even attribute to its characteristics with methods that strengthen social changes for the benefit of society as a whole, besides the aesthetics

of form and its functional role, which constitute its primary content. According to the above, education in social architectural design presupposes education in the holistic approach to design, re-contemplation and the consideration of parameters and practices from different scientific areas, that can contribute to the understanding of complex issues which are the demand in modern design practices. Therefore, recalling the saying of László Moholy-Nagy (1947) that "design is not a profession, but a behavior", we sum up in the need to apply new academic, critical and interdisciplinary approaches so that students will be inspired to face contemporary problems with innovative design and all the requirements of a typical academic framework. Creative design processes and skills that contribute dynamically to social challenges, social participation and collaboration, can be recognized as fundamental to making sense of future designers' participation in society.

