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Thermal comfort for pedestrians, sense of time and the bridging of barriers

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Abstract

Walking in cities has received significant attention in the recent public health literature. Designers and planners know less about the qualitative aspects of good walking environments. There is evidence that distance is an important criteria that makes people decide to walk when given a choice, but equally important is the quality of the environment that people walk through. This paper demonstrates how to measure two additional qualities that contribute to good walking environments: physical comfort and the perception of time. It reports on laboratory experiments with alternative building height and urban scale configuration and their effect on human comfort. This research was conducted in the context of downtown plans for San Francisco, Toronto and New York City. Secondly, the paper explains quasi experiments where subjects reported on their perception of time after having taken walks of identical length, but through differently scaled environments.

Biography

Peter Bosselmann is a Professor of Urban Design at the University of California at Berkeley. He currently holds the Beatrix Farrand Chair in Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning.

Qualifications:

M.Arch., UC Los Angeles

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Diploma, Architecture, City Planning, Karlsruhe University, Germany

Teaching Responsibilities: Arch 201: Case Studies in Architectural Design, Arch 209A: Seminar in Architectural theory, IDS 241, ED 201: Urban Places Advanced Studio, CP 208: Plan Preparation Studio, CP 248: Advanced Studio: Urban Design Environmental Planning, CP/LA 241: Research Methods in Environmental Design, LA 235: Environmental Simulation and Public Communication.

Teaching Specialty: Urban design; communication to the public of land use and design issues and choices; computer applications to visual simulation, urban morphology and typology.

He is an experienced professional with completed work in the San Francisco Bay Area, New York City, Toronto and Tokyo. He has taught at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen, at the University of Tokyo, Sidney Institute of Technology and the New University of Lisbon. He joined the Berkeley faculty in 1984 and offers urban design studios, a design method course and a diagnostics course on landform, settlements and architecture. Professor Bosselmann is the Director of the Environmental Simulation Laboratory, a facility set up by the National Science Foundation with the mandate to aid public communication of large scale planning and design proposals. The simulation work at Berkeley has led to the establishment of two sister laboratories in New York City and in Tokyo.

Books since 1990:

- Peter Bosselmann & Stefan Pellegrini: Rebuilding the Urban Structure of the Inner City: A Strategy for the Repair of Downtown Oakland, California, Journal of Urban Design 2003. The piece won the 2002 Urban Design Institute Award, SOM Foundation, Chicago.
- Peter Bosselmann, Transformation of Copenhagen, Urban Morphology at the Time of Global Change, Journal of Urban Design 2002.
- Peter Bosselmann, Representation of Places, University of California Press, 1998
- Environmental Quality of Multiple Roadway Boulevards (1997)
- Simulating the Rebuilding of Kobe (1995)
- An Evaluation of the Market Potential for Transit-Oriented Development Using Visual Simulation Technique. With Robert Cervero (1994)
- Visual Simulation in Urban Design (1992)
- Application of Computer Visualization and Mathematical Techniques in the Development of Planning Controls Designed to Protect Thermal Comfort for Pedestrians (1991)

- Dynamic Simulation of Urban Environments: Twenty Years of Environmental Simulation at Berkeley (1990)