

ROUTES, RHYTHMS AND PRACTICES – A STUDY OF URBAN WOODS AND FOREST SUBURBS THROUGH MOTION

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Abstract

The research examines the uses and meanings of forest suburb landscapes through motion and embodied and spatial knowledge. The objective is to study environment from the dwelling perspective: how local environment is used, inhabited and perceived through daily encounters. Whereas the uses of green spaces are usually examined through the frequencies of visits, user types and types of uses, this study presents that a 'walk or run through a forest' contain many personal meanings and practices. A walking interview was used as a method to examine the daily meanings of the urban forests and suburban landscapes. The residents guided us to the routes, areas and places that they used and valued. The analysed material presents route selections, different types of rhythms, meanings and spatial practices that are connected to the forest suburb landscapes. Different routes afforded changes in motions, sensations and perceptions that the residents actively seek for different purposes. For instance we walked along peaceful and noisy routes, different kinds of leisure and work routes, sensed how the routes were connected to different areas, and visited favourite places and unpleasant areas. These aspects reflect the perceived possibilities of everyday environment that are part of quality of life. The walking as a research method raises various notions of the environmental qualities, such as walkability of the area, that are usable information for planners, managers and other decision-makers.

Key Words

Embodiment, Practice, Spatiality, Urban forest, Walking interview

Key References

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