

SOCIAL INTERACTION IN COMMUNAL OUTDOOR SPACES OF RESIDENTIAL HOUSING ESTATES IN BISKRA-ALGERIA

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ABSTRACT

This study tends to examine the relationship between the communal outdoor space design in a residential housing estate and the residents' social interaction. For the purpose of our study we chose a housing project situated in a Z.H.U.N of Biskra, a middle city in the south of Algeria, namely "Cité des 1000Logts". The study is based upon observations of the ways in which the residents use their neighborhood spaces. Observations are supplemented by interviews with the residents, about the perceived adequacy of these spaces for social interaction. Findings showed that the high degree of openness of "la cite des 1000 logts" and the bad quality of its communal outdoor spaces discouraged all form of use and reduced it to a transit area. These results revealed that the layout of buildings, the arrangement and the quality of common outdoor spaces in residential neighborhoods have profound effects upon the use of the area and social interaction among residents.

KEYWORDS: Communal Outdoor Space, Social Interaction, Design Layout, Housing Estates