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Key Words: Healing Environment, Interior design, Interior Architecture, Design for ....

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22 PUBLICATIONS 0 CITATIONS

Some of the authors of this publication are also working on these related projects:

Master Thesis View project

Healing By Design: Interior Architecture and Interior Design of the Public Spaces of Children’s Hospitals View project

Case study: Hospitals in Nablus City, Palestine.

Key Words: Healing Environment, Interior design, Interior Architecture, Design for Children, Cognitive & Perception, and Children’s Hospital Design

Introduction

The importance of this study stems from the fact that few hospitals are specialized in the treatment of children in my homeland, Palestine. Most of the Palestinian children are treated in adult hospitals that lack the comfortable environment that helps lessen the level of trepidation and worry of children during their hospitalization. For example, there were no public spaces for children to play, and no consideration of the aesthetics of the environment, so that, children could forget their illness.

Literature Review

The review concentrates on three main topics:

1. Childrens’ cognitive development and age-appropriate interior design for children.
2. General hospital design, children’s hospital design, and the design of children’s wards or wings in general hospitals.

From a critical analysis of these topics as well as their interrelationships, specific research questions and the development of a primary research plan were realised.

Aims

This research project investigates the design for healing environments in children’s hospitals — with a particular focus on the public reception areas (i.e., atrium, reception, main entrance).

Methods

This study uses a case study methodology (Yin, 2003). The setting is in Palestine, in a public hospital, the Rafidia Surgery Hospital. Koller (2012) recommends cross-cultural-studies to compare children’s perceptions and emotional responses to hospital aesthetics and design.

Before starting to collect the data, ethics issues will be submitted according to the requirements of Lancaster University Supporting Office.

Findings & Discussion

The academic literature suggests that children’s hospitals should be designed to accommodate children of all ages (Lueder and Rice, 2007). However, the children’s hospital structure is still not designed to meet the specific physiological needs of children (Dilani, 2008). Furthermore, there is a lack of empirical evidence in the research that focuses on the environmental considerations related to children (Birch, 2007).

Research question

For a new children’s hospital in Palestine, how should the public spaces be designed in terms of interior design and architecture so that they are—suitable for all age ranges?

The problem

To find out the most important considerations for interior design of the public reception areas of children’s hospitals.

To find out the factors pertaining to ‘healing environments’ that should be brought to bear in the design of the public reception areas.

Outcomes

1. The end result of the research is to generate guidelines for the design of healing environments in children's hospitals.
2. To encourage the Palestinian Government to apply my research findings to a new children’s hospital in Palestine.

References