

THESIS AND DISSERTATION ABSTRACTS 1999

STUDY OF HOUSING ADJUSTMENT IN RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA

Mosaid Abdullah Al-Sadhan

Saudi Arabia, in general, and Riyadh City, in particular, experienced an increased demand for housing during the last twenty-five years because of population growth and economic development. To boost housing development, the Saudi government established several agencies, including the Real Estate Development Fund (REDF), providing cash loans, and The Ministry of Public Work and Housing (MPWH), building ready-to-move-in houses. Shortly after the households moved into houses funded by either agency, they started to make housing adjustments.

This study explores the differences in households' housing adjustment behavior between the two housing types, with satisfaction being part of such a behavior. Using the Morris and Winter Model of Housing Adjustment as a theoretical framework, it was hypothesized that there was no difference in housing adjustment between the two housing types, no significant effect on the predictors (households' variables, housing construction variables, previous adjustment variables) for each housing type on housing characteristics variables and housing adjustment behavior variables, and no sequential effect among housing adjustment behavior variables.

Data were collected for both types of the houses in Riyadh with a sample size of 230. The analytical method consisted of a quantitative survey analysis using multiple regression. Significant differences were found between the two types of houses and certain predictors of housing characteristics and household adjustment behavior in each housing type. The study also found partial sequential effect among adjustment behavior variables: household deficit, satisfaction, propensity to adjust, and expected future improvement. The study emphasized the need to have households involved in the design and construction process. It also validated and extended the Morris and Winter model.

Doctor of Philosophy
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HOUSING, REFUGEE CONSCIOUSNESS, AND THE MEANING OF LOST PLACES; THE CHILDREN OF CYPRIOT REFUGEES

Tasoulla Hadjiyanni

Limited research has focused on refugees ten years and more after displacement. Researchers found that in their process of adjustment, refugees often maintain a sense of their separate identity for years and generations after their dislocation. Termed 'refugee consciousness,' this separate identity has been attributed primarily to provision of housing assistance.

By using quantitative and qualitative data from interviews with 100 children and their refugee parents on the island of Cyprus, this research examined:

1) The impact of children's current housing on their 'refugee consciousness.'

Drawing from the literature on the Housing Adjustment and Adaptation Theory and meaning of place, the thesis tested the proposition that normative deficits—problems due to the housing not meeting the housing norms—faced by the children of refugees in their current house affect their attachment to that current house, which in turn affects their refugee consciousness, and

2) Sources of meaning that are derived from lost places.

The findings contradict the attribution of refugee consciousness to programs of housing assistance. This thesis indicates that housing-related factors do not affect refugee consciousness, but rather it is factors of a non-housing nature that are critical to the persistence of refugee consciousness. Predictors of a child's refugee consciousness included factors related to the child's background, such as whether a family's origins were urban or rural, whether a family had missing people, and the age of the child. Predictors were also the 'purposive acts' by which the refugees willingly kept their children's refugee consciousness alive, such as the number of sources children had available from which to learn about the occupied places and the number of objects brought from the occupied places displayed in their homes. Moreover, this thesis found that the fact that the places the families left behind are deeply embedded in meaning further sustains refugee consciousness in generations who have not experienced the dislocation.

Doctor of Philosophy
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THE ROLE OF MANAGERS IN ORGANIZATIONAL TELECOMMUTING

Sabine Karnowski

Organizations face changing workforce demographics, rising real estate costs, environmental regulations, and global competition. Advances in telecommunications and computing technology are freeing information workers from corporate time and space constraints, giving rise to alternative officing. Telecommuting (telework) is the off-premises option most likely to experience growth because it benefits both employers and employees. Telework can reduce corporate real estate expenses while increasing productivity and retention of qualified staff.

Telecommuting organizations may assign the responsibility for both corporate and home work space arrangements to their facility managers. Facility managers have the ability to promote and enhance the telecommuting work environment. But while researchers are identifying employee outcomes, they have yet to describe their specific roles in organizational telecommuting decisions, program development, and physical implementation.

The purpose of this study was to identify facility managers' roles in organizational telecommuting programs and to describe the resultant changes in corporate and home work space environments. The research framework was provided by Rogers (1962, 1995), who theorized that the diffusion of an innovation is a process focused on two components: the innovation (telecommuting) and potential change agents (facility managers).

Master of Science
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AN EXPLORATORY STUDY OF THE PHYSICAL CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE PRACTICES

Marcia D. Kistner

The exploratory study investigated the relationship between physical classroom environments and developmentally appropriate practices. A multi-methodological strategy, using qualitative case studies and quantitative rating scales, guided this research. The procedures included interviews with teachers, classroom observations at different times, as well as measurement, description and overall quality rating of the physical classroom environments. Recorded observations included videotaping and written notes.

The participants were four teachers who taught in a highly developmentally appropriate manner. These teachers were identified in a previous study on developmentally appropriate practices in inclusive classrooms. They had positive pre-dispositions regarding constraints and limitations on the physical classroom environment. They described specific ways to improve and overcome constraints in the physical classroom environment. The overall quality of these environments was rated as either "good" or "very good."

Children could function independently in their classrooms. The physical classroom environments required few adaptations to meet the needs of children with special needs. Simple classroom observation did not reveal most adaptations; in interviews the teachers discussed how they adapted for children with special needs.

The findings of this study were interpreted through the housing adjustment theory; teachers responded to classroom environment constraints in ways similar to the ways families adjust to constraints in housing. Teachers responded by moving to a different classroom or by adapting and changing the current classroom. Pre-dispositional constraints are important in describing teacher behavior.

Master of Science
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THESIS AND DISSERTATIONS ABSTRACTS 2000

THE EFFECT OF CARPET FIBER ON THE GROWTH OF *DERMATOPHAGIODES FARINAE* IN A CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT

Glenda Gilmore Andes

Mites are endemic and allergy to mite excreta and parts is one of the most common allergies. Health care practitioners have recommended the removal of carpets from homes of people with mite allergies. Little, if any, consideration is given to the fact that some persons may benefit directly from the presence of carpet in their homes. In the allergen and mite research literature, carpets are rarely described as having unique characteristics and are generally referred to as a generic entity. Carpets, however, do have unique characteristics that define their construction, appearance, wearability, and cleanability.

*Seventy-two pieces of commercially available, residential flooring materials were inoculated with identical numbers of mites, *Dermatophagoides farinae*, and placed in the Textiles Conditioning Lab at Virginia Tech. The mites and carpet pieces were maintained in the lab, under identical, environmentally controlled conditions for 6 weeks, then the mites were extracted and counted.*

On the basis of the results of statistical tests run on the study data, the null hypothesis, that there is no difference between the numbers of mites grown on the different flooring conditions, was rejected. Statistically significant differences exist between the hard floor and the nylon carpet, between hard floor and olefin carpets, but no difference between hard floor and wool carpet. Nylon was the carpet fiber that was most supportive of the growth of house dust mites, olefin was the second most supportive, and wool carpet and hard floor were similar in being the least supportive.

Master of Science
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EXPLORING THE RELATIONSHIP AMONG THE AMISH BELIEF SYSTEM, THEIR WAY OF LIFE, AND THEIR HOUSE FORM

Melba Rae Widmer

The purpose of this study was to explore the question, what is the relationship among the belief system, way of life, and house form of the Amish culture? A theoretical framework, based on Rapoport's (1969) work, was developed that suggested building a house is a social process subject to cultural prescriptions. Therefore, the house structure, its form, and interior furnishings are seen to be reinforcing important values and goals of a social system. The premise of the theory suggests that there are two fundamental aspects of a social system: (1) a set of values, norms, and beliefs that constitute the cultural aspect and (2) the social conditions, life styles, and environments of the social system that constitute the social aspect. The implication is that to understand the house form of Amish families it is necessary to analyze the cultural aspect or belief system and social aspect. This suggests there is a linear relationship among these factors. The supposition was that the belief system dictated the way of life and that the two of these dictated the house form or housing characteristics.

Interviews with significant members of the Amish culture were conducted, and extended observations of three Amish families, their households, and housing were completed. The case study approach was used to explore this phenomenon within a real-life context to gain understanding of the phenomenon. An exploratory approach was necessary to discover factors in the study, and the descriptive data analysis was used to interpret the findings.

The results indicated that the relationship among the factors was not linear but is reciprocal. While house form is predicated upon the belief system and way of life, neither of these could be maintained if the house characteristics were not as they are. In other words, the continuation of the belief system depends upon the house form. The three factors are interdependent and the design of the house form allows the interdependence to occur. The design of the house has evolved over generations from the prescribed way of life and therefore, reinforces the belief system.

Doctor of Philosophy
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UNIVERSAL DESIGN STANDARDS FOR SINGLE-FAMILY HOUSING

Nancy L. Wolford

The purpose of this study was to determine the level of awareness and use of selected universal design features and products in single-family housing by Oregon housing contractors. Also researched were barriers and incentives to use as well as the position and opinions of these housing contractors on the viability of universal design standards becoming part of the residential building code.

This study used a self-administered, mail survey questionnaire developed by the researcher. The Dillman Total Design Method (Dillman, 1978) was used as the basis for the survey instrument and its administration. A random sample of housing contractors indicating single-family residential construction as a primary focus of business was taken from the Oregon Construction Contractors' Board list. One hundred sixty-four surveys were returned for use in analysis.

Data analysis included descriptive statistics, mean, and frequency distributions. Paired sample t-tests were used to determine differences between awareness and use of universal design. Multiple regression and Pearson correlations were used to compare universal design use and selected demographic characteristics. Paired sample t-tests determined whether or not added cost to implement universal design affected use. Kendall's tau tests compared viability and mandated use of universal design as part of the building code. The MANOVA test compared current voluntary use and housing contractors' opinions about specified characteristics of universal design.

These analyses found that of Oregon housing contractors surveyed, there was a greater awareness than use of universal design, which was significant. Barriers and incentives to use were important considerations in the process of adopting universal design. Cost and demand by clients were most often cited. A majority of respondents felt that incorporating universal design standards as part of the building code was a viable idea, even though they disagreed with it. Specified demographic characteristics of housing contractors did not play a significant role in either awareness or use of universal design. Added cost to implement universal design was found to be associated with its use. The more there was an indication of additional cost, the less the use of universal design.

Doctor of Philosophy
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