

# **An Analysis on the Effective Components of Urban Landscape Insights from a Phenomenological Perspective**

## **Abstract**

Urban landscapes, the first and most external covering, in addition to introducing the identity and personality of cities, consciously or unconsciously affects human beings and the perception resulting from these consequences are the cause of human behavior in the environment. In the present study, the theoretical framework is designed based on the general theories proposed in the field of perception phenomenology, particularly in the field of architecture and urbanism. The study area (three middle cities of northwestern Iran) includes Mahabad, Buchan and Saqez, which in general have a uniform consistency of ethnic, cultural, religious and customs commonalities. The sample study includes 154 participants, including 94 men and 60 women are selected by purposive and non-probabilistic sampling. Moreover, the research method is a combination of phenomenological and grounded theory. The grounded theory method is used in the data coding and category extraction stage and the interpretive phenomenology method is used in the data interpretation section. The results of the study identify the components affecting the perceptual experiences of urban landscapes, and finally, a diagram of the perceptual stages of urban landscapes is presented, which can be considered as a paradigm in the design of urban landscapes.

## **Research aims:**

- 1- Developing a phenomenological model for the perception of urban views
- 2- Proposing solutions for designing urban facades to achieve more humane spaces

## **Research questions:**

- 1- What are the mental and objective components of urban views that affect the perception of the audience?
- 2- According to the phenomenological theories of perception, urban patterns are perceived based on what pattern or model in the mind of the audience?

**Keywords:** urban landscape; perception; interpretive phenomenology; contextual theory

## **Introduction**

Cities, as man-made spaces, are places that all people, whether preferred or not, are exposed to artificial environments. The relationship and interaction between the environment and humans is a long-standing one. Man changes the environment according to his needs, in other words, it affects it, and the same created space as a product made by human hands has a reciprocal effect on the mental, psychological and physical dimensions of man. Regarding urban views, the following issue bears significant, how do people perceive such spaces? How do citizens interact with cityscapes? And what effects do urban views

have on their audience's perceptual experience? The purpose of this study is to identify the stages of perception of urban views from the perspective of observers and factors that have obvious or hidden effects on such perceptions. Examining and identifying the mentioned features can be of prodigious aid to urban designs and architecture and provide suitable models for the work of experts.

Regarding the research background, it should be said that no independent research has been done in this field so far, but similar cases have been done by researchers whose models were used as research backgrounds in this study (Ayudhya, 2015) in a phenomenological study of experiences. A routine study shows that the perception of urban space takes place in four scales of urban, architecture, human and text perception in time (Sansone, 1979) states that human perception of self and creation of meaning is the result of the interaction that human gains mutual understanding between the inner self and the outer environment. That is, environmental structures form internal concepts and we understand the concept of the inside from the external definition (Dehnadfar, 2013), considers architecture as the art of experience and believes that the human body and the environment are not separate and spaces, they visualize the body. Amir Rigi (2014) in a comparative assessment of the experience of urban landscape between people and urban designers with a phenomenological approach concludes that people's experiences of space are more dependent on life and spirit of space than fixed physical elements such as walls. Other phenomenological studies on perception and environment have been conducted by experts, including Seamon (1982), Nasar (1989, 1994 and 2011), Naghizadeh and Ostadi (1393), Shirazi (1391), Partovi (2003) and Pourmand (2010) mentioned.

In this research, the combination of phenomenological and perceptual theories was used as a model for studying urban landscapes, which in its kind can be used as a new perspective in such research; moreover, data were used from a set of methods such as interviewing, observing and reviewing information. Documentaries in this context, they were asked in several sessions to discuss as a group the results of summarizing information based on the accuracy of the views expressed in the interview. Comments were also taken, including from professors of architecture and urban planning and researchers in qualitative research in the fields of time also they were compared to similar studies that have been done in this direction and finally logical results were attained. The study area is the mountainous climate of Iran between the south of West Azerbaijan province and the north of Kurdistan province, including the cities of Mahabad, Bukan and Saqez, which are considered as large and densely populated cities and their urbanization is older than other cities. These cities are considered as the middle cities of the country in terms of size and are also homogeneous in terms of climate, language, culture and traditions of the society. In the selection of participants, the non-probability sampling method (Flick, 2012) was used and individuals were selected voluntarily and purposefully for this study. The characteristics of the participants were as follows: 1) The age of the participants in the study was over 18 years. 2) Each participant must have lived in the city for at least three consecutive years. 3) Participants are selected from men and women, and until a comprehensive theory is reached, the number of participants reaches the saturation stage per person for each city.

## **Conclusion**

A phenomenological call is a call to return to a world that precedes knowledge. It is a call to parentheses the material world and to prioritize the bio-world. The main point in the phenomenological approach is based on the assumption that people and the environment are closely intertwined; In such a way that each creates and reflects the other. The study of perception from the perspective of interpretive

phenomenological theories as a new model in the analysis of urban landscapes included the following results. In the first stage, the audience communicates with the subject. This communication takes place through the external senses. From this connection, initial perceptions are formed in the mind of the audience. These perceptions include both structural and semantic aspects. Structurally, the audience perceives the physical form (including size, color, shape, design, form, location, etc.) or perceives non-physical aspects (such as social factors, beliefs, and Beliefs, economic level, etc.). The same is true in the association of meanings, and elements such as shape and form, detail, location, height, and scale of representations can represent or evoke the physical structures or memories, events, and events experienced by observers. The set of structure and meaning raises the audience's perception to higher levels, and in this part, science, awareness and cognition are formed, which is manifested in two forms of self-awareness and cognition of the world and perception of the environment. In the cognitive part, views make man more aware of his existential areas, including the external senses and emotional sensory reactions, and cause the manifestation of latent emotions. These perceptions are intuitive and direct. In the field of environment recognition, views identify two main aspects. The first is to know the general interests and spirits of the people who live in urban spaces and reflect them in their views. On the other hand, the major environmental factors affecting the shape of the facade are also perceived and recognized that in the present study, observers at the urban scale of economics and culture have introduced the factors of the formation of the facade. The combination and interaction of these two cognitive aspects form a new lived experience. This new knowledge and experience manifests itself in two ways; It is either internal and promotes the level of science and knowledge, or it is external and causes changes in structure, behavior and space.

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