

PP - (21181) - A STUDY ON DESIGN CRITERIA FOR STUDENTS' LOUNGES IN POST-CORONA ERA

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Research or practical problem and objectives

The utilization rate of physical space on campus as well as social interaction between students have greatly decreased after the COVID-19 outbreak. In the post-corona era, students will behave and use space on campus differently than in the pre-corona era. In this study, we apply Ray Oldenburg's "Third place" to the campus to propose a break area design criteria that provide the students with a range of options. The Third Place addresses the issues of social interaction and communication in physical space.

Methods and process (for empirical research)

The subjects for survey research were divided into two: Group A, students who had experience on campus before Corona and Group B, students who did not experience campus life before Corona. They completed an online questionnaire about 100 items including general information and changes before and after Corona, such as daily activities, housing type, spaces for breaks, and opinions for the third place. The survey was processed for one month and the data were analyzed through descriptives, t-test, and factor analysis of the SPSS 25 statistical package.

Main results preview and importance (or main arguments in the case of critical reviews)

Through literature review, eight elements of the Third Place were reduced to six break area design elements: accessibility, comfort, interactivity, diversity, safety, and entertainment. Survey showed that both Group A and Group B visited 'commercial facilities' most before Corona, while Group B 'parks and trails' more frequently during Corona era. As the most important Third Place elements, Group A chose 'interactivity' and Group B 'entertainment' before Corona, whereas both Group A and group B chose 'comfort' and 'accessibility' during Corona era. Research showed that student's personalization has accelerated. The campus should provide an open plane lounge as the third place to activate and stimulate students' physical and mental interaction in the post-corona. Students who are accustomed to non-contact behavior will be able to communicate directly there through learning and relaxation.

Palavras-chave : The Third Place, University Campus, Students' Social Interaction