Abstract

Urban Parks play an important role in the lives of people and cities. Regardless of their scale, parks provide breathing spaces for people to go out, relax, play and even meditate. However, while some parks may fail to meet user expectations, others appear to be more successful, attracting more people, responding to people's preference, and significantly contributing to the livability of cities. The success of these parks is owed to several physical characteristics, one of which is their edges.

Topography, vegetation, water and other elements, are examples of the edges that may contribute to the success or failure of urban parks. Thus, being an important spatial feature, the present research argues that edges may potentially support or detract people's preference of parks.

This research aims to investigate the impact of edges upon people's preference of urban parks. The characteristics of these edges are first identified through a synthesis of previous literature. In addition, preference theories are analyzed in detail. The relationship between edges and their impact on people's preference to urban parks are then analyzed with reference to the Egyptian context. The theoretical findings are examined empirically by a correlational field study of selected urban parks in Egypt. Finally, the research will conclude to a set of guidelines for landscape designers on how to promote people's preference of urban parks, particularly in terms of edge design characteristics.

Key words

Landscape Architecture, Urban Parks, User preference, Edges, Egypt