

Biophilic Design as a medium towards psychosocially-supportive design of the outpatient-clinics settings

Keywords: Psychosocially-Supportive Design, Biophilic design, Outpatient-Clinic, Staff wellbeing

An outpatient-clinical department is deliberated to provide primary-care services to outpatients, through the extensive work of physicians and other staff members. By definition, all outpatient departments are alike in having no overnight patients (Haron et al., 2012). Therefore, caregivers are the most users, exposed to and, affected by the physical environment of the outpatient-clinical scenery.

Much of the environmental-psychology's research and theories are concerned with the adaptation and comfort of people within their working scenes. Yet the healthcare setting is viewed as one of the most stressful working environments; the increasing complications of the system impact staff as much as they influence patients (Berwick, 2002). The history of healthcare reveals that Ancient Cultures considered healthcare settings as of therapeutic value, not merely of purely functional designation (Verderber, 2010). Biophilic design is the attempt to translate an understanding of the congenital human development (known as Biophilia) into the built environment design. While, the Psychosocially-Supportive Design model aims to augment users' wellness and wellbeing by attracting their attention, remove/reduce their anxieties, challenge their minds to construct stimulation, creativity, satisfaction, enjoyment and admiration (Dilani, 2001). Therefore, it is believed that the two theories are congruent; there is a great opportunity to use Biophilic Design research to inform the Psychosocially-Supportive Design model to promote users' wellness.

The paper reports on research aiming to enhance the psychosocially-supportive design of the outpatients' clinics by exploring the biophilic design con-

notations and by defining and extracting elements/parameters that could be employed within the clinical settings, to strengthen the caregivers' wellbeing. The first stage of the research involves literature review exploring the biophilic design concept and the core ideas grounding the salutogenic designs. The final outputs will include design recommendations and attributes of biophilic design that will be employed to enhance the design outcomes in the outpatient clinical zone.

References

BERWICK, D. M. 2002. A User's Manual For The IOM's 'Quality Chasm' Report 21.
DILANI, A. 2001. Psychosocially Supportive Design-As a Theory and Model to Promote Health.