

## Environmental perception and cognition in daily life: A series of studies

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This series of empirical studies investigates basic relationships between the environment and human behavior in daily life, while also applying the findings to several architectural planning/design issues in order to examine their validity within those contexts. The studies are grouped in three parts. Part One, which focuses on theoretical considerations, introduces the concept of “ambient visual perception” and develops a method of description and analysis for this type of information. The method is then actually applied to discussing human experience of outdoor spaces, thus demonstrating its importance to the study of environmental perception. Part Two highlights the dynamic nature of perception during locomotion through experiments using virtual spaces created with a visual simulation system. One of these experiments, for example, evaluates the closed-in feelings caused in subjects traveling along a virtual outdoor route with many tall buildings. Part Three deals with issues of environmental cognition, or how humans recognize, remember, and attach meaning to their environment so as to be able to make appropriate behavioral choices in such situations as finding their way along city streets or inside buildings, evacuating from subway stations, and looking for places to sit in urban public spaces.