

Organizational constructs and the structure of space: A comparative study of office layouts

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Abstract

In this paper, we present a comparative study of five office layouts occupied by three different organizations focusing on the following organizational constructs: “communication”, “control”, “territoriality”, “privacy” and “status”. Our aim is to fill in the gaps that exist in the literature regarding the relationships between these organizational constructs and office layouts. For the purpose, we define various generic spatial properties of these constructs, and use these properties as the basis for a “space syntax” analysis of the office layouts. Based on our findings, we present a set of spatial strategies used by these organizations linking the relational spatial descriptors of space syntax to the organizational constructs. Since these strategies have intuitively clear implications on the behaviour and actions of an organization, they may be used as aids to the design and performance assessment of office layouts in general.

Keywords

office layouts,
communication,
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