

## Chapter 3

### QUALITY OF OPEN SPACE AND USER SATISFACTION: ECOLOGICAL APPROACH

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#### INTRODUCTION

Human-environment interaction is a subject that was long studied by both environmental designers and behavioral scientists. Such concern led to the emergence of various approaches regarding the human-environment interactions. These approaches are: (1) Mechanical model of human focuses on human-machine relationships. (2) Perceptual-cognitive model of human (visual-aesthetic approach) (3) Behavioral model (Altman, 1976).

However, starting from the mid-20th century, architects and environmental designers worked with scientists in fields of psychology and sociology and developed the field of environmental psychology. Along with the development of environmental psychology, ecological psychology, which takes the human needs, characteristics of the space and human behavior into account, was developed as an alternative to the approaches already being used by architects and environmental designers for designing and planning the environment (Mehta, 2013). Ecological psychology was facilitated in order to bridge certain gaps in human-environment interactions research. Ittelson (1976) stated that such gaps were due to the fact that the human being, who reacts to and shapes the environment, was not considered as a whole with the environment. Because humans are not mere observers but are actors that play a role in the perception of the environment, rather than their relationship with the object (Velioglu, 1990). Therefore, there is a direct correlation between the impact of the environment on human behavior and the impact of human behavior on the environment. Environment as the origin of human behavior, the individual that shape the environment and the shaped environment cannot be separated from one other (Itellson, 1976).

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