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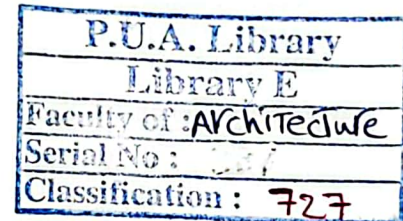
Post Occupancy Evaluation (POE) of Educational Buildings:
Psycho-Pedagogical based Approach to the Assessment of
Environmental Quality in Preschools

A Thesis Submitted to the Department of Architecture
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the degree of

Ph.D. of Architecture

by

Arch. Marwa Nour El-Din Charkas



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Abstract

Post occupancy evaluation systematically analyses a particular environment to gain understanding of the impact it has on its occupants. During this process Information of the building's condition is gained by reviewing what the occupants' feel and how they response to their needs by using the building.

The main problem that this thesis investigates, is the difficulty faced when trying to have feedback from preschoolers about their education environment. So this thesis focuses on the methods and techniques used to involve preschoolers effectively –as users- in any evaluation process concerning the performance of their education environment. It claims that the way those preschoolers perceive their surroundings and express their feelings is directly linked to the educational approach they follow. This adds another dimension to the problem definition as it is needed to take into consideration these perceptual psychology tendencies when tackling this issue. And accordingly the main aim of this thesis is to develop an appropriate approach to have an accurate feedback from children as the users for the school buildings at their early stages.

This research presents an overview of the post occupancy evaluation approach to building assessment. It develops a framework for User-Centered POE of environmental aspects in educational buildings. On a parallel track it investigates different theories of child developmental psychology and the philosophical approaches to deal with preschoolers and as a final part of the theoretical study, it presents a children-tailored evaluation methods & techniques. At the application section the thesis presents a comprehensive methodology for engaging preschoolers' in post occupancy evaluation process. It integrates different theoretical understandings discussed along its parts in developing a model for integrating preschoolers in 'Comprehensive Post Occupancy Evaluation Approach'. The selection of a school for application is based on its high standards' characteristics as a physical educational environment and its long history of well-established education system.

The thesis in its final part comes to a set of conclusions and recommendations that could be widely applied. In this respect, POE is highlighted as a user centered tool to achieve the required building performance in its environmental dimension.