

HISTORY & THEORY 2 **(M5X01981)**

DISSERTATION **SYNOPSIS**

Introduction

The Covid-19 pandemic has increase awareness of the relationship between human health and surrounding environments (Perinelli, 2020). The dissertation will focus on whether urban planning policies in Wales should place more emphasis on urban environments that addresses the well-being of individuals. The dissertation will consider how biophilic design could be utilised to improve urban settings.

Methodology

Quantitative methods, such as questionnaires, would establish key issues presented by current urban design from individuals who live in urban settings. Similarly, this approach could be conducted with individuals who live in rural settings in order to draw comparisons e.g how the surrounding environments impacts well-being. Ensuring that results are representative of diverse individuals, a calculated sample size will be conducted accordingly to the location. Existing publications and data from reliable sources, such as The Architects' Journal, government publications and books will be used for research¹. Comparative case studies and theories from urban designers will provide for a stronger literature review².

Qualitative methods would gain insight into specific current urban planning policies via interviews with relevant public and domestic planning officers from various councils across Wales. Thus, provide a better understanding of the diverse approaches that regions take in accordance with the locality and contextual elements of that specific region. Qualitative methods would also be beneficial to gain an insight into opinions of professionals, such as architects, on the topic of biophilic design.

Aims and Objectives

Evidence suggests that biophilic designs can increase the well-being of individuals by up to 15% (Jensen and Jensen, 2019). The dissertation will aim to:

¹ An example of government publication would include the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. An example of books would include Tim Beatley's *Handbook of Biophilic City*.

² Jan Gehl is an example of an urban designer that may be of interest to discuss various theories and principles of urban designs.

1- Establish what impacts that natural elements have on human well-being, gain an understanding of why biophilic design is important and what specific elements have the greatest positive impacts.

2- Establish whether biophilic design could be a planning policy requirement in urban designs within Wales. Recommendations will be made of key areas that the policies could target/influence.

3- Raise awareness and to ensure that well-being is a key design consideration across professions within the built environment.

Limitations

The uncertainty of the covid-19 pandemic poses the greatest risk. Lack of facilities, restrictions on travel or difficulty speaking to individuals as part of the methodology are examples of limitations that may occur. The timeframe for the dissertation to be completed may also be a limitation in regards to receiving and collating results from a sufficient amount of questionnaires and surveys.

Ethical Consideration

An ethical approach must be taken throughout. Ethical considerations include ensuring that data provided, as part of research, is only used with the provider's consent. The data will be protected and deleted accordingly. This is particularly important considering questionnaires may relate to sensitive information such as mental health

Timeframe

Research into biophilic architecture and urban planning policies (Wales) will take place between September and November. Using the research, questionnaires will be constructed and sent early December, alongside conducting interviews with professionals. This allows approximately two months to receive and collate data, and a further three months to complete the dissertation with a first draft submission within this timeframe.

Conclusion

The Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in behavioural changes, technology advancement and increased awareness on how built environments affect human well-being. This provides opportunities to review and improve current urban

planning policies with advanced emphasis on well-being. Time management and early detection of limitations will ensure that aspects such as methodology will be carried out efficiently to produce a successful dissertation.

Word Count – 550 (Excluding titles and footnotes)

References

- Jensen, O. and Jensen, O., 2019. *How biophilic design can transform workspaces forever - SHP - Health and Safety News, Legislation, PPE, CPD and Resources*. [online] SHP - Health and Safety News, Legislation, PPE, CPD and Resources. Available at: <<https://www.shponline.co.uk/workplace-psychology/how-biophilic-design-can-transform-workspaces-forever/#:~:text=What%20about%20biophilic%20design%20in%20offices%3F&text=The%20report%20found%20that%20workers,15%25%20high%20level%20of%20wellbeing.>>> [Accessed 29 April 2021].

- Perinelli, K., 2020. *COVID-19's impact on biophilic design | Style & Design | Floor Covering Weekly*. [online] Floorcoveringweekly.com. Available at: <<https://www.floorcoveringweekly.com/main/style-design/covid19s-impact-on-biophilic-design-31607>> [Accessed 28 April 2021].