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Space syntax in a wayfinding task

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Abstract This research was done to investigate the ratio
between environmental characteristics and the
wayfinding model. Research makes use of integration in
a wayfinding system of a typical parameter of the
traditional transport models such as distance, and of the
space syntax analysis, such as integration.

Space syntax (Hillier and Hanson, 1984) is a
morphologic analysis system of space and its constitutive
elements: buildings and urban areas. Tha purpose is to
supply a useful instrument to the analysis and the social
improvement of urban and architectonic projects
(Teklenburg, Timmermans and Wagenberg, 1992). It was
proposed as a model to forecast wayfinding with the aim
to demonstrate the ratio between the integration values
of urban space and the movements of people within.

Moreover (Steadman, 2004), there is another empirical
problem to analyze: the way used by people to move in
urban areas to reach a place. If they choose shortest
routes or if they rather choose the shortes number of
axial lines. In that optycal it has been related, from the
teorethical view-point, with traditional transport models
(Ratti, 2004; Hillier and Penn, 2004).

In this research we asked university students, sorted by
gender, to make a wayfinding task by computer.

Results are valued by the metric distance (transports
model) and the integration (space syntax model).

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