



THE "SENSE OF PLACE" ITS SIGNIFICANCE,
THEORY AND ATTAINMENT

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ABSTRACT

In recent years planners and urban designers have looked upon the "sense of place" as a desirable environmental quality which may be attained by integrating the "human dimension" of space into the planning and design process. However, extensive research in human being built-environment relationships has indicated a complexity and obscurity in the definition, conceptualization and creation of the "sense of place".

For establishing the necessity of the "sense of place" and exploring it as a human and socio-spatial phenomenon, this thesis first critically analyses the impact of development policies on the villages in Iran and the spatial characteristics of the traditional residential areas of Isfahan. The outcomes of these case studies are then used for a theoretical argument to define and conceptualize the "sense of place" and to establish community involvement as an appropriate planning and design process for its achievement. Later in the thesis, the proposed planning and design process is evaluated and its components are elaborated in an historical situation, by analysing community involvement in the Collingwood Housing Estate Redevelopment, Melbourne.

The thesis concludes its argument for achieving the "sense of place" by stressing the necessity for a continuous dialogue to synthesize, in an identifiable situation, the personal and the societal involvement in the planning and design process.