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## **The evolution of Amos Rapoport's thought in the field of culture and behavior-environment studies**

Parvin Partovi, Professor of Urban Planning, Department of Urban Planning, Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Arts, Tehran, Iran

Kebria Sedaghat Rostami \*, PhD Student in Urban Planning, Department of Urban Planning, University of Arts, Tehran, Iran

### **Introduction**

Rapoport is one of the founders of behavior studies. He looks at all issues from the perspective of behavior-environment studies. Paying attention to the factor of culture and historical and intercultural studies is one of his interests. In this research, the evolution of Rapoport's perspective on environmental behavior-studies is examined. Therefore, the discussion of the "selective design model" that Rapoport posed in 1977 and the "nonverbal communication approach" that he proposed in 1982 will be explained at first. Then, the paper continues with the part of the theory that Rapoport has added to the study of behavior-environment in the last two decades, and concludes by summarizing Rapoport's efforts. In the field of behavior-environment studies, different periods of his research life are examined.

### **Methodology**

This is a review research, so it has used a descriptive research method. In this way, all the reliable sources around Rapoport's thoughts, including books and articles have been studied and finally, his viewpoints have been summarized.

### **Results and Discussion**

**Rapoport and Behavior-Environmental Studies:** Rapoport believes that the environment has a fundamental impact on people, through which people choose some environments. He presents four complementary concepts of the environment:

- Organization of space, time, meaning and communication;
- A system of contexts in which activity systems (including their hidden aspects) occur;
- Cultural landscape;
- Combination of fixed, semi-fixed and non-fixed elements (Rapoport, 2000a, p. 147; Rapoport, 2006A, p.421; Rapoport, 2003, p. 40).

**Selective design model:** According to Rapoport viewpoint, in creating a cultural landscape, many people make decisions over long periods of time and choose from options (Rapoport, 1993). This is what Rapoport calls the "selective design model". which is the most useful method for conceptualizing design (Rapoport, 2008a, p. 31) with the aim of defining goals and criteria for choosing from the available options (Rapoport, 1983, p. 250).

**Nonverbal Communication Model:** Rapoport believes that information has codes in environments and people need to be able to understand these codes clearly. In the nonverbal communication model, it is conceptually easy to understand a system of explaining behaviors. This approach leads to increasing designers' awareness of suitable designs for the residents' collective perceptions (Rapoport; 2013, pp. 85 and 96; Taylor, 1983, pp. 96-97).

**Descriptive theory:** According to Rapoport's point of view, in order to actualizing the extensive and abstract concepts, analyzing them by separating variables and components, and studying how they arise and their ways of communication, and finally their combination is a practical and appropriate method (Rapoport, 2006a, p. 160). This issue, along with the actualizing the concept of culture, is the main subject of his theory.

**Handicap principle:** The handicap principle in applying to built-in environments suggests that environments can be expressed as a form of "advertising" and explains why certain environments are costly and effortless create. In discussing about the handicap principle, Rapoport often refers to the role of meaning, stating that it is the distinctly cultural nature of contexts that leads to appropriate behavior (Quoted in Rapoport, 2008a, pp. 26-30).

## Conclusion

In general, Rapoport works can be classified into five periods:

The first period (Looking at all kinds of environments): Rapoport began with his book named "The Shape of Housing and Culture" in 1969, in which he says that we cannot just look at what architects do, but we must look at everything.

The second period (looking at the whole environment): planning is to look not only at the buildings but also at what geographers call the cultural landscape. The book "The Meaning of the Built Environment" has been compiled in this period.

The third period (A Global Perspective on Looking at All Environments): Rapoport says it is important to look at all environments as we adapt to a global perspective. Therefore, intercultural research became necessary. The result of his research in this period is the authorship of the book "Intercultural Studies and the Shape of the City".

The fourth period (Paying attention to all evidences and documents): Rapoport believes that all evidence from the past to the present should be considered. His book "History and Background in Environmental Design" is the product of this period.

The fifth period (Development of a scientific theory): In this course, Rapoport analyzes all types of evidence in order to begin developing a theory. The two books "Theory in Environmental Design" in 1997 and "Culture, Architecture, and Design" in 2003 are the products of this period.

**Keyword:** Culture, Behavior-Environmental Studies, Descriptive Theory, Rapoport

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\*Corresponding author: [kebria.sedaghat@gmail.com](mailto:kebria.sedaghat@gmail.com)



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