

Health: The Design, Planning and Politics of How and Where We Live

- **Paper / Proposal Title:**

Child Friendly City Approach: Pros and Cons

- **Format(s):**

In-person presentation / Written paper

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- **University or Company Affiliation:**

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- **Abstract (300 words):**

Urban planning especially for vulnerable groups is one of the main concerns of urban managers and related authorities. There has been a plenty of research done on child-friendly cities, in which mentioned that 'a child-friendly city is an all-friendly city'; however, it seems that this idea might be wrong in some cases. How a child-friendly city can be a teenager-friendly city. Obviously, teenagers hate being treated as children. For instance, in studies carried out to design child-friendly cities, it is suggested that child-friendly cafes and hospitals be built and that the city is designed for people with their children, which is hence a healthy city for all, in order to remove the obstacles. However, there are some questions; removing will these obstacles not build more obstacles, 13-year-olds will be satisfied with cafes and restaurants designed for children. Teenagers clearly do not like lines and partitions that separate them from adults and do not like to be considered children. In this study, which is done from an industrial design

viewpoint by gathering data through observations, it is suggested that these partitions be removed. As done in cloud systems such as emails, Facebook, or any other virtual media, where there is a sense of 'anywhering' and where people do not feel at work while at work and do not feel at home while at home. Why designers do insist on making these partitions. Also, this study suggests that if UD (universal design) is for everyone, the designs for space, location, and services should collaborate and get people together and build a space which is inspirational for children, teenagers, youngsters, and adults; a child-friendly city is not necessarily a teenager-friendly one.

• **Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

1. Azadeh Razzagh Shoar, currently teaches creativity and design in The University of Art (Tehran). She also teaches Industrial Design to children and teenagers, because she believes that children can be designer even better than adult designers at least for what they are the main users as toys. In this regard, she wrote articles to prove this asserts and toy design, playground design, universal design and shoes design (case study: pregnant women) are some sorts of her researches. Furthermore, she is a columnist and activist for the rights of children and teenagers.
2. Hassan sadeghi Naeini is an associate professor at Iran university of science and Technology (IUST). He has been teaching Ergonomics courses to industrial design students. Toy design for kids, parks' playground design, Urban safety planning, and sick building syndrome are some sorts of his recent research. He has already published some books and articles in field of ergonomic design. Now he is working at KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm as a researcher.