

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

- **Paper / Proposal Title:**

Breath Free Stations: smellscape designs and planning in urban intermodal transit spaces

- **Format:**

Written paper

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- **Abstract (300 words):**

Urban intermodal transit spaces as nodes and places in the city, are considered landmarks with social and cultural meaning to the city and its residents. Large numbers of people visit every day, and which have intensive traffic flows and various functions. Environmental qualities are increasingly important to user's experience in such spaces. However, little work can be found on smellscapes in literature within such context. Through the study of smellscapes in a Chinese and a UK case presented in this paper, smellscapes in such spaces were found complex and important, influencing users' well-being. Data were collected through onsite observations and semi-structured interviews with participants along a designed route. From the results, health concerns played an important role in people's perceptions and evaluations of smellscapes pleasantness in

both cases. Smells of car fumes, cooking fumes, diesel were associated with pollution, waste, drainage, body odour and cooking fumes were associated with hygiene issues. Visual perceptions of relevant sources and activities had significant impact on participants perceptions of smellscapes. Appearance of uncovered trash bin, unclean floor, crowds indicated an unclean smellscape whilst appearance of greenery, cleaning activities would indicate a cleaner smellscape. The site planning, architecture style and station management all had an impact on smellscapes in both cases. Meanwhile, significant emotional reactions were found towards different smellscapes, such as 'calm', 'stressful', 'relaxed', 'annoyed', etc. The mental and physical impacts of smellscapes on participants unfold a discussion around exiting guidance and future design, planning and management in urban intermodal transit spaces to create more pleasant healthier smellscapes, allowing people to enjoy their visit and breath freely.

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

Jieling is a lecturer in environmental design at Birmingham school of architecture and design. She has a background of architecture and urban design. Jieling's research interest and work is around influences of sensory cues on people's experiences and design, particularly soundscapes and smellscapes. Her PhD study was about smellscapes in urban intermodal transit spaces in uk and china.