Moving Images - Static Spaces: Architectures, Art, Media, Film, Digital Art and Design

• Paper / Proposal Title:
How do people explore complex atria museums?

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• Presentation Method. I would like to:
  i. present via skype (with a written paper)

• Abstract (300 words):
This article describes how atria in cultural buildings facilitate architectural purposes as well as human navigation and cognition. The Ashmolean Museum in Oxford is used as a case study, in order to understand how the voids are synthetically used to link the old with the new sectors of the building, attract human activity and serve three-dimensional exploration. Until recently, most space syntax research on navigation studied human movement and spatial characteristics in two dimensions, consequently excluding the effect of the third dimension on spatial exploration. Although common sense acknowledges a link between three-dimensional design and navigation, there is no substantial research on how the third dimension relates to patterns of exploration. This paper explores the relationship between human movement (visitors’ paths), virtual movement (VR) and the spatial structure (space syntax), with the goal to understand how the multi-storey complex museum influences free exploration. The findings show that three-dimensional visibility, enhanced through the use of atria in multi-level buildings, has a significant impact on the ways visitors move in museums. Virtual experiments show the effect of the third dimension on path selection and configuration as well as head
movement. This article can potentially inform the three-dimensional architectural design with the goal of creating user-friendly buildings. The ultimate aim is to provide principled understanding of the variability of three dimensional design and cognitive dimensions in museum buildings.

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

Dr Athina Lazaridou is a professionally qualified and highly experienced researcher, consultant and architect with extensive knowledge and skills in Architectural Design, Spatial Analysis and Virtual Reality gained in a wide range of consultancy, academic and architectural sectors. She holds a Bachelor in Architecture from the Aristotle University Thessaloniki (AUTH) in Greece, a Master (MSc) in Architectural Advanced Studies from the Bartlett School of Graduate Studies (UCL) and a Ph.D. in Architectural Space and Computation from the Bartlett School of Architecture (UCL), London, UK. She worked as part of the ‘Somer’s Town Cycle to School’ Public Engagement project in collaboration with UCL and the Camden Council, London (2014-15). During 2011-14, she organised and led numerous design workshops in Greece together with the Department of Urban and Spatial Planning, AUTH and Gehl Architects. She worked as a consultant for Space Syntax Limited in London (2007-09). She was a Member of the Management Committee for COST Action TU1002 (2007-09). She has won numerous scholarships and awards among which an AHRC Collaborative Skills Development Grant, as a CLASH Fellow in collaboration with UCL, King’s Cultural Institute and the Royal Festival Hall in London, a Ph.D. Scholarship by the Greek State Scholarship Foundation (I.K.Y), an Erasmus-Socrates Funding for studies at the RWTH Aachen University, Germany and many research project and conference funds by UCL.