Experiential Design – Rethinking relations between people, objects and environments

• Paper / Proposal Title:
Taking trauma-informed action: moving from research findings to applied design

• Author(s) Name:
Jill Pable
Lindsey Slater

• University or Company Affiliation:
Florida State University

• Abstract (300 words):
The experience of life is arguably intimate, individual, and powerful. Such experiences shape how people see the world, how they see other people, and even themselves (Goldhagen, 2018). The life experiences of a person exposed to past trauma such as violence, crime, poverty, homelessness or substance abuse can powerfully shape a person’s ability to be a fully actualized person (Felitti, et al., 1998). Designing architectural spaces for such persons presents significant challenges and requires a deep understanding of their capacities, thought processes and needs. Research about how to design for such persons is still in its early development stages (Shepley & Pasha 2013); Nonetheless, the need for well-designed homeless shelters and similar spaces exists right now.

This presentation will discuss our recent experiences with the gathering of empirical research findings from psychology, neuroscience, consumer culture theory and other fields that address mental and behavioral architectural design and our application of these findings to the design of supportive housing projects and homeless shelters. Even with current empirical findings limitations, we suggest that such findings’ useful application can successfully influence the design of these spaces at the present time, and that the human need is sufficiently great
that empirical research results, even if they are not entirely ‘proven’, are often worthy of our attention.

We will discuss our work with two projects in the United Kingdom (permanent supportive housing) and the United States (an emergency shelter) for which we have derived and shared detailed recommendations from empirical information that attend to human psychological issues including security, privacy, self-esteem, sense of community, personal control and the desire for beauty. This work embodies our belief that design can act as a bridge between empirical science and human perception, enabling an enhanced lived experience for persons who arguably may need it the most.

- **Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**
  
  **Jill Pable** is a professor and associate chair of the Interior Architecture & Design Department at Florida State University and a fellow and past president of the Interior Design Educators Council. She holds B.S. and M.F.A. degrees in Interior Design and a Ph.D. degree in Instructional Technology with specialization in architecture. She is a CIDQ-certified interior designer and a WELL accredited practitioner. Her research and pro-bono work focuses on the design of environments for the disadvantaged and she facilitates Design Resources for Homelessness, a non-profit resource for architectural designers and organizations creating environments that help people exit homelessness quickly and effectively. These ideas have been featured in FastCompany, the Chicago Tribune, the Conversation, the Independent (UK), NBCnews.com, and National Public Radio. She is a TEDxFSU speaker and has been noted as one of the 30 Most Admired Design Educators in the United States by DesignIntelligence. She believes that design can make life more interesting, fulfilling and humane.

  **Lindsey Slater** holds a B.S. in Interior Design from Florida State University and is currently pursuing her masters in Interior Design. Her thesis explores the role that learning spaces play in the academic achievement of students at low-income schools. She has worked with Dr. Jill Pable and Design Resources for Homelessness on projects in Winchester, England and Atlanta, Georgia and is very passionate about her work that helps those in need. Lindsey believes that design is a powerful tool to change peoples' lives and would like to be an active agent in using design to serve the community. In the future, Lindsey would like to practice educational design in K-12 or higher education and intends to pursue a Ph.D. in Public Administration.