Experiential Design – Rethinking relations between people, objects and environments

• Paper / Proposal Title:
The Impact of Attributes of Layout in Inpatient Unit and rooms on Perceived Quality of Care

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• Abstract (300 words):
The purpose of this research is to understand how the layout of inpatient unit and room affects the quality of care from the perspective of physicians, nurses, supporting staff members, patients and visitors. Layout attributes is a key part of inpatient unit. Quality of care is among the most important outcome in health service. Previous studies have conducted research on inpatient unit attributes or quality of care; however, less has focused on the impact of all the selected four major attributes of the layout in this research on perceived quality of care. The research methodology is the correlational study with using interviews and surveys as the qualitative method and statistical analysis of the evaluation in Likert scale as the quantitative method. Selected attributes of layout are unit shape, placement of support core, patient room layout and size. Measures of quality of care in this research are control, positive distraction and attractiveness, rest and comfort each of them has their own indices according to the literature review. The questionnaire for the surveys and interviews is based on the metrics of the quality of care and attributes of the layout. The quality of care metrics is evaluated in relation to attributes of the layout. The case study is the inpatient unit of the International Ghaem Rasht hospital located in the City of Rasht, Iran. This unit is proper for this research, since it
has different placement of support core, different patient room layout and size including private, two beds and VIP. In Findings, about the unit shape, it seems that in corridor shape, there is low level of control, which might be improved by decentralized support core. About the placement of support core, it seems that decentralized staff stations increase quality of care by increasing control. About the patient room layout, since all of the rooms was mirror rooms except one room, interview is done with staff members who had experience at other inpatient units with same-handed rooms. It seems that mirror rooms increase the level of quality of care more than same-handed rooms. About patient room size, it seems that bigger rooms improve the quality of care. However, it seems that two-bed rooms improve positive distraction.

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

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Shermineh Afsary is a PhD student, graduate teaching and research assistant in Architecture at the University of Kansas from August 2016 to present. Her major concentration is health and wellness and healthcare design. Her research interest is healthcare design, evidence- based design, community/public health, behavioral research, sustainable urban planning. She is studying her PhD and conducting her research on healthcare design under supervision of her academic adviser, Dr. Mahbub Rashid. She has six years of professional experience in several architectural firms, in design, urban planning and research, with more than four years in healthcare design and research in the firms. She got her master degree in urban planning from the University of Tehran. Previously, she was also a lecturer at Azad University for about year. Moreover, she has contributed in a national research project of USA on a community health center for NIH (National Institute of Health, USA) with the team of Dr. Mohammad Gharipour (Research project Investigator) in Morgan State University on 2018. She has different research papers on healthcare design, sustainable urban development, and healthy environment. She is also graduate teaching assistant from August 2016 to present in Department of Architecture, the University of Kansas in different architectural courses such as design studios.