Thomas R. Herzog studied perceptual classification and preference of urban spaces. The paper was published in The Journal of Environmental Psychology in 1992.

T. Herzog continued on the work of R. Kaplan and S. Kaplan (1989) who made a classification of rural areas in which they de-

fined open undefined, spacious structured, enclose settings and blocked views. Herzog tried to identify these classifications in urban settings by showing slides to people and have them classify them according to the classifications he chose. Here it was of importance that people weren't influenced of non-spatial qualities that override the classi-

fication and preference rating of the space

His hypothesis was that the spacious structured areas would be most prefered and that the open undefined and blocked views would be least prefered. Also enclosed spaces should be prefered, but these shouldn't be to cramped or lack spatial defi-





# nition.

The study concluded that the open structured spaces were more prefered as opposed to the other three which were all less appreciated and roughly equal to each other.

In our analysis we want to continue on this work by using data gathered within an actual urban setting and we want to know to what extend the spatial qualities effect the preference of these spaces which are here defined as open or closed and ordered and chaotic. Besides this we want to see if there is an anomaly in the data where two spatial-

ly equal points are rated differently and see what non-spatial qualities could have effected this.



Scene from the Open-Undefined category.



FIGURE 2. Scene from the Well-Structured category.





FIGURE 3. Scenes from the Enclosed-Settings category



Scene from the Blocked Views category FIGURE 4.





HYPOTHESIS:

The preference for urban spaces is mostly related to its spatial typology.









# DARCHIC HAIT OF Chair of Information Architecture

![](_page_5_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_5_Figure_3.jpeg)

CHAOTIC ENCLOSED DISLIKED

ORDERD OPEN LIKED

-2 -1 0 1 2

#### CASE ONE:

In this case these two typologies three and eleven are seemingly the same. Nontheless the space at point three is more appreciated. Here we can clearly recognize a percieved lack of order at the junction. We believe that lack of the feeling of accessability (order) of the space is of great influence on the appreciation of a space. The data also show a difference in the average amount of light in the space.

![](_page_6_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_6_Picture_3.jpeg)

#### SURVEY POINT THREE

#### SURVEY POINT ELEVEN

![](_page_6_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_6_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_6_Picture_8.jpeg)

SURVEY POINT THREE

![](_page_6_Picture_9.jpeg)

![](_page_6_Picture_10.jpeg)

#### SURVEY POINT ELEVEN

![](_page_6_Figure_12.jpeg)

LIGHT: 5500 SOUND: 64 dB ISO: 4500

CHAOTIC | ORDERED ENCLOSED | OPEN DISLIKED | LIKED

LIGHT: 2800 SOUND: 60 dB ISO: 4900

#### CASE TWO:

In this case, where the typologie of point seven and nine are Imost identical point seven is appreciated more, because of its apparent order. In the images it is quite difficult to see a difference in the percieved order. We believe the curved road allows for a little more enclosed feeling.

It concurs with the idea of Herzog that says that structured or ordered spaces are more appreciated. It contests Le corbusiers statement in which he says that curved streets are for donkeys and straight streets are for humans.

## SURVEY POINT SEVEN

#### SURVEY POINT NINE

![](_page_6_Picture_20.jpeg)

![](_page_6_Picture_21.jpeg)

![](_page_6_Picture_22.jpeg)

![](_page_6_Picture_23.jpeg)

SURVEY POINT SEVEN

![](_page_6_Picture_25.jpeg)

LIGHT: 2200 SOUND: 62 dB ISO: 700

![](_page_6_Picture_27.jpeg)

SURVEY POINT NINE

![](_page_6_Figure_29.jpeg)

LIGHT: 2800 SOUND: 62 dB ISO: 2000

## CASE THREE:

Here we compare two similarly rated spaces. Interesting to see here is that people are consistent in rating spatial urban typologies. Overall junctions in this survey have this exact signature. Thee junctions are all concidered chaotic and open. This again confirms Herzogs hypothesis that open undefined or in our case chaotic spaces are not prefered.

![](_page_7_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_7_Picture_3.jpeg)

LIGHT: 5000 SOUND: 64 ISO: 4900

CHAOTIC | ORDERED ENCLOSED | OPEN DISLIKED | LIKED

SURVEY POINT FIVE

LIGHT: 9000 SOUND: 60 ISO: 9000

![](_page_7_Picture_6.jpeg)

CHAOTIC | ORDERED ENCLOSED | OPEN DISLIKED | LIKED

![](_page_7_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_7_Picture_8.jpeg)

![](_page_7_Picture_9.jpeg)

![](_page_7_Picture_10.jpeg)

SURVEY POINT FIVE

![](_page_7_Picture_11.jpeg)

![](_page_7_Picture_12.jpeg)

#### CASE FOUR:

Straight roads are the most consistantly and neutrally rated by the survey participants. The most rational typology of the urban fabric, the street, is the most neutral. These are nor open nor narrow, nor ordered nor chaotic and therefor are difficult to classify within the framework of Herzog. It would be interesting to find exciting streets as the one showed in the last slide.

> LIGHT: 4750 SOUND: 62 ISO: 2000

CHAOTIC | ORDERED ENCLOSED | OPEN DISLIKED | LIKED

SURVEY POINT TWO

LIGHT: 2800 SOUND: 62 ISO: 2000

CHAOTIC | ORDERED ENCLOSED | OPEN DISLIKED | LIKED

#### SURVEY POINT NINE

![](_page_7_Picture_19.jpeg)

![](_page_7_Picture_20.jpeg)

![](_page_7_Picture_21.jpeg)

SURVEY POINT TWO

![](_page_7_Picture_22.jpeg)

#### SURVEY POINT NINE

![](_page_8_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_8_Picture_1.jpeg)

#### CONCLUSION:

Urban spatial typology has an influence on the potential of it to be prefered but the most important factor is the organisation of the space. This confirms Herzog's research in which he defined opened well structured spaces as to be most prefered.