

and the ecological balance of natural settings, but will affect that person using it as well. The human-environment interactions of places enclose hidden connections that most people ignore. We must teach that the environment, which is an external system to our body and immediate surroundings' such as our home, is also a part of or an extension of us; a living entity. Plazas, parks, many urban settings, and our own homes have energy, are livable and have the ability to connect and attach to people. Plazas and other urban settings therefore demand, care and nurturing as do our own home. One of the most important goals for public spaces in Maracaibo is to somehow incite a change of attitudes towards these environments and towards others. This will allow incorporating a more spiritual connotation of public spaces that is perhaps necessary.

It has been mentioned in the literature review the importance of a sense of place, a sense of belonging, attachment in a place. Going beyond these interpretations, it can be said that places have a spirit, a hidden energy that makes them livable and enjoyable for people. If a place is full of life, full of people, it could be considered as a living entity as well. Places that are not nurtured, maintained, arranged and being cared for by people becomes deserted and cold. It can be said that a place is a living entity, which depends on the set of characteristics and conditions, which structure it to be more energetic and magnetic for people. This may have metaphysical implications. Places evolve, develop and work and develop when a lot of human activities take place around them. The presence of people in a setting charge a place with live, therefore it is important to study who uses the space, and know what the users or potential user needs in order to infuse these places with human energy. It is important to bond places and the people in them; when places are successful; when places are livable it is because of those using them and the activities taking place in them. Some places have more positive qualities than others; some places are more conditioned to shelter human activities. The notion of comfort and security, perhaps the same that homes or residences bring to people, is very important to consider in any habitable space. People in their own homes have a sense of attachment or belonging that is not found in other spaces. It is important to create physically and thermally comfortable, secure public spaces in which several activities can be developed, as an extension of our lives just as private homes. The main goal of public space design is to create spaces and not designs.

Before making any changes or renovation processes in public spaces, a deeper understanding of the urban conditions affecting the setting and the users is necessary. The idea behind this statement is that designers need to address their design intentions in a more site-specific way and identify and respond to more critical problems that affects the urban spaces in Maracaibo. Therefore, many problems detected in this research could be caused by lack of management strategies or appropriate design approaches. A common way to begin to solve any kind of problem is to understand it. Therefore, a way to mitigate the urban climatical problems is by understanding the meteorological conditions of the place and to find literature related to design strategies. Designers and municipal agents should have this

knowledge, or at least be aware of the effects of the climate in outdoor spaces to avoid creating uncomfortable spaces for people. Public spaces are complex environments that demand better designs and renovation processes. It would be highly beneficial if designers and municipal authorities could somehow incorporate the findings of this research and the design implications in their design tasks. This could promote the creation of more comfortable and qualitative environments for people. In terms of research, further research related to this topic and related to the human needs and comfort in public indoor and outdoors spaces needs to be developed. It will also be important to somehow train professionals and students in a more sensitive way in order to be aware of people needs in architecture and urban design. This research suggests the need to refocus on the study of social aspects in the urban environment in order to regain user's satisfaction and improve the relationship between the built environment and the land. Immediate attention must be taken in regards to climate and security issues in Maracaibo. Urban policies must direct toward that direction. In general, the research suggests that a change in designer's attitudes and goals is needed and that intentions should direct towards creating a more conscious and human and environmental sensitive spaces in Maracaibo. It suggests that professionals should not continue designing the way they are, which are negatively affecting human comfort and the ecological balance of the city of Maracaibo. The research also has showed that a way to contribute to the creation of qualitative public spaces in Maracaibo is through the creation of public polices as a way to control designers intentions and practice. Therefore, control over designers task and public policies that address human and climatical issues in Maracaibo are needed. But most important is to somehow promote design awareness in the making of human spaces that better suit people's needs that enhances peoples' experiences and enjoyment in the public spaces and assure quality of life. One last but not least important idea related to this topic is that improving the he quality of life, comfort and experience of people in public spaces (that are currently hostile), can contribute to make positive changes in people's attitudes and actions in the public space. This suggests that by improving the outdoor conditions of Maracaibo, people would feel freer and comfortable to be in the outdoors, enhancing perhaps the relationship of people to the outdoor spaces, establishing a missing bond that can discontinue the mistreatment of the environment caused by people in Maracaibo. This could enhance the notion of connectiveness towards a greater environment and promote an ecological balance between inhabitants and the environment in Maracaibo.

Further work would involve the presentation of these finding to the academic and professional institutions but perhaps most important is presenting these findings to the Mayor's Office responsible for the renovation and maintenance of public spaces in Maracaibo. This effort will make no sense it the findings sit on a library shelf as a simple master thesis work. The research has a broader purpose to in some way influence the work of others in order to improve the comfort, life quality and satisfaction of the outdoor environments and specifically public spaces.