

# Architecture of Joy

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**Abstract**—The paper is an effort to research into the aspect of achieving sustainability through the concept of joy. It's often understood that sustainability is achieved through a very rigid and disciplined scientific measures and is a byproduct of the materials we use in our architecture but a large gap is often realized much after the spaces are in use between the original space analysis and when the user actually comes into picture which renders dissatisfaction and discomfort in those spaces meant for his usage.....

They are unable to associate with the spaces and cannot connect to them emotionally also and demands some major structural changes which leads to misbalance and an unsustainable environment though the materialistic aspect is something we as designers should realize. Yes, if we as designers take the perspective of emotions and joy into our design process we would be able to achieve a better and more efficient sustainable environment for our users, evoking emotions through our spatial configuration..

Human mind is vulnerable to many thoughts and ideas but the one idea which is always overlooked is his comfort level in whatever condition or status he is in ,the logic behind is quite simple if the mind is in comfort the experiences the pleasure to be in those spaces and if he enjoys the spaces. This idea of joy in architecture and achieving a sustainable environment through this dialogue will be explained through the physical manifestation through the ideas of these in architecture:

Volumes and scale  
Natural light  
Colours  
Textures and patterns  
Shades and shadows  
Landscape  
Fenestration etc.

Joy in architecture is synonymous to achieving an emotional sustainable structure making it a better livable place for human performance in all occasions, seasons and all human moods !!!!

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Joy?

Joy is nice, I guess?

But it's kind of light not substantial!

Kind of intriguing because joy is this intangible feeling?

How do things make us feel joy?

How do tangible things make us feel intangible joy?

Broadly speaking when psychologist use the word joy what they mean is an intense, momentary experience of emotion. One that makes us smile and laugh in another words feeling like one wants to jump up and down.

These things cut across lines of age and gender and eternity we all stop and turn our heads to the sky when the multi colored arc of a rainbow streaks across it and fireworks we don't even need to know what they are for and we feel like we are celebrating too. Things aren't joyful for just a few people they' are joyful for nearly every one. They are universally joyful. They remind us of the shared humanity we find in our common experience of the physical world.



A residence done for client with beautiful detailed spaces for different effects throughout the day.

The patterns around things pop of bright color symmetrical shapes and a sense of ambiguity and multiplicity- a feeling of lightness or elevation. Though the feeling of joy is mysterious and elusive, we can access it through palpable, physical attributes or what we call aesthetics.

Patterns speak that joy begins with sense, joy can be spotted in little moments where ever we move around, we see, a piece of art, a fully grown tree, a water body etc.



*These little detailing of joy enrich our life with a level of happiness.*

Why do we go to work here?

Why do we send our kids to school that look like this?

Why do our cities look like this?

And the most acute for the places, the house, the people that are most vulnerable among us, nursing homes, hospitals, homeless shelters, housing projects.

How did we end up in a world like this?



*A dull office interior, a lifeless classroom interior, glass box building and faceless facade buildings in our city.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### Architectural Happiness (Interior/Exterior):--

The pleasure of being in spaces in a built environment as said by 'standhals' is that "beauty is the promise of happiness. "Analyzes human surroundings and how our human needs and desires manifest their ideas in Architecture". The Architecture of happiness one of the great but often unmentioned causes of both happiness and misery is the quality of our environment the kinds of walls, chairs, buildings and street that surround us and yet a concern for architecture and design is too often

described as frivolous, even self-indulgent said by 'Allan - de - botton in his book "Architecture of happiness".

The architecture and sense of style around us can change affect moods and explain something about ourselves.



*A creative interior option with hints of colors of joy and lots of it !*

The paper readers would understand, why style of a beautiful house or exquisitely designed tea cup, can bring such joy and why a gloomy hotel room can make us question the meaning of life. We need to look at our surroundings to see how they shape us and how we shape them. Does a home filled with toys and teddy bears, wonders, a reflection a wish to escape from harsh and cruel world can a core of white, spare and minimal spaces be an attempt to fight a sense of chaos and disorder questions the notion that aesthetic issues are shallow and argues that if we look a little deeper, our furniture, our houses and our public buildings will speak to us. Excerpts from the book "Architecture of happiness" by "Allan - de - botton".

Joy a inner must feeling of happiness, excitement. The fun pleasure of being with someone a place, a visual, the food, the environment, after all seeing we experience varied feelings, feeling of association, a feeling with which our memories get connected, revised, and we initiate mindless, senseless, care free, expression filled with interaction such and many such moments make us happily, smiling and joys on similar lines

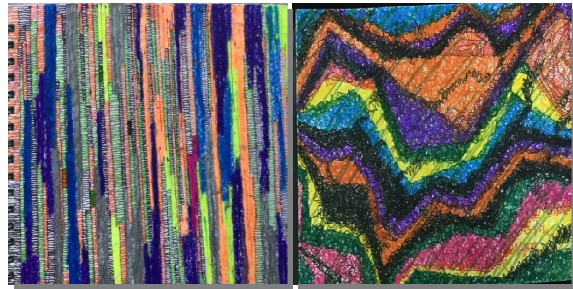
Our built environment the spaces, the facade, the varied experiences in our built environment the natural light and ventilation. The color, textures, furniture places the landscape all add to our built environment and our experiences also.

- Imagine a space with no nature light.
- Imagine a space with no landscape.
- Imagine a space with no natural ventilation.
- Imagine a space with no colours, textures.





Strength of aesthetics of joy - through interaction, play, sound and surprise can create real, immediate change in the way we live. (Patterns in different context to narrate the story of joy and elements of surprise)



The paper looks at definitions of happiness and happiness measurements and introduces 6 environmental factors identified that have design implications relating to happiness. Nature, light, surprise access, identity and Sociality perhaps not everyone corridors happiness a priority, even a possibility for most people.

With development projects so wrapped up in economies and efficiency, it is too often forgotten that we need to balance these to “e” s, with more human concerns.

*“Everyone needs a place to be and everyone needs a place to be happy in!”*

**Nature:-**

Maximizing connectivity between human nature. Bringing in bio - diversity into the interior of the buildings can enhance the every day experience of occupants. Natural elements can provide buffers; offer the possibility of rest and exploration.



*Adding greens in between to enhance experience of users.*

**Light:-**

Ideally, every space in the building and on the site should have access to natural light if some variety. There should be some places for taking in lot of sun, like a patio or sun garden and some places where light is tampered and filtered to minimize glare and decrease the urban heat island effect. Darkness has a role to play program should facilitate night time lighting for the outdoor spaces.



*A Section showing how light , greens and purpose can be incorporated together.*

**Surprise:-**



*Transformation of this commercial building facade for new spaces and different ones.*

Include elements that transform and surprise. This could be interactive work of art built into the structure or on the exterior, elements in the building that play on the change in light over the course of the day to create a surprising effect or planting that draws attention and have something to offer in different seasons.

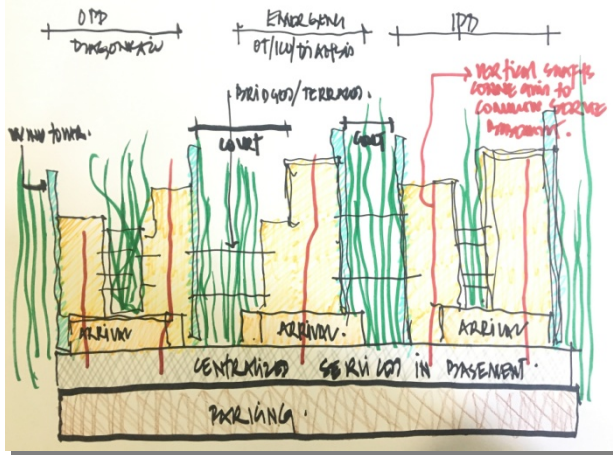


*The relationship to the street front is respectful holds the urban edge in intimate relationship and engages the person walking by both with transparency and something interesting to look at.*



**Sociality:-**

Spaces that facilitate conversation not to noisy, intimate enough to hold conversations recreational and arts activities also really encourage social engagements. Seeing that is flexible or adjustable. A cafe, cafeteria, restaurant or picnic area would make sense to engage socializing over food and drink.



Creating spaces in between buildblocks to give advantage of light and ventilation and spaces of interaction. For socializing.

**Identity:-**

People build emotional connections to places that help shape their identity. This becomes the most powerful when they build memories in the people they love in these spaces. Places that allow people to connect to each other in a meaningful way need to be available and accessible. Places to sit, talk, play discover, read, smile, hold hands and connect. Something distinctive about the place people are most likely to make these emotional connections to places with local flavour local culture abortive and age old traditions.



India is a country with vast cultures and those iconic festivities are the joyous parts of the cities and hence become the identity.

Image 1 is how Gere ( Holi Parade) is done in indore, (feel)

Image 2 is how the marine drive in Mumbai is known for its public activities. (public space)

Image 3 is of a iconic store at Indore and how its identity and the style and warmth of serving is felt by each. (smell)

Image 4 are the various activities happening on a given time and yet no one is confused,

**Access:-**



In an urban context each happy place is part of the greater whole of its neighborhood and its city.

**Urban happiness / joy:-**

Art changes the atmosphere and the excitement that someone can have in a space. Urban happiness is a concept which can be defined through the observation both of many tangible and intangible aspects of a place and the activities carried out by the people who time and use it.

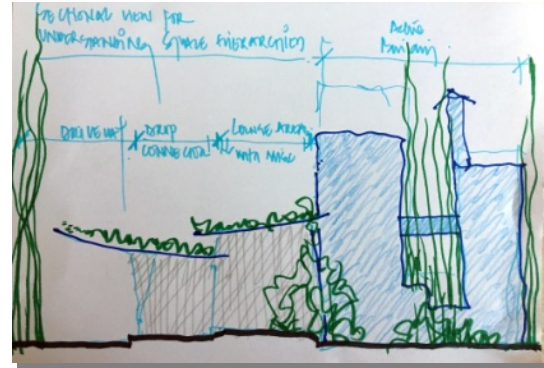


Different city activities happening in a frame. (smell and feel)

As Lynch (1960) affirms “at every instant there is more than the eye can see then ear can hear, a setting or a view waiting to be explored. Nothing is experience by itself, but always in relation to its surroundings the sequence of events leading up to it. “The memory of past experiences” the urban happiness although takes in account elements by different discipline, assumes its base from the observation of the relationship between people, places and activities.

The intangible qualities of a place consist of all the elements that can be perceived by the senses - smell and voice, but also sensation of touch sight and taste of it memory, cultural tradition etc. All of these both individually and in their overall perception can inference our feelings, actious general well-being and our appraisal of what surrounds us. The perception of the city can be separated or partial and combined with other feelings the overall image is a union of all stimuli.

The tangible elements are related to the urban fabric (built form) and services of morphological, natural, and historical invariant. Colours, materials, smells and sound become an inseparable part of any spot in the city, and thus components of the urban happiness.



2. Increase green interactions of all kinds and scales.
3. Provide people places to linger light experiences.
4. Provide a variety of natural light experiences.
5. Incorporate art work that in engaging and interactive.



6. Integrate moments of in practical beauty into every project.
7. Build upon the history and story of the site and surrounding areas.
8. Create something that can act in contrast to no well as a complement to the local fabric.
9. Promote greater mixes of uses and income through zoning codes.
10. Recline spaces from projects arts etc for pedestrians and site.
11. Connect transit and transportation deceits with land use decisions.
12. Provide a variety of pleasant spaces for people to escape to linger and socialize.



*Different scenarios showcasing different vibes , different places can have .*

One of the concepts which helps to circumscribe the many aspects which can describe the urban happiness includes the place making, in the sense of “the art of making places for people” it concerns the contentious between people and places, movement and urban form, nature and the built fabric.

Charles Montgomery has recently affirmed in his “Happy city” if city planners and developers paid more attention to the growing body of knowledge about happiness, they could create cities that enhance the contentment of these who live in them. Rightly said.

**3. CONCLUSIONS**

Planners, Architects, policy makes need to think and encourage the following.

1. Build a network of green ways.  
Connect and improve city parks and buildings..



*Social spaces created to celebrate the art of neighbourhood.  
Common spaces for interaction*

13. Invest in community social activity and frame works, like facilitates, communist gardens, schools, gather image.

Office districts that have been allowed to develop in cities without requirements for a good mix of retailer, restaurant, and residential complements, then into ghost town at the end of the work day.

When an area is growing positive amenities attract other positive amenities. As planners add to the fabric of the city, they have an opportunity to add to the potential amenities that can serve as a bevel to people.

The strategies identified here are possibility for be possibilities for beaning happiness joy into any design project. Urban designers' architects and planners can apply this knowledge through policy decision and designs that give grated priority to integrating hence in meaningful way. That thoughtfully filter natural light in a variety of ways, that off mp surprises through incorporating art and play into each project, that ensure access to the benefits of the city to every demographic.

Design for happiness / Architects for joy has synergies with crime reductions, sustainability and public health.

They can approach their design and city shaping policy work with an eye towards making people happy, which is a noble pursuit sided.

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