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The social resonance of urban landscapes and the influence of green spaces on collective identity

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Abstract: *Urban landscapes serve as dynamic backdrops to the daily lives of city dwellers, shaping not only the physical environment but also the social fabric of urban communities. In particular, green spaces—parks, gardens, and other natural areas—have emerged as critical elements in fostering a sense of collective identity, offering spaces for social interaction, recreation, and reflection. This paper explores the social resonance of urban landscapes, focusing on how green spaces contribute to the formation of collective identity within urban contexts. Drawing on theories of place-making, social capital, and environmental psychology*

• Introduction

The perception of nature denotes a sentimental attachment to the surroundings. Human environmental attitude manifests as a subjective expression of the linkages in the nature–society complex, suggesting that environmental decisions could benefit from a multiple-factor perspective. This affects the relevant research on this topic, reflecting the trend towards a holistic assessment of the environment. Additionally, it has been proposed that environmental behaviors are a function of past experiences and memory, value and beliefs, and local culture and history.

Material and method.

In this study, we used a mixed methodological approach, including the bibliographic method and the questionnaire method to obtain a thorough and well-grounded understanding of the subject under study.

• Results and discussions

The study examines how green spaces function as symbolic and functional sites of belonging, offering a sense of community cohesion and cultural continuity. By facilitating both individual and collective engagement with the natural environment, these spaces act as mediators between the urban and the natural, fostering a collective sense of place that transcends individual experience. Through case studies of diverse cities, the research highlights the role of green spaces in fostering inclusivity, supporting civic participation, and promoting social well-being, ultimately contributing to the construction of urban identities that reflect both the physical and social landscapes in which they are embedded. This paper argues that the integration of green spaces in urban design is not only crucial for environmental sustainability but also for the cultivation of resilient, inclusive, and vibrant urban communities.

Conclusions

The perception varies according to socioeconomic differentiation of residential communities. Traditionally, suchlike studies tend to focus on demographic characteristics of respondents such as age, income and ethnicity, and park features such as vegetation biomass, species composition, park setting and landscape attributes.

