

Aesthetic experiences



Empirical research on aesthetic experiences

**Experts' views
on aesthetic
quality**



**Layman's
aesthetic
experiences**



Appleton: prospect - refuge -theory



Aesthetic experiences a la Kaplans

	Understanding	Exploration
Immediately apparent	Coherence <i>(the extent to which the scene seems to "hang together")</i>	Complexity <i>(information richness of the scene)</i>
Can be inferred or predicted	Legibility <i>(the predicted navigability of the scene upon further exploration)</i>	Mystery <i>(the promise of the scene offering additional information upon further exploration)</i>



The cathedral of Tampere



Tirkkonen's house



How did Tampere residents justify their aesthetic preferences?

Buildings

Areas

Ugly

BOX-LIKE
MONOTONIC

DENSELY BUILT
MONOTONIC

Beautiful

- OLD
- MYSTERIOUS
- ENVIRONMENTALLY COMPATIBLE
- DECORATIVE
- PLEASANT MATERIALS
- IMPRESSIVE
- GOOD CONDITION

- CLOSE TO NATURE
- OLD
- WELL MANAGED
- PEACEFUL
- ENVIRONMENTALLY COMPATIBLE

Features related to the perceived aesthetic quality

Nasar J.L. (1989) Perception, Cognition, and Evaluation of Urban Places. In Human Behavior and Environment , Vol 10 pp 31-56

Nasar J.L. (1998) The Evaluative Image of the City. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications, Inc.

Collative features

- complexity
- novelty
- surprise
- discrepancy
- obscurity
- decorativeness

- in Essu-study
- only in Essu-study

Psychophysical features

- size
- brightness
- colour
- contrast

Ecological and contextual feature

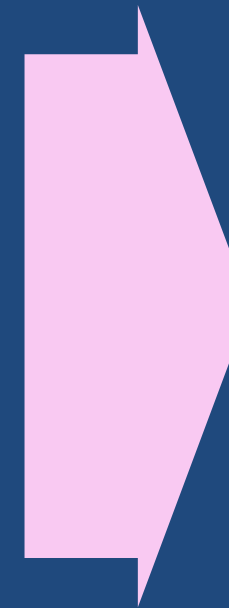
- closeness to nature
- building style
- distraction: noise, traffic
- building materials
- condition of building/area
- age (old)

Organizing features

- order
- coherence
- consistency
- clarity
- environmentally compatible

Spatial features

- prospect
- refuge
- mystery
- openness



VISUAL PLEASANTNESS

- Closeness to nature
- Good maintenance
- Openness
- Historical meaning
- Coherence
- Compatibility

Evaluating the neighbourhood: Kivikko audit 2004

	Experts	Inhabitants
Mean score	9.40	8.75
Rank order	1.	1.
Comments	+ Restful colours + The planning of the yards	+ Beautiful architecture - No access/ routes to the forest



The varying aesthetic criteria

Nasar, 1994: Urban Design Aesthetics. Environment and Behavior 26(3):377-401.

Pleasant place

- order
- moderate complexity
- familiar and historical elements
- popular rather than "high" style
- not too far from prototype solutions
- minimal distraction



Interesting, exciting place

- very complex
- original
- low order

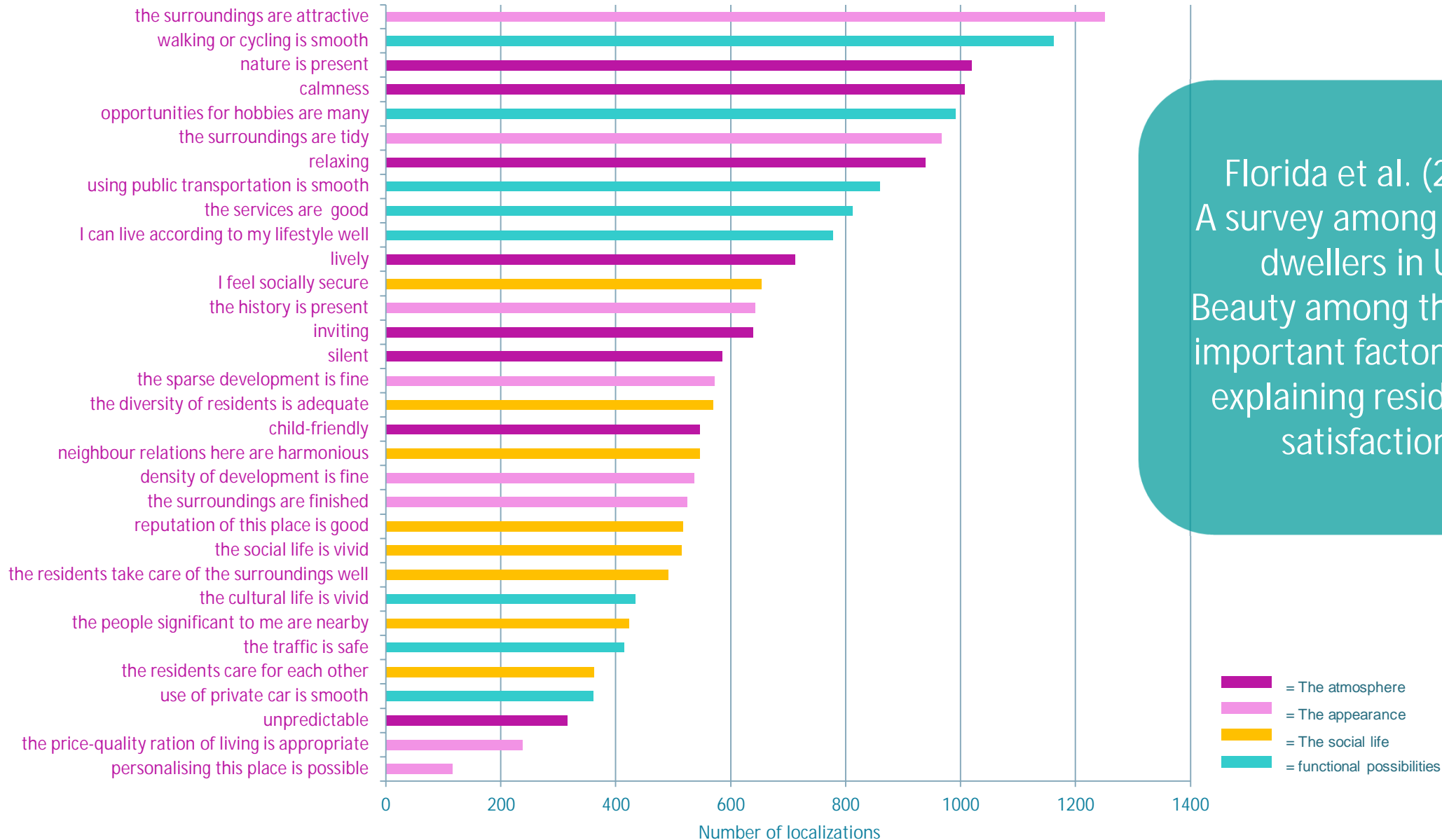


Restorative, relaxing, peaceful place

- high order
- natural elements and materials
- familiar elements



The contents of positive quality factors



Florida et al. (2011)
 A survey among 28 000
 dwellers in US:
 Beauty among the most
 important factors when
 explaining residential
 satisfaction.

- = The atmosphere
- = The appearance
- = The social life
- = functional possibilities