ABSTRACT

The need to consider legibility as an aspect of architectural design is an issue that is understated and often overlooked. Legibility affects how one perceives a built environment, and determines how well one is able to navigate and locate oneself within that environment. In this sense, the legibility of an architectural setting ascertains the ease with which one is able to move through and utilise that setting.

An investigation of public transport architecture is undertaken in this study to look into the effects of design considerations on the legibility of an architectural setting. In view of the growing demands on public transportation, and the extensive developments being implemented for local land transport infrastructure, there is an increasing need to consider legibility as a design criteria for transport nodes. In order for the transportation network to operate efficiently, the commuter must be able to comprehend the setting in which public transportation is utilised. To this effect, there is a need for transport nodes to be legibly designed built environments.

This study identifies three key levels at which considerations for the legibility of an architectural setting needs to be carried out. These are namely, considerations at the urban level, considerations of spatial organisation, and considerations of navigation cues such as signages. Through an examination of various architectural factors to be considered at each of these levels, this study attempts to identify an approach for the appraisal of the legibility of public transport architecture. Consequently, it aims to illustrate the possibility of creating a more legible environment, and to heighten design sensitivities towards the need to do so.