LOST IN SPACE - AN INVESTIGATION OF NAVIGATION IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS

by

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ABSTRACT

There are many ways of studying navigation in architecture. Navigation dialogues can be structured according to a number of different principles, depending on the respective aspect of the user's task.

This dissertation is based on the general proposition that the basic inventory of navigational concepts in architecture is similar to other "geographic" regions, e.g. the computer interface. The geographic complexity engendered by the nesting of environments, functions, programs and menus of the latter can be to an extent affiliated with the architectural building program of an air terminal where size and internal complexity have made it a new building type of the 20th century. The air terminal and the information-processing system of the computer are evident models of the geographic complexity that is a new and unique abstract phenomena based on the technology of our time.

The methodology is to make a comparison of the 2 models in the new task environments that have been built up for the user.

The objective of this dissertation is thus to retrieve a rationalist understanding of the application of navigation in architecture, on how the biological system deals with navigation and how it processes images for the purpose of successfully moving around in their world. What can be concluded from the investigation is that in a sense, architects and designers are already engaging in spatial problem-solving using cognitive maps, analyzable in terms of the functional properties of synchronous mental representations. In other words, there exists a critical connection between mental representation and navigation.

KEYWORDS navigation, information systems, spatial knowledge.

Chapter 5: Discussion

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