

HOW ARCHITECTURE REGULATES

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Abstract:

Scholars are increasingly interested in understanding how architecture affects behavior and how it can be used proactively to influence particular behavior, such as enhancing social interaction or reducing crime. The relevant research spans disparate fields including architecture, geography, urban planning, sociology, and law. The result is a diverse set of concepts, theories, and methods for understanding how architecture regulates. This paper attempts to synthesize the existing research into three meaningful categories. They revolve around communication, interaction, and biases. First, architecture can play a communicative role by expressing cultural or symbolic meanings. Second, the architecture can affect how people interact. Third, architecture can be biased and treat certain social groups or values more favorably. This categorization provides scholars and professionals with a practical and clear perspective for how architecture affects us.