Accessibility and wayfinding in elderly people in urban parks: a case study in a zoobotanic park in the northeast of Brazil.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Complexity in mapping accessibility conditions in public urban leisure spaces

Search-action

Interdisciplinary look:
Architecture and Urbanism
+ Occupational Therapy

- Person-Environment relation;
- The Elderly;
- Physical space needs;
- Accessibility;
- Wayfinding

URBAN PARKS AND ELDERLY PEOPLES

Possible spaces for leisure practice;
Facilitating socialization;
Areas of Quality of life
The study aimed to identify aspects that can influence spatial orientation (wayfinding) and the accessibility for elderly people in urban parks.

**1. OBJECTIVE**

Based in Study of Master degree In Architecture and Urbanism

2. METHODOLOGY

This is a descriptive and exploratory study with the use of multimethod required in the built environment's postsettlement evaluation.

- **Local:** Zoobotanic park Arruda Câmara in the city of João Pessoa Brazil.

- **Period:** Jan.2016 >> Jul. 2017

- **Research Strategies:**
  - Exploratory field observations;
  - Walkthrough;
  - Behavior maps designing;
  - Interviews with the target public;
The results show built environment maintenance flaws, accessibility barriers (ramps/stairways in advanced stage of deterioration, absence of signing standards), lack of continuity in walkways, and the lack of staff training in order to provide adequate information. These factors were perceived as environmental difficulty generators that can affect the way the elderly people become spatially oriented, utilize, perceive and experience the urban parks.
4. CONSIDERATIONS

The use of the multimethod approach is effective to Occupational Therapy, since it expresses in the relationship person environment the dynamic potential of occupation in urban living environments.
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