KNOWLEDGE SITS IN PLACES: SCHOOL FUNCTION AND PRISON FORM

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All man-made structures have an effect on people, similarly such buildings can either coexist with nature or create a sense of opposition. In order to create an optimal sense of place, a positive place attachment and a secure place-identity, the exterior form of a building and landscape must coexist and work as one with the interior and nature. Ever since the architectural styles of Modernism and Post-modernism took hold, their ongoing influences has undermined the communication between the architects/city planners/school district and the community, teachers and students, likewise place has not been considered in the planning. The impact that school buildings have on students is not fully understood. Much research is available on the interior functions of academic structures, but data about the particulars of the exterior, the façade and the space between the street and school entry is lacking. The purpose of this study is to add to the limited available data in the realm of school image and investigate how school environments/places, affect students, parents, teachers, staff and the community?. It is important to understand students' sense of place around the exterior spaces of a school building. This study provides the opportunity for students to voice their thoughts in regards to their perceived reactions of their school building and campus. The following research question guided this qualitative study: Given the historical architectural connection between school and prison buildings, what aspects are still common in schools and would such features have any impact on students and staff? Commitment should be focused towards the aesthetics and meaning of our schools exteriors. Our school buildings should intermingle harmoniously with what education stands for and what goes on in the interior of such academic structures. It is time for all those involved in the preservation of older schools and the creation of newer ones, to commit in working together, allowing students input in regards to creating a place, an educational place where the academics and architectural design unite in providing a sense of place for students, where their identities may flourish and mature. Where all may find a place of knowledge.