GUIDANCE AND WAY FINDING SYSTEM

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic signs</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neglected indicators</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To be a better system</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dear infrastructure</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Happy affects of indicators</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintance of guidance system</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intelligent guidance in architecture</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bibliography</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INTRODUCTION

My infrastructural case study is signage and way finding system in the city. The signage and way finding system consists of an identification system and a guidance system, which often appear together in a highly fused manner. When I was looking through some information on the internet, I found that the signage and wayfinding system can be divided into the follow categories, guiding signage, name signage, Comprehensive information signage, description signage and warning signage. When I was walking in Stockholm, I can see a lot of facilities which have guiding function like traffic warning sign, street sign, street board, traffic light, zebra crossing, parking space indication system, public position indication and so on. Such as the subway system map and orientation map in the subway station, the directional sign on the road, they are all signage and way finding system.

The signage and guidance system can connect people in urban complex traffic with public transportation space. It is a powerful information support in the urban public environment, and it is especially important to improve people’s multi-directional discrimination. When we are waiting for the subway in the subway station in Stockholm, we can see the information on the sign board remained us which train will arrive and how long time does the subway arrive. an important auxiliary facility in urban public transportation environment, the signage guidance system is often ignored by people.

Most guided marking systems work well as an infrastructure in Stockholm except for some system. Nowadays, people can get a lot of information about the public transportation through phones, for example, we can get the information about the arrival time of bus or subway on Google map or SL, but sometimes, the information has a slight error as the arrival time is a little bit different between the phone and the information board in bus stops, which usually has 1-2 minutes difference. Although it is not very serious problem, it will bring some inconvenience to the passengers. If I see the information that the bus arrival time is 9.00 am, but the time on information board is 9.02 am, the inaccuracy of information will influence the way we choose to take the transportation.

The signage and way finding system affects us a lot, but there is still some improvement to make, for example, public building directional signs must take into account the different needs of various user groups, not only to meet the needs of normal users, but also to consider the use of vulnerable groups in special circumstances. For example, in hospital, accessible space is a prerequisite for most vulnerable groups to gain independent action and freedom. Traditional static-oriented signs lacks information variability and adaptability, for some special people like blind people they can not see the information on the information board. The demand of vulnerable people should also be considered into the design of signage and way finding system in other public buildings.
At the beginning of ‘An internet of things’, Keller Easterling said, ‘An ‘internet of things’ describes a world embedded with so many digital devices that the space between them consists not of dark circuitry but rather the space of the city itself. The computer has escaped the box, and ordinary objects in space are carriers of digital signals.’

A world is embedded with so many digital devices and Information transmission is ubiquitous in our lives as intangible infrastructure. Information transmission is the transmission of command or status information from one end to another through a channel and received by the other party. As Keller Easterling said, Any space can be its carrier in the city. This kind of infrastructure also Promotes the interaction between users and other infrastructure.

The use of Information transmission brings great convenience to our daily life. When I was taking a bus in Stockholm for the first time, I found there is a red button on many armrests on the bus which We can easily reach and press. I don not know what this red button is used for at the beginning. When I saw the person sitting in front of me pressed the button next to him and got off at the next stop, I know that this button is used to remind the driver that there are passengers to get off at the next stop. This is a small case of information transmission on the bus which can Promote communication between drivers and passengers without taking. It is the technology of information transmission that makes this design be used on the bus and this design has amounts of advantages, it saves time because if there are no passengers getting off, the driver does not need to stop at the next stop and continue driving.

In Stockholm, this kind of User-friendly design can be seen everywhere. Besides the red buttons, there are almost pedestrian buttons on the crosswalk traffic lights. All of these achievements of humanized design in traffic system need the support of using information transmission. In the future, we can do a lot of effort of using this technology in architecture space to bring more convenience for people and animals.
Butler, Judith said, ‘vulnerability is not a subjective disposition, but a relation to a field of objects, forces, and passions that impinge upon or affect us in some way.’ When I saw this sentence the first time, I think it is very interesting because the concept is very abstract. It true that the infrastructural vulnerability is also caused by many complicated reasons, such as the people who use it, the relevant architecture, the operation of the traffic system. I am focusing on studying the way finding signage guidance system since the signage guidance system is very important in our daily life but is also usually ignored by people who are not using it.

As an important auxiliary facility in urban public transportation environment, the signage guidance system is often ignored by people. The signage guidance system can connect people in urban complex traffic with public transportation space. It is a powerful information support in the urban public environment, and it is especially important to improve people’s multi-directional discrimination. When we are waiting for the subway in the subway station, we can see the information on the sign board remained us which train will arrive and how long time does the subway arrive. We can also see the indicator in the bus station, subway station or on the road. Just think about what will happen if there is no wayfinding signage guidance in public transportation since Urban traffic environment is gradually developing in a three-dimensional direction. The suitable use of the system will help the stranger get the information he needs in the fastest time in an increasingly complex space.

The beautiful urban rail transit identification system can beautify the visual environment of the rail transit space and create a pleasant and comfortable ride environment. In Stockholm, every subway station is decorated by different types of pattern, in which you can feel the fascination of the city culture. This kind of design is also a good way to help people remember different station. But the wayfinding signage guidance system is not very perfect in Stockholm. For instance, one subway station has several exports, when we get off of the subway we don not know which direction we should go because there is no direction sign which wastes time of passengers from other city. Therefore, there are still much necessity to improve the signage guidance system in public transportation in Stockholm.

The design of the traffic’s signage system is an important part of improving the transportation construction. The effective and standardized public traffic guidance system is the soul of modern traffic guidance. Reducing passengers’ ineffective stay time plays a very important role in the function of rail transit.
03 TO BE A BETTER SYSTEM

Chertoff has stated that “a fence by itself is not going to work, but in conjunction with other tools, it can help.” Just like this sentence says, infrastructure are not an independent thing but a system which contain components and they operate in relation to each other to work well together. As for the signage and wayfinding system which contains identification system, direction system, space system, description system and management system, these systems highly integrated to help people move orderly or find their destination efficiently in a strange space environment.

When it comes to its historical emergence, the Aesop System Movement in the 1920s established the world’s first and most comprehensive graphic communication system, and people began to pay attention to visual graphic communication systems. In 1933, British designer Henry Baker changed the subway map system from three aspects, the color graphics and fonts, which is a great improvement of subway signage system in the world. There is no doubt that a good signage and wayfinding system plays an important role in the development of a city.

When I was looking through some information on the internet, I found that the signage and wayfinding system can be divided into the follow categories, guiding signage, name signage, Comprehensive information signage, description signage and warning signage. When I was walking in Stockholm, I can see a lot of facilities which have guiding function like traffic warning sign, street sign, street board, traffic light, zebra crossing, parking space indication system, public position indication and so on. Some facilities like the information board in the bus stop or subway station is not just a flat sign but a technical tool connected to internet, people can know the arriving time of the bus accurately.

Signage and wayfinding system as a member of the environmental facilities, it shows its importance and brings comfort and convenience to our lives. They don’t only help passerby go through a space or reach a destination, but also visually increase the value or attractiveness of an environment by means of identification and notification. For instance, every foreign tourist who comes here for the first time will be stunned by the subway stations in Stockholm. It is like an underground art gallery. The different style of the stations help us to remember the station better and also attracts a lot of tourists. From the careful design of a subway station, you can see the ingenuity and life of a city and a nation.

In conclusion, the signage and wayfinding system needs to improve her functions, and constantly improve and perfect the requirements of design, color, font and graphics, and truly become the soul of guidance.
Hi dear,

My lovely friend, I think I must say thanks to you since you helped me a lot when I came to Stockholm on the first day and I fell in love with you at that moment. You and your friends play an important role in my life and my life will become confused without the guidance of you.

I thought of you when I saw your family members in the subway station or on the road. The indicator and information board are your brothers and sisters, you are important landscape in modern cities. When I arrived Stockholm in the airport on the first day, I felt very helpless and lonely because I felt strange to this city and I did not know which direction to go until I saw you in the airport, you appeared in my life like an angel. I saw the guidance information on your body and I followed your guidance to get out of the airport and found the bus to KTH successfully. You are so selfless and intelligent to provide information for passerby. That is why I fell in love with you and I want to see you and your family members everyday.

In fact, you are not only a way to identify the direction, to find roads, to identify signs of public facilities, to convey objects, but more to reflect the importance of a region, a city, a group, and an urban cultural identity. Some of your family members are electric information which are connected to internet. We can know lots of information about the arriving time of the subway or the bus through phones.

I love your selfless, your intelligence, your exquisite appearance. I hope to see you everyday and anywhere, I want meet you in the streets, in the bus station, in the subway station. You let me integrate into the city and enjoy the life in the city. Our city will be more beautiful and more humanized because the existence of you.

I am wondering how the scene will be when I see you next time and Looking forward to meeting you as soon as possible. At the end of the letter, I want to tell you, the strongest feeling in the world is not "I love you," but "I am used to having you." Relying on each other is the deepest love.

Yours truly, Ying
Tekniska högskolan

Bus stop
Central park
Toilet
“The greatest happiness consists in the having those things which produce the greatest pleasure”. Happy objects could be described simply as those objects that affect us in the best way.

Our emotions will be affected by many things in life. For example, when we travel to a new city, we are excited by the fresh environment and the city scenery, but at the same time, we will have some confusion as we take the wrong line of subway which wastes us a lot of time; I felt embarrassed because I couldn’t find a public toilet in the new city. According to the road signs, sometimes it will be awkward for us to go the wrong direction, and the emergence of these problems has disturbed our interest and affected our mood.

As for signage and way finding system, whether the information it provides for us is perfect or not could affect our activities and feelings.

A good guiding system can bring accurate street information which has a good guiding effect. For instance, the current indicator symbols in bus stop or subway station are set up to facilitate people to find the target orientation, establish conspicuous guiding symbols in a more complex public environment, and provide good social services through it, resulting in efficient work efficiency. We will feel comfortable if the indicator system works very well in a complex place because it saves us a lot of time which may be spent to find some places without these indicators. In contrast, irregular and incorrect use of graphic signage may cause inconvenience or problems for people in the city. In Stockholm, the information on the signage board is all Swedish without English, it does not make sense for foreigners who do not know Swedish.

Some facilities could also provide a sense of security for passers-by, such as the signage on the road which have the role of prohibition: the identification of the signage for management and use of guidance, it can remind people to pay attention to safety, limit speed, prohibit entry and other signs.

In the era of rapid development of information technology today, the signage and way finding system is the medium of urban environmental information, which brings comfort and convenience to our lives. A good system can affect our emotion and feelings actively.
This is an indicator!

Mom, Where should we go?
‘In setting the conditions for this experience—curating the experience of space, maintaining the object (whether along with or counter to the intentions of its author)—the low and denigrated chores of housework are not ‘Other’ to architecture, but provide the basis for its ‘Art.’’ Catharina Gabrielsson said in ‘The Critical Potential of Housework’. He explained the importance of housework in maintaining an Architecture to keep the house clean and ensure its keeping.

It is true that infrastructure maintenance guarantees the normal operation of the infrastructure. I was thinking if guided marking system break down and can not be used in some situation, what will happen to our daily life. If there is no complete identification and signage system, it is equal to the city’s map system and road identification system is not perfect, it will take a lot of time to find an address. Most guided marking systems work well as an infrastructure in Stockholm except for some system. Nowadays, people can get a lot of information about the public transportation through phones, for example, we can get the information about the arrival time of bus or subway on Google map or SL, but sometimes, the information has a slight error as the arrival time is a little bit different between the phone and the information board in bus stops, which usually has 1-2 minutes difference. Although it is not very serious problem, it will bring some inconvenience to the passengers. If I see the information that the bus arrival time is 9.00 am, but the time on information board is 9.02 am, the inaccuracy of information will influence the way we choose to take the transportation.

Inaccurate information of the guiding identification system is also a kind of defect of infrastructure. Inaccurate information and missing identification information in public transportation will influence our activities in some aspects. Therefore, maintenance of guided marking system takes an important part in the normal operation of the system.
“the ethics of care offers hope for rethinking in more fruitful ways how we ought to guide our lives. It has the potential of being based on the truly universal experience of care. Every human being has been cared for as a child or would not be alive. ”

When we talk about care, most of the time we will think about how to take care of a person. Infrastructure should also be well cared like humans to maintain its work. As signage and way finding system, they are everywhere in our daily life. Signage and way finding system is usually designed combining with architectural space design and architecture is the carrier of this system because it can not work individually without architecture.

The intelligent design of signage and way finding system with architectural space is popular in some public architecture, which is the good care for signage and way finding system. In many cases, the existing guiding signs can not meet people’s needs. For example, the replacement of information and the destruction of signs will cause people to get wrong information. The universal use of indoor and outdoor navigation systems and portable terminal equipment provides technical and intellectual support for the development of intelligent display indicators for public buildings in the future. For instance, there are not only static signage indicators in subway stations, but also the electric information board. You can see the arriving time and the line of the subway on the information board, which can help people get the information they need faster and better.

Also, intelligent guidance system enable a better user experience for the user community. This is the design with a combination of indoor positioning technology and guiding signs in public buildings. For example, with the wide application of two-dimensional codes, at the elevator entrance of many public buildings, the user can access the virtual building guiding identification system by scanning the two-dimensional code through a portable terminal such as a mobile phone while viewing the physical identification system.

With the development of internet and interaction design, many guidance indicators could not be static guidance boards any more. Since many of the existing logos are static, once the logo information changes, the old indicator has to be redesigned, added, or even completely overturned. The application of intelligent signage and guidance system can save a lot of time cost and economic cost.
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