

ABSTRACT

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Study Program : Architecture
Title : Redesign Special Education and Therapy Center for Mentally Retarded Children using a Behavioral Architecture Approach

Children with mental retardation are one of the classifications of children with special needs. Occupying the second highest number in Indonesia, there are still many people who are not yet aware of these children. The lack of education and understanding of mentally retarded children makes the lack of educational and therapeutic facilities for them. Although there are already several facilities that have been provided by the government, but these facilities are still inadequate due to the design of the building, which still follows the typology of public school. Children with mental retardation who are children with special needs certainly have special characteristics and personalities as well, so that it requires a building design that can understand that. This research was conducted to answer the problem by adding architectural variables namely behavioral architecture approach. The behavioral architecture approach is intended to make mentally retarded children to feel comfortable and be themselves while in the learning environment. The application of this approach can also help the development of mentally retarded children faster because of the feeling of comfort and security they feel. Therefore, this research will use the theory of mentally retarded children, special education, therapy, and behavioral architecture which is also the main variables in this. Researchers analyzes based on existing theories, precedent design, and observation sites then all three will be connected and drawn into conclusion to be the basis of the design criteria for the redesigning process. The results of the case studies conducted at Saraswati Learning Center became a decision for the researcher to redesign because in term of location that were lacking in facilities for mentally retarded children and the architectural designs that could be developed and adapted to behavioral architecture to improve comfort and care for the mentally retarded children.

Keyword: Mentally-retarded Children, Special Education, Therapy, Behavioral Architecture