



Therapeutic Environments—Existential Challenges and Healing Places

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Message from the Guest Editors

Architecture and nature can support human health and well-being, as well as provide places for reflection and the creation of memories. In this way, environments are intimately entwined with our psychological processes. When people find themselves in difficult or challenging life situations, or are confronted with life changing events such as war, illness, or grief, they often start looking for places to help express and contain their emotions. One cultural way of dealing with existential challenges is physical movement, e.g. through pilgrimage or other forms of long-distance walks; another way is to seek out places of emotional or historical importance, such as memorials, churches or monasteries, or places designed for therapeutic, spiritual or physical transformation. Feeling secure and sheltered are crucial factors that support individual healing, transformation and well-being.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Scientific discoveries and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a rational basis for informed decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards.

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