



Title: Spatial estimation of visitor's pauses in a Cistercian Church

Abstract

While visiting a building, the individuals (visitors) occasionally interrupt their movement to contemplate the architecture of the building or other decorative motifs of interest. In the context of the research project GESTURE: an empirical process to assess meaning in a piece of architecture, an experimental procedure was conceived to recognize the visitor's behavior. The experimental research was applied to two groups of volunteer students of the Integrated Master in Architecture from the Lisbon School of Architecture, University of Lisbon (39 individuals from 1st year and 11 individuals from 5th year) when carrying out a visit to the church of the Monastery of Alcobaça, located in the middle-west of Portugal. It was recorded the time and place of stopping that each individual dedicated to the observation of a certain architectural feature. Through geostatistics methods, namely the ordinary kriging, the stopping time was estimated for the church and each group of individuals. The results show the areas preferred by each group and the differences between the two groups, which are discussed.

Keywords: Spatial Estimation, Modelling, Architecture Observation, Cistercian Church, Alcobaça