

EXPLORING PERCEPTUAL CONTENT IN SOUNDSCAPES

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At the quiet and noisy sides of buildings 69 residents of three residential areas found 414 soundscapes to be similar with regard to sounds discerned. The most frequently heard sound was road traffic. At the quiet sides, children playing, talking people, birds and unidentified sounds were more often heard indoors with windows closed than outdoors. Generally, sounds heard outdoors were louder than those heard indoors. Ventilation and traffic sounds were loudest at the quiet and noisy sides, respectively. The loudest soundscapes were found at the noisy side outdoors and the least loud at the quiet side with closed window. The perceived quality of the soundscapes were assessed with 12 attributes representing the four components adverse, reposing, affective, and expressionless (88% explained variance in PCA). The outdoor soundscapes showed predominantly high agreeableness for adverse attributes and low agreeableness for the reposing attributes and the reverse indoors with closed window.