

The light festivals and their role in improving the urban life quality (a study case in Japan)

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The light festivals are one of those events that during the last decades and through the technological achievements, have been extended worldwide, playing an important role in the cities. In this article we have focused on the definition and position of the light festivals in the cities. We studied the lighting process in the cities and how the festivals, their capacities and potentials can affect the urban life. After a general presentation we focused on the Japanese light festivals and how they influence the social life in this country. The light festivals have two separate characteristics that are illumination and festival as effective parts in urban spaces. The conclusion regarding these components shows that in order to provide high quality lighting and illumination results, it is preferable that these events are organized and celebrated in the urban central areas, that will encourage and help the economic vitality, improve the sense of identity, increase the social relations and communication between the people, aiming to the final result that is the improvement of life quality. Studying the Japanese case studies, we realized that the festivals helped not only to achieve the above mentioned goals, but were an effective tool to reduce the psychological and spiritual stresses caused during and after the natural disasters like the earthquakes, playing a positive role to encourage the reconstruction process, that probably we can't see in festivals organized in other cities in the world.