
Alban Janson

Porosity — Ambiguous Figure and Cloud

Abstract

Architecture has to do with fundamental differences. Inside and outside or separation and connection, for instance, are opposed to each other. The specifically architectural quality however can be recognized in the complementarity or interplay (or mixing?) of these opposite terms. Creatively employing such differences, their correlative, dialectic or ambivalent relations, have always been a constitutive topic of architecture. In the context of the issue “mixings” it seems to be worthwhile to put some emphasis on these fundamental concepts. Similarly essential for architecture as the relationship between inside and outside is the complementary relationship of solid and void. Their interlacing and mutual penetration can be considered as a characteristic phenomenon, which here will be called “porosity.” The crucial attribute of porosity is that a new spatial substance emerges from such “mixing,” in which the fundamental differences remain effective at the same time. Mixings should not become blurrings.

Keywords

Porosity, Ambiguous Figure, Cloud, Space-Body-Continuum, Phenomenology of Architecture