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Synesthetic Bodily-Spatial Resonances

Abstract

Experiences – and thus experiences of architecture – are always experiences of complete situations. They are genuinely synesthetic: they involve, as a rule, a combination of aspects of different sensory modalities as well as of different mental domains such as perception, cognition, action, and emotion. These aspects can be analytically identified, but not separated from each other as »components« of an experience: any experience is ineluctably a Gestalt-like whole and, as such, »integratively synesthetic« rather than »summatively synesthetic«. The kinesthetic sense is essential for experiences.

It forms not only the basis of self-perception, but also the basis of world-perception and of the experience of meaning. This sense can be stimulated directly but also indirectly by other senses and even by thoughts and fantasies. In this way, both sensory content and meaningfulness partake in bodily-spatial sensations and are blended into a unified experience.