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Synaesthesia.

A Basic Form of Perception – for Example of Architecture

Abstract

Synaesthesias are important in human perception. This also applies to designing architecture and its felt bodily experience. The article does not focus on normal synaesthesia that we know as intermodality, but on synaesthesia as an integral form of perception.

Especially the *Neue Phänomenologie* by Hermann Schmitz serves as theoretical point of reference here. The article will depict that architecture, in its design and development phase, is following a twofold rationality. The same holds true for the experience of built environments. Firstly it evokes feelings and secondly it communicates meaning corresponding to these feelings. In this sense, affective experience of architecture is an integral part of its understanding. Powerful architecture is based on synaesthetic conceptualizing and so each building appeals to synaesthetic perception. Eventually this article will discuss references to atmospheres and metaphors.