

Spatial Extension

Abstract

Unlike seeing for pictures or hearing for music, none of our senses can be identified as adequate for the experience of architecture. We cannot perceive architectural space through seeing, hearing or touching alone. For the experience of architectural situations we need a more comprehensive sensorium. Our personal sphere is involved, giving us the feeling to be near the things. In many instances, that which we perceive in the concavity or introversion of spaces, or in their directionality, their gestural character, or expansiveness, the way in which we experience form characters, the porosity of built forms, and many other spatial effects, is graspable only through some conception of the expansion of our personal space and its extension.

Upon entering, we are all aware of how our sense of space, our personal sphere, seeks to engage with the space, how it expands, taking in the space – in reality as well as in our imagination. Since architecture does not only consist of structural elements but must be understood as complex situations, including the subjective components of spatial experience as well, for the most part, architectural phenomena can be characterized through the specific unfolding of such phenomena.