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Between Atmosphere and Character

Mixing Architectural Metaphors with the Eighteenth Century

Abstract

This paper argues that the contemporary theories of atmospheres in buildings and landscapes, represented foremostly by the writing of Gernot Böhme and Peter Zumthor, posit a model of spectatorship very similar to the empathetic models found in Sentimental architectural treatises of the eighteenth century. Both types of theory assert the importance of a mixing of the sensual impressions (synesthesia) in the aesthetic contemplation of spaces.

Keywords

Atmospheres, Sentimental Aesthetics, Spatial Perception, Landscape Gardening, Poetics of Space