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Visual Negotiation

Sketches and Co-speech Gestures

Abstract

This chapter reflects the relevance of the body for the development of ideas in the field of design and architecture. It examines to what extent gestures and manual forms of expression can be defined as medial practices. Do these, like other media, take part in processes of abstraction and association, and do they thus influence the conceptual design process? Can the gesture space in which hands are used to form, model and draw be interpreted as media-discursive? The thesis of the chapter is that gesturing, like sketching, can be described as a medial practice of architectural design. It is asked which role our body plays in the linguistic and gestural development of ideas and which operations, procedures and representation techniques are used. The aim is to explore the hand that moves three-dimensionally in space, draws and forms for new theoretical and methodical approaches, and to investigate it as a *thinking* hand within an imagery and design practice in the context of design.

Keywords

Gesture, Body, Sketch, Perception, Design Process