Function at all events.
An ontology of architectural function

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Abstract

Architecture executes an array of specific actions. This claim marks an initial point for the introduction of an ontological view on function in connection with architecture. This approach is orientated towards the metaphysics of objects as developed by philosopher Graham Harman. Basically, Harman argues that to every entity belongs a dual structure constituted through appearance and effect. Accordingly, the concrete entity is a visible or discussable termination of its action or function, which resides secretly behind. What does this implicate for architecture? The materialization of architecture initiates in general a discussion about its effects. They are not reducible to the apparent architectural object. This is one aspect. The other refers to the situation that function is a kind of formal cause. ›Form‹ raises questions in terms of the relation between form and function as well as between subject or user and the architectural object.