

Thursday, August 22 | 6:15 PM



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In Quest of Attuned Architectural Atmospheres: Contributions of Enactive Cognitive Theory and Neurophenomenology

In my most recent book, *Attunement, Architectural Meaning after the Crisis of Modern Science*, I explain the centrality of the concept of atmosphere for architectural meaning and its historical roots. I demonstrate the relevance of our growing concern with attuned places, at odds with the dominant concept of architecture as a geometric, aesthetic object. I show the association of *Stimmung*, the unique German term implying both atmosphere and mood, with the traditional aims of architectural meaning since Vitruvius, encompassed by terms such as harmony and temperance, explaining how architecture had traditionally sought psychosomatic health, framing lived experience with order and stability congruent with local cultural values.

Stimmung became a central concern for artistic expression in view of the adverse cultural conditions of the late 18th and early 19th centuries and was engaged by practices of resistance against the dominant formalistic and technological assumptions of mainstream modern planning and building production. In order to fully grasp the possibilities of *Stimmung* and its implementation nowadays, creating life-enhancing atmospheres responsive to human action and to place in the fullest sense (as both natural and cultural context), a proper understanding of consciousness and perception beyond Cartesian misunderstandings is crucial. To this aim, insights drawn from neurophenomenology and so-called third-generation cognitive science prove indispensable. My lecture will discuss in detail these insights, drawing from recent works on phenomenology, neurophenomenology and enactive cognitive science.