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Evolving, Creating, Imagining: The Birth Of Architecture In A Relational World



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Two currents of thinking underlie Juhani Pallasmaa's approach to embodied and empathic imagination. One comes from evolutionary biology and cognitive science; the other from environmental and architectural phenomenology. But these currents run at cross purposes. Attempts to reconcile the two through the appeal to concepts of embodiment, extension and empathy are unconvincing. To resolve the contradiction, what is required is nothing less than a new biology, relational and developmental rather than evolutionary in the Darwinian sense, along with an approach to creativity and imagination that takes us beyond the dichotomy between mental imagery and physical execution. What would be the implications of such an approach for an architecture that lives and breathes?