energy studies, short-term interests have effectively inhibited anything but the most limited application of such models and one may take it as a reflection of these interests that architectural schools have largely ceased to concern themselves with such matters.

This aloof critique of current design praxis and its pedagogical substance brings us to the question once again of the full nature of the art of building. The present tendency to polarize the quiescence of built form as though it were of necessity one single thing appears to my mind to be nothing other than an ideological refusal to confront historical reality. The building task intrinsically resists such polarization. It remains far too distant at that phenomenological interface between the infrastructural and superstructural realms of human production. There it ministers to the self-realization of man in nature and mediates as an essential catalyst between the three states of his existence: first, his status as an organism of primal need; second, his status as a sensate, hedonistic being; and finally, his status as a cognitive, self-affirmative consciousness. Autonomous artistic production certainly has its many provinces but the task of place creation, in its broadest sense, is not necessarily one of them. The compensatory drive of autonomous art tends to remove it from the concrete realization of man in the world and to the extent that architecture seeks to preempt all culture it consciously divorces itself from both building and the realm of historical reality. This much Adolf Loos has already intimated by 1910, when he wrote with characteristic but understandable overstatement: "Only a very small part of architecture belongs to art: the tomb and the monument."

The Geometry of Feeling: A Look at the Phenomenology of Architecture 

Juhani Pallasmaa

Like Christian Norberg-Schulz, Finnish architect and theorist Juhani Pallasmaa is concerned with architecture's loss of communicative power. This essay, published in Finnish and Danish architectural journals with English translations, establishes a phenomenological position. Meaning in architecture, Pallasmaa asserts, depends on its ability to symbolize human existence or presence, and as modern architects appear to have overlooked, on the spatial experience of the work. Forms themselves are meaningless, but can transmit meaning via images enriched by association. Science and reason, he maintains, have contributed limiting mindsets like analysis, materialism, and reductionism, with unfortunate consequences for architecture. By contrast, the experience of architecture is synthetic, operating at many levels simultaneously: mental/physical, cultural/biological, collective/individual, etc. Based on readings of Edmund Husserl, Martin Heidegger, and Gaston Bachelard, Pallasmaa formulates a theoretical position about experience's reliance on memory, imagination, and the unconscious.

In "The Phenomenon of Place," Norberg-Schulz asserts that "to dwell in a house is to inhabit the world." This idea of the house as a condensation of broader, worldly experience is echoed in the significance Pallasmaa gives to the dwelling place:

A house in fact is a metaphysical instrument, a mythical tool with which we try to introduce a reflection of eternity into our momentary existence.

The author purports that the richest interpretations come from the simplest archetypal forms: column, gable, arch; dome, tower. Concerns that this indicates a nostalgic, stylistic agenda (postmodern historicism) are contradicted by Pallasmaa's own sensussen, abstract "architecture of silence" and his criticism of postmodern collage as superficial formalism.
THE GEOMETRY OF FEELING
A LOOK AT THE PHENOMENOLOGY OF ARCHITECTURE

Why do so very few modern buildings appeal to our feelings, when almost any anonymous house in an old town or the most unpretentious farm outbuilding gives us a sense of familiarity and pleasure? Why is it that the stone foundations we discover in an overgrown meadow, a broken-down barn or an abandoned boathouse can arouse our imagination, while our own houses seem to stifle and smother our daydreams? The buildings of our own time may arouse our curiosity with their daring or inventiveness, but they hardly give us any sense of the meaning of our world or our own existence.

Efforts are today being made to revitalize the debilitating language of architecture both through a richer idiom and by reviving historical themes, but despite their effusive diversity, avant-garde works are just as bereft of meaning as the coldly technical approach to building that they are rebelling against.

The impoverishment of the inner meaning of architecture has also been pondered in numerous writings on architectural theory recently. Some writers think our architecture is too poor in terms of form, others that its form is too abstract or intellectual. From the viewpoint of cultural philosophy our entire hedonistic materialism seems to be losing the mental dimension that might in general be worthy of perpetuation in stone.

ARCHITECTURE AS PLAY WITH FORM
In turning into a specialist profession, architecture has gradually detached itself from its intentional background, becoming a discipline which is more and more fully determined by its own rules and value systems. Architecture has come to be a field of technology which still ventures to believe itself a form of free artistic expression.

Ezra Pound said that music degenerates if it moves too far away from dance, and poetry shrivels if it becomes too remote from music and song. In the same way, architecture has its own origins, and if it moves too far away from them it loses its effectiveness. The renewal of an art means rediscovering its deepest essence.

The language of art is the language of symbols that can be identified with our existence. If it lacks contact with the sensory memories that live in our subconscious and link our various senses, art could not but be reduced to mere meaningless ornamentation. The experience of art is an interaction between our embodied memories and our world. In one sense all art originates from our body, as the perceptive art essayist Adrian Stokes has pointed out.

It is also vital if we are to experience architectural meaning and sense that the effect of the building should find a counterpart in the world of the viewer's experience.

THE EIDOS OF ARCHITECTURE
As architects we do not primarily design buildings as physical objects, but the images and feelings of the people who live in them. Thus the effect of architecture stems from more or less common images and basic feelings connected with building.

It is basic feelings like these that phenomenology analyses, and it has become a more common method of examining architecture, too, in the last few years. A philosophical approach attached most closely to the names of Edmund Husserl and Martin Heidegger. It is introspective in nature, in contrast to the desire for objectivity of the positivist standpoint. Phenomenology strives to depict phenomena appealing directly to the consciousness as such without any theories and categories taken from the natural sciences or psychology. Phenomenology thus means examining a phenomenon of the consciousness in its own dimension of consciousness. That, using Husserl's concept, means "pure looking at" the phenomenon, or "viewing its essence." Phenomenology is a purely theoretical approach to research in the original sense of the Greek word *theoria*, which means precisely "a looking at."

The phenomenology of architecture is thus "looking at" architecture from within the consciousness experiencing it, through architectural feeling in contrast to analysis of the physical proportions and properties of the building or a stylistic frame of reference. The phenomenology of architecture seeks the inner language of building.

There is on the whole great suspicion of an introspective approach to art because it is thought to lack objectivity. But people do not seem to demand the same kind of objectivity from the artist's creative work. A work of art is a reality only when it is experienced, and experiencing a work of art means recreating its dimension of feeling.

One of the most important "raw materials" of phenomenological analysis of architecture is early childhood memory. We are used to thinking of childhood memories as products of the naive consciousness and imprecise memory capacity of the child, something with great appeal but of as little real value as our dreams. But both of these preconceived ideas are wrong. Surely the fact that certain early memories retain their personal identifiability and emotional force throughout our lives provides convincing proof of the importance and authenticity of these experiences, just as our dreams and daydreams reveal the most real and spontaneous contents of our minds.

ARCHITECTURE WITHOUT ARCHITECTS

Fruity material for a phenomenological analysis of architectural experience is also offered by the ways in which architecture is presented and depicted in other branches of the arts. In poetry, images connected with buildings are common, and are the actual material of Gaston Bachelard's work "La Poètique de l'Espace." Bachelard has also written a phenomenological work on the poetics of daydreams ("La Poétique de la Réverie"), which has many points of contact with the art of building in spite of its nonarchitectural subject. In novel writing, film, photography, and painting the secret language by which landscape, buildings, and objects influence people also often plays a crucial role. There are examples in the classics of Russian literature, the films of Alfred Hitchcock and Andrei Tarkovsky, Walker Evans's photographs, or the architecture shown in paintings, from medieval miniatures to Edward Hopper's landscapes of metaphysical loneliness and Balthus's rooms full of erotic anxiety. A writer, film director, or painter has to give the human event he is presenting a setting, a place, and thus in fact to perform a job of architectural design without a client, structural calculations, or a building permit. The presentation of architecture in other arts is the "pure looking" of a child's way of experiencing things, for the rules of architectural discipline do not regulate the experience or the way it is presented.

THE ARCHITECTURE OF MEMORY

The inner architecture of the mind emerging out of feelings and memory images is built on different principles from the architecture developed out of professional approaches. I personally, for instance, cannot bring to mind from my own childhood a single window or door as such but I can sit down at the windows of my many memories and look out at a garden that has long disappeared or a clearing now filled with trees. I can also step through the innumerable doors of my memory and recognize the dark warmth and special smell of the rooms that are there on the other side.

THE PRIMARY FEELINGS OF ARCHITECTURE

I have said that architecture cannot be a mere play with form. This view does not spring from the self-evident fact that architecture is tied to its practical purpose and many other external conditions. But if a building does not fulfill the basic conditions formulated for it phenomenologically as a symbol of human existence it is unable to influence the emotional feelings linked in our souls with the images a building creates. Architectural effect is based on a number of what we could call primary feelings. These feelings form the genuine "basic vocabulary" of architecture and it is by working through them that a work becomes architecture and not, for instance, a large-scale sculpture or scenography.

Architecture is a direct expression of existence, of human presence in the world. It is a direct expression in the sense that it is largely based on a language of the body of which neither the creator of the work nor the person experiencing it is aware.

The following types of experience could well be among the primary feelings produced by architecture:

— the house as a sign of culture in the landscape, the house as a projection of man and a point of reference in the landscape;
— approaching the building, recognizing a human habitation or a given institution in the form of a house;
entrance into the building's sphere of influence, stepping into its territory, being near the building;
—having a roof over your head, being sheltered and shaded;
—stepping into the house, entering through the door, crossing the boundary between exterior and interior;
—coming home or stepping inside the house for a specific purpose, expectation and fulfillment, sense of strangeness and familiarity;
—being in the room, a sense of security, a sense of togetherness or isolation;
—being in the sphere of influence of the foci that bring the building together, such as the table, bed, or fireplace;
—encountering the light or darkness that dominates the space, the space of light;
—looking out of the window, the link with the landscape.

I should think that experiencing loneliness is one of the basic feelings given by architecture, just like the experiences of silence and light and often found in [Louis] Kahn's texts. A strong architectural experience always produces a sense of loneliness and silence irrespective of the actual number of people there or the noise. Experiencing art is a private dialogue between the work and the person experiencing it which excludes all other interaction.

The natural landscape can never express solitude in the same way as a building. Nature does not need man to explain itself, but a building represents its builder and proclaims his absence. The harrowing feeling of being left alone achieved by the metaphysical painters is based precisely on signs of man which are a reminder of the viewer's solitude.

The most comprehensive and perhaps most important architectural experience is the sense of being in a unique place. Part of this intense experience of place is always an impression of something sacred: this place is for higher beings. A house may seem built for a practical purpose, but in fact it is a metaphysical instrument, a mythical tool with which we try to introduce a reflection of eternity into our momentarily existence.

Architecture exists in another reality from our everyday life and pursuits. The emotional force of ruins, of an abandoned house or rejected objects stems from the fact that they make us imagine and share the fate of their owners. They seduce our imagination to wander away from the world of everyday realities. The quality of architecture does not lie in the sense of reality that it expresses, but quite reverse, in its capacity for awakening our imagination.

Architecture is always inhabited by spirits. People known to us may well live in the building, but they are only understudy actors in a waking dream. In reality architecture is always the home of spirits, the dwelling place of metaphysical beings.

The defenders of the humanization of architecture today are completely mistaken when they claim that buildings should be designed for the needs of real people. I would like them to name a single great building in the history of architecture that was not built for the idealized man. The primary condition for the production of good architecture is the creation of an ideal client for the commission at hand.

MULTISENSORY EXPERIENCE
An impressive architectural experience sensitizes our whole physical and mental receptivity. It is difficult to grasp the structure of feeling because of its vastness and diversity. In experience we find a combination of the biological and the culturally derived, the collective and the individual, the conscious and the unconscious, the analytical and the emotional, the mental and the physical.

The symbols and associations in the language of art can be interpreted in many ways and make our consciousness shift from one possible interpretation to another. Adrian Stokes refers, for instance, to the close connection between experience of marble and low relief, and water fantasies.

Then how about the sound space created by drops of water falling occasionally in a dark, damp vault, the urban space created by the sound of church bells, the sense of distance that we feel when the sound of a night train pierces our dreams, or the smell space of a bakery or sweet shop? Why do abandoned, unheated houses have the same smell of death everywhere? Is it because the smell we sense is in fact one created through our eyes?

THE BEGINNING
I talked once with a church official about church design. He stressed the importance of knowing about the liturgy, iconography, and other internal rulings of the church. He seemed upset when I said that only a heathen can design a really expressive church. In my view the symbol of faith can only be turned into stone by someone who is being newly introduced to the dimensions of faith. A person for whom the design of a church is merely the organization of given forms can produce only empty sentimentality.