Stimmung: Atmosphere and its Origins in Western Architectural Theory

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Architecture remains in crisis, its social relevance lost between the two poles of formal innovation and technical sustainability. Architecture, a multisensory—not pictorial—experience, operates as a communicative setting for societies; its beauty and its meaning lie in its connection to human health and self-understanding. Drawing on recent work in embodied cognition, the lecture argues that the environment, including the built environment, matters not only as a material ecology but because it is nothing less than a constituent part of our consciousness. Our physical places are of utmost importance for our wellbeing. Architecture is seen through the lens of mood and atmosphere, linking these ideas to the key German concept of Stimmung—attunement—with roots in Pythagorean harmony and Vitruvian temperance (or proportion), and its modern reliance of the linguistic nature of the human imagination.

Thursday, November 12 at 13h00

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