

Stimmung: Atmosphere and its Origins in Western Architectural Theory

Alberto Pérez-Gómez

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**

**Please write to cissc@concordia.ca
(with "ATMOSPHERES" in the subject
line) to register and you will be sent a
Zoom link.**



From the cover of *Attunement: Architectural Meaning after the Crisis of Modern Science* by Alberto Pérez-Gómez (2016)

Alberto Pérez-Gómez studied architecture and practiced in Mexico City. In 1983 he became Director of Carleton University's School of Architecture (Ottawa, Canada). Since 1987 he has occupied the Bronfman Chair at McGill University, where he founded the History and Theory post-graduate programs. He is the author of numerous essays published world-wide. His books include *Architecture and the Crisis of Modern Science* (MIT Press, 1983); Hitchcock Award in 1984), *Polyphilo* (MIT Press 1992), *Architectural Representation and the Perspective Hinge* (MIT Press 1997), *Built upon Love* (MIT Press 2006), *Attunement* (MIT Press 2016) and *Timely Meditations*, 2 vols. (2016 RightAngle Intl).

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