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 JUHA LEIVISKÄ. Architecture as a dialogue between body - brain - space

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Juha Leiviskä:

Architecture as a Dialog Between Body – Brain – Space

This research intends to establish a phenomenological approach to architecture and how it influences our body and brain. Focus on Juha Leiviskä's work, one of the most important Nordic architects alive of the XX century. Studying his works represent an opportunity to quantify how modern architecture is capable of producing sensory effects on its users, changing their mental, physical and social behavior. Architecture is a physical and mental phenomenon, a body and mental experience. Understanding our body as a biological and cultural organism that is constantly changing, where our building environment and space has a strong impact is why is essential for architecture to understand our body, our mind and the space. Here we present architecture as an answer, a symbiosis between our brain, body and our geographic and cultural places. The link between the man and architecture take us to research about neuronal and corporal reactions and responses based in neuroscience, specifically Antonio Damásio work, Merleau-Ponty theories about phenomenology of perception and Juhani Pallasmaa that defend that architecture needs to mediate our relations with our biocultural past, in his book Habitar. How the buildings we project, where we educate, read, study, pray, model our way of being and our behavior? This means, how does the morphology of this spaces affect human development and behavior, not only on an individual but collective level? These are the main questions this research intends to answer through the study of different representative works project by J. Leiviskä, with different programs, places, contexts and cultures. These projects are analyzed taking into account the phenomenological dimensions established on a theoretical base, in addition to a conceptual, contextual analysis, material behavior is also intended with the use of neuroscience tools, to verify the built environment impact on the users, through interviews or with the measurement of eye movements, among other techniques used to measure architectural experience. Also programs like the Space Syntax, or other tools of morphological analysis of space. Thus, one of the objectives is to understand the dialectic between J.Pallasmaa theory and J. Leiviskä architectural practice.

