Affordances and the Potential for Architecture

Essays from Sarah Robinson, Harry Francis Mallgrave, and James Hamilton

Introduced by Andrea Jelic
Edited by Bob Condia
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With essays by: Sarah Robinson Harry Francis Mallgrave and James Hamilton

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Sarah Robinson is an architect practicing in San Francisco and Italy. She holds degrees in Philosophy with honors from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and University of Fribourg in Switzerland and an M. Arch from Taliesin, the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture, where she served as the founding president of the Board of Trustees. She has written Nesting: Body, Dwelling, Mind, Mind in Architecture: Neuroscience, Embodiment and the Future of Design, with Juhani Pallasmaa and the forthcoming book, Home is Love, in addition to numerous literary and critical essays. She cofounded and edits the journal Intertwining and teaches in the NAAD program at IUAV in Venice, she lives in Pavia, Italy.

Harry Francis Mallgrave is a distinguished professor emeritus from IIT and an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects. Through the course of his early career, his publications largely dealt with the history and theory of architecture, but in recent years his focus shifted to the implications of the human and biological sciences for the future of design. He received his PhD in architecture from the University of Pennsylvania and is a recipient of the Alice Davis Hitchcock Award. His most recent book is From Object to Experience: The New Culture of Design (Bloomsbury: 2018). He is currently writing a book on the idea of “Building Paradise”- how utopian models have shifted in the past and in what ways they will shift in the future.

Andrea Jelić is an architect and postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Architecture, Design and Media Technology, Aalborg University, Denmark. Her research focuses on exploring the nature of architectural experience from the integrated perspectives of architecture, embodied cognitive science, and phenomenology. She has published articles in this emerging interdisciplinary field in architectural and scientific journals, and guest lectured at international conferences and workshops in USA and Europe. Dr. Jelić is Advisory Council member of ANFA and faculty member in the master program “Neuroscience applied to architectural design” at IUAV University of Venice.

James R. Hamilton, Professor of Philosophy at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas, USA, works on aesthetic issues and issues in the philosophy of art. He is an empirically and formally oriented philosopher, working on topics that are to do with the nature of theatrical enactment, how to model the reception of performances in theater, music, and dance, the reception and aesthetics of architecture and scenography, and our interactions with puppets and other animated objects. He strives to make his work informed by related work in fields like decision theory, formal learning theories, cognitive neuroscience, psychology, anthropology, and history.