

Generators of Architectural Atmosphere

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Review

Atmosphere. Appellation for the moods and ambience created by architecture, adjusted for lived events in its discrete spaces and attuned to its site: amplifying and harmonizing priory meanings abiding in place. Most arduous to objectify and impossible to quantify. From Ancient Greek *atmós*, “vapour, steam,” either poisonous or advantageous for the body and mind, taken in by respiration. Originally in the Sanskrit *âtman*, “inner self,” a breathing, non-dualistic soul: first principle or true self of a liberated individual before identifying with phenomena. *Atmós*: moving water, foggy air, once deemed capable of bearing fleeting emotional images, like the imagination of the inner self, abiding both inside and out.

Amenable finally to denote our spherical, airy, and affective abode, site of emotions and words coupled to the human breath, where we speak and are with others. Latin renders breath as *spiritus*, also the life-force and inner self. Atmospheres may thus accomplish architecture’s spiritual function as we breathe and live, accommodating wise a priori habits with semantic amplification, offering poetic and ethical change, assisting our affective and intellectual self-knowing. An architectural atmosphere is a power to attune human life, one inherently out of tune for acknowledging itself as mortal, and in humble affinity with the beneficial actions of affectionate and amorous divinities.

Alberto Pérez-Gómez

An Alliterative Lexicon of Architectural Memories

A notion in progress

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