Cognition et design de l’environnement / Cognition and Environmental Design

Institut des sciences cognitives de l’Université du Québec à Montréal, QC Canada

Une journée d’étude s’adressant aux étudiant-e-s, aux chercheur-e-s, aux professionnel-le-s, aux gestionnaires publics et privés, ainsi qu’aux intervenant-e-s des milieux industriels et gouvernementaux intéressé-e-s à discuter autour de l’importance d’allier les sciences cognitives au design de l’environnement. Ayant lieu le 6 décembre 2019 au Centre Canadien d’Architecture, la journée se déroulera comme suit / A workshop for students, researchers, professionals, public and private managers, as well as industry and government stakeholders interested in discussing the importance of linking Cognitive Sciences to Environmental Design. Taking place on December 6, 2019 at the Canadian Center for Architecture, the day is organized as follows:

9:00  Introduction / présentation des possibilités de recherche et des bénéfices possibles

9:30  Présentation de Hugo Spiers (Institute of Behavioural Neuroscience, University College London, UK), Titre de la présentation à venir.

10:15  Présentation de Andrea Jelić (Brain, Body, Architecture Research, Aalborg University, DK). The enactive approach to memory and embodied meaning in architecture — The starting point of this talk is a proposal that the long-standing tradition of phenomenology in architecture and the recent interest in cognitive science can be channeled through the enactive-embodied view to provide a rich(er) understanding of how architecture affords being-in-the-world. By drawing on the enactive and affective approach to cognition and on the account of affordances as relations between the environment and skillful abilities available in the human form of life, I discuss how the task of architects can be conceptualized as designing the embodied experience of spatial affordances. Through examples of affective (heritage) architecture, the aim of this talk is to indicate how the design of affordances as spatial materializations of the sociocultural patterns, practices, and meanings can create conditions for meaning and memory to emerge from bodily and emotional experience of an architectural space.

11:00  Période de questions et de discussion avec tous / animée par Maxwell Ramstead (Jewish General Hospital), David Howes (Concordia University) et Natalie Bouchard (ISC-UQÀM)

12:30  Pause dîner
Présentation de Alberto Pérez-Gómez (McGill University, CA). In Quest of Attuned Architectural Atmospheres: Contributions of Cognitive Theory and Neurophenomenology — In my most recent book, I unpacked the centrality of the concept of atmosphere for architectural meaning and its historical roots. I explained the relevance of our growing concern with attuned places, at odds with the dominant concept of architecture as a geometric, aesthetic object. I showed the association of Stimmung, the unique German term implying both atmosphere and mood, with the traditional aims of architectural meaning since Vitruvius, encompassed by terms such as harmony and temperance, explaining how architecture had traditionally sought psychosomatic health, framing lived experience with order and stability congruent with local cultural values. Stimmung became a central concern for artistic expression in view of the adverse cultural conditions of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, and was engaged by practices of resistance against the dominant formalistic and technological assumptions of mainstream modern planning and building production. In order to fully grasp the possibilities of Stimmung and its implementation nowadays, creating life-enhancing atmospheres responsive to human action and to place in the fullest sense (as both natural and cultural context), a proper understanding of consciousness and perception beyond Cartesian misunderstandings is crucial. To this aim, insights drawn from neurophenomenology and so-called third-generation cognitive science prove indispensable. This lecture is aimed at discussing some of these insights.

Présentation de Colin Ellard (University of Waterloo, CA). Central and peripheral visual contributions to architectural atmosphere — Visual perception proceeds through an orchestrated dance of the eyes and a collaboration between central vision, which gives us colour and detail, and peripheral vision, which gives us space, movement and gist. But where does atmosphere come from? Recent theoretical work has suggested that architectural atmosphere may arise as an affordance based on an interaction between the properties of a scene and the functional organization of the peripheral visual system. In my talk, I will describe a series of experiments using the tools of immersive virtual reality, eye tracking, and psychophysiology, and designed to decompose the separate contributions of centre and periphery to the emotional experience of architecture. I will argue that atmosphere depends heavily on peripheral visual processing and arises very quickly, even before the details and meaning of a setting have been analyzed.

Période de questions et de discussion avec tous / animée par Maxwell Ramstead (Jewish General Hospital), Sylvain Paquette (Chaire en paysage et environnement, UdeM) et Natalie Bouchard (ISC-UQAM)

Conclusion / retour sur ce qui s’est dit au cours de la journée et relevé des points permettant de définir un axe de recherche au sein de l’ISC-UQAM.

Mot de la fin et remerciements