

Cognition et design de l'environnement

Une journée d'étude pour discuter des avantages de combiner l'expertise et les connaissances en sciences cognitives à celles liées au design de l'environnement — 6 décembre 2019, Maison Shaughnessy, Centre Canadien d'Architecture

Cognition and Environmental Design

A WORKSHOP to discuss the benefits of combining cognitive sciences expertise and knowledge to that of environmental design — December 6, 2019 Shaughnessy House, Canadian Centre for Architecture, Montréal

9:00

Introduction • présentation des possibilités de recherche et des bénéfices possibles / Presentation of research possibilities and possible benefits

9:30

Présentation de / Presentation by Hugo Spiers (*Institute of Behavioural Neuroscience, University College London, UK*). **How does the structure of an environment impact navigation choices, brain activity and emotion experienced in the space?** — I will present our recent research exploring how: a) the structure of the built environment impacts the neural activity of people navigating through it, b) how the environment we grow up in can have an impact on how well we will find our way in different environments and c) how the structure of a space impacts on the emotional experience when encountering the space. — **Hugo Spiers** is Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience in the Department of Experimental Psychology at University College London. He is the director of the UCL Spatial Cognition Lab which explores how our brain represents the world allow us to recall the past, navigate the present and imagine the future. His research team combine brain imagining of humans navigating virtual environments, mass online assessment with apps, GPS tracking in wild, and the study of neural population dynamics in rats exploring mazes. / Hugo Spiers est professeur de neurosciences cognitive au département de psychologie expérimentale de l'University College London et directeur du laboratoire de cognition spatiale de l'UCL. Lui et son équipe étudient l'influence que le rappel du passé, la navigation dans le présent et la conception de l'avenir ont sur la mécanique cérébrale qui engendre notre représentation de la réalité.

10:15

Présentation de / Presentation by 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. — **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. / Andrea Jelić est architecte et chercheuse postdoctorale au département d'architecture, de design et de technologie des médias de l'université d'Aalborg, au Danemark. Ses recherches portent sur l'exploration de la nature de l'expérience architecturale à partir des perspectives intégrées de l'architecture, des sciences cognitives incarnées et de la phénoménologie.

11:00

Période de questions et de discussion avec tous • animée par / Period of questions and discussion with all • chaired by **David Howes** (*Professor of Anthropology and Co-Director of Centre for Sensory Studies, Concordia University*) and **Natalie Bouchard** (*PhD researcher, ISC-UQAM*).

12:30

Pause dîner / Lunch break

13:30

Présentation de / Presentation by 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. — **Alberto Pérez-Gómez** is the Bronfman Professor of Architectural History at McGill University, where he has been teaching since 1987. He previously taught architecture in Europe and the United States, and was Director of the Carleton University School of Architecture. His research takes as its core the phenomenological and embodied experience of architecture, and investigates its performative and narrative aspects. His books include *Architecture and the Crisis of Modern Science* (MIT Press, 1983), *Polyphilo* (MIT Press, 1992), *Architectural Representation and the Perspective Hinge* (with Louise Pelletier, MIT Press, 1997), *Built upon Love* (MIT Press, 2006), and most recently *Attunement* (MIT Press, 2016) on questions of atmosphere, and *Timely Meditations* (RightAngle Intl., 2016), a collection of essays in two volumes. / Alberto Pérez-Gómez est professeur

d'histoire de l'architecture à l'Université McGill. Il a enseigné l'architecture en Europe et aux États-Unis et a été directeur de la School of Architecture de l'Université Carleton. Ses recherches s'inspirent de l'expérience phénoménologique et incarnée de l'architecture et étudient ses aspects performatifs et narratifs.

14:30 Forum de discussion • animé par / Discussion Forum • chaired by **Pierre Poirier** (*Professor, Philosophy Department, ISC-UQAM*) and **Natalie Bouchard** (*PhD researcher, ISC-UQAM*).

16:00 Conclusion • récapitulatif de la journée et points à mettre en lumière pour définir un axe de recherche au sein de l'ISC-UQAM / Summary of the day and points to bring to light to define a research axis within ISC-UQAM.

16:30 Mot de la fin et remerciements / Closing remarks and thanks

Parce que certains de nos invité-e-s ne maîtrisent pas le français et pour favoriser un échange hors frontières lors de la webdiffusion, **la journée se déroulera en anglais**. Il sera néanmoins possible de poser vos questions et/ou d'intervenir en français. Pour accéder à la salle et prendre part à la discussion, veuillez vous inscrire (c'est gratuit !) car les places sont limitées / **The workshop will be conducted in English**. To access the room and take part in the discussion **please register** (it's free !) as seats are limited: <https://cognition-and-environmental-design.eventbrite.com>

L'événement sera webdiffusé / The event will be webcasted, keep an eye on @iscUQAM #cogscidesign <http://isc.uqam.ca/babillard/cognition-et-design-de-lenvironnement> for details.

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