PHOTOGRAPHY, AND THE ART OF SEEING IN ARCHITECTURE

by

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ABSTRACT

Photography has always been for me, for as long as I can remember, a means of expression, a 'place' of solitude and an instigator of thought. And when I began my education in the field of architecture, it was inevitable that discourses and theories from both worlds would become entwined and fused within my mental psyche.

The photographic image is everywhere. Be it student, academic or practitioner, we have employed the photograph in countless number of graphic presentations in a bid to express, visually, our ideas.

This dissertation attempts to explore how we perceive the photographic image, especially in relation to the subject of architectural space and discuss the effectiveness of the photograph as a representation of that space. The research examines writings on the subject of the ontology of sight, representations, with an emphasis on Merleau-Ponty's work on perception, to help us acquire a deeper understanding of our 'interaction' with the image.

Through studies made on selected photographic works, the dissertation presents its findings on the elements and situations that result in an inaccurate reading and interpretation of the represented subject through the photograph.

The objective of the dissertation is to increase our sensitivity to the phenomenology of the photographic medium as employed in the representation of architectural space. And to be the point from which research of the subject in greater detail may take off.

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