Abstract

Architecture is primarily concerned with the design of buildings for human use, and to provide the inhabitants with a sense of self and place. However, pre-occupation with the quantifiable features of building organisation has negated the qualitative aspects of the whole architectural experience.

Architecture, more fully than other art forms, engages the immediacy of our sensory perceptions. Every touching experience of architecture is multi-sensory; qualities of matter, space, and scale are measured equally by the eye, ear, skin, nose, tongue, skeleton and muscle. The feelings of light, colour, sound, temperature, smell as well as those of height, width and depth, interact and infuse with each other to bring meaning to architectural space.

This dissertation looks into the often hidden dimension of architecture – the senses. It seeks first an understanding of the tensional relations between body and space. Next it re-establishes the significance of the body and its senses in experiencing architecture. An understanding of how and what the senses experience in space provides the basis for the reconciliation of body and space in the sensory dimension.