ABSTRACT

A phenomenological approach to architecture has recently surface and is becoming in importance. The reason arises due to the lack of emotive power of the return to the ancient themes of post-modernist architecture. While philosophical phenomenology arises out of a response to the Cartesian world view that sees a separation between the person and the world, a phenomenology of architecture similarly felt that the use of Cartesian conception whereby we treat architecture 'scientifically', we miss the concrete environmental character which gives a sense of human existence. A phenomenology of architecture, therefore attempted to study consciousness or the philosophy of experience. In doing so, it is to look for human meanings in actions and experiences of the world of everyday life in order to seek a better understanding of people and the environment. The most important architectural experience is the sense of being in a unique place. Place is seen evidently as an integral part of existence.

This paper is an inquiry into the possibilities and potential values of a phenomenological approach to architecture through the study of the philosophies and theories underlying the phenomenological tradition. First of all, we have to understand that a phenomenology of architecture is closely link to philosophical phenomenology. So we look at the historical background that gives rise to philosophical phenomenology. Following that would be the study of a more concretized phenomenology proposed by Husserl and his followers which a phenomenology of architecture draw its references from. Finally, there would be a look at how modern architects and architectural theorists apply these concepts in formulating a phenomenology of architecture. The paper therefore basically look into the themes and central ideas of phenomenology, and how these ideas are applied to architecture.