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<u>Coming to terms – Psychological Remarks on</u> <u>the Teaching of Architecture</u>

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Reduce Reuse

Recycle















mutual exchange of meanings, beliefs, assumptions etc.

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<u>Concepts are not static. They organize our</u> <u>perceptions, create expectations and direct our</u> <u>actions.</u> But where do we find such a common ground? What are the basics of the architectural experience?













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<u>What is it that makes Venice such a strong</u> <u>experience?</u>

Let us take Venice as an example.

<u>What is it that makes Venice such a unique</u> <u>experience?</u>

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<u>What does it mean to "understand" a place like</u> <u>Venice?</u>

Which are the concepts that help us to articulate the Venice experience?

<u>At the core of the Venice experience lies the</u> <u>pleasure that arises from our interaction with</u> <u>architectonic urban space.</u> At the core of the Venice experience lies the pleasure that arises from our interaction with architectonic urban space.

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<u>This is enabled by an extremely rich</u> <u>arrangement of spatial situations that can be</u> <u>explored and described.</u> But isn't Venice a much too far off example to function as a common ground for kids that grow up in Berlin, Graz, or Dortmund? But isn't Venice a much too far off example to function as a common ground for kids that grow up in Berlin, Graz, or Dortmund?

<u>No. The basic vocabulary of architectural</u> <u>experience is the same. It might sometimes be</u> <u>hard to find spaces with similar qualities in the</u> <u>modern city, but it is all the more important to</u> <u>keep looking for them.</u> But isn't exploration of architectural space and communication of spatial experience a much too passive way of learning about space? Where is the hands-on experience? But isn't exploration of architectural space and communication of spatial experience a much too passive way of learning about space? Where is the hands-on experience?

Exploration and communication are complex forms of activity. They provide feet-on, eyes-on and ears-on experiences. The conceptual common ground built up by them is the basis for creative beavior, for active manipulation of space. It doesn't work the other way round. And what about involvement? Where is the political value in a vocabulary of spatial experiences?

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<u>Again, awareness of our relation to space and</u> <u>the competence to communicate our</u> <u>experiences to ourselves and others is a</u> <u>necessary prerequisite for getting involved.</u> <u>Involvement without this awareness would be</u> <u>blind or lacking direction.</u>

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In a way, yes. But then, aren't we all just tourists in this life? The fascinating thing is that our experience of architectural space remains largely unaffected by our knowledge of the problems of Venice. It is a common ground in spite of and because it is artificial. But Venice, of all places! Isn't it just a tourist trap? A totally artificial Disneyland?

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<u>Go see yourself.</u>