

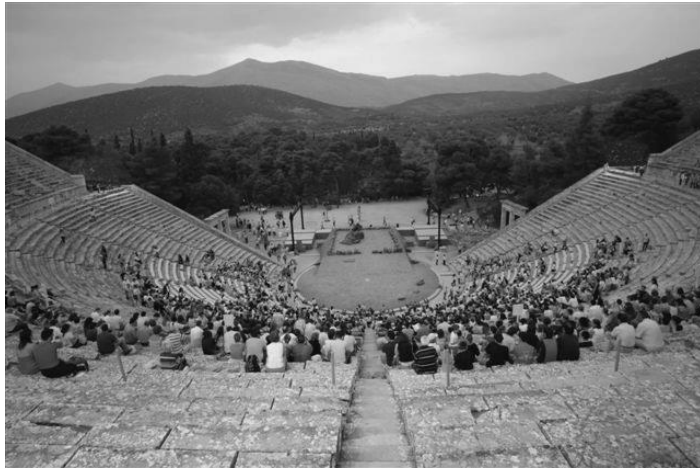
Shaping Spaces, Creating Spatial Relations

On the socio-spatial aesthetic of space formation

Keywords: space-formation, aesthetic theory, design theory, Neues Bauen, Team Ten, Structuralism.

Architecture Department (Architecture and Dwelling)

Area of Research: Architecture / Design & History



Research Summary: The research deals with architecture as spatial design, oriented around the fundamental socio-spatial purpose of architecture to materialize a social organization of space. Accordingly, the focus of the research lies on the part of spatial design that comprises the immediate forming and structuring of physically defined spaces, which is the formation of space.

As a starting point the research takes the argument that in particular space formation unites both spatial aesthetic and socio-spatial purposiveness, by which the latter is made aesthetically effective. It is from this basis that space formation, in turn, acquires its fundamental architecture-artistic significance.

This notion of a socio-spatial aesthetic of space formation is placed in the context of architectural history and leads to an analysis and critical discussion of the following architecture-theoretical assessments of space and spatial design: a) various 'art-scientific' concepts of space-formation at the beginning of the 20th century (August Schmarsow et al.), b) the conception of Walter Gropius as a protagonist of the movement of 'Neues Bauen' and c) the conception of Aldo van Eyck as a protagonist of Team Ten and Dutch structuralism.

How these concepts, and particularly Gropius' and Van Eyck's different attempt to tie architecture-artistic designing back to society and lifeworld, turn out to be from the perspective of that socio-spatial aesthetic of space formation?

Research Methodology: The research mainly comprises an examination of theoretical concepts by means of a qualitative text analysis, completed by the study of secondary literature. In the case of Gropius and Van Eyck empirical case studies are additionally used as a means of illustration and to provide independent results.

Key Publications: 'Tectonic Construction and its Relation to the Shaping of Space.' Conference paper (Eindhoven, 2007), 'The Architectural Shaping of Space. An exploration – combined with a critical analysis of Aldo van Eyck's and Dom Hans van der Laan's concepts of architectural space.' (research project (Fonds BKVB), 2010).



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Main Question:

In which way, the various approaches refer to space and space formation:

- a) at the aesthetic level of sensuous perception and artistic expression,
- b) at the purposive level of use, organization and appropriation of space,
- c) regarding a connection of both levels?

Deliverables: A better understanding of space formation as the basic element of architectural design and a deeper insight in the *relative* autonomy of architecture.

Link(s): www.osarchitecture.nl

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