

4.607

Thinking About Architecture: In History and at Present

Instructor: Prof. Mark Jarzombek

TA: Ana María León

M: 9.30-12:30

LECTURE NOTES: November 9

Philosopher	Associated with:
John Locke	Social Contract, Professional Practice
Emmanuel Kant	Psychology
Georg Friedrich Hegel	History
Karl Marx	Economy and Politics
Sigmund Freud	Psychoanalysis
Friedrich Nietzsche	The modernist ego
Edmund Husserl	Phenomenology

Emmanuel Kant in *Critique of Judgement* (1790) outlines 3 “stages” of Enlightenment.

1. Think for yourself
2. Think as if you were in the shoes of others
3. Repeat 1 and 2 until it becomes habitual

He introduced, with point 2, the idea of what we today call empathy, feeling for others. Modern psychology – post 1880s - developed from Kant’s second principle.

Psychology is an academic and applied discipline which involves the scientific study of mental functions and behaviors usually in the context of our relationships with others.

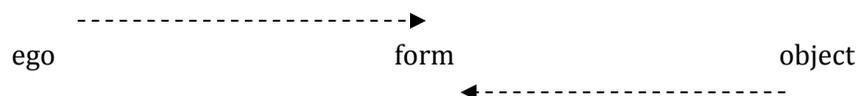
Robert Vischer German philosopher (1847-1933) who invented the term *Einfühlung* (esthetic sympathy, later translated in English as empathy). He differentiated between *Sehen* and *Schauen.*, both which mean 'to see.' *Sehen*, he argues, is to see passively. *Schauen* is to gaze intently. It is a way to 'grasp' reality. Form is a result of this intensification of the visual. It is not behind the real, but in front of it, between the real and the human.

Rudolf Arnheim (July 15, 1904 - June 9, 2007) was a German-born author, art and film theorist and perceptual psychologist. His major books are *Art and Visual Perception: A Psychology of the Creative Eye* (1954), *Visual Thinking* (1969), and *The Power of the Center: A Study of Composition in the Visual Arts* (1982), but it is *Art and Visual Perception* for which he was most widely known. Revised, enlarged and published as a New Version in 1974, it has been translated into 14 languages, and is very likely one of the most widely read and influential art books of the twentieth century.

Form, for Arnheim, is not the abstract metaphysics of Plato. Nor is it the disciplinary 'painting for painters' as argued by Clement Greenberg (1939). Form is the mediating realm of 'the human' as a physical and social entity. It is linked with the creative principle as derived from Kant. Form is established by great artists and architects.

The rise of architectural psychology took place n the 1950s. Lasted until the 1980s. Replaced by phenomenology (on the political right) and various strands of Frankfort School leftism, which together came to be known as "theory."

Rudolf Arnheim



MIT OpenCourseWare
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

4.607 Thinking About Architecture: In History and at Present
Fall 2009

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.