

Sensory Dimensions of Architecture Roundtable

An intense new focus on the cultural life of the senses is sweeping the human sciences and crossing over into other disciplines, including architecture and urban studies. This revolution in the study of perception highlights the point that the senses are constructed and lived differently in different societies and periods. The perceptual is cultural and political, and only latterly psychological.

How might the insights (inscents, insounds, etc.) of the emergent fields of sensory geography and sensory anthropology prove useful to the work of architects and urban planners? How might the architecture of the senses -- i.e., the study of the cultural construction of the sensorium in different times and places -- help inspire an architecture *for* the senses?

These questions and others will be explored in the context of this roundtable devoted to examining the sensory dimensions of architecture. Sha Xin Wei will bring a topological perspective to bear on the topic and David Howes will bring an anthropological one. The discussion will be moderated by Medina Lasansky.

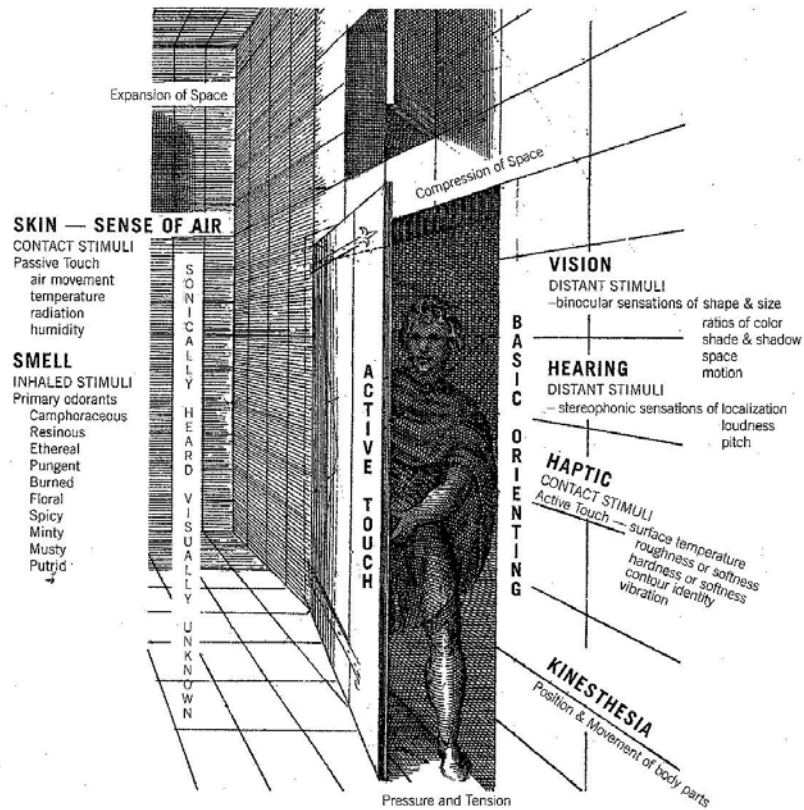


Figure 7.8. Ranges of the senses. Created by Joy Monice Malnar and Frank Vodvarka.

From Joy Monice Malnar and Frank Vodvarka, *Sensory Design* (University of Minnesota Press, 2004). Used with permission.

David Howes teaches in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Concordia University, and directs the Concordia Sensoria Research Team (CONCERT) <http://www.david-howes.com/senses/>. He is the author of *Sensual Relations* (2003) and the editor of *Empire of the Senses* (2004), among other works.

Medina Lasansky teaches in the Department of Architecture at Cornell University. She is the author of *The Renaissance Perfected: Architecture, Spectacle and Tourism in Fascist Italy* (2004) as well as the co-editor of *Architecture and Tourism: Perception, Performance, and Place* (2004).

Sha Xin Wei teaches in the Department of Design and Computation Arts, Concordia University and is the Director of the Topological Media Lab
<http://topologicalmedialab.net/joomla/main/index.php>

Time and Date: 16:30, Friday, October 24, 2008

Location: H-1120, Hall Building, Concordia University, 1455 de Maisonneuve Boulevard West, Montreal, Canada
