

The Interaction between Human Beings and Architecture (VAS/SLAH/MS)

status: ongoing and future

Research Question and Background

What role does architecture play in the relationship between people, society and the environment? How can it be shaped so that it supports the health and development of people and society in an environmentally sustainable way?

Most architectural education and common building practices are primarily oriented towards the production of functional and economically feasible objects. What is needed is an all-encompassing awareness of how the architecture itself, especially in the urban environment, affects people, society and the environment.

Perspective and relevance

Insight into the complexity of this interaction between architecture and people is crucial for the quality of the results of design processes. Today, there is an increasing awareness of the impact of buildings on the environment, but still very little awareness of their impact on people and society.

Phenomenology is a method through which deeper insights into the relationship between people and architecture can be acquired. Through participatory and interdisciplinary design processes, they can be translated into physical reality. Through these communal experiences, not only can a stronger relationship be created between users and their own living environment,



Wild Reindeer Pavilion. Design Snøhetta 2011.
(Photo: Pieter van der Ree)

but also more responsibility for it will be generated, ultimately creating stronger social relationships.

In addition, architecture is a visual and formal language in which social and cultural values are expressed. We absorb these through sensory perception. As such, they are unconsciously imprinted on our thinking, feelings and behaviour.

Approach, Cooperation and Time Frame

Architecture is a subject area that is related to almost all areas of life. This also applies to the research question formulated here. The most obvious points of contact are to do with the question of the influence of the building's environment on human health (medicine and building biology) and the question of the relationship of human spatial environments and their effect on social relationships (social sciences).

The phenomenological view is directed both at the building environment as a reflection of human intention and behaviour and at the experiences of users within these environments. The aim is to create an idea of architecture that is differentiated according to body, soul and spirit. The results will be communicated by means of publications, symposia and education, and are intended above all to flow into building practice. Cooperation partners are the Section for the Literary Arts and Humanities, the Social Sciences Section and the Medical Section.