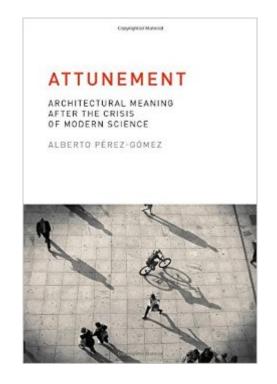
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Attunement: Architectural Meaning After The Crisis Of Modern Science (MIT Press)





Synopsis

Architecture remains in crisis, its social relevance lost between the two poles of formal innovation and technical sustainability. In Attunement, Alberto Pérez-GÃ mez calls for an architecture that can enhance our human values and capacities, an architecture that is connected -- attuned -- to its location and its inhabitants. Architecture, Pérez-GÃ mez explains, operates as a communicative setting for societies; its beauty and its meaning lie in its connection to human health and self-understanding. Our physical places are of utmost importance for our well-being. Drawing on recent work in embodied cognition, Pérez-GÃ mez argues that the environment, including the built environment, matters not only as a material ecology but because it is nothing less than a constituent part of our consciousness. To be fully self-aware, we need an external environment replete with meanings and emotions.Pérez-GÃ mez views architecture through the lens of mood and atmosphere, linking these ideas to the key German concept of Stimmung -- attunement -- and its roots in Pythagorean harmony and Vitruvian temperance or proportion. He considers the primacy of place over space; the linguistic aspect of architecture -- the voices of architecture and the voice of the architect; architecture as a multisensory (not pictorial) experience, with Piranesi, Ledoux, and Hejduk as examples of metaphorical modeling; and how Stimmung might be put to work today to realize the contemporary possibilities of attunement.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is an incredibly important book. The crisis in architecture of which Pérez-GÃ mez writes â " that is, in the education of architects and the making of architecture â " is eerily similar to the crisis

in American politics. Like politicians, architects now have very little if anything to say, yet are making a lot of noise saying it. Evidenced by their making, they believe in nothing more than the latest form-making gizmos or in energy-efficient buildings. They have forgotten history as they have forgotten the place of architecture in cultures, the deep memory of architecture as the mother of the arts. I highly recommend this book to anyone who senses that architecture is no longer attuned to who we are, and longs to move its making back toward our truer selves.

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