

and independent dimensions. Our perceptual system is integrative and our experience is holistic. Even the very structuring of this book is an absurd artificiality imposed on this experience; we do not experience and behave as a collection of phenomena suggested by the titles of the chapters used here. The only defence that this author can muster is that over the years he has taught design students and research workers such a structure, and it seems to have helped them to get further into the subject. This book does not set out to present a comprehensive theory of human language of space, but rather to sensitize the reader to a more conscious observation of it in practice. Such an observation seems more likely to lead to the design of spaces both inside and outside buildings that might be more harmonious as behavioural settings. Sometimes it is useful to atomize our reaction to the world in order to begin to investigate what is otherwise an inaccessible mire of phenomenological existence. Sadly this will inevitably introduce distortions and bias in our analysis.

However, this book is dedicated to giving practical help to designers as much as to developing a theoretical advance for scientists. We must remember that design is a quite different matter to scientific experiment or philosophical thought. I have studied the design process for many years without coming to what I consider anything like a full understanding of it, but some things are relatively clear. Design is prescriptive rather than descriptive. It requires action in the form of decision, even in the face of inadequate time and knowledge. For these reasons sometimes it is useful to oversimplify in order to structure thought enough to make design decisions slightly less arbitrary. We cannot hope to make them perfect. I hope that we can move to reduce the arbitrariness of architecture in a more rather than less human way. We all understand and use the language of space in our daily lives, and architects, planners, interior designers, urban designers and their ilk need to reconnect with this ordinary knowledge by whatever means they can. So often they seem not to do this but to detach themselves from their own implicit knowledge of the language of space when they design and rely on more self-conscious notions about space. Indeed, so detached from the everyday human use of space can architecture become that sometimes architects seem either stupid or wilful to the public they serve. In my experience they are very rarely stupid and seldom wilful. It must of course be remembered that their job is tremendously complex. In addition to the issues we have considered here, architects are usually also trying to design sustainable and beautiful buildings that satisfy a whole series of technical and legislative demands on complex sites with architecturally problematic neighbours, for clients who change their minds, have inadequate budgets and need their building yesterday! Perhaps we should not be surprised that sometimes the fundamental but