



Heterotopian Spaces:

Public, Semi-public and Non-public Interiors in Contemporary Architecture, 1970–2010

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Our subproject “Heterotopian Spaces: Public, Semi-public and Non-public Interiors in Contemporary Architecture, 1970–2010” addresses what Foucault, in his seminal poststructuralist essay “Other Places”, termed “heterotopias”: places that exist beyond a single, monofocal notion of space. Parallel to this theoretical shift, architecture since the 1960s has developed new hybrid spaces that oscillate between inside and outside (such as atrium and plaza spaces within larger building complexes) and furthermore serve as multivalenced vessels, open for any sort of projection, installation, or social function. Such interior spaces also reshape and redefine exterior sites. Our project examines the public nature of such hybrid spaces and the crucial role that the interior plays in formulating their reciprocal, interactive relationships between inside and outside.

These questions are linked to current scholarship on “Raumwissenschaften” (Spatial Studies), where space is treated as having multiple potential identities, open for different forms of transformation, appropriation, meaning and representation. In her 2001 book *Raumsoziologie* (The Sociology of Space), Martina Löw succinctly located these concepts within ideas of constant (re-)generation, stating that “the constitution of space constantly creates sites, and these sites are in turn constitutive for the emergence of space”. In addition to such Foucauldian notions of heterotopia, our project also utilizes the theoretical work of the early twentieth-century anti-positivist philosopher Henri Bergson, which has re-entered current discourse through the work of Gilles Deleuze. Their scholarship provides a suitable paradigm for the following reason: If contemporary public and semi-public architecture, with museum architecture at its fore, claims to work against positivist approaches to knowledge and representation, then Bergson’s emphasis on perceptual modes of knowledge provides a theoretical structure through which to trace non-informational modes of communication fundamental to the most advanced spatial programs within this architecture.



The Interior Art, Space, and Performance

Early Modern to Postmodern

Cited and Selected Literature:

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