Perceptive Architecture: Reviving the perception of space in a digital era

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The main aim of this thesis is to understand and study how technology has changed the experience of space. Today, we live in a generation where technology has become a fundamental necessity to our everyday life. The problem implied is that excessive users of smartphones have become deprived from their ability to be aware of their surrounding environment due to the constraints that it brings to our senses. Research has shown that excessive technology usage can impair attention, productivity, and memory, decreasing the ability to think creatively. But, we as architects, creative thinking is a crucial principle that must be exercised constantly and not be suppressed.

We perceive what we see. Therefore, we conceive the information of an experience we have. According to Henri Lefebvre, “Nothing disappears completely, however; nor can what subsists be defined solely in terms of traces, memories or relics. In space, what came earlier continues to underpin what follows.” (The Production of Space_Henri Lefebvre 229)

It can be said that Lefebvre is implying the importance of spatial experience in context to the transition of space. Previous experiences will affect the way the occupant perceives future experiences of space.

How can architecture change the experience of today’s digital generation to a more intimate relationship with its users? An experience is very important to an individual, because the impact of an experience is embedded into ones’ memory and affects the way they understand space. We experience space through not only our visual sense, but through all five. Architecture can stimulate these senses to allow the user to experience the architecture with more intimacy.