Begin again, let it.

Johannes Knesl

Abstract

9/11 prompts the theory of architecture to become a theory of the becoming of bodies and quasi-bodies of life. Adopting a methodological animism and a posture that couples affirmation and disaffirmation so as to exceed the limits of the structuration of the bodies and lives that sustain the subjects and objects of post-modernity, theory will guide architecture to take bodies to states at the edge of chaos where lines for the becoming of more mutually freeing bodies can open up. The concepts of this theory work with a form of imaging that permits concepts to act as quasi-bodies that are aware of their other – the other inside as well as outside their field of semiosis – and which are aware of themselves. These concepts seek truth as mutually freeing encompassment and remain open to continual reaffirmation by the lives lived by bodies. Their imaging directly becomes action in the fields of existence which they enter. This theory advances the concepts of mutual becoming inside one another together with the sister concept of the becoming of bodies as unfoldings-enfoldings through limit surfaces. These spatial concepts will enable theory to forge critical spatial order and form through which virtual bodies of a more freely encompassing nature may realize themselves. Theory sets the stage for a war over becoming bodies through spatial order, a war ruled by the principle of ecological mutuality according to which any form of life depends on freely granted reaffirmation by all that makes up its other.

Johannes Knesl

Born in Vienna, Austria, Johannes Knesl received a classical humanist education and completed his academic studies with a professional and a doctoral degree in architecture from the Technical University, Vienna. He began his professional career as an urban designer working free-lance and for the Dept. of City Planning in Vienna, then worked as an architect in London, UK before returning to teach at the Technical University in Vienna. In 1975 he moved to the USA, teaching architectural and urban design and theory, first at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY, then at New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark, NJ. In 1985 he accepted a position with the NYC Dept. of Transportation to lead its Office of Urban Design, moving on in 1996 to the NYC Dept. of Design and Construction to continue in-house design work while also acting as critic and reviewer of
consultant design work on New York’s institutional buildings. He started publishing in architectural and urban theory in 1974 and has continued to contribute writings and projects, focusing first on critical theory and M. Merleau-Ponty, then moving on to the French postmodern cultural work, to develop a theory and a practice oriented to an architecture that would enable the body to become the agent of more subtly and freely encompassing forms of sensibility and action. He is currently guest-teaching at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte while finalizing his book manuscript *Archeology*, a theory and methodology of architecture as quasi-bodies that will challenge us to become more mutually freeing hyper-bodies of life.