



The
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Being
as
Measure
of
All
Things



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Bioscultural
Transformative ARCHITECTURE

The Question of Architectural Form in the Consciousness Soul Age

*The Human Being
as the Measure of All Things*

“An outward projection of the lawfulness of the human body outside of us into space, this is the art of building, this is architecture.”

(Rudolf Steiner)

We are living in an “anything goes” world which, from an Architectural perspective, means there are no longer any universally accepted codes of beauty or aesthetics.

While most people agree that buildings should be functional and ecologically responsible, when it comes to aesthetics, our modern age no longer supports the notion of a universally accepted architectural style we can all

appreciate and admire. Consequently, there is a mix of wildly competing styles and looks, from the purely utilitarian approaches to organic, brutalist, post-modern and traditional retro styles, to the weird and wonderful forms made possible by computer technology, which has enabled us to design and manufacture practically any form we (or the computer) can imagine. Leaving aside function, ecology and commercial interests, what remains as fundamental motivation behind the forms we surround ourselves with? Two famous quotes come to mind:

We shape our buildings and afterwards our buildings shape us. (Winston Churchill)

Music is liquid architecture - architecture is frozen music (Johann W. v. Goethe)

But music is a very subjective experience. What is beautiful to some may be noise to others. What if we surrounded ourselves (un-knowingly) with the architectural equivalent of noise? How would that affect us? Churchill’s words also raise an interesting question: If buildings indeed shape us, how do I want to be shaped? How does the building know who I am and what is in my best interest in the realm of form and aesthetics? Are there any universal criteria we can all subscribe to in this age of plurality and cultural relativity?

Yes, there are from an Anthroposophical point of view. Rudolf Steiner spoke of the modern age as the new *Consciousness Soul Age*, which replaced the *Intellectual Soul Age* that began in Ancient Greece and ended a few hundred years ago with the advent of the modern age. The Consciousness Soul is also referred to as the Spiritual Soul. It refers to our intuitive capacities, which differ from our intellectual abilities.

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Transformative Art & Architecture Course Module 3: **FORM AND CONSCIOUSNESS**

The three basic questions we ask in this TAA Module are:

- What kind of architecture can support our humanity in the Consciousness Soul Age?
- What are the links between consciousness and form?
- Are there any specific criteria we can identify?

To objectively evaluate architectural form we must base our judgements on an agreed set of criteria. From a spiritual perspective, the only truly objective criteria we have are those connected with the spiritual and physical nature of the human being. The human being in turn has a relationship to the spiritual world as well as the lower three nature kingdoms.

In **LEVEL I** we explore this very relationship between the four nature kingdoms. The progression of consciousness from the mineral - plant - animal - to the human kingdom provides us with valuable insights as to the hierarchy of form, as well as the links between form and consciousness. From this arises a specific set of Architectural evaluation criteria that resonate with and confirm our humanity as Consciousness Soul Beings.

In **LEVEL II** we continue with the question of what are the new forms of Art & Architecture able to support our humanity in the Consciousness Soul Age. On a deeper level, we focus on Rudolf Steiner's statement that one of the main tasks in the Consciousness Soul Age is for humanity to come to terms with the reality of evil. What does this mean for us personally, for the world, and for the forms of art & architecture best suited to serve the modern human being in this new age?

Over the course of this module participants will gain practical and theoretic insights into the following questions:

LEVEL I:

The Human Being as Measure of All Things

1. Why is the human being a universal point of reference for Architectural Form?
2. How is the development of consciousness mirrored in the historic forms of art & architecture and in the forms of the 4 kingdoms of nature?
3. What relevance does the ascending hierarchy of form in the 4 nature kingdoms have with respect to the human being and our modern forms of art & architecture?
4. What is the Threefoldness of the Human Being and how is this mirrored in Architectural Form?
5. What is the relationship between the 3 dimensions of space and our faculties of thinking, feeling and willing?
6. What is the architectural equivalent of the "body" "soul" and "spirit", of a building?
7. What are some of the objective criteria by which we can evaluate consciousness soul architecture?

LEVEL II:

The Art & Architecture of the Consciousness Soul Age

1. What is the "consciousness soul" and how does it relate to our modern forms of art & architecture?
2. Why has the "right angle" been the dominant angle throughout most of history and what questions does this raise for the architecture of the future?
3. What is the difference between physical and moral uprightness, and how does this come to expression in architectural form?
4. What is "Moral Ether"?
5. What is the relationship between the 4 Ethers and the Moral Ether and why is this of particular importance in the Consciousness Soul Age?
6. How does the confrontation with the evolutionary counter forces play itself out in architectural form?
7. How can the forms of Art & Architecture potentially transform us and ennoble the world we live in?

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