

FLOW II: A Thousand Ways to Enter

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Domesticity through the lenses of art, technology, and space

...There are thousands of ways to access the zone through which all belief is suspended and one confronts a Freudian unconscious desire to extend drawing into space and to endow space with meaning. "Cellar Door is a laboratory of forms trying no longer to pit reality against hallucinatory fantasy, like and 'experimental fiction' rubbing the interior space of the psyche against the physical parameters of technology".
The Cellar Door, Loris Greaud, Exhibition Catalog, 2011ⁱ

"I feel that the balance between fiction and reality has changed significantly in the past decades. Increasingly their roles are versed."ⁱⁱ
J.G. Ballard, 1995

The sensual architectural reality is not experienced as an abstract object already transformed by consciousness, but as an immediate and concrete human activity; as a praxis with all its subjectivity. Bernard Tschumi, The Architectural Paradox, Questions of Space p.28-29.ⁱⁱⁱ

Questions of Flow

"Considering the city as a dynamic complex system places emphasis on the interactions and connectivity of the flows through its infrastructures, and of the feedbacks and critical thresholds that drive the emergence of new spaces and urban morphologies that are animated by new modalities of culture." (Michael Weinstock from *System City: Infrastructure and the Spaces of Flows*). Within this condition, cities can be seen as an emergent phenomena that exhibit characteristics of complex systems, are embedded within the systems of the climate and ecology, have cultural systems informed by history and geography, have infrastructures that provide services to cities, and have reciprocal interactions between them at a variety of spatial, temporal and organizational scales. Yet, these flows operate not only at the local scale but also within connecting points of globalization and the emerging global housing market. Flows of capital, labor, goods, commodities, energy, waste, and data all impact the domestic body whose movement and migration patterns not only map and record these flows but also insinuates the question of what does it mean to dwell? Within this context architecture and housing can no longer remain static or fixed. Hence, our studio called "**Studio Flow**" will examine the nature of flow and housing.

Questions of Domesticity

The design of housing is much more than the fulfillment of political or social policy and equally more than the study of an architectural typology. Issues of typology result in formulaic, static "solutions" to the questions of dwelling and the body.

To consider the places and spaces where the body dwells is to consider the movement and physicality of the body as well as its functions, constructs, and identity within its socio-political, cultural, and technological contexts. These parameters have become increasingly fluid and thus result in questions of the very definitions of "domestic" and "domesticity" as relating to the idea of home or household and family. Hence a new set of questions arise with regards to:

- domestic flows
- cultural ecological flows
- existential flows
- intersectional flows
- atmospheric flows
- data flows

Questions of Space

The abstraction of data and the rational play of language versus the experiences of the senses is an inadequate confrontation of the mind and body dialectic that is often pursued in the design of housing. However, "the Interior Space" of J.G. Ballard for which he adopted in his 1962 article *Which Way to Inner Space* was not just a path towards fantasy and freeing oneself of the clichés of futurology but it offers a radical solution for liberating oneself from preconceptions of the limits of architecture and opens up the possibilities of architecture.

In *The Architectural Paradox: Questions of Space*, Tschumi states "... the paradox is not about the impossibility of perceiving both architectural concept (the six faces of the cube) and real space at the same time, but about the impossibility of questioning the nature of space at the same time making or experiencing a real space." In space the translation of the concept, the overcoming of the abstraction in reality, involves the dissolution of the dialectic and an incomplete statement. The effect of the great battles of social progress is obliterated and so is the security of archetypes. Hence, this opens up the possibility for new questions of space and for the pleasures of architecture.