

TWO The Human Dimension

Assigned: Tuesday 22 January

Due: Field Journal: post to blog by Tuesday 29 January, class time, drawings in field journal.

Reading reflection: Tuesday 29 January. Bring printed copy to class

In class we have learned about anthropometrics, ergonomics and the mechanical issues that enable us to relate our bodies and our environment. Through experience, we understand size and proportion, mobility and motion, visual, auditory, tactile, thermal, and olfactory senses. The lecture has presented material as to how those senses operate and are measured.

The following assignment has two parts. The first part asks you to experience your environment in a way that may not be typical for you by limiting your abilities. The second part involves a series of excerpts from well known texts that relate the sensory mechanics to design possibilities in architecture.

Part One: Experience (Field Journal Entry Number One – POST NARRATIVE TO BLOG)

We experience space with all our senses, but primarily through our visual sensitivities (how it looks) and our ability to use our motor skills to accomplish our goals (how it works). This assignment is intended to help you experience familiar spaces in a new way and to sensitize you to some of the qualities or barriers that may not be normally perceptible.

We have available to us a wheelchair and a few pairs of obscured lens glasses to simulate the condition of a muscular or motor impaired condition or a visual impairment. Use one of these prosthetics to experience one hour or more of your normal schedule of campus activities. Include activities such as eating, going to class, meeting for social activities, etc. In narrative form, describe your activities and your response to the new field of perception offered by these impairments. **In your journal**, draw a map of your route, showing travel times and experiences on the way. Due to our relative inexperience with these conditions, have a friend or friends with you, however, consider that this is not always desirable or possible in an actual situation. **Post your narrative to the class blog**. If the blog is unavailable, email a word file to Christian Wagner by the deadline.

Part Two: Reflection on Readings

The following readings extend our discussion of sensory experience to the realm of architecture and architectural theory. Each student is responsible for **two** of four short readings. They should be summarized on one typewritten page, single spaced (1/2 page per reading, two on one page). For each reading, do a 1-2 paragraph summary and 1 paragraph analysis of a concept or idea in the reading, extending it to your own observations and experiences. Submit to the Blackboard drop box by the deadline and bring a printed copy to class. Name your file **LASTNAME human dim reading**

Required readings:

Hall, *The Hidden Dimension*. Chapter VI: Visual Space

Rasmussen, *Experiencing Architecture*. Chapter 5: Scale and Proportion

Heschong, *Thermal Delight in Architecture*. Chapter Two: Delight

Tuan. *Space and Place: The Perspective of Experience*. Chapter Two: Experiential Perspective

Reference readings:

Lang, Chapter 12: Anthropometrics and Ergonomics

This assignment will be the starting point of our discussion in class. Class participation is expected and will be factored into the grade.