

The world is to be experienced with multiple senses, especially when it comes to architecture. If our bodies are in the world as the heart is in the organism, then our eyes are the heart of our bodies in our response to architecture. The natural world and the structural world are parallel in the way that it affects our senses as humans. Architecture is an extension of nature in understanding the world from a man-made perspective, an art form with many branches of collaborations in how we perceive the structure.

The visual system is the primary sense that always works hand in hand with the other senses. Eyes are not only used for seeing, but also for touching, as said in the reading “my gaze unconsciously projects my body onto the facade of the cathedral.” Sight and touch are the most collaborative pair of senses, in that vision reveals what touch already is aware of and touch is the unconscious of vision. They work together in terms of defining distances and shadows in those distances, surfaces, contours and edges. In my first design year at Parsons, I was assigned a drawing project where we had to pick a space within the New York Public Library and do a perspective drawing of it. I picked the quote stated above because it reminded me of how I used my sight as touch while drawing the perspective of the staircase in the entrance that I chose for my project.

Sound and vision work together when sound gives the viewer direction they should be looking in. Listening to a structure enhances the experience in the sense of our understanding of the space. Without the sound of a space, the viewer cannot fully grasp the vibe the structure gives off because sound is what gives the structure spiritual life. For example, the author compares the acoustics of a house that hasn't been lived in without furniture versus a lived home; the sound of the non lived house is more harsh than the softer sound of the lived home that has sounds bouncing off the various

surfaces. I can relate to this when I visited the hotel that my cousin is constructing with his architecture firm. As I walked through the building, I could feel the lack of life through the echoes of my footsteps.

Not only did this reading help me in my understanding of the projects I'm working on now in Representation and Analysis and in Design Studio, but it also put my perception of architecture into words I could never find before. I knew a viewer could always “feel” a architectural structure, but not in the way where it uses the original 5 senses and beyond. This reading perfectly words how we perceive architecture through our collaborative senses and how these senses work with structures.