

POLYTECHNIC OF TORINO
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE
Degree in Architecture
Honors theses

Architecture and sensibility : the "immaterial" elements in the project

by Germana Fabretti

Tutor: Eugenia Monzeglio

Co-tutor: Germana Bricarello

The first approach to the knowledge of surrounding, of city and at last of its architectures, is the work of our senses that gain the outside and elaborate it again in our minds.

The relationship between building and man comes out thanks to human sensibility and human personal culture, both work together in order to create every judgement and opinion.

On the base of this idea the doctoral dissertation is been developed in two parts : one looks into the perceptive faculty as phenomenal experience, the other is about the perception of architectonic object through all the elements that are valid incentive for our faculty of sensation. The "immaterial" elements are identified in light, colours, sounds, noises and smells, they answer to the users' natural human needs : the expressive power of these elements conditions human habitat, that is often unawares felt and it influences users' behaviour and psycho-physical well-being ; architecture is completed by immaterial elements in a total perception : lights and colours join to the atmosphere created by the sound of the flowing water.

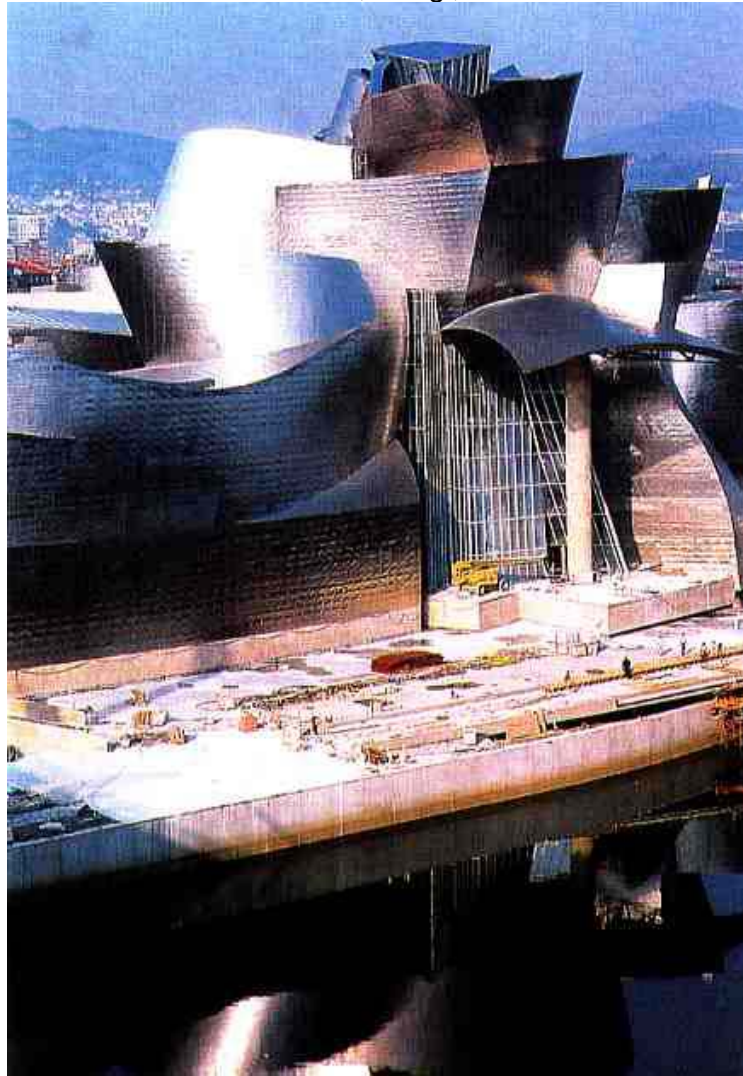
At present the projectual trend, the idea of formal quality is the opposite of the concrete idea of sensorial qualities realised by a careful introduction of soft feature elements : not only visual feature, but also tactile, thermic, olfactory ones.

Trying to observe the environment in a more aware way and to improve the faculty of perception in order to catch every detail and feeling, it was the teaching proposed by the Bauhaus : the practical teaching was based on our unitary conception of form, of colours and sounds that aimed at develop students' active and passive attitude.

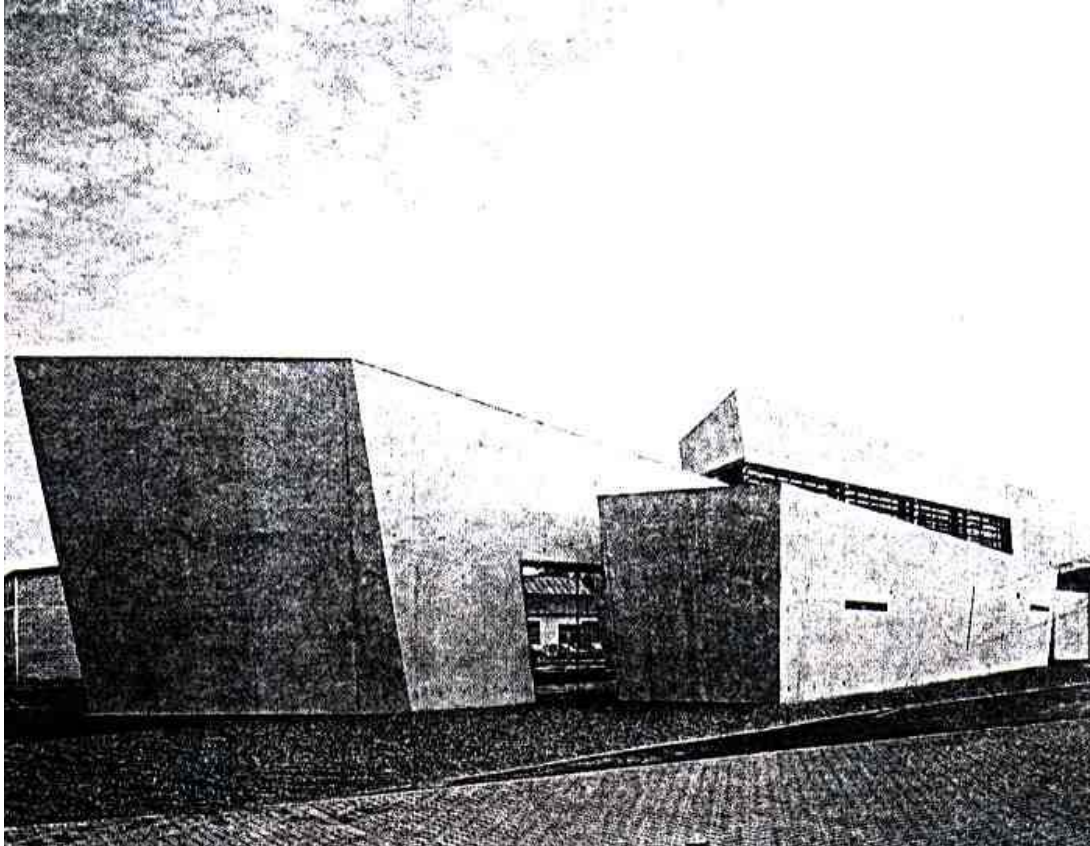
The excess of sensorial references in a physical and psychical handicap design is identified as a attempt to better the quality conditions of life, but it is not only for handicapped persons, it is available even for "normal" human beings. In the thesis several modern buildings are been chosen to analysed expressive power of immaterial elements and to offer a cue to other discussions and deepenings.



Fondazione Cartier, Parigi, 1994 J.Nouvel



Museo Guggenheim, Bilbao 1997, F.O.Gehry



Stazione dei Pompieri, Basilea 1993, Z.Hadid

PRESENT-DAY ARCHITECTURE

- Changes in the space dimension : "disappearance of the wall", so vanishing of a sense of weight, of solidity, of strength to the favour of light elements and constructive systems.
- Changes in the temporal dimension : sense of moving, of instability and speed of shapes.
- Changes in the visual dimension : attainment of a total transparency and a sensation of lightness and immateriality.

For further information, Germana Fabretti, e-mail: germanafabretti@tin.it