

Session 1

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Mind-Conscious Design: Stepping into the space between architecture and psychology

Explicitly building on Galen Cranz's concept of body-conscious design, we argue that design for humans should be guided by our understanding of how the mind works. Psychology and other behavioral sciences stand to make two entirely independent contributions to mind-conscious approaches to architectural design. First, along with architects, theorists, and philosophers, psychological scientists can help identify and define important psychological qualities of built places (e.g., atmospheres) and they can identify attributes of the mind likely and to affect one's experience of space (e.g., memory) and to be affected by space (e.g., sleep quality). Second, they provide a systematic method for adjudicating between the different ideas raised in the first step. The talk will end by considering the obstacles to creating a mind-conscious approach to architecture and what needs to be done to overcome those obstacles.

What would the practice of architecture look like if its starting point was creating spaces designed to promote health and flourishing in humans and the world in which they live? What would architectural education look like? How would "success" be defined in architecture? How can other disciplines and organizations help?