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Critical Perspective 3

Lib Arc 2205

Performance/Architecture: An Interview with Bernard Tschumi

This week's reading was titled Performance/Architecture – an Interview with Bernard Tschumi. At the beginning of the article it stated "there is no space without event." My interpretation of that statement is, the space that is being perceived can always be viewed as performance or an event regardless of what occupies that space. Because space is something that can be seen by a person, it is always capable of having a spectator, therefore space is an event. This interview revisits Tschumi's teaching and practice as it relates to performance. The interview took place at his New York office on November 29, 2007. The Interview was about the relation of performance and architecture and how each one is dependent upon the other. Tschumi states "We were simply trying to deal specifically with what architecture is supposed to be—space and use, space, and its experience. As I would always say, concept and experience is what makes architecture." In other words, what you observe can determine what you experience in that space. For example, the experience of looking at a waterfall. The waterfall is the space and the event is the waterfall. Hence the quote there is no space without event.

Tschumi later discusses his opinion of embodiment. His analysis of embodiment, broadened my awareness of the term. He states, "embodiment does not mean the actual making into a body; in other words, if you have an idea and you embody this idea, you materialize the idea." I agree with his statement because when embodiment takes place, it's a manifestation of personalization or symbolism through one's own craft. An example of this would be the creation of architecture. In conclusion, there were other interpretations within in the interview, however, the main ones that stuck out in my head were stated above. After reading this interview I've gained a higher respect for Mr. Tshumi. I appreciate his dissection of space and performance. Reading the interview helped me gain an understanding of the relation between the two. Tshumi expresses himself like none other and has some admirable architectural work. It's very unique and most importantly, challenges viewers to think outside the box!