

Thriving Atmospheres:

A Conversation between Natalie Cox and Bethany Pingel

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keywords

atmosphere — somatic experience — failure to thrive — haptic sense — homes
— materials — archetypes — spirit of place — touch — affective affordances

abstract

Enlightened by the hypothesis that human experience is shaped by our haptic interactions with physical environments, this paper investigates how our home, our intimate dwelling of refuge, might provide atmospheres which nurture thriving individuals. This research defines the concept of thriving atmospheres, by contrast, through the medical term failure to thrive; defined as a mammalian infants' lack of touch and movement. Inspiration came from different fields of study, including philosophy, physiology, psychology, and nursing science. The authors built a dynamic dialogue grounded on the importance of the somatic experience of home, exploring three main topics: authenticity of materials, affective affordances embedded in architectural archetypes, and the spirit of place.

