"Designing Atmospheres: Theory and Science," 28 March 2023, Regnier Forum,
an *Interfaces* event of the Academy of Neuroscience for Architecture (ANFArch.org)

> *"The anthropologist distinguishes the theorist from the craftsman: the former 'makes through thinking' while the latter 'thinks through making' . . . the more pressing question remains: is the architect a theorist or a craftsman?"*
>
> Harry Francis Mallgrave

Recent advances in the biological sciences are opening new doors to the perception of space and the meaning of architecture and urban design. Our question is how this can inform designers of the built world. *Designing Atmospheres: Theory and Science* will present to an audience of architects, students, faculty, and scientists a conversation about human perception of design and building, specifically speaking to the significance of affordances, embodied simulation, atmosphere, and mood.

Beginning Tuesday, March 28, at 8:30 am, the first talk is *The Elusiveness of Assessing the Atmospheric Essence of Architecture by Body and Emotions,* by Dr. Elisabetta Canepa (MS.Eng., Ph.D.). She will suggest new empirical evidence for how architects can understand what atmosphere does and how it primes experiences. Elisabetta is an architect and researcher from Genoa, Italy. She is currently an EU Marie Curie Fellow running the RESONANCES project (2021–2024) in collaboration with the University of Genoa, Kansas State University, and Aalborg University. Her research focuses on the hybrid connection between architecture and cognitive neuroscience, analyzing topics such as atmospheric dynamics, the emotional nature of the architectural experience, embodiment theory, the empathic phenomenon between humans and space, and experimentation in virtual reality. Dr. Canepa's book *Architecture is Atmosphere: Notes on Empathy, Emotions, Body, Brain, and Space* (2022), published by Mimesis International within the *Atmospheric Spaces* book series, is seminal in atmospheric thinking.

Following Dr. Canepa will be a talk by Dr. Zakaria Djebbara (Cand. Polyt., Ph.D.) at 9:30 am about his new research *Rhythms in the Brain, Body, and Environment*. Maybe the world's most sophisticated explorer of perception in our experience of buildings, Dr. Djebbara employs mobile electroencephalographic neuroimaging methods in combination with virtual reality and physiological measures. All attempting to understand how spatial configurations relate to human experience, cognition, and behavior. His research is supported by computational modeling of human experience and neural dynamics. Zakaria currently holds a postdoctoral position at Aalborg University (Denmark), focusing on the role of sensorimotor brain dynamics in behavioral and cognitive performance. He is a member of the Lundbeck Foundation Investigator Network

(Copenhagen), Berlin Mobile Brain/Body Imaging Lab (Berlin Institute of Technology), and Situated Mobilities and Sensing Bodies Group (Aalborg University). He edited *Affordances in Everyday Life: A Multidisciplinary Collection of Essays* (2022), published by Springer Nature.

Following Dr. Djebbara will be a talk by Dr. Kory Beighle at 10:45 am about his new research *A History of Tool-Atmospheres*. He will address atmosphere not as an ephemeral but as a mechanism of practice. Kory received a Ph.D. from the University of Cincinnati (2020), focusing on 20th and 21st century architectural theory, particularly issues of disciplinarity and architectural tools. In *Architectural Alchemy: Collaging Disciplinarity in the Kaleidoscopic*, he examines the interdisciplinary practice of Charles and Ray Eames. Dr. Beighle has also studied the role of time in architectural practice by exploring methodological intersections of film and architecture. His work as a historian, theorist, scholar, and educator is framed through design to explore the intersection of tools, pedagogy, disciplinarity, and spatial narrative in our kaleidoscopic paradigm. Kory's research has been recognized and presented in national and international conferences, art exhibitions, film competitions, and journal publications. Dr. Beighle is an Assistant Professor of APDesign, Kansas State University's Department of Architecture. His teaching responsibilities include teaching design studios, architectural history lectures, and theory seminars.

At 11:30 Dr. Harry Francis Mallgrave asks, "how have architects thought about atmosphere in architecture and what it does?" His keynote will be simply titled *Atmosphere*. The preeminent voice on empathy of buildings, much of the contemporary debate on the neuroscience of architecture began with his *The Architect's Brain* (2010). Harry Francis Mallgrave is a Distinguished Professor Emeritus from Illinois Institute of Technology and an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects. He received his Ph.D. in architecture from the University of Pennsylvania and has enjoyed a career as a scholar, translator, editor, and architect. In 1996 Professor Mallgrave won the Alice Davis Hitchcock Award from the Society of Architectural Historians for his intellectual biography *Gottfried Semper: Architect of the Nineteenth Century*. He has published more than a dozen books on architectural history and theory. His most recent book, *Building Paradise: Episodes in Paradisiacal Thinking* (2021), argues on behalf of a design and planning ethic centered squarely on cultural needs and personal aspirations. Professor Mallgrave serves on the Academy of Neuroscience for Architecture (ANFA), Advisory Council.

Moderating the morning's events is Professor Bob Condia, FAIA of APDesign and design partner at Condia+Ornelas Architects. His place in the neuroscience for architecture debate is as an architect and studio critic, seeking the consequences of applied biological sciences for architects. Professor Condia is a member

of the Advisory Council to the Academy of Neuroscience for Architecture (ANFA). Regarding architectural affordances, atmosphere, and mood, he edited three books published by New Prairie Press: *Meaning in Architecture: Affordances, Atmosphere and Mood* (2019), *Affordances and the Potential for Architecture* (2020), and *Generators of Architectural Atmosphere* (2022). He is the editor of the ANFA *Interfaces* book series.

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