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BECOMING-INTERIOR

Toward a Nondual Philosophy of Design for Dwelling-In-The-World

A thesis presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
Master in Design

at Massey University, Wellington, New Zealand

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2005

Abstract

Martin Heidegger suggests that *dwelling* is an act of inhabitation, which engenders a *becoming-interior* of the world. The site of this *dwelling* is not confined to architecture, but occurs in the space between earth and sky: the *world*. This work seeks to investigate the implications of this claim on the role of interior design. It proposes that, in order to formulate an approach to design that aims to facilitate a Heideggerian *dwelling*, the binary oppositions of inside and outside, nature and culture, self and world, must be re-examined. The connections between architectural minimalism and Eastern aesthetics that are hinted at in contemporary New Zealand lifestyle magazines such as *urbis* provide a gateway to an investigation of dwelling-design that moves beyond the conflicts of a world divided by Cartesian dualism. The space between East and West operates as the field of inquiry within which this work locates a comparative study of nondual philosophies pertaining to dwelling as an interrelation of self and world. Nondual concepts found in the writings of Elizabeth Grosz, and Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari, are subjected to a reading that suggests links with such Eastern philosophical concepts as *ma* (the space of the in-between), *yin* and *yang* as an analogy of correlativity and becoming-other, and *dao* and *de* (field and focus) as a conceptual model for the interrelation of the natural world and the self. Through the generation of a nondual core philosophy, the work suggests that the "nothingness" of minimalism may be reconceptualized as a *betweenness*, with the potential to act as an intermediary space between the inhabitant and nature. The nature of this mediation as the stimulation of resonance is explored in relation to the depiction of the natural world in art, and subsequently applied to the architectural threshold. Architecture is posited as an instrument of facilitation – the means by which the potential for *dwelling* may be manifested in a *becoming-interior* of the world.

Acknowledgements

The writer would like to acknowledge the guidance and support of her supervisor, Rebecca Sinclair. Thanks are also due to Estefania Galinanes-Garcia and Jon Thompson, curators of the *house[layered]* exhibition, for providing the writer with a platform for her experimental work "suburban horizons: indoor-outdoor flow" (see Chapter Three).

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