

Spaces.

Abstract from a text to the catalogue for a space symposium
Secession, Vienna 2-3/5/91

Three basic types of space are distinguished: vital space, cosmic space and virtual space. The impact of the two 'abstract' spaces upon the vital space, and the complex correlation between them are considered. It is then suggested that the usual subdivision of vital space into spaces for work, for dwelling and for leisure need to be radically reconsidered, because they follow from a more profound division of the vital space into a public and a private one. It is argued that such a distinction between the private and the public, which is a result of a sedentary mode of life, is no longer useful; Although the dynamics 'public-private' were a fundamental aspect of civilized life for at least ten millenia, the so-called 'communications revolution' has done away with that.

This poses a new problem: how should space be articulated, if one takes into account the intrusions of cosmic and virtual space into the vital one, and if one admits that the public space (the republic, the political space) has no longer any real function? The contribution offers no answer, but a few suggestions. Thus it stresses that space will no longer be conceived of as a sort of box, but rather as a kind of interfering spheres, and that interest will concentrate on the 'grey zones' of interference. And this necessarily involves a new vision of life in the immediate future. Some aspects of that vision are vaguely hinted at.