

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/bachelards-phenomenology-and-verticality/>

This video discusses the theme of perception in relation to architecture and city life, emphasizing the importance of understanding how individuals perceive their environment through both ecological and phenomenological lenses. The speaker references the work of two key figures: James Gibson, who introduced the concept of "affordance," describing how our perception of objects is influenced by our intentions and physical interactions with our surroundings, and Gaston Bachelard, known for his exploration of the "poetics of space" which emphasizes the personal and emotional significance of spaces.

The speaker asserts that our perception is not merely a passive reception of stimuli but an active, bodily engagement with the environment, where negative affordances (such as danger) can trigger consciousness and awareness. This video leads to a discussion of how architecture affects our experiences, particularly in urban environments where overwhelming sensory information can create a disconnection between individuals and their surroundings.

The nuances of perception are further illustrated through examples, like the experience of a lemon, which highlights the difference between scientific descriptions of objects and the subjective, relational significance they hold for individuals.

Finally, the speaker calls for architects to consider the complexities of modern urban life and the potential for communal engagement within city structures, while also acknowledging the negative experiences brought by urban living. The importance of integrating poetic and phenomenological insights into architectural design is emphasized, advocating for a deeper understanding of how spaces affect human experience and interaction.