

Into the Glass Mind: How Glass in Contemporary Architecture Shapes Perception, Action, and Social Behavior

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Glass has become a defining feature of contemporary architecture. In the shape of facades, windows, doors, canopies, winter gardens, staircases, walkways and walls, glass is found as a core structural element in public and private buildings alike. Its diverse applicability has been closely associated with one of its defining characteristics: Glass can be transparent. In consequence, the material often forms an invisible barrier. What remains to be determined, however, is how humans perceive, represent and act around such barriers. The project describes a series of experiments designed to address this empirical lacuna. As a collaborative endeavor between an anthropologist, an architect, a neuroscientist, a social psychologist, and two vision scientists, the project ultimately aims at providing crossdisciplinary insights upon which the architectural use of glass in man-made living and working environments.

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