

# Researching atmospheres

International PhD-course with **Jürgen Hasse, Juhani Pallasmaa and Jean-Paul Thibaud**

>>>>> **April 16th – 18th 2013**

**Aarhus School of Architecture**  
**Noerreport 20**  
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**'Atmosphere'** as a concept for our sensuous experiences of environments (human and non-human) has in recent years entered the agenda of many disciplines from philosophical aesthetics to human geography, from urban studies and architecture to anthropology and archaeology. Much effort has been devoted to conceptualising and theorising atmosphere. This PhD-course concentrates less on such questions than on the **HOW** of researching atmospheres. Which methods are available, and how do they relate to specific research questions about atmosphere?

## Objective

The aim of the course is to enrich PhD-candidates' familiarity with the variety of methods and the ability to locate own research within this variety. PhD-candidates are invited to present the methodological problems, dilemmas and challenges they face in their own research to the course teachers and the other participants for comments and advice. There will be 20 minutes for presentation and 20 minutes for discussion for each PhD-candidate.

Besides **lectures** by the course-teachers the course also includes a **practical workshop** focussed on in situ 'testing' of ideas discussed during the course. The workshop will unfold around a built wooden structure in the central yard of the Aarhus School of Architecture. During the course the structure is 'clothed' differently and will 'house' different soundscapes.

The language is English. The course is open for PhD-candidates from all over the world. The number of participants to present their own research is, however, limited to 15. There will be room for other participants up to 15 persons. Priority is given to PhD-candidates but other researchers can be admitted if places are available.

There will be a list of course literature. Participants are selected on the basis of a **1-2 pages abstract (A4)** describing the methodological aspects of the research. During the course the participants are expected to present these aspects in a form that facilitates discussion. The course-teachers prepare for the course by reading the abstracts. The course is rated to give **3 ECTS**-points to presenters and **1,5 ECTS** to other participants.

## Application

The participation fee is **3.000 DKK / 400 €** which includes lunches, dinners and coffee during the course.

Application deadline is **February 15th 2013**. Please send e-mail to research coordinator Hanne F. Gjelstrup [[hanne.gjelstrup@aarch.dk](mailto:hanne.gjelstrup@aarch.dk)] with name, position, institutional affiliation and address and the abstract if you wish to present your research.

Admission to the course will be announced on March 1st.

## Keynotes

### Jürgen Hasse

Dr., Professor of geography and the didactics of geography at the Goethe University, Frankfurt. He has been the key person in the expansion of German human geography towards phenomenology and the investigation of atmospheres. Among his research interests are urban atmospheres as exemplified by 'Atmosphären der Stadt', jovis Verlag, 2012.

### Juhani Pallasmaa

architect, Professor emeritus at the Helsinki Technical University. His writings emphasise the multisensory character of embodied experience of architecture and the interplay of space, place and atmosphere, understanding atmosphere as the overarching perceptual, sensory and emotive impression of a setting or a social situation.

### Jean-Paul Thibaud

PhD, senior researcher at CNRS, sociologist, scientific coordinator of Ambiances international network. Laboratoire Cresson, École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Grenoble. His research fields include the theory of urban ambiances, ordinary perception in urban milieus, the ethnography of public spaces and in situ qualitative methodologies.

Research Professor **Niels Albertsen**, Aarhus School of Architecture, manages the course.