

The Matter at Hand

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Material, form and light is experienced through the body; all the different forms of matter that surround us are perceived, touched, felt and experienced through our sensorial apparatus. Everything that we experience in the world enter our cosmos through the medium of our body and it is through our body that we come to understand our lives. When investigating the house as an entity, the matter at hand is therefore the matter that we perceive through our sensorial apparatus - our body, and become the elements that matter when understanding our place in time.

To dwell is to exist. As a sensory and spatial realm, the domestic interior has great significance given its universality and the intimate relationship that it has to its inhabitants. Despite this, the architectural discourse on the dwelling is often focused on the exterior envelope, and hence neglecting any critical debate about the spatial qualities of the interior and the sensory human scale of the contemporary dwelling interior.

As the Finnish architectural theorist Juhani Pallasmaa in his seminal book, *The Eyes of The Skin* states; “What is missing from our dwellings today are the potential transactions between body, imagination and environment”, a matter that becomes the point of departure for this project.

This master thesis consists of a three-part investigation of how we perceive phenomena around us and how we use these experiences when we dwell in the city. Based on a theoretical introduction to the theme of phenomenology and dwelling, in the form of an essay, this thesis concretizes how these topics can be used to understand the complex matter of dwelling. Based on a written essay, the gained knowledge will be used to guide a design. The result will be a proposal for a new building in a dense part of Copenhagen that tends to the needs of the inhabitants.