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The Symbiosis between Physical and Virtual Environment

Historically, cities have the promises of jobs, housing, and an image of success, and in some regions of the world these promises are still the primary structure of migration. But in others, urban flight to suburban communities is equally strong. Now, with the rapidly growing number of Internet communities, the physical realm is being challenged by the virtual environment of the World Wide Web. In actual space a body is necessary to sustain oneself; in the cyberspace of the Internet, only a mind need function. What are the implications of this reconfiguration of the body/mind relationship to the continued viability of the human realm? How does this conceptual change affect the body and what we know to be real architecture? How will the new collective of cyberspace, one that is conceptual rather than physical, understand the physical body and physical city?

As the Italian philosopher Mario Perniola points out, we now live in an "information society" rather than in the previous "mass media society". The recent emergence of cyberspace as a realm of architectural design has become increasingly important as the technology which allows the existence becomes more pervasive. The urban forms and spaces of our cities, continually influenced by communications and transportation media, will likely changed with the continued integration of digital media and content into our everyday social interactions.

This research will explore the basic definitions in many aspects which identify both physical and virtual environments. It will also investigate in-depth meanings hidden behind as well as the boundary that differentiates these two worlds. Beyond the dynamic generation of spatial representation, the research will be focusing on the integration of the virtual reality with the built environment and its effects on our future culture and society. With the opposite nature of these two man-made based environment, virtual and physical spaces can be seen and made to be interdependent and complimentary. Therefore, the physical and virtual environments have been entering the state of symbiosis.

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