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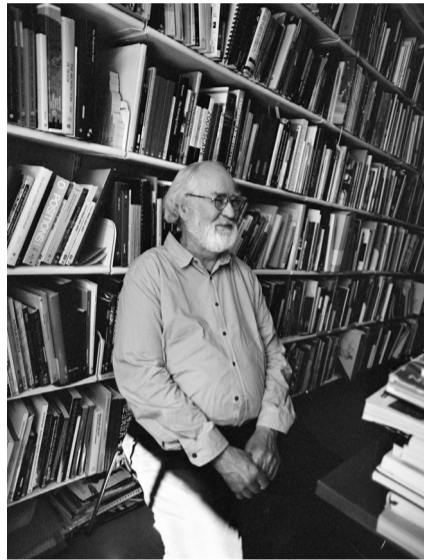
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Juhani Pallasmaa

Landscapes of architectural education - architecture, knowledge and existential wisdom

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Persona de contacto: qgg@coac.net
ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5221-7442>



JUHANI PALLASMAA (Hämeenlinna, Finland, 1936) is an architect and former dean and professor of architecture at the Helsinki University of Technology. He was Director of the Museum of Finnish Architecture (1978–1983) and head of the Institute of Industrial Arts, Helsinki. His teaching career began in 1972 as an associate professor at Haile Selassie I University (Addis Ababa). Since then he has been a lecturer and visiting professor at various schools of architecture around the world such as the Washington University of Saint Louis, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign or the Barcelona School of Architecture. He has published numerous articles and books on philosophy, psychology and theory of architecture and art, the result of his long research on the materiality and phenomenology of spaces.

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BOOK AND FILM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STUDENTS

Throughout my writings and lectures, I have emphasized the importance of experiencing authentic works of art, and that reading great books and watching masterpieces of cinema make this encounter available to anyone. With this in mind, I have compiled lists of literature and poetry, philosophy and nonfiction, and films. My lists should not be regarded as efforts to compile the best works of all time in the three categories; I have simply listed works that have been influential to my own thinking and my views on the arts. No doubt my lists reflect the particular preferences of a Finn, who has been observing world culture and artistic events from a Nordic viewpoint. My selection also focuses on books and films that existed at the time of my own studies or earlier years of practice.

I also contemplated compiling similar lists of paintings and sculptural works—but because one can experience hundreds of superb works during a single visit to a museum of fine arts in almost any major city, I gave up this idea. Besides, as I have said, works of art should, ideally, be encountered firsthand, not in reproduction. I do believe that, after initially seeing an artwork in the flesh, a reproduction can reproduce its true impact. Whenever I look at a reproduction of Giorgione's *Tempesta* (1506), I am carried back to the Gallerie dell'Accademia in Venice, where I have been looking at this painting numerous times.

As the world of cinema is very close to architectural intentions and imagery, I have included a few of my favourite books by some of the masters of cinema.

For a more comprehensive and scholarly list of the most cherished literature in the Western world, I advise my readers to consult Harold Bloom's *The Western Canon: The Books and Schools of the Ages* (Papermac, London, 1996) and his general guide to reading, *How to Read and Why* (London: Fourth Estate, 2001).

Author's Note: The books and films are listed chronologically in accordance with their year of publication in English, and in the case of films, their year of release. The given year indicates the first printing. Because many of the books have appeared in numerous editions by varying publishers, I have not specified the publishers.

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Tengo la suerte de conocer a Juhani Pallasmaa personalmente. Y le conozco, no por contactos o relación profesional previa, sino porque en 2018, le escribí proponiéndole un proyecto de investigación. Él me abrió las puertas de su despacho, sin más y nos pusimos a ello. Juhani es una persona, además de inteligente y cultísima, accesible, generosa y humilde. Como los mejores maestros, siempre abre las puertas.

Las conversaciones con él no son monólogos cerrados y egóicos -él no se fundamenta en certezas- sino todo lo contrario: ejercicios de escucha activa que él nutre a cada paso con aportaciones más vitales que intelectuales. Porque Juhani ha tenido y tiene una vida intensa. Sabe vivir bien. Está abierto a todo. Dice que nunca planifica nada, que las cosas aparecen y se encadenan solas, una tras otra -como en nuestro caso-. Pero claro, para que esto suceda, uno debe estar dispuesto a abrazar la incertidumbre o más bien la aventura de la vida. Y por ello, por esa actitud siempre en el ahora, Juhani percibe, experimenta y observa matices que a otros se nos escapan. Y nos los presenta, ordenados y enlazados, alumbrando nuevo conocimiento, en unos escritos deliciosos, también claros y accesibles, como él.

A pesar de ser una de las figuras más importantes del contexto arquitectónico internacional, Juhani, - como la arquitectura que él defiende y promueve-, viaja sin ego. No se impone -acompaña-, no pretende -es-, no busca -encuentra-, no adoctrina -dialoga-, no recela -propone-.

Aquí nos regala, no solo su visión sobre los fundamentos de la educación de un arquitecto, sino un extracto de su propio armario de las musas. De nuevo, un acto de generosidad y humildad.

QUERALT GARRIGA GIMENO es Doctora Arquitecta por la UPC y profesora asociada del Departamento de Proyectos Arquitectónicos de la ETSAB.