

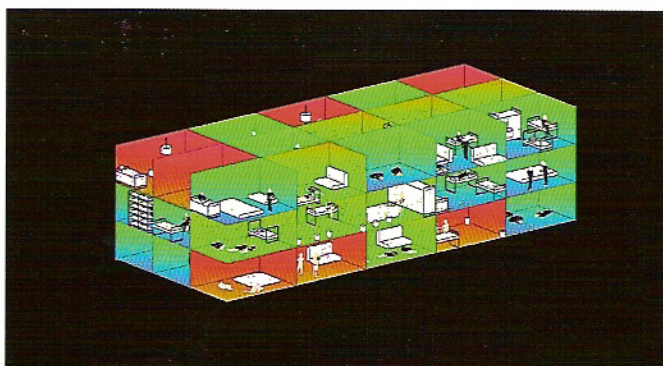
© philippe rahm architects > interior weather

LOCATION: CANADIAN CENTRE FOR ARCHITECTURE (CCA) © MONTREAL

COLLABORATION: ALAIN ROBBE-GRILLET, ECOLE POLYTECHNIQUE FEDERAL DE LAUSANNE (EPFL), ECOLE CANTONAL D'ART DE LAUSANNE (ECAL), FABRIC.CH

PHOTOGRAPHY © CCA





Created by Swiss architect Philippe Rahm, «Interior Weather» is an installation exploring his notion that form and function follow climate. Here, Rahm attempts to project an architecture where possible uses of space are dictated by the chance confluence of three parameters: temperature, light intensity, and humidity. «Interior Weather» tests the potential of these climatic variations to generate new functions and, in turn, new architectural forms. The installation draws upon a number of sources: the history of dwelling, ergonomic recommendations for lighting, Swiss and EU thermal guidelines, as well as the relation between temperature levels and people's activities and clothing types. (Precise manual work, for instance, calls for bright light, while heavy physical activity suggests a cool temperature. Light clothing is worn at 23°C, and outdoor wear — at 16°C.) Moreover, all three parameters are keyed to the requirement of efficient energy consumption.

The installation occupies two galleries. The first gallery is designed as a micro-geography. Imitating the earth's movement around the sun, the light source moves through space, modifying its climatic parameters. Some parts of the space are slightly warmer and more humid; others are cooler and less humid. Sensors across the room's floor, walls and ceiling measure variations of light intensity, humidity and temperature, and transmit the data to the second gallery, where the whole volume of the first room is reproduced as a 3D projection. The computer analyses the received data and freely reinterprets it in «fictions» that suggest new spatial practices, new forms of social behaviour, and new urban and architectural forms. The resulting scenarios are broadcasted, in real time, on the projection screen. The installation is currently on show at the Canadian Centre for Architecture (Montreal).