

Harmony as a Tangible Utopia

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Abstract

Alberti defines harmony (*concinnitas*) in a broad comprehensive manner, however tangible, and made visible by the pleasure of the beauty (*voluptas*), the third element of the Albertian triad, linked to necessity and convenience. This paper poses the question of the relationship of architectural design and harmony, in the imagination of a possible future and the promise of a better world.

Over the centuries, architecture has shown the ability to display a harmony that survived the test of time, with inter-subjective and universal character. The timeless architectural characteristics favour an aesthetic harmony and this, in the context of everyday life architectural experience, enables a lasting ethical harmony, both in individuals and in society. Relating the parts to the whole, and with the difficult task to improve reality, harmony is a quality at once real and ideal, dreamed by utopian thinking that is our best way to combine human needs, desires, and aspirations.

This text argues that, in designing and building another world, the establishment of a certain human order is a utopian aspiration of harmony. In conclusion, in achieving the triadic harmony, that one perceives and feels every day, the tangible utopia is being achieved along with an extended horizon.

Keywords: Harmony; Albertian Triad; Utopia; Architecture; Humanity