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Jonathan Hale

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Jonathan Hale : Merleau-Ponty for Architects (Thinkers for Architects) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Merleau-Ponty for Architects (Thinkers for Architects):

The philosophy of Maurice Merleau-Ponty (1908–1961) has influenced the design work of architects as diverse as Steven Holl and Peter Zumthor, as well as informing renowned schools of architectural theory, notably those around Dalibor Vesely at Cambridge, Kenneth Frampton, David Leatherbarrow and Alberto Pérez-Gómez in North America and Juhani Pallasmaa in Finland. Merleau-Ponty suggested that the value of people’s experience of the world gained

through their immediate bodily engagement with it remains greater than the value of understanding gleaned through abstract mathematical, scientific or technological systems. This book summarizes what Merleau-Ponty's philosophy has to offer specifically for architects. It locates architectural thinking in the context of his work, placing it in relation to themes such as space, movement, materiality and creativity, introduces key texts, helps decode difficult terms and provides quick reference for further reading.

'The phenomenological features of Merleau-Ponty's notion of embodiment have today received extensive support by contemporary biological and neuroscientific research. Hale's book, which highlights and distills the pivotal insights of the French philosopher, is essential reading for every architect who might ponder how people actually perceive their designed environments.' - Harry Francis Mallgrave, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Illinois Institute of Technology, USA
About the Author
Jonathan Hale is Associate Professor and Reader in Architectural Theory at the University of Nottingham, UK.