

Body, eye and imagination:

A meditation on the dynamics of space in french and english gardening

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Abstract

This paper tests notions developed within Space Syntax, on the history of classical French gardens and English landscaped parks. It opens with a review of certain basic principles of Space Syntax, before revisiting the historiography of these gardens in a manner that stresses the mode of interaction between syntax and semantics. After observing an evolutionary process that tends to reduce semantics to syntax, the paper concludes by focusing on a particular kind of experience stimulated by landscaping. In so doing, it engages from a different perspective questions relating to the spatial construction of meaning that have been encountered in a particular programme of experimental work in architectural design.

Keywords

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