

## ANTWERP DESIGN SEMINARS & LECTURES

'The Antwerp Design Seminars & Lectures' – ADSL - is an international event that takes place each year at the Department of Design Sciences at the Artesis University College Antwerp.

Its aim is to stimulate cross-boundary thinking in design and to familiarize students with an interdisciplinary approach towards design problems.

ADSL provides an international forum for faculty and student exchange.

Simultaneously, it's an informal platform to discuss current problems related to the education in design.

## CONGRUENCE

*"If language exists, it is because below the levels of identities and differences, there is a foundation provided by resemblance, repetition and natural crisscrossing. Resemblance, excluded from knowledge since the seventeenth century, still constitutes the outer edge of language: the ring surrounding the domain of that which can be analyzed, reduced to order and known. Discourse dissipates this murmur [of resemblance] but without it we could not speak."*

[Michel Foucault, The Order of Things]

Congruence is the state achieved by coming together, the state of agreement. The Latin *congruere* means to come together or agree. As an abstract term, congruence means similarity between objects. As opposed to equivalence or approximation, congruence is a relation that implies a *kind* of [not complete] equivalence.

The term 'congruence principle' may refer to any undertaking that seeks to align apparently disparate things. Specifically, in linguistics and etymology, it may refer to the principle that similar words may arise in different languages entirely independently of one another. In architecture, interior or urban design, it may be so that some similar forms appear while having some other meaning.

Thus here the *Gestalt* principle is coming into order. Congruent figures are exact duplicates of each other. One could be fitted over the other so that their corresponding parts coincide.

Congruence is also a state of agreement, harmony, conformity or correspondence. Can we talk about congruence as a space between theory and practice, between thinking and realization, between building statics and formal dynamics, between words and things?

In a time where the discourse is becoming very important in all design processes, how can we overlap the existing and always widening gap and give it an interesting time-space definition in the understanding of each project.

ADSL 2011 will explore the references on the theme of Congruence and aims to investigate the power of a variety of images and thoughts in landscape, architecture, engineering, interior design, monument care, through a poetic and personal intuition in order to reach beyond the specific discipline.