

the poetry of spaces

The poetry of spaces is an evocative concept that explores how physical environments, architectural designs, and even natural landscapes can evoke poetic sentiments, tell stories, and inspire deep emotional responses. This fascinating intersection between spatial design and poetic expression highlights the profound ways in which our surroundings influence our thoughts, feelings, and perceptions. In this article, we delve into the essence of the poetry of spaces, its historical roots, key elements, and how contemporary designers and architects harness this poetic power to craft meaningful environments.

Understanding the Poetry of Spaces

What Is the Poetry of Spaces?

The poetry of spaces refers to the poetic qualities embedded within physical environments. It captures the rhythm, harmony, tension, and beauty found in architectural forms, urban layouts, gardens, and natural landscapes. Just as poetry uses words and metaphors to evoke emotion, the poetry of spaces employs shapes, light, textures, sounds, and spatial relationships to evoke feelings and tell stories.

This concept emphasizes that spaces are not merely functional or aesthetic; they possess an expressive quality that can communicate moods, cultural values, and human experiences. Spaces become poetic when they inspire reflection, evoke nostalgia, or stimulate the imagination.

Historical Perspectives

Throughout history, architects and artists have recognized the poetic power of space. The grandeur of Gothic cathedrals, the serenity of Japanese Zen gardens, and the harmony of classical Greek temples all exemplify how designed environments can embody poetic ideals.

Ancient civilizations often integrated poetry and architecture, creating spaces that told stories or honored spiritual beliefs. For example:

- Egyptian temples with their intricate hieroglyphs and monumental scale convey divine narratives.
- Renaissance gardens like those of Versailles reflect harmony, order, and human mastery over nature.
- Islamic courtyards with geometric patterns and calligraphy blend art and spirituality into spatial design.

These examples demonstrate that spaces have long been imbued with poetic significance, serving as expressions of cultural identity and spiritual ideals.

Elements of the Poetry of Spaces

Understanding what makes a space poetic involves analyzing its core elements. These elements work together to create environments that resonate on an emotional and symbolic level.

Light and Shadow

Light is perhaps the most potent poetic element in spatial design. It shapes perception, creates mood, and highlights features within a space. The interplay of light and shadow can evoke mystery, serenity, or drama.

Architects like Louis Kahn masterfully used natural light to craft poetic spaces, emphasizing the importance of sunlight in shaping human experience within architectural environments.

Form and Scale

The shapes and proportions of spaces influence how they make us feel. Large, open halls can evoke awe, while intimate nooks foster comfort. The harmony or tension between forms can mirror poetic themes such as balance or conflict.

Materials and Textures

The tactile qualities of materials—smooth stone, rough wood, soft textiles—add sensory richness to a space. These textures can evoke warmth, coldness, or nostalgia, contributing to the poetic narrative of the environment.

Sound and Silence

Acoustics play a crucial role in the poetry of spaces. The echoes in a cathedral or the quiet hush of a Zen garden can evoke spiritual reflection or meditative calm.

Spatial Relationships

The way spaces connect and flow influences their poetic expression. Circular courtyards, winding paths, or layered terraces can symbolize journeys, cycles, or transitions.

Contemporary Approaches to the Poetry of Spaces

Modern designers and architects continue to explore the poetic potential of spaces, often blending traditional elements with innovative techniques.

Architectural Minimalism

Minimalist designs emphasize simplicity, clarity, and the beauty of essential forms. They often evoke feelings of tranquility and contemplation, allowing the space's poetic qualities to shine through unencumbered.

Eco-Poetry and Sustainable Design

Sustainable architecture integrates natural elements, renewable materials, and eco-friendly technologies. These spaces poetically express harmony with nature and environmental consciousness.

Urban Poetry

Cities are vast canvases for poetic spatial design. Urban planners use parks, public plazas, and artistic interventions to create poetic narratives within the bustling city fabric.

Examples of Poetic Spaces Around the World

To illustrate the power of the poetry of spaces, consider these iconic examples:

- **Sagrada Família, Barcelona:** Antoni Gaudí's masterpiece employs organic forms, intricate details, and light to evoke a spiritual poetry that transcends mere architecture.
- **Fallingwater, Pennsylvania:** Frank Lloyd Wright's integration of nature and architecture creates a poetic dialogue between built and natural environments.
- **Japanese Zen Gardens:** Minimalist landscapes designed for meditation, emphasizing simplicity, balance, and harmony, embodying poetic serenity.
- **St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City:** Its grand scale, light, and spatial arrangement evoke awe and spiritual reverence, poetic in its grandeur.

The Role of the Poet-Designer

Just as poets use words to craft emotion and meaning, designers and architects serve as poets of spaces. Their creative vision transforms physical environments into poetic expressions that influence our moods and thoughts.

Key qualities of a space poet:

- Sensitivity to context and culture
- Ability to balance form, function, and symbolism
- Mastery of materials and light
- Innovative use of spatial relationships
- Understanding of human psychology and emotion

By weaving these qualities, designers craft environments that resonate deeply, offering poetic experiences to their inhabitants.

Conclusion: Embracing the Poetry of Spaces

The poetry of spaces reminds us that our environments are more than mere backdrops—they are living, breathing expressions of human creativity and cultural values. Whether through the serenity of a garden, the grandeur of a cathedral, or the intimacy of a small room, spaces can evoke poetic feelings that inspire, comfort, and provoke reflection.

As we continue to design and inhabit our environments, recognizing the poetic potential within spaces encourages us to create more meaningful, soulful places. Embracing this perspective fosters a richer connection to our surroundings, transforming the way we experience the world around us.

In the end, the poetry of spaces invites us to see architecture and landscapes not just as physical constructs but as poetic narratives waiting to be discovered and appreciated.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is meant by 'the poetry of spaces' in contemporary literature?

The poetry of spaces refers to the poetic exploration and depiction of physical environments, emphasizing how spaces shape human experience, evoke emotions, and serve as metaphors for inner

states or societal themes.

How do poets use architectural and urban spaces to enhance their themes?

Poets incorporate descriptions of buildings, streets, and landscapes to create vivid imagery, symbolize societal issues, or reflect personal memories, thereby deepening the emotional resonance and thematic complexity of their work.

What role does the concept of 'emptiness' or 'void' play in the poetry of spaces?

Emptiness or voids in poetic spaces often symbolize isolation, potential, or introspection, allowing poets to explore themes of silence, absence, and the unspoken within physical or metaphorical environments.

Can the poetry of spaces be linked to environmental or ecological themes?

Yes, many poets use spatial imagery to comment on environmental issues, emphasizing the beauty, fragility, or degradation of natural landscapes, thereby fostering awareness and emotional connection to ecological concerns.

How has the digital age influenced the poetry of spaces?

The digital age has expanded the concept of space to include virtual environments, influencing poets to explore themes of connectivity, virtual realities, and the blurring boundaries between physical and digital worlds.

Are there specific cultural or regional differences in how spaces are depicted in poetry?

Absolutely. Cultural backgrounds influence how spaces are perceived and described, with some cultures emphasizing spiritual connection to nature, communal spaces, or historical landscapes, shaping distinct poetic traditions around space.

What are some notable contemporary poets known for exploring the poetry of spaces?

Poets like Ocean Vuong, Tracy K. Smith, and Ravi Shankar are recognized for their innovative use of space—whether urban, natural, or abstract—in their poetry to evoke emotion and reflect on identity and society.

Additional Resources

The poetry of spaces is an evocative concept that explores how physical environments—be they natural landscapes, urban settings, or architectural constructs—serve as canvases for poetic expression. This idea encompasses not only the aesthetic beauty of spaces but also their capacity to evoke emotion, inspire reflection, and tell stories without words. As a multifaceted domain, the poetry of spaces bridges disciplines such as architecture, geography, literature, and art, inviting us to perceive our surroundings as living, breathing entities that communicate in subtle, profound ways. In this article, we delve into the various dimensions of this phenomenon, analyzing how spaces function poetically and why their interpretation enriches our understanding of both environment and human experience.

Understanding the Concept of the Poetry of Spaces

Defining 'Poetry' in the Context of Spaces

The term "poetry" traditionally refers to literary art characterized by rhythm, imagery, and emotional resonance. When applied to spaces, it shifts from verbal expression to a visual and experiential language. Here, "poetry" encapsulates the aesthetic qualities, symbolic meanings, and emotional impacts that spaces evoke. It suggests that certain environments possess an inherent rhythm or harmony, akin to poetic meters, which resonate with viewers on a subconscious level.

Spaces are poetic not only because of their visual appeal but also because of their capacity to tell stories, evoke nostalgia, or inspire awe. For example, a dilapidated building might evoke a sense of decay and nostalgia, while a vibrant marketplace can pulsate with vitality—each space offering a narrative told through form, texture, and ambiance.

The Intersection of Space and Poetic Expression

The poetic qualities of spaces are often realized through human interaction. Our perceptions of space are subjective; what one perceives as a poetic environment might differ from another's experience. The interplay between design, context, and individual perception creates a layered tapestry of meaning.

Architects and artists often harness these qualities intentionally, designing spaces that evoke specific emotions or tell stories. Conversely, spontaneous or organic spaces—such as a secluded forest or an abandoned alleyway—acquire poetic significance through their natural or historical narratives. This dynamic interaction underscores that the poetry of spaces is both an intrinsic and an interpretive phenomenon.

Historical and Cultural Dimensions of Poetic Spaces

Historical Significance and Memory

Many spaces acquire poetic depth through their historical narratives. Monuments, ruins, ancient temples, and battlegrounds serve as physical repositories of collective memory. These sites encapsulate stories of triumph, tragedy, or cultural evolution, transforming their physical presence into poetic symbols.

For example, the Roman Forum's ruins evoke a sense of grandeur and the passage of civilizations, while Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park embodies resilience and hope. The poetic quality arises from their ability to connect present-day visitors with past events, inspiring reflection and emotional engagement.

Cultural Expressions and Symbolism

Different cultures imbue spaces with unique poetic meanings through symbolism, tradition, and spiritual significance. Sacred spaces such as temples, mosques, and shrines often employ architectural features—domes, minarets, courtyards—that carry layered symbolic meanings. These structures serve as poetic expressions of faith, community, and cultural identity.

Urban spaces, too, reflect cultural values through their design. For instance, the communal courtyards of Middle Eastern cities or the public plazas of European towns convey social cohesion and collective identity. The poetry of these spaces lies in their capacity to embody cultural narratives and social aspirations.

Architectural and Design Elements as Poetic Devices

Form, Rhythm, and Composition

Architectural design employs elements such as form, scale, symmetry, and asymmetry to create spaces that evoke poetic sensations. A building's silhouette against the sky can resemble a poem's meter, establishing a rhythm that guides perception.

For example, Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater integrates architecture seamlessly into its natural environment, creating a poetic harmony between built form and landscape. The interplay of horizontal lines with the flowing water embodies a visual rhythm that resonates with tranquility.

Textures, Light, and Shadow

Textures and materiality contribute to the tactile poetry of spaces. Rough stone surfaces, smooth glass, or weathered wood each tell their own stories through their physical qualities.

Light and shadow are perhaps the most potent poetic devices in spatial design. The way sunlight filters through a stained-glass window or casts shadows through a colonnade can evoke different moods—serenity, mystery, spirituality. The ephemeral quality of light transforms spaces over time, adding a dynamic, poetic layer.

Spatial Arrangement and Flow

The organization of space influences emotional and poetic responses. Open, expansive spaces may evoke freedom and awe, while enclosed, intimate areas foster reflection and closeness.

Consider the winding courtyards of Moroccan riads, which create a sense of journey and discovery. The deliberate flow of movement through these spaces guides visitors' emotional experiences, akin to a poetic narrative unfolding within a physical form.

Natural Spaces as Living Poems

The Poetics of Landscapes

Natural environments—mountains, forests, oceans—are arguably the most primal forms of poetic spaces. Their grandeur, serenity, or ferocity evoke profound emotional responses and serve as sources of inspiration for poets, painters, and philosophers alike.

The poetry of landscapes can be observed in the way mountains rise majestically, rivers carve their courses, or storms rage across the horizon. These natural phenomena embody themes of permanence, change, and the sublime—concepts central to poetic reflection.

Ecological and Environmental Narratives

Spaces shaped by ecological processes—such as wetlands or coral reefs—also carry poetic narratives of resilience, fragility, and interconnectedness. The poetry of natural spaces reminds us of our place within larger ecosystems and the subtle beauty of ecological balance.

Modern Perspectives and Contemporary Interpretations

Urban Spaces and Poetic Urbanism

In contemporary urban design, the concept of poetic spaces has gained prominence as cities seek to

foster identity and emotional resonance. Placemaking initiatives aim to create environments that inspire, comfort, and evoke community pride.

Examples include pedestrian-friendly plazas, murals, parks integrated into cityscapes, and architectural landmarks that serve as symbols of local identity. These spaces are crafted to tell stories, foster social interactions, and serve as poetic anchors within the urban fabric.

Digital and Virtual Spaces

With technological advancements, virtual environments—such as immersive art installations, digital landscapes, and online communities—also become poetic spaces. They extend the concept beyond physicality, offering new dimensions for poetic expression and aesthetic experience.

Analytical Perspectives: Why the Poetry of Spaces Matters

Emotional and Psychological Impact

Spaces influence our emotional states profoundly. A well-designed space can evoke tranquility, excitement, nostalgia, or introspection. Recognizing the poetic qualities of spaces enhances our awareness of how environment shapes mental well-being.

Research indicates that natural and aesthetically pleasing environments reduce stress and promote mental health, underscoring the importance of poetic space in urban planning and architecture.

Social and Cultural Significance

Spaces serve as sites of social interaction and cultural identity. Their poetic qualities foster community bonds and collective memory. Celebrating the poetry of spaces encourages preservation of meaningful environments and thoughtful design that respects cultural narratives.

Artistic and Creative Inspiration

Artists and poets draw inspiration from spaces, translating their poetic qualities into various art forms. The appreciation of space's poetry enriches creative expression, blurring the boundaries between environment and art.

Conclusion: Embracing the Poetry of Spaces

The poetry of spaces invites us to look beyond their functional aspects and appreciate their layered meanings, emotional resonance, and narrative power. Whether ancient ruins, bustling city squares, or tranquil natural landscapes, spaces serve as silent poets that communicate with us through form, light, texture, and symbolism. Recognizing and engaging with this poetic dimension enhances our experience of the world, fostering deeper connections to our environment and to each other. As architecture, landscape, and urban design evolve, embracing the poetry of spaces becomes essential not only for aesthetic enrichment but also for cultivating spaces that nurture human spirit, cultural memory, and ecological harmony. In essence, spaces are not merely containers of activity—they are living poems, awaiting our interpretation and appreciation.

The Poetry Of Spaces

the poetry of spaces: The Poetry of Spaces Sarah Andrews, 2023-09-12 The Poetry of Spaces is a stunning exploration of the core principles of aesthete stylist Sarah Andrews' work. Beginning with the five foundational themes of: light, life, instrument, material, and sense, Sarah explores the inspiration behind these lessons before sharing some impeccable examples of their use in homes across the world. The following 'Places' and 'Rooms' chapters offer a chance for a deeper dive in the styling choices at some truly remarkable homes. Sarah's creative eye and relatable writing style will inspire readers to look afresh at their homes and reach for new style heights.

the poetry of spaces: The Poetry of Spaces Thor Castlebury, 2024-09-27 In The Poetry of Spaces, readers are invited to embark on a lyrical journey through the unseen and often unappreciated realms that surround us. This evocative collection captures the essence of landscapes, both physical and emotional, weaving vivid imagery with profound reflections on solitude, connection, and the intricate tapestry of life. Each poem serves as a portal to diverse environments—from the bustling energy of urban life to the serene embrace of nature's quiet corners. The verses resonate with the echoes of forgotten memories and the whispers of untouched places, urging us to explore the beauty found in every nook and cranny of existence. With a delicate balance of simplicity and depth, The Poetry of Spaces invites readers to pause, reflect, and discover the poetry inherent in their own surroundings. This book is a celebration of the spaces we inhabit and the moments that define us, making it an essential addition to the library of any poetry lover in search of inspiration and insight.

the poetry of spaces: The Augustan Space Monica R. Gale, Anna Chahoud, 2024-06-27 A wide-ranging exploration of the construction and representation of space and monumentality in central texts of the Augustan period.

the poetry of spaces: The Ethnopoetics of Space and Transformation Stuart C. Aitken, 2016-02-17 Change is inevitable, we are told. A job is lost, a couple falls in love, children leave home, an addict joins Narcotics Anonymous, two nations go to war, a family member's health deteriorates, a baby is born, a universal health care bill is voted into law. Life comprises events over which we have considerable, partial, or little or no control. The distance between the event and our daily lives suggests a quirky spatial politics. Our lives move forward depending upon how events play out in concert with our reactions to them. Drawing on nearly three decades of geographic projects that involve ethnographies and interviews with, and stories about, young people in North and South American, Europe and Asia and using the innovative technique of ethnopoetry, Aitken examines key life-changing events to look at the interconnections between space, politics, change and emotions. Analysing the intricate spatial complexities of these events, he explores the emotions that undergird the ways change takes place, and the perplexing spatial politics that almost always

accompany transformations. Aitken positions young people as effective agents of change without romanticizing their political involvement as fantasy and unrealistic dreaming. Going further, he suggests that it is the emotional palpability of youth engagement and activism that makes it so potent and productive. Pulling on the spatial theories of de Certeau, Deleuze, Massey, Agamben, Rancière, Žižek and Grosz amongst others, Aitken argues that spaces are transformative to the degree that they open the political and he highlights the complexly interwoven political, economic, social and cultural practices that simultaneously embed and embolden people in places. If we think of spaces as events and events encourage change, then spaces and people become other through complex relations. Taking poetry to be an emotive construction of language, Aitken re-visualizes, contorts and arranges people's words and gestures to

the poetry of spaces: Reterritorializing the Spaces of Violence in Colombia Constanza López Baquero, 2024-02-05 This volume examines how violence and resilience is experienced in urban spaces, and explores the history of a variety of people told from the perspective of the margins. *Reterritorializing the Spaces of Violence in Colombia* provides critical and empirical examples of individuals and groups who believe in their collective power, reject war and violence, and manifest their resistance through art and activism in ways that rethread the social fabric. This book is the result of extensive fieldwork conducted over ten years in Medellín and Bogotá and it brings into focus the ways that hip hop, poetry, urban art, and the creation of communities and shared experiences bring about new ways to dignify life and inhabit the city. It analyses the contemporary history of Colombia by drawing on the critical perspectives and tools of various disciplines. It also puts into dialogue the diverse and innovative scholarship from the North and the South that addresses inequality, violence, trauma and resilience. Most importantly, it focuses on the challenges that women and young people face today in situations of conflict and post-conflict. This book will be of interest for researchers and students at the undergraduate and graduate levels, as well as readers interested in issues of human rights and the history of the Americas.

the poetry of spaces: Scribes of Space Matthew Boyd Goldie, 2019-03-15 *Scribes of Space* posits that the conception of space—the everyday physical areas we perceive and through which we move—underwent critical transformations between the thirteenth and fifteenth centuries. Matthew Boyd Goldie examines how natural philosophers, theologians, poets, and other thinkers in late medieval Britain altered the ideas about geographical space they inherited from the ancient world. In tracing the causes and nature of these developments, and how geographical space was consequently understood, Goldie focuses on the intersection of medieval science, theology, and literature, deftly bringing a wide range of writings—scientific works by Nicole Oresme, Jean Buridan, the Merton School of Oxford Calculators, and Thomas Bradwardine; spiritual, poetic, and travel writings by John Lydgate, Robert Henryson, Margery Kempe, the Mandeville author, and Geoffrey Chaucer—into conversation. This pairing of physics and literature uncovers how the understanding of spatial boundaries, locality, elevation, motion, and proximity shifted across time, signaling the emergence of a new spatial imagination during this era.

the poetry of spaces: *The Poetry of Place* Louisa Mackenzie, 2011-01-01 The sixteenth century in France was marked by religious warfare and shifting political and physical landscapes. Between 1549 and 1584, however, the Pléiade poets, including Pierre de Ronsard, Joachim Du Bellay, Rémy Belleau, and Antoine de Baïf, produced some of the most abiding and irenic depictions of rural French landscapes ever written. In *The Poetry of Place*, Louisa Mackenzie reveals and analyzes the cultural history of French *paysage* through her study of lyric poetry and its connections with landscape painting, cartography, and land use history. In the face of destructive environmental change, lyric poets in Renaissance France often wrote about idealized physical spaces, reclaiming the altered landscape to counteract the violence and loss of the period and creating in the process what Mackenzie, following David Harvey, terms 'spaces of hope.' This unique alliance of French Renaissance studies with cultural geography and eco-criticism demonstrates that sixteenth-century poetry created a powerful sense of place which continues to inform national and regional sentiment today.

the poetry of spaces: Carceral Spaces Nick Gill, 2016-04-15 This book draws together the work of a new community of scholars with a growing interest in carceral geography: the geographical study of practices of imprisonment and detention. It combines work by geographers on 'mainstream' penal establishments where people are incarcerated by the prevailing legal system, with geographers' recent work on migrant detention centres, where irregular migrants and 'refused' asylum seekers are detained, ostensibly pending decisions on admittance or repatriation. Working in these contexts, the book's contributors investigate the geographical location and spatialities of institutions, the nature of spaces of incarceration and detention and experiences inside them, governmentality and prisoner agency, cultural geographies of penal spaces, and mobility in the carceral context. In dialogue with emergent and topical agendas in geography around mobility, space and agency, and in relation to international policy challenges such as the (dis)functionality of imprisonment and the search for alternatives to detention, this book presents a timely addition to emergent interdisciplinary scholarship that will prompt dialogue among those working in geography, criminology and prison sociology.

the poetry of spaces: Monstrous Spaces: The Other Frontier , 2019-01-04 This volume was first published by Inter-Disciplinary Press in 2013. *Monstrous Spaces: The Other Frontier*, is a collection of essays presented during the First Global Conference of Monstrous Geography held at Manchester College, Oxford. When examining monstrous geographies, we encounter an Other frontier, a space that runs counter to the socially constructed space of culture that at the same time includes, overlaps, and co-occupies the cultural landscape.

the poetry of spaces: *Space and the Irish Cultural Imagination* Gerry Smyth, 2001-07-18 This book reconstitutes the category of 'space' as a crucial element within contemporary cultural, literary and historical studies in Ireland. The study is based on the dual premise of an explosion of interest in the category of space in modern cultural criticism and social inquiry, and the consolidation of Irish studies as a significant scholarly field across a number of institutional and intellectual contexts. Besides a methodological/theoretical introduction and extended case studies, the book includes an auto-critical dimension which extends its interest into the fields of local history and life-writing.

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the poetry of spaces: *The Poetics of Stage Space* Bruce A. Bergner, 2013-05-20 This book analyzes theatre scene design through the powers and characteristics of physical space. Physical space is central to creative composition in the theatre, but the author extends the reach of the book to individuals concerned with spatial design--architects, interior designers, industrial designers, artists and other performers. A theory is presented on how design, and its creative process, echo the process of human awareness and action. The book covers an array of considerations for the theatre designer--the observable features of given physical spaces, their layout, detailing and atmosphere--and presents these features from the points of view of various disciplines. There are chapters on the physics of space, the geography of space and the music of space. The author also speaks to the less tangible qualities sensed more personally, such as the spirituality or the psyche of space. A discussion of the collaborative process of creating space is included. Instructors considering this book for use in a course may request an examination copy [here](#).

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Paris, Berlin and Vienna.

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the poetry of spaces: Apollonius of Rhodes and the Spaces of Hellenism William G. Thalmann, 2011-05-20 Although Apollonius of Rhodes' extraordinary epic poem on the Argonauts' quest for the Golden Fleece has begun to get the attention it deserves, it still is not well known to many readers and scholars. This book explores the poem's relation to the conditions of its writing in third century BCE Alexandria, where a multicultural environment transformed the Greeks' understanding of themselves and the world. Apollonius uses the resources of the imagination - the myth of the Argonauts' voyage and their encounters with other peoples - to probe the expanded possibilities and the anxieties opened up when definitions of Hellenism and boundaries between Greeks and others were exposed to question. Central to this concern with definitions is the poem's representation of space. Thalmann uses spatial theories from cultural geography and anthropology to argue that the Argo's itinerary defines space from a Greek perspective that is at the same time qualified. Its limits are exposed, and the signs with which the Argonauts mark space by their passage preserve the stories of their complex interactions with non-Greeks. The book closely considers many episodes in the narrative with regard to the Argonauts' redefinition of space and the implications of their actions for the Greeks' situation in Egypt, and it ends by considering Alexandria itself as a space that accommodated both Greek and Egyptian cultures.

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Darwin's broader sense of the poetic text as a material space, he posits a significant shift from the Enlightenment's emphases on conceptual spaces to the Romantic period's emphases on historical time. He shows how Darwin's poetry illuminates his stance toward all the major physical sciences and his well-formulated theories of evolution and materially based psychology. Priestman's study also offers the first substantial accounts of Darwin's mythological theories and their links to Enlightenment Rosicrucianism and Freemasonry, and of the reading of history that emerges from the fragment-poem *The Progress of Society*, a first-ever printed edition of which is included in an appendix. Ultimately, Priestman's book offers readers a sustained account of Darwin's polymathic Enlightenment worldview and cognate poetics in a period when texts are too often judged by their adherence to a retrospectively constructed 'Romanticism'.

the poetry of spaces: *Better Library Design* Rebecca T. Miller, Barbara A. Genco, 2015-12-28 Few librarians build more than one library in their careers and renovating or building a whole new library is a very expensive investment. Thus, new or refurbished structures need to be fresh and up to date. While some librarians have the means to visit exemplary buildings as they develop their own library's master plan, most library leaders and stakeholders won't actually see the full range of potential projects. Hence, this unique book is both a resource and a brainstorm prompt. It helps library leaders and key stakeholders surface the ideal programmatic aspects that drive exciting design, and offer recent design solutions that have been effectively implemented. *Better Library Design: Ideas from Library Journal* identifies and celebrates the top trends in library design, capturing current state and provides an authoritative overview for those planning their own projects. This is a colorful, high content survey of dynamic library building projects completed in the last five years, in both public and academic settings. Anchored by Library Journal's New Landmark Libraries competition, here is the nation's best examples of innovative, functional, appealing design --- all in glorious full-color so you'll be both inspired and informed as you make important design choices.

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