

**From Place Perceptions to Spatial “Misplaced Concreteness”
Project For a Bilingual Book**

Jean Robert

German series

1. Topocosmic relations before the emergence of the concept of space
2. Scholastic physics as a conceptual *instrumentarium* for the understanding of the “where?–question” under the reign of the medieval *topocosm* or *place-in-a-cosmos* (main source: Anneliese Maier’s works)
3. The Dionysius *epos* (founding *epos* of the “French nation”) interpreted with concepts of “scholastic physics” such as *motu*, *perfectio*, *via ad perfectionem*, *forma fluens* (von Simson)
4. The body and its abode: controversies about body and house inscholastic times
5. The crystallization of the European soil (*Flur*) and the birth of peasantry in the early Middle Ages (according to Wenskus, Jahnkuhnand Grinda); “a Europe of villages” (Chapelot and Fossier)
- 5 –7 Anagogè, reductio, Zurückführung: from the soil to the sky and back in the *Saint Denis* *epos*. Abbot Suger as embodiment of the “one saint in three persons”
6. Suger/Denis-Spirituality
7. Suger/Denis-Faith
8. Suger/Denis-Soil (reflections on *corruptio optimi* in Suger’s administration)

9. The spindles and the looms of history: the medieval origin of concepts and percepts ascribed to the Renaissance (by McLuhan forinstance)
10. “Political organologies”: precursors of modern political “spaces” since the XIth Century (Adalberon of Laon in the XIth C. and followers, comments by Struve, Oexle)
11. A sketch of the history of the space concept (inspired by J. Robert’s, “Space”, an entry in the McMillan *Encyclopaedia for Ethics, Science and Technology*, edited by Carl Mitcham (2005))

English series

Remnants of Placeness in the Empire of Space

1. The “ubi question” in the modern age
2. A plea for a history of space “perceptions”; the ubi question in modern times, answers to it as forms of “displaced concreteness” (Daston and Galison)
3. Modernity’s spatial imperative
4. Memories of placeness
5. Place in the space age (published)
6. “We live under the shield of a spatial imperative”
7. Recovering a sense of place
8. Some historical symbols, myths and rituals of placeness (Rg Veda, Rykwert)
9. Hestia and Hermes: The Greek imagination of motion and “space”(Vernant)
10. Odysseus’ House, 8th century B.C.
11. From the pedestrian condition to the addiction to speed
12. The pedestrian condition
13. Its disarticulation by speed
14. The Disembodiment of Motion, a comment on Turner’s *Rain, Steam and Speed* (published)
15. Speed as a state of altered perception and as a perception-shaping
16. “Force”

Reflections on Modern Architecture

1. The estrangement of “domestic” and “homely”: the snobbish praise of the “uncanny” and of “de-familiarization” by radical architecture theorists (their reference to Benjamin)
2. The case of Dr. Edith Farnsworth, Mies van der Rohe’s first American patron
3. The potential conflict between the art of building, and the act of dwelling illustrated by Adolf Loos’ fable of the “poor rich man”
4. Home and house (Rykwert)
5. A plea for a reappraisal of domesticity as a historical concept rooted in Neolithic Times: a reflection on the “right to leave traces” (Illich)
6. Architecture between orality and literacy (epic vs over-designed architecture, a critical reflection on Bernard Tschumi’s phrase “there is no architecture without texts”)
7.