Abstract: Historically, the term *Umwelt* was associated from the late nineteenth century onwards with worldviews that aimed to integrate man within a given natural space. Nowadays, *Umwelt* seems to rely on a viewpoint extraterritorial to the environment; most dramatically illustrated, perhaps, by earth images taken from outer space. Accordingly, *Umwelt* oscillates between referring to a world that surrounds us or opposes us. This dichotomy has not only determined investigations into the meaning of *Umwelt* by biologists, geographers, and philosophers, but also by twentieth-century architects addressing environmental concerns.

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