

# ‘Spirit or ‘Geist’



‘A great epoch has begun.  
There exists a new spirit.’

Le Corbusier, *Towards a New Architecture*, 1931

## **The Bottle of Spirits**

**November 1, 2025**

*“In a flash I see a bottle of methylated spirits, then I wake up.”*

Faster than I expected, the simple meaning reaches me. *Methylated spirits* helps to ignite a fire. Although it can be dangerous, it can be used, for instance, to light a barbecue. Spirits is a kind of liquid spirit: it flows, evaporates, and ignites.

After this first insight, I recall a remark from my old friend Brent, a philosopher. He once told me that there is a difference between the English word *spirit* and the German word *Geist*. The word *Geist* still relates to *geyser*, and comes from “to ignite,” “to spark,” arising from the earth. In *spirit*, in English, and also in the French *esprit*, these roots in the earth have disappeared.

Through that small bottle of spirits, something suddenly becomes clearer, and falls into a new relation. English *spirit* is light, almost fleeting. It rises, dissolves, and becomes something sacred that hovers above you. Its origin seems celestial. But *Geist*, the German word, breathes more deeply. It wells up from the earth, like a geyser that cannot be contained. There is fire in it: ignition, movement. It is not only something you receive, but more importantly, something that awakens within you.

*Geist*, or *spirit*, is neither heavenly nor earthly, but present, everywhere in the Now.

The dominance of the English language makes us forget much, allowing original memories to wash away. This is partly due to global communication, which has expanded through the use of English.

A year ago, I had already written a small pamphlet, in English, on this very theme. It was a brief manifesto against the Anglo-Saxon mindset that often, without awareness, reduces the world to measurable growth, to numbers, to efficiency.

*The words growth and de-growth belong to the empire of reduction.*

*English is the language of the devil.*

*Expand your human energy and create new information.*

In English, spirit has become detached from the earth. It floats above the world as an abstraction, a product, an idea. The language itself has lost its body. That is why English can sometimes appear as a disembodied language, a language that separates word and world, a symbol of disconnection, of the split between human and world, between heart and hand, between word and reality.

But in German, the word *Geist* still lives. Not as escape, but as fire. *Geist* is the breath that dwells within matter, the spark that connects architecture, music, and thought.

As an architect, I try to make this coherence tangible in my work. In Smart Hood Architecture, we design places where energy can flow freely between people and their environment, where technology does not replace the human being but supports it, where water, food, and light together form a new order.

Architecture should not only be efficient, but meaningful, a place where energy becomes experience.

The call is simple: *Expand your human energy and create new information*. Stop reducing. Start connecting. The future of Europe does not lie in growth, but in awareness. Not only in profit, but in value.

*Geist*, or *spirit*, is therefore neither heavenly nor earthly. It is not a spirit from above or below, but a cosmic presence that lives everywhere at once. Cosmic spirit is cosmic consciousness energy. It is not something that resides within you, but something that becomes visible through you.

Old metaphysics placed “spirit” above the world. The new order of consciousness, in which I write, live, and design, places spirit within the world, as a cosmic circulation of intelligence: it is everywhere in the Now.

Thus, the small bottle of spirits from my dream becomes a symbol of our time: a reminder that the spark of spirit truly lives only when it connects. For me, architecture is that act of ignition, the moment when spirit touches matter, and light becomes form.

‘A man is an exceptional phenomenon occurring at long intervals, perhaps by chance, perhaps in accordance with **the pulsation of a cosmography not yet understood.**’

Le Corbusier, Towards a New Architecture, 1931