Nature is not something we have left behind in our becoming civilized; the natural in us is not to be overcome. Nature affects us, it has been affecting us, and will continue to affect us. We understand nature with our bodies and we recognize that we care about nature, because nature affects us. What really counts, then, at least for Gernot Böhme, a philosopher best known for his theory of architectural atmosphere, is that we develop the consciousness that body is the nature that we ourselves are. What counts is that nature, and architecture, gives us our nature, it gives us the body that we are. Böhme has been influential, and a large proportion of his work remains untranslated in the English-speaking world. This is a critical perspective in a contemporary field of architectural education dominated by deceit of performance and the pressure for a technical fix. So, can education foster critical practice and properly engage with bodies and affect in sustainable design? And, what if there were other perspectives (which of course there are). “God or Nature” describes a foundation proposition of the 16th century philosopher, Benedict Spinoza. What if Spinoza’s philosophy could give us
contemporary insights on notions of freedom, responsibility, embodied difference and cultural diversity. What if we add the cultural rehabilitation of desire, also? The critical perspective offered by controversial philosopher Luce Irigaray, and adopted by radical ontologist Tim Morton, who in his Dark Ecology argues for a non-contradictory logic in contemporary ecological thinking? Such perspectives, are not without criticism. The kite is metaphor, a flight of imagination. It is a catalyst for a different way of thinking about bodies, Nature and affect. In this paper, the kite is a flight of imagination in philosophy of education in sustainable design for the built environment.

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Andrea is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Architecture at Iowa State University where she teaches a class on Green and Sustainable Architecture, a design research methods class for the interdisciplinary Masters of Sustainable Environments and is a studio instructor. Since completing her doctorate in architecture in 2005 on the work of Luce Irigaray she has been examining on issues of sustainability in the built environment. Most recently she has presented papers at conferences organized and hosted by Irigaray including “Thinking Love” at the University of Bristol in June of 2016 and “To Be Born: Genesis of a New Human Being” at the University of Sussex in February 2017. Her current projects include an exploration of eco-aesthetics in the built environment through the work of Gernot Bohme and critical study of pedagogy for sustainable development.