

## ABSTRACT:

Far higher than the material is the spiritual;  
far higher than function, material and technique,  
stands form.

These three aspects might be impeccably handled  
but - if form were not - we would still be living  
in a merely brutish world.

So there remains before us an aim,  
a much greater and more important task:  
to awaken once more an understanding  
of form, and the renewal of  
architectonic sensibilities.

( Hermann Muthesius )

*Here with in, is a desire to explore a hidden dimension of perception: subconscious proxemics in form.  
Here with in, however, is only a description of form, through semiotics in conceptual space; since a true  
representation of proxemic relationships is only accessible through somatics in physical space.*

This document records the development of an architectural premise beginning with early research in 'form-space' studies, which were then applied to a scale model study of an interstitial / residual space (Main Building's entry hall, on the Pratt Campus), and resulted in a real-scale intervention of the designed gestured forms into the existing campus space. The 'form-space' studies were comprised of gestured forms adjusted through subtle movements, influencing and activating their related spaces. These movements

would vary envelopment characteristics of the defined spaces, creating improved conditions in perceptual awareness of spatial thresholds and sensitivity to relational gestured forms. The thesis study's architectural premise was grounded in an attempt to understand the refinement of gestured forms and activated spaces, in addition to an introductory exploration in the proxemics of body and form in architectural space.

The perceived threshold, envelopment, and proxemic qualities of the selected campus space (Main Building's entry hall), were transparent or sometimes near invisible in their existing condition; because of the space's concentrated size and functional-program overload, the displacement of the occupant's perceptions, and a spatial detachment resulting from the occupant's behavioral patterns. In order to define an envelope of activated space and to expose the proxemics within this space, the study was narrowed to a single, particular pattern of movement behavior: 'the sedimentation of occupants waiting for the elevator arrival, amidst the hustle of occupants passing through this sequential space'. This pattern was isolated and adjusted through subtle movements of the installed gestured forms, to find out if proxemics of body and form 'affects' spatial perceptions, human senses, or ultimately behavioral patterns.

The results of this thesis study did find a significant degree of proxemic influence of form and spatial perception in the movement patterns of the occupants in the Main Building's entry hall. The research revealed the influence 'spatial configuration and delineation' has on human behavior, in addition to an ability to measure the location and extremes of spatial thresholds and envelopes. The study also established that human behavior is influenced by 'form positioning and articulation', enabling an analysis of human subconscious and foreconscious perceptions.

The larger intent of the research and observation was to propose a process for adjustment and refinement of gestured form and activated space; not simply to be a case study documenting measurement and analysis of perceptual, proxemic findings. An understanding of the importance of proxemics in architectural space suggests future studies expanding on this subject. One possible direction includes a reversal of the variables, where the human behavior patterns are studied to generate activated spatial threshold and envelopes, and then the gestured forms are introduced to enhance the existence of those patterns, thresholds, and envelopes.