

CHAPTER V: CONCLUSION

This thesis was intended to begin a foundation of research and preliminary studies in proxemics and refinement of form and space. In this manner, the work was done attempting only to state an idea or pose a question; not to hypothesize, analyze, or justify any material related to a theory or a premise. Rather, this work is to act as a prototype (or starting point) for a lifetime of observation, sensation, and contemplation. Representing a threshold into a new education, the previous educational years culminated into a driven 'belief' and a desire to test it.

With an emphasis on the subject and intent, this is in no way meant to lessen the validity or sincerity of the research and study in this document. On its own grounds, the observations and interpretations will arrive at end to their inquiry; however, it had to be stated that the prime directive of this document is to develop a tool, from which future referral, renewal, and reassurance may come.

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 (Stea p.13-16 App.G). To return to the initial premise stated in the introductory chapter; it is believed (with the findings of this document) that a proxemic understanding of form, space and body can lead to a perceptual enhancement of the architectonic environment, and ultimately an initial human sense of security through physical and somatic contact in 'total awareness' (Collins p.4 App.F). By studying the 'affects' of gestured forms activating space, on human behavior movement patterns; an understanding of the importance of proxemics in architectural space suggests future studies expanding on this subject. One possible study could include a reversal of the variables, where the human behavior patterns are studied to generate activated spatial thresholds and envelopes, and then the gestured forms are introduced to enhance the existence of those patterns, thresholds, and envelopes (Collins p.6 App.B).

Some of the criticism made at the Thesis Presentation: Final Review, supported the findings and intent of this thesis. While other comments helped to point out theoretical arguments that needed more attention or future exploration. A few excerpts of the criticism are provided to illustrate the direction and concerns of the review panel (Professors Richard Scherr, Theoharis David, John Johansen, James Rossant, and guest juror Chandler Pierce) at the Final Review:

Scherr: Pointed out the validity of a process that 'fine-tunes' the occupant's perceptual awareness of installed forms, after they are installed and behavior patterns are studied.

Johansen: Found the vocabulary (curvilinear based) of the designed forms to be congruent to the organic movements of the occupants (in defiance of the hard-edge corners of traditional orthogonal volumes and spaces).

Scherr: Proposed a future study that could expand on this thesis by exploring 'social use' behaviors of more open public spaces (beyond a simply physical study of the occupant's movement paths).

David: Stated that no great architecture has ever resulted from statistical analysis or research experts studying human interaction with architectural space. He questioned the possibility that this study lost the 'role of the architect': to 'design' a space, founded on intuition, experience, and reaction to functional programming.

Scherr: Pointed out that this study established a set of limits on its intent from the beginning, from which it did not stray throughout the duration of exploration and observation. He commented on the possibility for a larger scope, but confirmed this thesis to be a good start.

" We should make things as simple as possible,
but not simpler. "

(Albert Einstein)