

New York City College of Technology – City University of New York
300 Jay Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201

Department of Architectural Technology
Bachelor of Technology in Architectural Technology

AR 3610 DESIGN VI

As designers we benefit from a comprehensive understanding of precedents. We use diagrams to convey information and relationships in a building. By researching and examining examples of similar work, and similar conditions we evaluate and interpret and translate for our own use.

For the next few assignments you need to draw the plan, elevation and section of the building to the same scale. You need to reduce the building to its bare essentials.

These diagrams will be developed from the 3 dimensional form and space configuration of the building. These will become the basis of your diagrams.

Once you have the base you will be asked to examine your precedent based on:

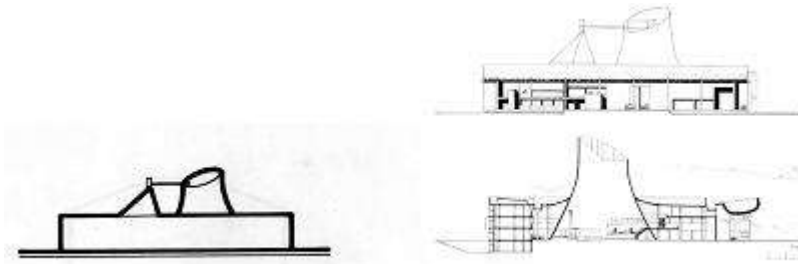
1. Massing
2. Hierarchy
3. Geometry
4. Symmetry
5. Approach and Circulation
6. Natural Light
7. Structure
8. Public versus Private
9. Parti

The diagrams will be assembled on the analysis template.

Massing

Massing is the collection of patterns. It is the act of composing 3-dimensional forms into a unified and coherent architectural composition

Assembly at Chandigarh



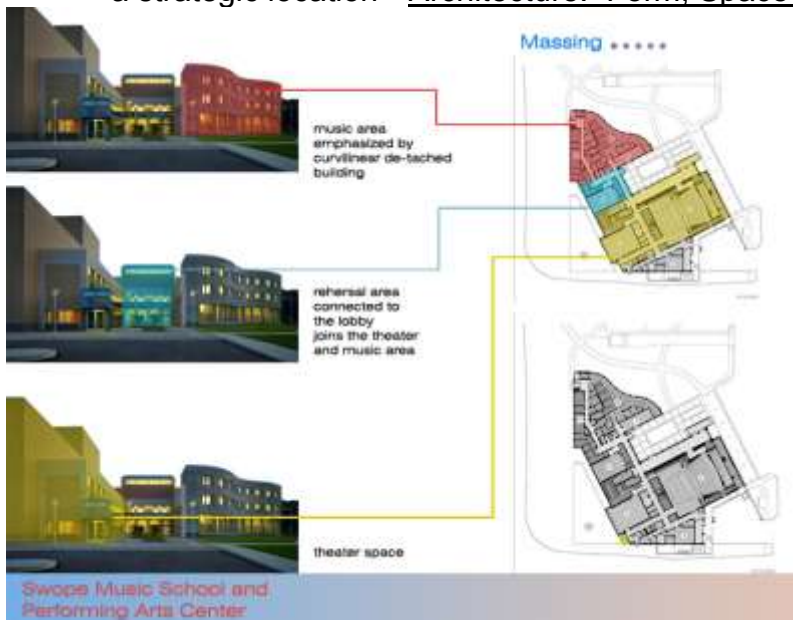
Hierarchy

“The principle of hierarchy implies that in most, if not all architectural composition, real differences exist among their forms and spaces. These differences reflect, in a sense, the degree of importance of these forms and spaces and the functional, formal, and symbolic roles they play in their organization.

For a form or space to be articulated as being important or significant to an organization, it must be made visibly unique. This can be achieved by endowing a form or shape with:

- exceptional size
- a unique shape

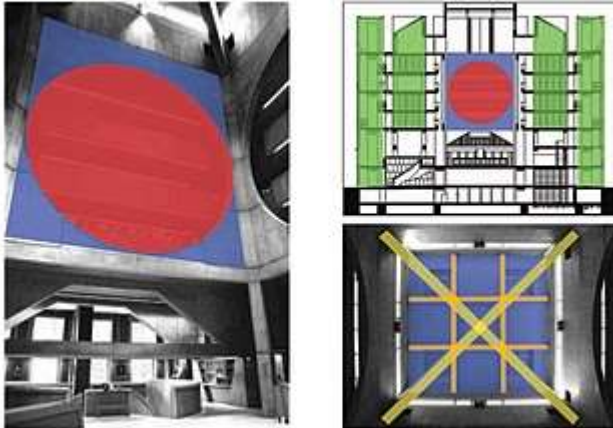
-a strategic location”- Architecture: Form, Space and Order. FK Ching



When showing the hierarchy, it could be shown in plan, section and/or images.

Geometry

The floorplans, elevations and /or sections can be used to break down the design into simple geometric shapes. Is there additive or subtractive pieces? Using overlays break down the design into the simplest geometric shapes.



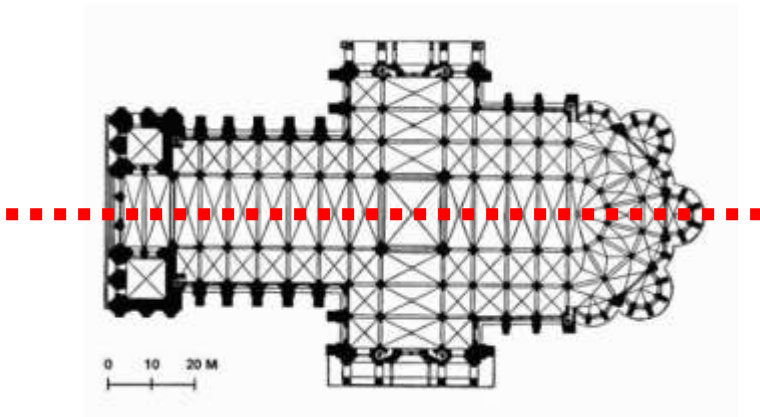
Symmetry

“While an axial condition can exist without a symmetrical condition being simultaneously present, a symmetrical condition cannot exist without implying the existence of an axis or center about which it is structured. An axis is established by two points; a symmetrical condition requires the balanced arrangement of equivalent patterns of form and space about a common line (axis) or point (center).

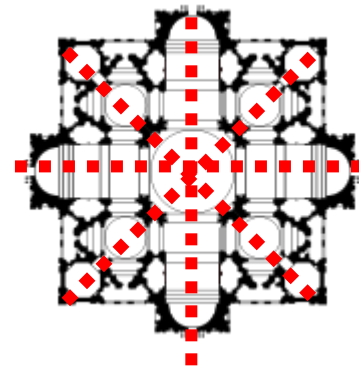
There are basically two types of symmetry:

Bilateral symmetry refers to the balanced arrangement of equivalent elements about a common axis.

Radial symmetry consists of equivalent elements balanced about two or more axes that intersect at a central point.” - Architecture: Form, Space and Order. FK Ching



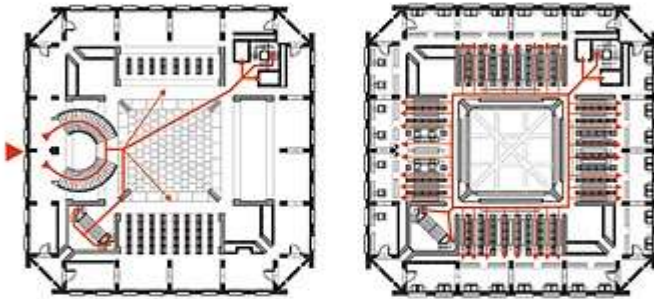
Bilateral symmetry



Radial symmetry

Circulation

Show how the circulation works in those buildings. Show the entrance(s), vertical circulation, and the main circulation throughout the floorplans. There may be public and private circulation.



Natural Lighting

The images can be of various exterior photographs and/or sections. Do you know which side of the building is facing south? Does that change how the natural light comes into the building?



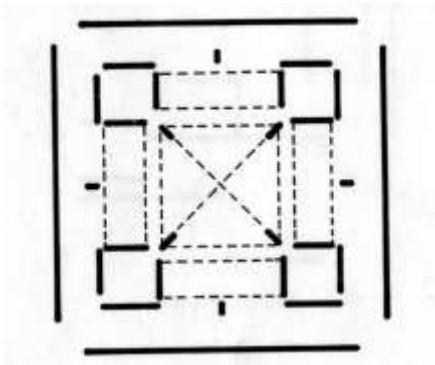
Direct Sun Light
Diffused Light



Structure: When we talk about structure we are referring to how is the building standing up?
At the very basic level structure is: columns, planes or a combination of those.
Structure could be used to define space, suggest movement or develop compositions.

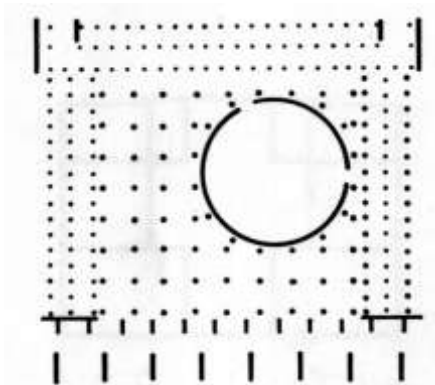
Exeter Library - Louis Kahn.

Articulated planar structure that creates spatial organization



Assembly at Chandigarh – Le Corbusier

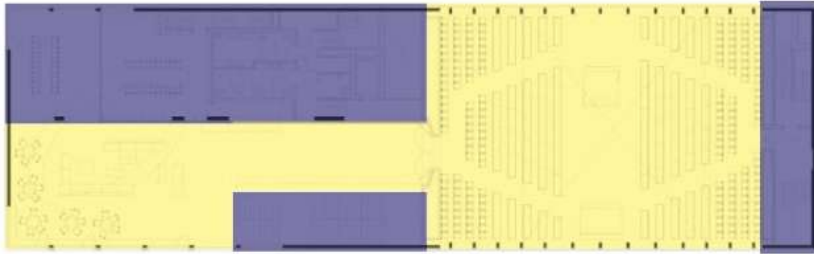
Columnar Structure based on a grid



Drawings from "Analysis of Precedents"

Private vs. Public

Show the difference between the private and public spaces in your building. This may also include public entrances and private entrances (service). Public would be the spaces that any person in this building would have access to. Private would have restricted access. The types of spaces that are private and public will vary from building type to building type.



Public vs Private

Parti

Parti is the dominant idea of the building. It is often referred to as the “big idea”. It is the main organizing thought behind an architect’s design and it is usually represented in the form of a very basic diagram, model or simple statement.

It is the main underlying idea behind any work of architecture.

Assembly at Chandigarh

