

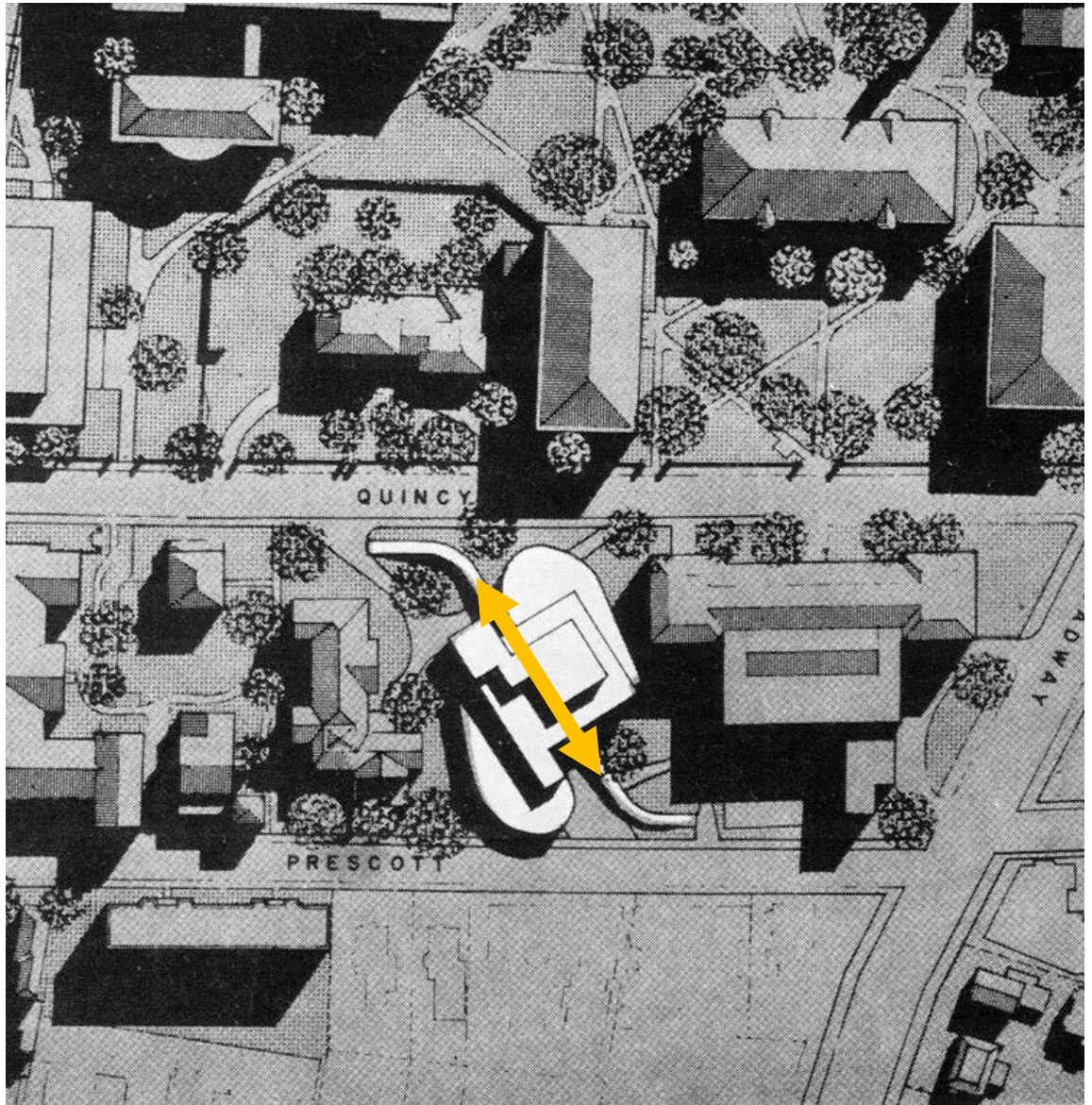
Lecture 6: Concepts in Architecture



Introduction

Concepts do not have to be invented by the architect. They can be borrowed from various sources, including even the client's program.

Concepts may be termed as **ideas, themes, super-organizing ideas, parti, esquisse.**



Carpenter center for the visual arts , Le Corbusier, 1963

Concepts variations

Ideas are concepts reduced to architectonic concern like daylight, space, sequences of spaces, integration of structure and form, siting in the landscape.

Themes are specific pattern or idea that recurs throughout the design of a project. They can be narrow in intention, like a specific geometric pattern appears throughout the project.

Super-organizing ideas are general geometric configurations or hierarchies that are respected by the parts of the project.

Parti (scheme) & Esquisse (sketch), developed in the Beaux Arts school, are conceptual and graphic products that represent the simplified plan of the project.



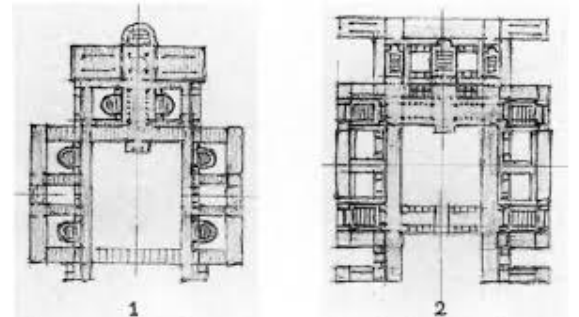
Structure and architecture, Beinecke Library, 1963



Theme of light, Kimbell art museum, 1972



Super-organizing idea, U of Virginia



Parti diagrams, l'ecole des Beaux Arts

Concepts and Design

Concept formulation is not an automatic activity. Bringing things together is a creative act that is identified by being 10 percent inspiration and 90 percent hard work.

Problem of Communication

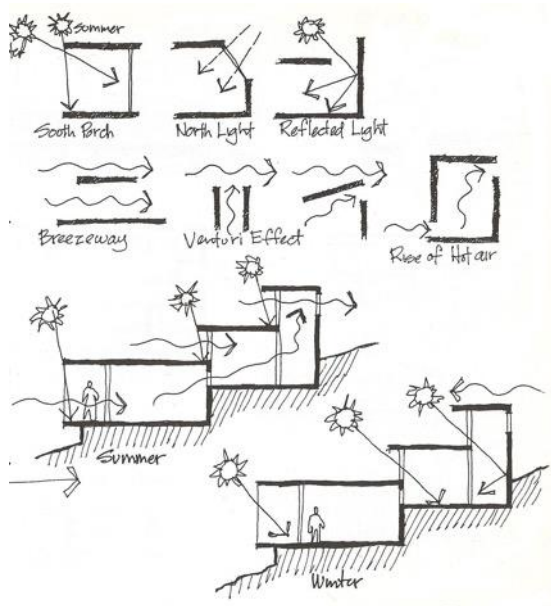
Mainly not with others, but with ourselves and minds, and the graphic communication.

Inexperience

Many building are built without concepts, so we are not familiar with concepts.

Generating Hierarchies

Distinguishing between, notions, ideas, concepts, and scenarios.



Sketch for alternatives



View from Gaza city

Notions
Ideas
Concepts
Scenarios

Concepts Hierarchy

Concept Hierarchies

Notions are random concepts that are vague, uncertain, and might not be appropriate.

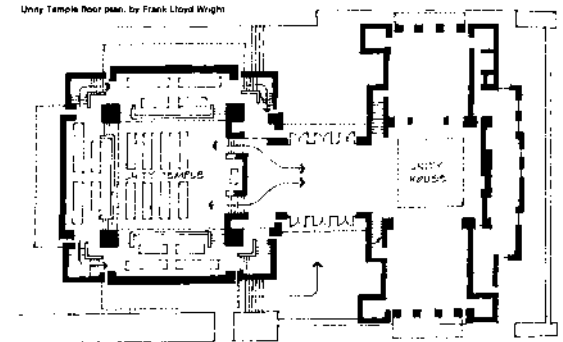
Ideas are specific, concrete thoughts we have about things as a result of understanding, insight, or observation.

Concepts a concept in architecture is the result of a concentrated and imaginative effort to bring dissimilar things together. "The character of the building can only be achieved through **total expression**"

Concept Scenarios the building is expected to be an integrated statement of several concepts. "An **incremental** attitude toward design suggests that architecture comes from resolving individual issues according to their needs, and not by searching for an overall concepts."



Concepts as total expression, John Deere



Concept scenario, Unity Temple



Concept Scenario, Ford foundation building



Appropriateness and Self Criticism

Appropriateness

The problem of identifying the appropriate thoughts are famous among architecture students. However, knowing the hierarchy of thoughts may help resolve this problem

Self criticism

The problem of choosing an appropriate form for concepts is less important than self criticism applied to those concepts as they are formulated.



Louis Kahn at work

Types of Concepts (Analogies)

analogies are probably the most frequently used device for formulating concepts.

Until the rise of modern movement in 1950, it was assumed by all that great architecture had already been built, and the task of the architect was to bring elements from previous buildings and create new buildings.



Student union Housing, university of Alberta

Types of Concepts (Metaphores)

Like analogies identify relationships between things, however, abstract rather than literal.



Above : Geode (Stone)

St. Simon island, Chales Moore



Types of Concepts (Essence)

Essence distill and concentrate aspects of more complex issues into terse statement



Haytt regency hotel, John Portman

Types of Concepts (Problem Solving)

while many architects take pride in their ability to solve a client's problems, only few can actually make an inspiring approach.



Plans

Air and Space Museum, Washington DC

Principles of Architectural and Environmental Design



Types of Concepts (Ideals)

Ideal concepts are those that architects bring to the problem.



Universal Space, national Gallery, Berlin, Mies Van de Rohe.

References

Snyder & Catanese, Introduction to
Architecture, McGraw Hill, 1979

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