Architectural Spatial Organizational Schemes

Architectural Order

There exists a natural diversity and complexity in architectural works and requirements for buildings. Many architects and designers have focused on the concept of order, and how concepts of order can produce a sense of beauty, discipline, and meaning in buildings.

Organizational Schemes

The four following spatial organizational schemes can be seen as compositional 'constructs' wherein diverse forms and spaces can be arranged into an inter-related 'whole' via systematic and disciplined forethought. The vast majority of buildings are composed of a number of rooms or spaces related to one another by function, proximity, or a circulation path. It is important to remember that organizational schemes are inherently 'value-neutral'; organization schemes become more or less valuable depending on the intentions of the design.

Linear Organization

A linear organization consists essentially of a series of spaces or objects. These spaces can be directly related to one another or linked through a separate and distinct space. Spaces that are functionally or symbolically important to the organization can occur anywhere along the linear sequence and their importance articulated by size and form.

Centralized Organization

A centralized organization is a stable, concentrated composition that consists of a number of secondary spaces grouped around a larger central space or object. The central unifying space of the organization is typically uniform in shape and large enough to gather a number of secondary spaces about its form.

Clustered Organization

A clustered organization uses proximity to relate its spaces or objects to one another. Clusters can accommodate within its composition spaces that are dissimilar in size, form and function. Because the pattern does not originate from a rigid, geometric concept, the cluster is flexible and can accept growth and change easily.

Grid Organization

A grid consists of forms and spaces whose positions in space and relationships with one another are regulated by a geometrical and repetitive pattern. A grid is usually created by creating by establishing a regular pattern of points that define the intersection of two parallel lines. Projected into the third dimension, the grid can be transformed into a set of repetitive, modular units of space.