
WEEK 34: SPACE

Space: Architecture is about defining the experience of space. Space is constructed as the void in between the walls, ceiling, and floor within our buildings but creating memorable and functional space through architecture involves much more.


★ **Form:** The form of a structure is significant to how space is created. Basic forms used throughout history to create buildings include post and beam, arches and vaults, stacking, curvilinear, and parametric.

★ **Light:** One of the fundamental purposes of urban planning is to ensure that each building in a community has access to light. It is the architect's job to harness that light and diffuse it throughout the building.

★ **Structure:** A building is nothing if it falls down. Ensuring the structural integrity of models and buildings is necessary not only to protect life and property but adds strength and certainty to the beauty of the building design.

★ **Proportion:** The proportions laid out in a building with respect to the people who will occupy it is the last key component to creating space. A short narrow hallway may create a sense of confinement or security while a large open space may create a sense of emptiness or grandeur. Understanding how people react to the proportion of space is key to making enjoyable, memorable spaces.

Exercise: SPACE CUBE




The exercise for you to explore Space and Section:


Make some sketch-models with the LEGO® bricks that represent different spaces in the structure.

Try to image how the different spaces make you feel. What elements of the space and structure evoke this feeling?

The cube structure on the right occupies the space but it can also contain a volume of space inside. You can explore different ways of defining space.



A volume of space doesn't have to be enclosed to be defined; four columns placed in the corners outline the cube.







Openings such as doors and windows in the building establish relationships between inside and outside spaces.




A tall, narrow, brightly lit space appears significant and imposing.



A tall space will feel even taller if you imagine that the building has a low entrance.


Space can evoke a multitude of feelings. Can you make a space that feels vibrant or mysterious, peaceful, safe, or maybe playful?

Exercise: Plan and Section






Sou Fujimoto House N


This image shows the longitudinal section made by cutting through the longest axis of the building, where you can clearly see the three shells nested inside one another.




This image shows the transverse section, made by cutting at a right angle.








Looking at the house in plan: the 11 levels, or "cuts"



or the sections (vertical cut, image below) representing different spaces.

There are no separations of floor, wall, and ceiling here. A place that one thought was a floor becomes a chair, a ceiling, a wall from various positions. The floor levels are relative and spatiality is perceived differently according to one's position.



"Using LEGO® bricks to actually build something is the best way to understand proportion. Try a variety of combinations of lengths and widths and window proportions. Again, imagine what it is like to be inside those spaces and what impression those spaces might give you. Create a tiny space using LEGO bricks and imagine people experiencing various emotions inside. There is no doubt that the emotions generated by a particular space—happiness, feelings of grandeur, sanctity, excitement, tranquility, and so on—change with the proportions; it is very exciting to explore these. As mentioned previously, there is no correct answer to proportion. That's what makes it so interesting. Discover your own amazing world of rich proportions."