

WEEK 37: Mass & Density

Mass: In contrast to space, mass is the presence of materials, the opposite of space. An architect contrasts mass with space to create a building whereas an urban planner contrasts urban development with nature. In this context, an architect creates space for us to live while an urban planner integrates (or disintegrates) us with nature.

Density: Density describes how mass is distributed. When mass is packed tightly together, density increases and the "heaviness" or bulkiness of the building or neighborhood increases. Conversely, reduced density creates a "lighter" building and provides more room, at the cost of more overall space.

Exercise: Take 20 of the same brick type and create two neighborhoods, one that is dense and one that is not, on separate baseplates. Now, create a third neighborhood between them, balancing the transition between the two.

