

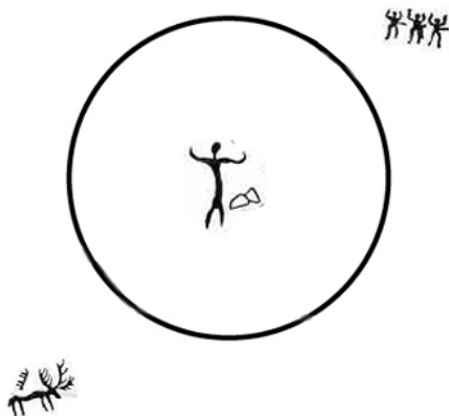
Architecture 101

Part 1: From Nothingness To Place

22/101

Week 5: Shaping diagrams

Monday: #YourMindWill



*Your mind will answer most questions if
you learn to relax and wait for the answer.*

William S. Burroughs

Week 5: Shaping diagrams

In the first two weeks, we explored pure nothingness taking pictures and sketching.

In the following two weeks, we got into the “in-between”: moving from nothingness towards place, all of this making collages and rendering the weather.

Now, we are finally ready to put things into “place”.

A specific place.
Your place.

As we said in the past, the “final exam” in Architecture 101 (part 1) is about combining your 30 exercises into a booklet.

This booklet you will make needs to be devoted to a specific place.

“Your” place.

What is this “place” of yours?

Now is the time to start giving names to things.

If you remember, at the beginning, we warned you: if things have no name, they don't exist.

Upon this line, in order to have a place we need to have a name, an idea for it.

A name. A name. Giving something a name can be just the same as inventing it. By naming something you create a difference. You say that this is now real. Names are very important.

Brian Eno (on naming things).

: -)



This week, we will discover the fascinating world of digital mind-mapping/ diagram-making applications to make diagrams.

There are so many tools that we can use...

Below, we started to collect a few.

Another key-word for you to use this week is “flowchart”.

Voronoi diagram

Mind Vector

Draw Express Lite for iOS or Android

Mindly

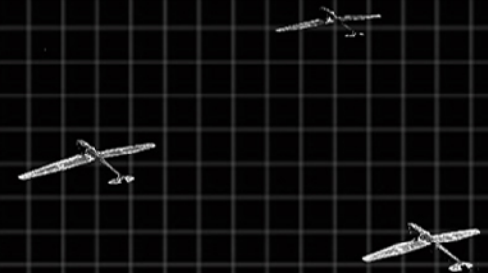
Cellstorming free

You may also find it very useful to explore the world of pictogram icons like those from this lovely noun project.

Then, as you probably noticed from our videos, we are also very fond of these **isotypes** made by Gerd Arntz.

Little symbols like those we just mentioned can come in handy when having to explain very complex things in a clear and simple way...

Let us know if you find other nice collections of them!



Finally, this week we start to conceptualize the idea of “place”, starting from our mind.

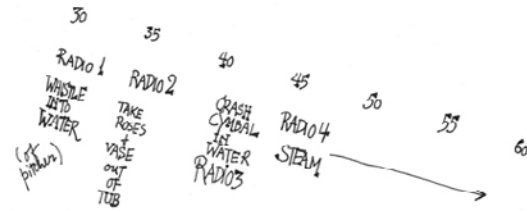
In order to do so, we will work with diagrams.

Making diagrams is a very useful way to organize our thoughts in a visual manner.

First, we organize our mind.

Once our mind is organized, we project what’s inside of our mind toward the external world.

Generating places.
And meaning.
And a lot of other things.



(John Cage: *Water Music*)

Monday: #YourMindWill

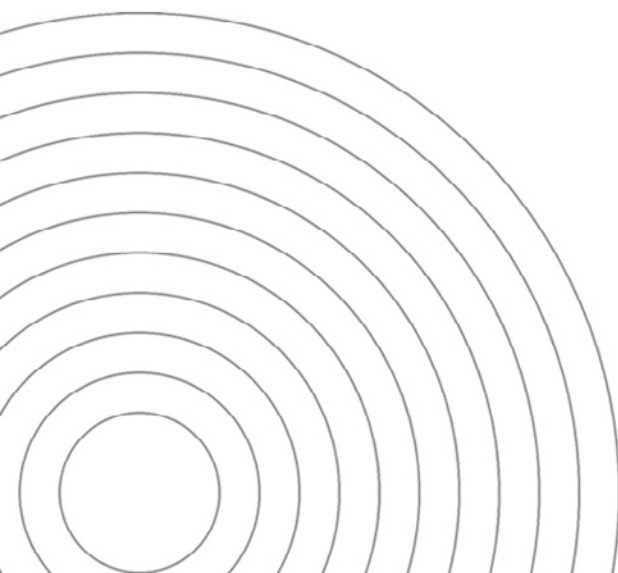
What will I do today?

Today, you will get your head together and make a diagram of your mind.

You will make (and share with us) a diagram of your mind.

Once you have your image, post it to Instagram using the hashtags:

#YourMindWill
#Architecture101





What will I learn?

To map your mind using a diagram.

Not easy, but very important.

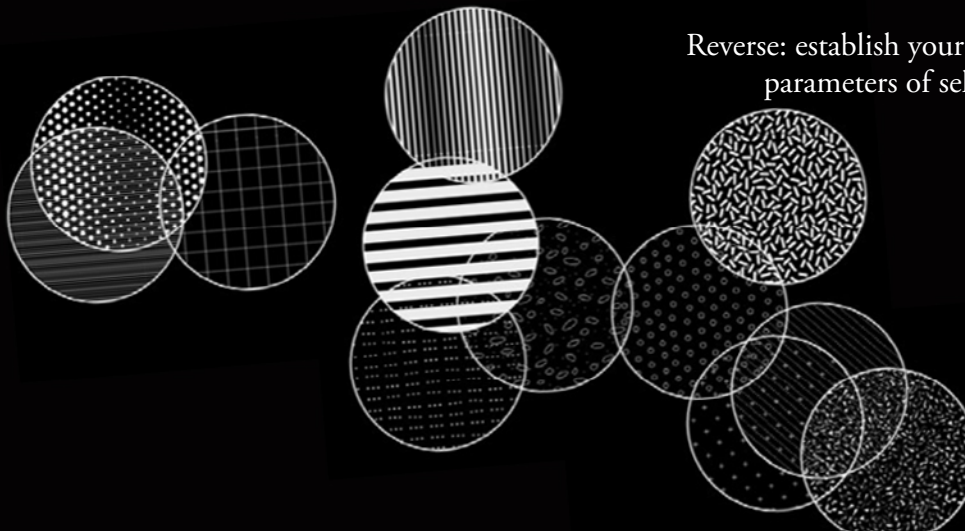
To understand what is in our minds (and what is not).

To understand how these things are connected or linked to each other...

Geographers teach us this very simple truth:

1. To make an exhaustive description is impossible (because it would be endless).
2. Hence, the only thing we can do is a limited description.
3. Hence, it becomes very important to define the parameters of our “limits”, the “selection” (what’s in, and what’s out).
4. Hence, it becomes fundamental to define the parameters of our selection (the rule upon which you understand what’s in and what’s out).
5. To define these “parameters” you have to refer to your goals.

Reverse: establish your goals, choose the parameters of selection, start your description.



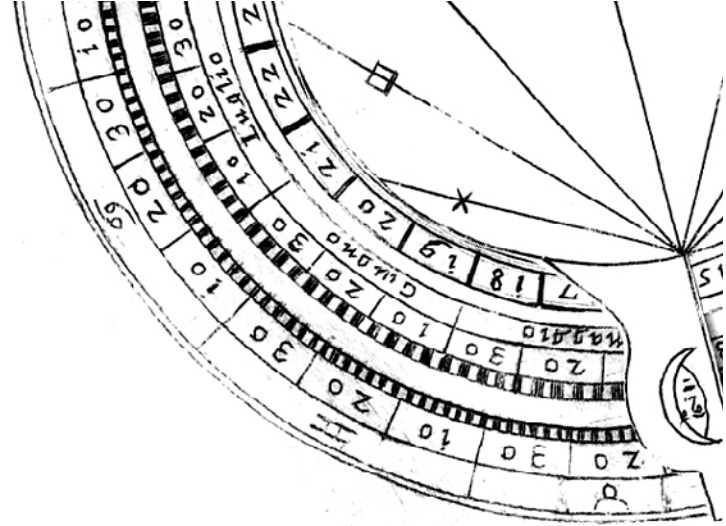
Why do we do this?

To learn how to describe in a proper and correct way is one of the fundamental steps of any project.

The description (if you prefer, the analysis) is already a project.

When you observe in order to describe, you are already designing.

Or as Jimi Hendrix would say,
In order to change the world, you have to get your head together first.



Further inspiration

The **volvelle** slide chart.

We love diagrams. Every time we see a diagram, a mind map, some kind of visual representation of knowledge, we get lost.

Within this realm,
volvelles, they make us go crazy.

We love them!

Here a couple of references,
things that we could consider extremely
refined visualizations of mind processes.

They are not diagrams, they are built things.

But they are so refined and subtle and
articulated that when we see them, we grasp
something extremely deep.

John Cage's [Water Walk](#): a concert with a
bathtub!

Walter de Maria, [The Lightning Field](#).
Here's a nice photo [gallery](#).

[Ise Grand Shrine](#)



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