## The Sacred Qualities of the Mundane: Using Music and Architecture to Achieve Harmony in the Workplace

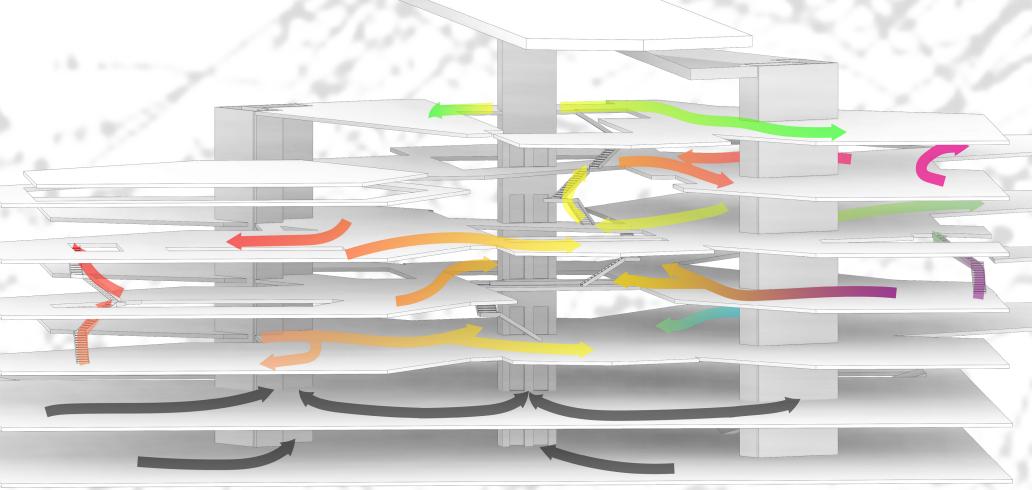
The new Thrivent Financial Headquarters building blends music with architecture. The rhythms we fall into on a daily basis have become separate from our natural circadian rhythm. By bringing the company together like a symphony orchestra through the architecture, spaces are created that allow for a sense of community and belonging, helping to restore our natural rhythms. The building design becomes a "diversity of moving parts and consonances brought together with variety."

Synesthesia: The idea of unifying all human senses to experience architecture.

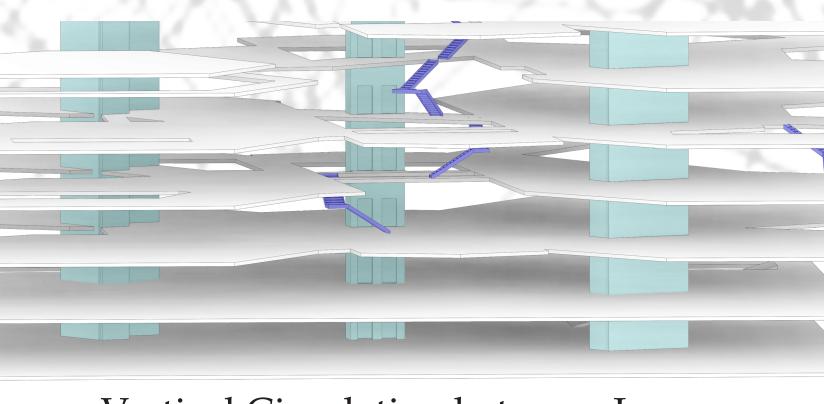
The way we as humans interact with, experience, and remember a space is through a culmination of all our senses, not just sight. Music is heard from within the human ear. It is interprated internally and shared with others externally. It is the way man connects within himself and how man can connect with the world around him, from the microcosm to the macrocosm. Music has the ability to bring people together in communities.

This building houses multiple branches of the company. Through visual and audial connections, each branch becomes separate, yet connected through the central atrium. People are able to flow freely through the spaces, constantly passing through the large atrium giving them a sense of belonging to the community of the company as well as the larger community outside of the office space. Breakout and gathering spaces allow for collaboration and interaction, creating a diversity of moving parts and consonances, brought together with variety.

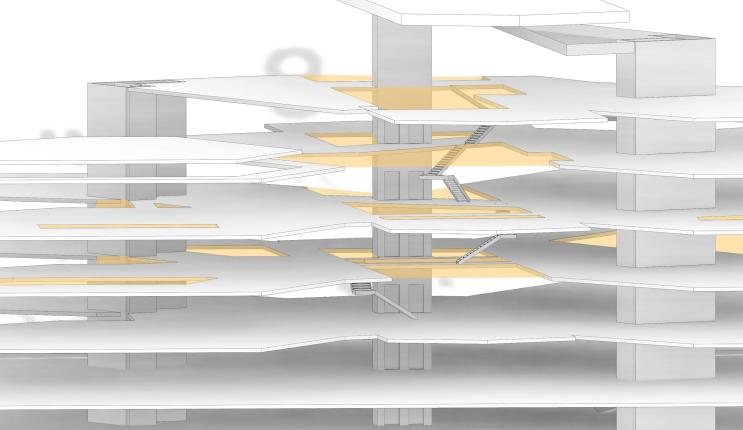
Through a large central atrium, comparable to the strong downbeat in music, people are able to interact with other people in the company on every floor. The connections in the atrium are not only visual, but audial as well. By seeing other people moving around on different floors, different areas of the company, different parts of the symphony orchestra, you are given a strong sense of community and belonging through a more synesthetic experience.



Movement of People through the Atrium



Vertical Circulation between Layers



Open Atrium Space for Visual and Audial Connections



Ground Level Plan



Second Level Plan



Mood constitutes how we find ourselves in the world. "Mood" or Stimmung, according to Martin Heidegger, makes a substantial contribution to the sense that we have of belonging to a world. It is clear that the physical places where we act are of the utmost importance for our well-being. The average full-time working adult spends 48 hours a week in the office. We often times wake up in the dark, go to work, come home in the dark, and wake up the next morning to do it all again. We often have little exposure to natural light and little exposure to interaction with others.

A 24 hour clock which drives our biological needs to sleep or wake. Disruptions to

this cycle can result in depression, loss of interest, weight gain and low energy.

The intent of the design is to create an atmosphere and a harmony that creates a sense of purpose in the spaces we work in, the community we belong to, and to help restore our natural circadian rhythms as humans.

Le Corbusier thought of architecture and music as both, being a question of measure. Sounds can be transmitted into writing only if one considers two conditions: they are divided into sections and they are measured. And like music, architecture is space and time. For as long as music has been translated into scores, architecture has been translated into drawings.

Fifth Level Plan



Third Level Plan
Scale 1:16

Fourth Level Plan
Scale 1:16