

ENTRY CONDITION

READING NOOK

CONF.

INNER COURTYARD

a transcribed language of architectural elements

## ENVIRO - BRAILLE

## THEORETICAL PREMISE

Our perception of reality depends heavily on the built environment that we live in and experience daily. Architecture strives to take an empathetic approach in designing for its users but can sometimes lack understanding of all people and how to take a truly integrated approach for its users. For the visually impaired and blind this lack of attention creates "language" barriers within their environments making it stressful and unpleasant experience when introduced to new environments. This project recognizes the interrelationship of *language* and *architectural sign systems* to show that architecture can be designed to *communicate* to the visually impaired and attempts to lay out a foundation of elements that should be communicated to the visually impaired.

From the investigation of how senses detect certain signs and landmarks and applying these discoveries to architectural elements, an enhanced, inclusive environment that translates architecture is achieved. The knowledge of linguistics, semiotics, and cognitive sciences confirms that the language of architecture is constructed and translated with the use of elements that can convey meaning through signs. The implementation of sensory-rich elements in our built environment provides visually impaired persons with a mental perception or cognitive map of their environment. Designing with these elements will improve the way that architecture is read and cultivate a more inclusive environment.

## connection between LANGUAGE and ARCHITECTURE

LANGUAGE

phonology: Individual units of sound in languages

lexicon: the sum total of all words in a language

morphology: words and other meaningful units of language

syntax: phrases and sentences

semantics: literal meaning of phrases and sentences

grammar: rules for generating communication

language: ability to produce and understand meaning

ARCHITECTURE

*primary elements : point, line, plane, volume form : a composition of elements - shape, size, color, texture, etc.* 

organization: spatial relationships and spatial organization

form and space: spatial boundaries defined by elements of form

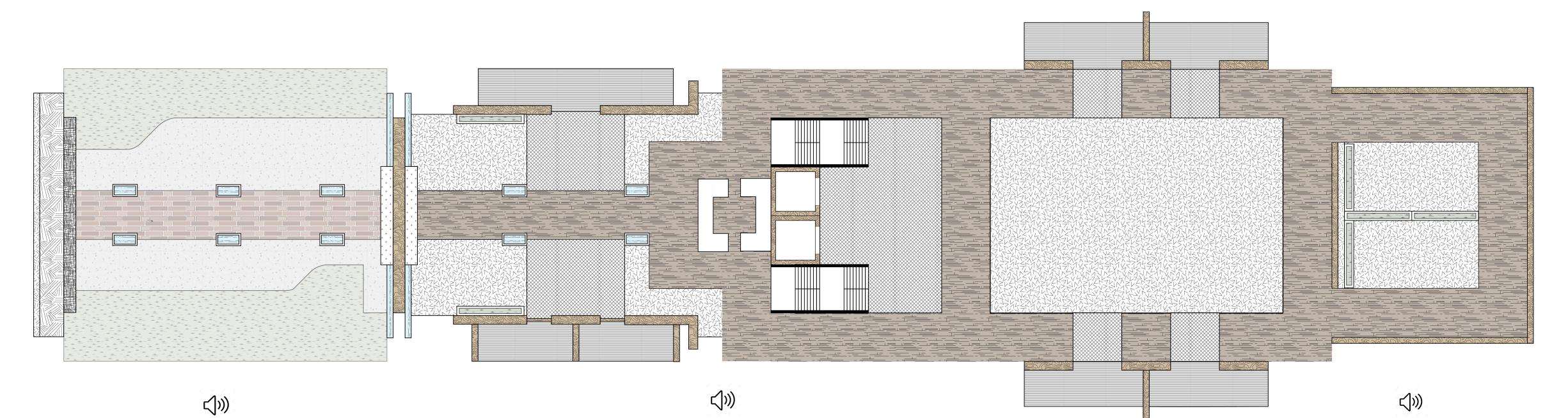
circulation: navigating through related spaces in terms of organization

principles: rules for expressing architectural ideas in an arrangement

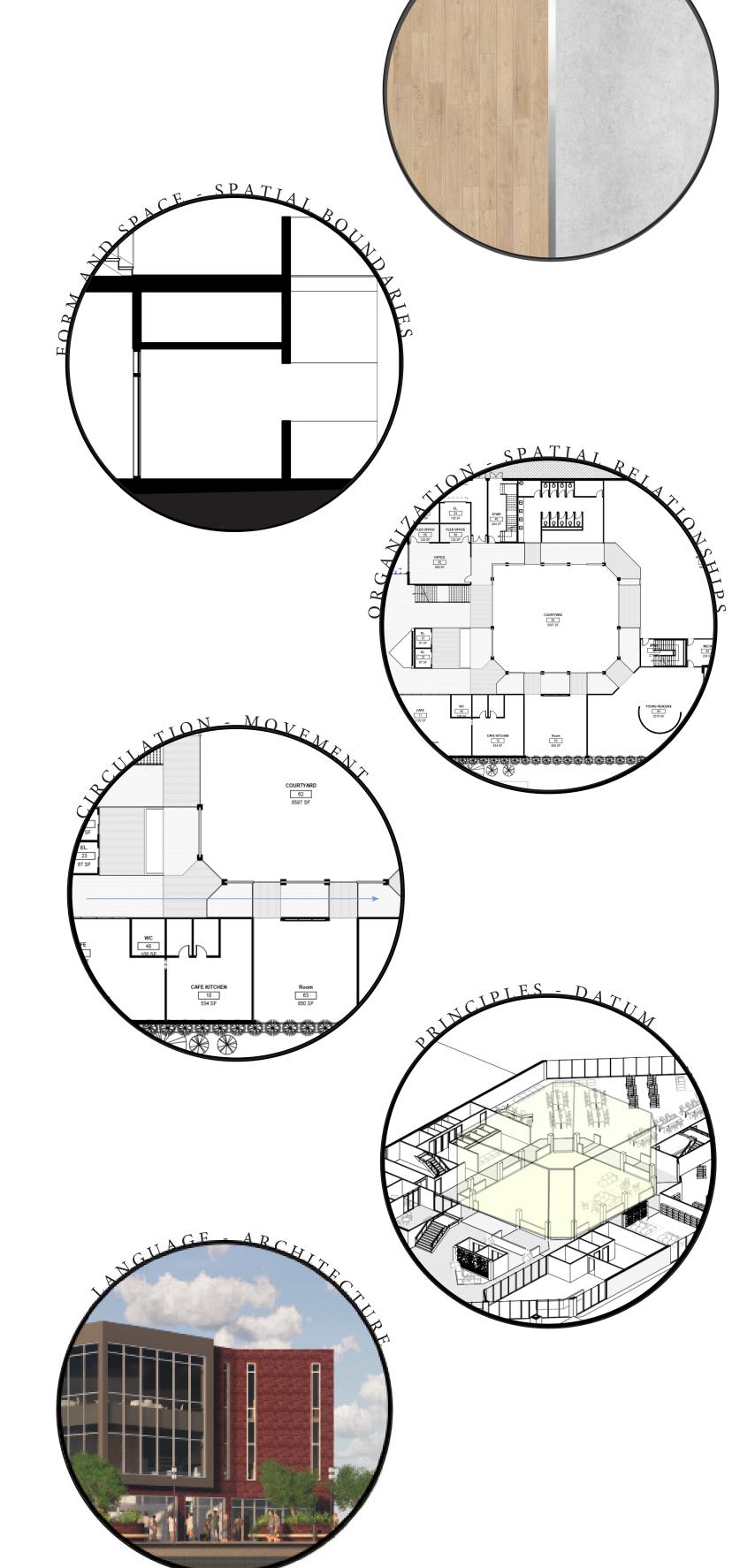
the combination of elements to provide meaning in architecture

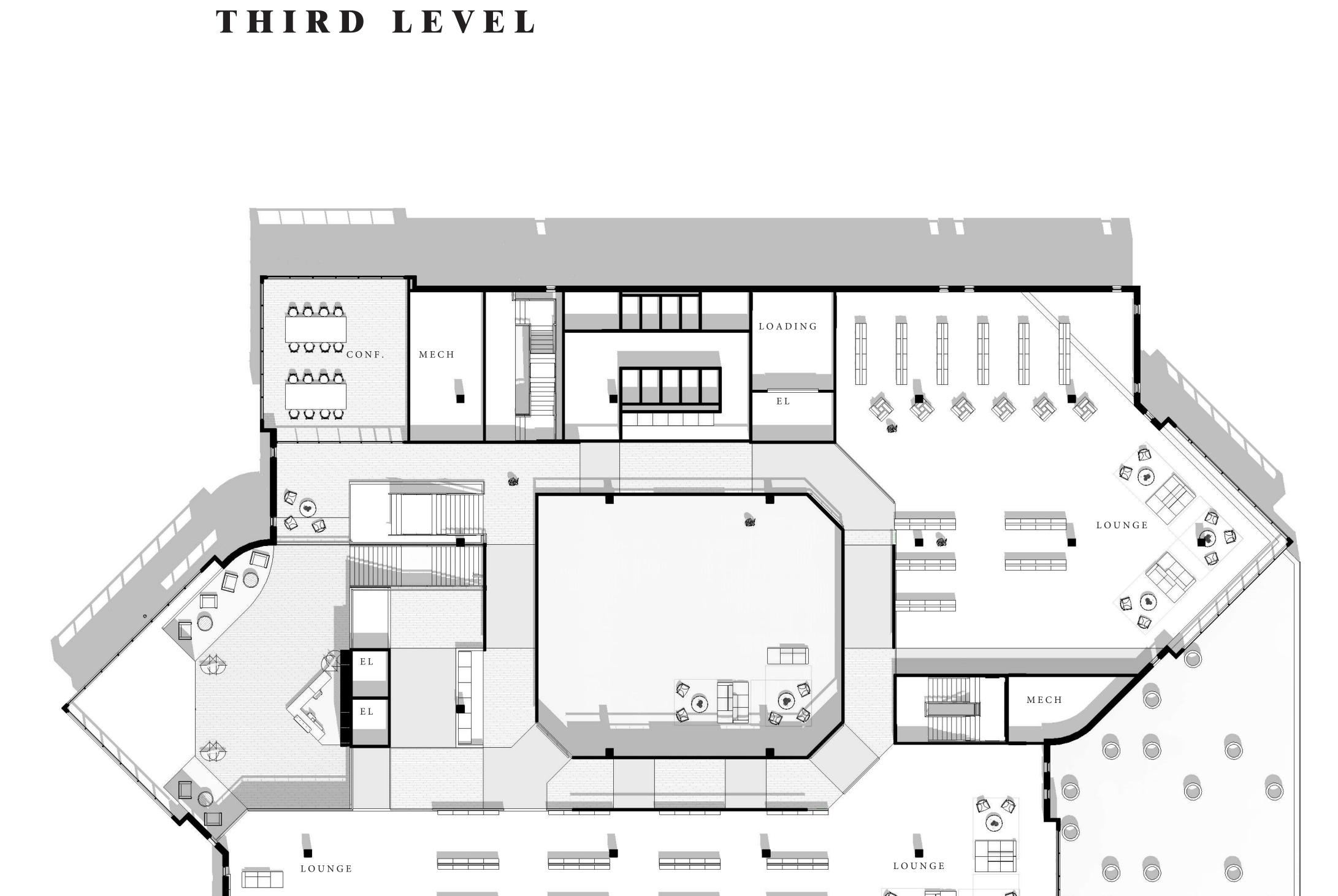
"Architecture, in combining form and space into a single essence, not only facilitates purpose but communicates meaning. The art of architecture makes our existence not only visible but meaningful"

akes our existence not only visible but meaningful"
- Francis D.K. Ching | Architecture: Form, Space, and Order

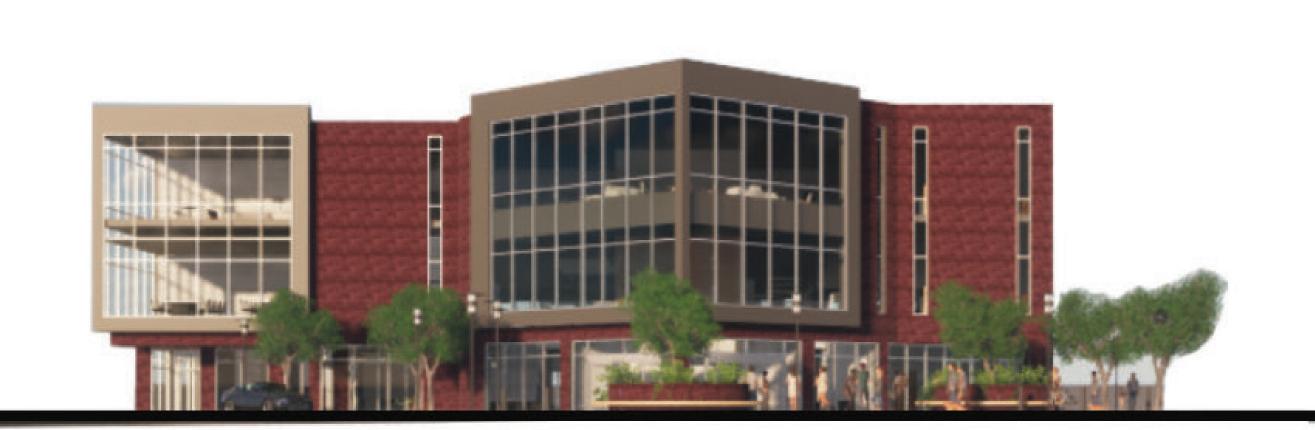


COGNITIVE EXPLANATION





SECOND LEVEL



WEST ELEVATION

SOUTH ELEVATION



WEST SECTION



SOUTH SECTION



MAIN LEVEL