A Museum of Architectural Elements

By Shawn Crowley
What is the **language** of architecture, and how can it be **understood** by non-designers?
Claim:

- Architects communicate through the innovation, adaption and organization of elements like: structure, materials, motifs, signs, symbols and forms with a society who’s members are diverse in their understanding of these elements.
Premises:

- Architects have a unique language consisting of many elements that are not all readily understood by members of society.

- Communication can be defined as the interchange or transmission of thoughts, ideas, opinions or information.

- By viewing a building, society communicates with the architect who designed it, but each person will interpret the conversation based on their understanding of the elements in the language of architecture.

- The changing or reordering of architectural elements can alter the message that is received by the viewer.
Theoretical Premise/Unifying Idea:
  • Communication using the language of architecture is multifaceted and not completely understood by any single person. Designers can use architectural elements understood by people as a way of closing the gap in communication.

Project Justification:
  • There are more non-designers in this world than there are designers, so buildings should be designed with this larger group in mind. Architecture is used by many different people in society so it is also important that it is understood by many different people.
How do we understand the elements of Architecture?
• Classroom/Meeting Spaces
• Multi-use Space
• Temporary Exhibits
• Gallery Spaces
  • Interpretation
  • Form
  • Materials
  • Virtual Reality
  • Light Quality
• Office Space
• Gift Shop
• Building Analog/Sculpture Plaza
Site Location – Fargo, ND
Site Location – Downtown Fargo, ND

1. Plains Art Museum
2. Planned PAM expansion
3. T.L. Stroh Architects
4. Foss Architects
5. NDSU Renaisssance Hall
6. EAPC Architects
7. 8th St. Lofts
Site Boundaries
Buildings to be Demolished
Designated Pedestrian Paths
Observed Pedestrian Paths
Automobile Paths
Noise
Site Context – Fargo, ND
Lumber Storage
- Relate my building to the existing buildings around my site.
- Prevent my building from blocking daylight to surrounding buildings.
- Maintain as much of the existing Kung Fu Panda Mural as possible.
- Connection through a skywalk to the Center of Creativity.
- Address and maintain the existing pedestrian path across my site.
- Create a building with unique experiences throughout.
Solar Studies

Autumnal Equinox – 9 am
Autumnal Equinox – 12 am
Autumnal Equinox – 3 am

Winter Solstice – 9 am
Winter Solstice – 12 am
Winter Solstice – 3 am
Early Concepts
Process Sketches/Models
Passive Strategies

- Sun shading
- Water Collection
- Stack Ventilation
Any Questions?