

After the decade starting from the 1960's until the early 1970's, the population of the town of Blacksburg has grown significantly. That happened primarily because of the increase in the number of students attending the university. The population of college students within that period of ten years doubled. Indicative of the change and the degree of growth that occurred during that period are the following drawings of the university campus.

![V.P.I. campus in the 1950's](image1)

![V.P.I. campus in the 1980's](image2)


The material presented has its origin in Saussurian linguistics and is included by Francoise Choay in the book "The Modern City: Planning in the 19th Century" pg 111. In several disciplines, attempts have been made to become more systematic and analytical in the way the particular field is studied. Structuralism was the movement that used applied linguistic theory to subjects other than language, in order to be more systematic. Structuralism, by using language as an analogy, established itself in various disciplines, for instance in ethnology, history, art-architecture, and others.


H. Allen Brooks in the book "Writings on Wright", observes the following about Wright's work: "rooms are interlocking, usually at the corners, with each relinquishing parts of its space to the other. Sometimes this occurs at different levels creating balconies, split-levels, and varying floor and ceiling heights. The corner has been dissolved". For Wright, the destruction of the box is an essential aspect of his notion of the organic in which the interior must find exterior expression.

![Geometric study of two F.L. Wright plans](image3)

5. A good example in which the theme "house as a city" is used is the Weeshuis orphanage in Amsterdam by Aldo van Eyck. According to Form magazine, "the organization of this building with its streets and squares and independent building units is like a small self contained city".

![The Weeshuis Orphanage by Aldo van Eyck](image4)

6. Piet Mondrian mentions the following in De Stijl magazine in 1918, "Real life is the mutual interaction of two opposites of the same value, but of different aspects and nature".

7. A historic example that shares similar characteristics with sidewalk of the proposal is the stoa of Atelos. At Atelos, the colonnade, the elevated platform, and the change of the degree of lighting are three aspects of a condition with a complexity that enables a variety of activities to take place inside the building, but also in the open field in front.

![Stoa of Attalus II 2nd century B.C., modern reconstruction](image5)

In the book the "The Art of Building Cities" the author C. Sitte speaks about the Forum of Pompeii as a stage: "what a grandiose impression this place must have made! To our modern point of view its effect is like that of a great concert hall without ceiling. In every direction the eye fell upon edifices ..." C.Sitte by examining the plan of the forum derives to the conclusion that there is a correspondence between the forum and the theater. In fact, the floor of the forum was used as a stage for gladiator combats.

"Nineteenth-century Utopias, with their rejection of urbanized society, and with their inheritance of eighteenth-century romanticism about the nobility and simplicity of "nature" or primitive man, were much attracted to the idea of simple environments that were works of art by harmonious consensus."

In architectural terms, the way Hertzberger puts it "competence is form's capacity to be interpreted." The origin of the term comes from the American linguist Noam Chomsky who introduced the concepts of competence and performance. "Competence is the knowledge that a person has of his or her language, while performance refers to the use he makes of knowledge in a concrete situation."

What was believed to be the appropriate solution for the mechanized society of the time, the park-like city was the model for urban planning in the 1920's and 1930's. The chaos existing in the urban city of the nineteenth century led the architects within the CIAM group to call for the ordering of functions (77th tenet of the Charter of Athens). In the 1960's the CIAM ideas of planning were abandoned and the model of the park-like city was replaced by the urban city of diversity. On the issue of form, the structuralists called for polyvalence and flexibility.

Louis Kahn recognizing the loss of feeling of place, expressed his views about the city. For Kahn the beginning of the city was when public open spaces existed as locations (places) of encountering. He believed that encounter was the origin of the city.

One of the issues that Wayne Attoe and Donn Logan emphasize as important is the issue of scale. "Designing in human scale achieves familiarity and a sense that things have been made by and for people". This is fundamental in the design of what they call the domesticated street.


17. Luchinger,16.
What is structure? A description of what structure is, would be the following: it is a complete set of relationships, in which the elements can change, but in such a way that these remain dependent on the whole and retain their meaning. The relationship between the elements is more important than the elements themselves. The elements are interchangeable, but the relationship is not. This becomes evident in all floor plans at all three levels of the unit. In the middle level, for example, the dining room (element one) is interchangeable with the outdoor room (element two), at the same time part of the livingroom can become the area for dining without affecting the relationships that exist between the rooms.

Hertzberger is using de Saussure's principles as an analogous model for discourse. Saussure was concerned with the objective structure of signs, which makes speech possible and called it langue. He stated that "language (langue) is a collective system within which the individual speaks (parole).

Being symbolic animals, Focillon mentions, human beings lend significance to everything around them and, above all, to the products of their own activity. But in the case of the artistic works, which are form, symbolization is constituted in a non-conceptual mode, because it is in relation to the activity of the subject, an activity of perception or of fabrication.

Eagleton's views come from an analytical approach in studying a subject rather than an evaluative one.
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