

# framing architecture

Graduate work by David EE Shirey

Work conducted at the Accademia d'Architettura in Mendrisio, Switzerland

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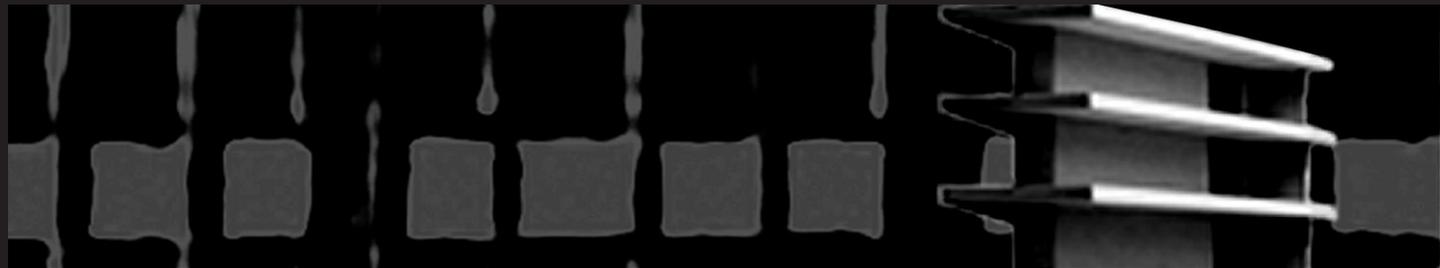
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Work Directed by:

Peter Zumthor

Miguel Kreisler

Myriam Sterling



# framing architecture : Position

European Studies 2001-2002  
David EE Shirey

The following thesis is comprised of a pair of projects focused on the making of architecture through the concept of framing. The work was conducted at the Academia d'Architettura in Mendrisio, Switzerland, under the direction of Peter Zumthor, Miguel Kreisler and Myriam Sterling, emphasizing the relationship between ordered structures and contextual propriety.

The making of architecture is inherently most pure when approached as the subtraction of unnecessary elements and a distillation of what is required for a specific program on a particular site. Life is given to structure through habitation; therefore the senses of the inhabitant must be engaged through interaction with the philosophical and tectonic elements of a place. In this didactic, the structure is made complete by its inhabitation and it completes the sensory framing of place by establishing the vantage point of the inhabitant. The confluence of inhabiting space and marking place together result in *an architecture of experience*.

The concept of framing architecture through a rigorous order is pursued simultaneously across scales by framing the polemics of dialogue, by framing a site within its context, by framing a building within its site, and by framing a building through tectonic elements. Additionally, a focus on framing views is achieved by studying the context of a particular site and its correlation to a building program. By framing the polemics of dialogue, there exists a philosophical construct that can then be used to establish coherence. Through the contextual study of a particular site the parameters for tectonic framing are defined. In marking the site with the construction of only essential tectonic elements, the building itself becomes an armature for framing views within the context of the site. In viewing both the internal and external constructions, the inhabitant experiences architecture.

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Thank you, from the bottom of my heart.