

# Another Scale of Architecture

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To embody in architecture that which has never been architecture before—I wish to explore this possibility.

Likely, this will mean fundamentally re-thinking our methods of constructing architecture. In doing so, we will surely discover an expansive new world of another scale, never perceivable before.

The scales of space engendered by the natural environment. The liberating feeling of a landscape extending seemingly forever, the vastness of the sky, the lightness of a cloud, the fineness of rain drops. Each has a scale never realizable in architecture until now.

This is because they, in their scale, are the scale of the natural environment or else natural phenomena whose existence gave a premise to the construction of architecture. Architecture has been formulated as a shelter, we might say, in order to separate us from that natural environment—a small sheltering space built within that vast environment.

Today, however, we can no longer draw a line between the natural environment and man's artificial environment in our conception of architecture. The artificial environment we are creating has grown enormous in extent. So much so, it has even affected the natural environment, and the natural environment in its turn is heavily affecting our artificial environment. As the boundary between these environments, natural and artificial, has grown steadily more ambiguous, a new environment is taking shape.

To conceive architecture for this new environment.

Architecture as shelter—such an image is unsuited to this newly emerging environment. To see architecture not as shelter but as environment, itself.

There are many differences between conventional architecture, as an artificial environment, and the natural environment. Different forms and systems, different degrees of diversity, and different time. While there are differences of all kinds, the most fundamental difference of them all is scale.

The world of subatomic particles and atoms, the world of small insects and animals, our human world, the world that can only be perceived on a global scale, and outer space. They constitute an ever larger succession of worlds, each one slightly different from the next. What makes their small differences into clear differences engendering a world of great diversity is scale. Scale gives a dimension to things, creates classes and hierarchies, and makes each world something concrete. The fundamental concept behind all origins and all behavior is scale, we can perhaps say. Until now, the natural environment has been something that contained this entire spectrum of scales.

Can we somehow bring into architecture as many as possible of these scales that could not be realized in architecture until now?

Expanding the concept of architecture may enable us to bring within it a greater number of scales. Even if we do not alter its range, we can still perhaps bring as many scales as possible into architecture by making things of all kinds as small as possible. Or else, if architecture itself can be made small and low density or thin and expansive, we may be able to locate it in the intervals between diverse things. To toss things of all kinds into a world of interacting and fluctuating relationships, so that all slowly expand, as if from within quantum fluctuation. Vague concepts, vague functions, vague roles, vague territories, vague aggregations, vague directions. Architecture thus created will melt into the new environment now emerging and, simultaneously, give form to a new environment.

That new environment = architecture.

This is another scale of architecture; the new image for architecture.