CREATIVE SPACES 2013 - INFORMATION PACK FOUR

STAN THE CAVEMAN’S GUIDE
TO THE
BASIC ELEMENTS OF ARCHITECTURE

CREATIVE SPACES INFORMATION PACK FOUR. NOW PAY ATTENTION. LISTEN TO WHAT HE HAS TO SAY!

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The following “Basic Elements of Architecture”, as presented in this document by Stan the Cavemen, can be combined to create basic architectural forms.

For example barriers can be combined to form an enclosure by putting walls around a defined area. Floor, walls and a roof create a cell or room separating one space from everywhere else and making it a place. When a roof is supported on columns an aedicule is created, one of the most fundamental architectural forms.

These basic elements are rudimentary forms that have been used to create architecture throughout history and in all the inhabited regions of the world.
DEFINED AREA OF GROUND
Most architecture begins with the definition of an area of ground. This could be a clearing in a forest or a pitch laid out for a football game. It can be small or big and of any shape and may even exist on a slope.

LOWERED AREA OR PIT
When the ground is excavated a pit is formed in its surface. This could take the form of a basement, sunken garden or swimming pool.
RAISED AREA OR PLATFORM
A RAISED PLATFORM CREATES A HORIZONTAL SURFACE LIFTED ABOVE THE NATURAL GROUND LEVEL AND MAY BE LARGE LIKE A STAGE OR AS SMALL AS A STEP.

MARKER
A MARKER IDENTIFIES A PARTICULAR PLACE IN THE MOST BASIC WAY. IT DOES SO BY OCCUPYING A SPOT AND STANDING OUT FROM ITS SURROUNDINGS. IT MAY BE A STANDING STONE OR A STATUE OR EVEN A SKYSCRAPER.
FOCUS
THIS CAN BE ANY ELEMENT UPON WHICH CONCENTRATION IS BROUGHT TO BEAR. THIS COULD BE A FIREPLACE, A WORK OF ART OR VIEW OF THE SEA.

BARRIER
A BARRIER DIVIDES ONE PLACE FROM ANOTHER LIKE A WALL OR FENCE. IT COULD BE A MOAT OR A PSYCHOLOGICAL BARRIER LIKE A LINE ON THE FLOOR.
ROOF
THE ROOF DIVIDES A PLACE FROM THE FORCES OF THE SKY, SHELTERING IT FROM SUN OR RAIN. BECAUSE OF GRAVITY A ROOF NEEDS TO BE SUPPORTED. THIS COULD BE PROVIDED BY WALLS, BUT IT COULD ALSO BE SUPPORTED BY POSTS OR COLUMNS.

BRIDGE
A BRIDGE LINKS TWO SEPARATE AREAS OF LAND. A BRIDGE MIGHT ALSO BE A BARRIER, PREVENTING FREE MOVEMENT ALONG THE RIVER.
PATH
A PATH IS A PLACE ALONG WHICH ONE MOVES AND CAN BE STRAIGHT OR TRACE AN IRREGULAR ROUTE. IT MIGHT ALSO BE A BRIDGE.

OPENINGS
OPENINGS INCLUDE DOORWAYS AND WINDOWS WHICH MAKE A LINK BETWEEN TWO SEPARATE AREAS THROUGH A BARRIER AND CAN ALLOW THE PASSAGE OF LIGHT AND AIR.