

Epistemological Note:

I penned the text below ten years back. It still stands. The model was lifted and shifted from work that was developing at the AA but mimicked the theoretical frame works we had started to develop under the tutelage of Paul Coates and Robert Thum at East London University in the mid 90's. The emergent holistic culture envisioned grapples with dualistic practices of the past and attempts to give us and the client a scaffold to proactively work collectively in the future.

The Approach

Our process begins with explorations that penetrate beyond the rudimentary site analysis. WE use cutting edge technologies to inform a buildings final out come. This includes both physical and digital modelling. The data and its inherent geometry, whether historical or not, creates opportunities to best fit, test and manipulate architectural proposals. Obviously our process begins with a firm understanding of the brief and a thorough understanding of the site, but this goes beyond surface elements and leads to situations that make the invisible visible. By approaching the brief in this manner normally hidden cultures are able to be seen.

“[We must] protect and respect the environment”

In creating architecture our proposals adhere to robust strategies that develop from the brief and site context. More over, it is essential that the scheme makes best use of natural resources. The relationship to surrounding public areas, site access and planning conditions also became opportunities that inform the evolving scheme. A principle consideration for exploration is the relationship between public and private activities at many scales and many levels. This means developing an understanding of the client's culture, as well as their relationship to other stake holders in the project. The final outcome points to future living and working practices between different departments with in the client's organisation together with its interface with stakeholders. Proposals explore relationships between the client, their buildings and the surrounding neighbours, and due the commitment to enhance a shared environment, reach out to the wider world. The ultimate goal is to facilitate our clients with buildings that allow them, their stakeholders and everyone, to reach their maximum potential.

The Proposal

The final outcome is directed towards an architecture that respects the client's needs whilst embracing the environment. This fusion evolves an identity for the client that reinforces commitments to sustainable futures. The client's identity is expressed not only in the buildings efficient organisation but also as an icon of sustainable of the future, become inherent in the proposal.

Design concepts link ecology, topography and structure to programme and context. This creates an architecture, which evolves social, economic and environmental processes, all effecting the human environment. By adhering to these principles, solutions create architectural environments offering opportunities for productive social interactions linking habitat to inhabitants.

The final outcome does not result from any arbitrary desire. Neither does it come about by considering any one aspect without its relationship to the other. It is arrived at through the rigorous design process.

The design model

At the outset a control model is defined which measure results, and through feedback, improves the evolving scheme. At the base of our design model are the following themes.

Ecology: The relationship between human groups and their physical and social environment.

Topology: The connection between material elements and the environment.

Structure: The organisation of elements above and beyond its load bearing capacity.

By adhering to these design principles schemes create interrelationships which become inseparable and at the same time joins form and space into a dynamic pattern of human habitation. This non-linear process defines our architectural approach. Preconceived ideas of form are subsumed by this research based activity allowing form to evolve at the appropriate time.

The paradigm shift.

This bit explores our past and our future. We have strength and depth with a years of experience. This is now consolidated with developing attitudes towards contemporary architecture.

We have a rich and successful reputation for design and delivery of architecture. This experience and knowledge gives us a foundation other practices lack. Continuing reassessment and subsequent realignment of our design theory can only add more value to our services. By learning from current thoughts and practices in design we enhance our product. This natural evolution places us in a unique situation. In collaboration with others our team becomes a world leader in design and delivery of architectural solutions.