

The Lesson of Movement in Architecture

Movement is the dynamic element of accommodation, the first business of a building, and is seen to purpose in the contrasting characteristics of 'Hall' and 'House'.

In 'Hall' the plan of progression and activity in movement is memorable in form and occasion, with assurance of safety. The architecture of 'Hall' will declare and fulfil this common expectation with the conviction of a work of art that works. 'Hall' is theatre, arena and the like where symmetry rules in the round or axially, with movement in reflective order which clearly establishes and refers to front, right, left and return, the vital orientation affecting communal intelligence in an assembly: safe dispersal depends on it.

'House' has infinite variety of arrangement in the shape and relationships of accommodation. There is progression from room to room in royal apartments and houses of parade, and in museums; and there are arterial corridors serving rooms in hotels, hospitals, schools. In dwellings, some are wholly of rooms opening off halls and landings; others combine rooms of privacy with a living space of open quality that integrates circulation.

Movement is as varied as human behaviour, and every age has manners in moving, giving it style; but the art of design is timeless in principles that shape form to induce and control this dynamic.

The empathy between movement and repose is a visible spirit in architecture.