

VAS Presentation outline — Kirkham + Nawabi (spring 2009)

“ I see architecture not as a form that contains space but as an experience, a passage.” Maya Lin

The metaversity is creating a space for community and personal interaction and growth. It is a place for secular and spiritual learning – learning about the world, the community, yourself and how to strengthen the two into something meaningful – one with the other. Using the principles of VAS for living and architecture, the metaversity is about living a mindful life of self, community and gestures (how to act upon the realizations of the two together).

-Sustainability

-The site is unique because of the hollow. From the first experience on the ground, there is a natural, direct attraction to the hollow. I want to bridge that connection from the street to the hollow. The first approach is to allow a natural access and connection from the street to the hollow. Therefore, the buildings are organized to allow for a visually and physical path into the hollow. As I moved through the to the hollow, another path or access revealed itself to me. That being the visual path from the site to the stunning mount Olympus peak. It became a reveal that I was not searching for but because a path of discovery. The metaveristy and VAS is also a path of discovery and experience. The building provides that experience of the dual paths and the connection of the public to the private. It bridges the street to the hollow as well as the community to the individual. These dual paths develop the parti, the program organization, and design of the metaversity. They also guide your experience through the site allowing for a unique journey of discovery through the program as well as the along the path until you reach the pinnacle view of the mountains.

-State thesis again refined – Maya lins quote

As you approach the site, you are, met by four monolithic buildings that require some work to enter into. Each façade is marked with horizontal perforations to mark the publicity of each program moving from the public buildings to the private buildings getting less and less as it moves through. The perforations are a marker of the change of the program. The visual and physical access through the building brings you directly into the site into a public courtyard. The buildings do not unfold themselves until you make the first effort into the site.

-Building programs – include access to hollow

- We
- Plaza
- I
- Plaza
- It
- Sanctuary

The “we” building, the public building, unfolds its plane into the quart yard to mark the entrance of the program. You move through the public courtyard into the hollow and cross another subtle path. You are met by a marker of the wall of prayer, a public wall for people to begin their journey through the metaveristy with a prayer. AS the move through the program into the “I” building, the stone

planes begin to unfold to reveal what is inside and share it with you. The folding walls direct you into the entrance however you become intrigued by the markings of the “path” You enter the “I” building, the art building, through the exhibit space. The program of the building is revealed to you and you grow from your experience walking through it and participating in it. You can also see the classrooms and learn from them. The set up of the classrooms is to allow for maximum interaction between the student and teacher and the student to student. There are not formal classrooms but rather spaces that allow for integration and interaction with each other. They also allow for interaction with the access plazas through the perforations and the hollow through a totally transparent north façade. See the dance classroom. As you move through the “I” building you notice the same markings of a path. You can see through the directly through the site to a destination but are unclear of how to reach that destination. You cross through the semi-private plaza that connects the “I” building to the It building, the third public building on the site. Because it is less public than the “I” building, it has significantly less perforations on it. In the It building, you enter into the lecture hall, the public area of the building however you are able to interact with the other classes that are taking place there. You begin to enter through the vertical path markings. The It building has less public program activities. You move through the path marker again and enter into a specific framed view of the sanctuary, the path you have been following but have not known. You approach the sanctuary through a canyon to direct and emphasis the view and path. You enter into the vertical threshold and approach an area of absolution where you make a voluntary commitment to participate or not. The act of washing signifies your personal commitment to self-discovery. From the absolution you begin to ramp up being guided by the vertical markers. They allow light to penetrate and guide as you ascend. The first sanctuary is a personal sanctuary where you can meditate and reflect alone. There is minimal light therefore; you must light a candle for yourself. After the personal sanctuary, you follow the light perforations to the community sanctuary. This sanctuary is a place for community meditation and reflection through lectures, discussions etc. There is no podium or beginning to allow for an exchange between all who attend. There is light coming through the window access to the hollow. There is also a balcony allowing physical access into the hollow. After you leave sanctuary, you continue to ramp up. The roofs begin to disappear and you are moving through a narrow canyon until you reach the pinnacle view, the view of Mt. Olympus and a clear view of the straight path you had been following. This gives you a visual connection of the public and private site as well as the notion that what you have discovered on your journey is only part of it, but that it continues and must continue to grow, evolve and be discovered just as vas must as well or the metaversity.