COUNTERPOINTS TO CULTURAL COLONIALISM

A Thesis Submitted to the Department of Architecture
Harvard University Graduate School of Design, by

SHELDON ALFRED

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of
[Master of Architecture]

JANUARY 2022
(Month and Year Thesis Submitted)

“The author hereby grants Harvard University permission to reproduce and
distribute copies of this thesis, in whole or in part, for educational purposes.”

Sheldon Alfred

Iman Fayyad
Counterpoints to Cultural Colonialism
Sheldon Alfred
Advisor: Iman Fayyad
Non-material culture | performing arts
Material culture | weaving
circle
1 center

ellipse
1 center, 2 foci

oval
2 centers

circle | ellipse | oval
Acoustics of the circle | ellipse
weft weft membrane
warp warp structure
membrane structure
Structure and membrane
Structure is membrane
Membrane on structure
Structure and membrane
Membrane and structure
worship

learning

healing

near  adjacent  within  within within
Define indigenous worship | plan
Define indigenous worship | plan
Define indigenous healing | plan
Define indigenous healing | plan
Weave

1. Span structural member from touch down point at concrete pier 8 to touch down point at concrete pier 9.
2. Span structural member from touch down point at concrete pier 7 to touch down point at concrete pier 5.
3. Continue to span structural members of equal lengths across touchdown points (always remember to skip a point in the span, not only so that structural members can begin to weave into each other, but as the further apart members of the structure are, the closer members of the membrane can be woven together).
4. Beginning at concrete pier 6, move membrane member no. 1 horizontally in and around the paths of structural members at touchdown points alternating from their interior to their exterior from point to point.
   a. The membrane grows vertically and after every complete revolution, the membrane member revolves in order and moves on the exterior where it had previously moved on the interior and on the interior where it had previously moved on the exterior.
5. i. Define geometry
   ii. Define circle 1
   iii. Define tangency 1
   iv. Define circle 2
   v. Define tangency 2

Define Geometry

1. Mark path and measure interior.
2. Distance between concrete piers 1 and 8.
3. Divide path into 2 equal segments to find and define center 1.
4. Define end points away from center as touch down points.
5. Mark a path from center 1 to concrete pier 2.
6. Mark a path of equal distance in the opposite direction.

Mark as new path from center 2 in the north-east direction of identical distance to previous path.
Define end point as touch down point.
Mark a path in the opposite direction (south-west) of identical distance.
Maintain equal distance between the two adjacent paths and points.

1. Mark path and measure interior.
2. Distance between concrete piers 1 and 8.
3. Divide path into 2 equal segments to find and define center 1.
4. Define end points away from center as touch down points.
5. Mark a path from center 1 to concrete pier 2.
6. Mark a path of equal distance in the opposite direction.