Counterpoints to Cultural Colonialism

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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]

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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

the circle | ellipse | oval
Acoustics of the circle | ellipse
weft weft membrane
warp warp structure
membrane structure
Membrane on structure

Membrane and structure

Structure and membrane

Structure and membrane

Structure then membrane

Structure is membrane
Structure and membrane
Structure is membrane
Membrane on structure
Structure and membrane
Membrane and structure
worship

learning

healing

near adjacent within within

performance
Define indigenous worship | plan
Define indigenous worship | plan
Define indigenous healing | plan
GUIDELINES FOR HANDBOOK

Materials
- Wet - Membrane members (4 pieces long, 1 palm wide, one finger width thick)
- Wap - Structure members (4 pieces long, 1 palm wide, 1 palm thick)

Non-standard units of measurement
- Cubit
- Pace
- Hand span
- Foot span
- Arm span
- Height
- Palm
- Finger Width

Editing sequence
Prep
1. Define geometry
3. Define touch-down points

Weave
1. Span structural member from touch down point of concrete pier to touch down point of concrete pier.
2. Span structural member from touch down point at concrete pier to touch down point at concrete pier.
3. Continue to span structural members of equal lengths across touch down 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 one, the closer members of the membrane can be woven together)
4. Beginning at concrete pier & Move membrane member no.1 horizontally in and around the paths of structural members at touch down points alternating from their exterior to their exterior from point to point.
   a. The membrane grows vertically and after every complete revolution, the membrane member reverses its 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. Analyze existing building
   ii. Define circle 1
   iii. Define tangency 1
   iv. Define circle 2
   v. Define tangency 2

Defining Geometry
1. Mark path and measure interior
2. Distance between concrete pier 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 a path from center 3 in the north-east direction of identical distance to previous paths.
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 pier 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.