THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF SACRED ARCHITECTURE:

Exploring Ritual-Architectural Priorities and Evidence-Based Design for Sacred Spaces

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Utah Valley University







Evidence-Based Design



Theoretical

Irrational

Immeasurable

Faith

Religion

Qualitative

Subjective

Empirical

Rational

Measurable

Reason

Science

Quantitative

Objective

Evidence-Based Medicine Evidence Evidence Based Design

"The conscientious, explicit and judicious use of current best evidence in making decisions about the care of individual patients."

(Sackett et al. 1996)

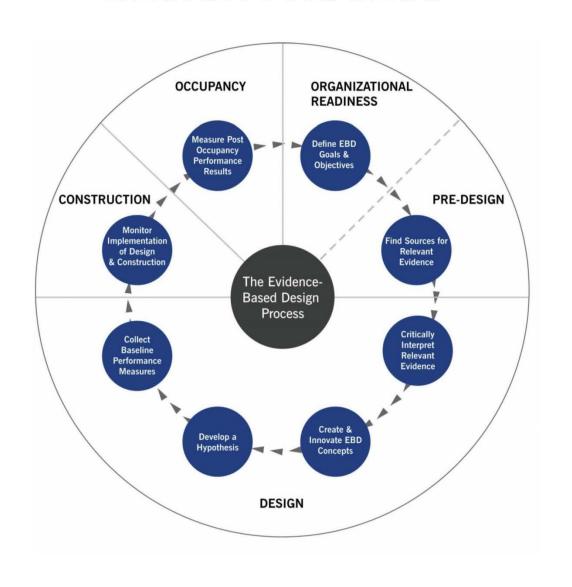
"the conscientious, explicit, and judicious use of current best evidence from research and practice in making critical decisions, together with an informed client, about the design of each individual and unique project"

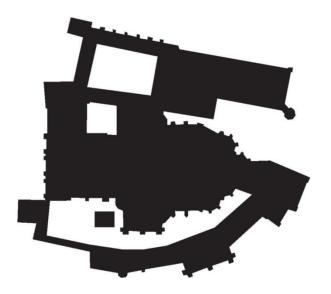
(Hamilton & Watkins, 2009, p.9)

Individual Practice Expertise

Client Values & Expectations

EVIDENCE-BASED DESIGN PROCESS





VS

OBJECTIVE (BUILT CONDITIONS)

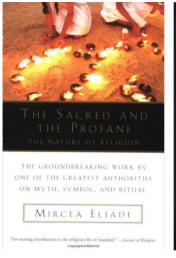


SUBJECTIVE

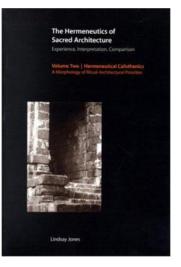
(HUMAN RESPONSES)

RITUAL-ARCHITECTURAL PRIORITIES:

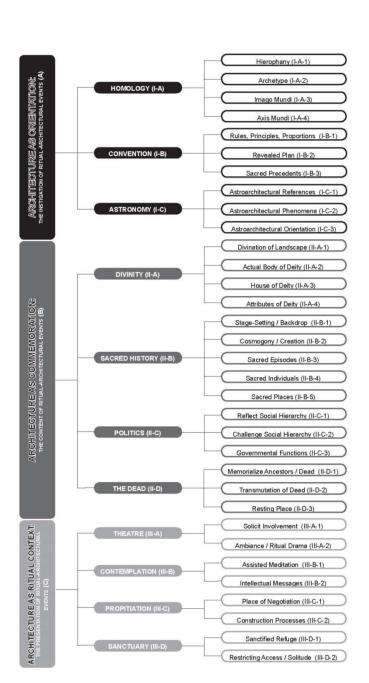
A Conceptual Model for Interpreting Sacred Architecture, Ritual, & Experience







Mircea Eliade Lindsay Jones
Comparative Historians of Religion
Editors of the Encyclopedia of Religion



RITUAL-ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN PROCESS

DESIGNER (SPATIAL CHOREOGRAPHER)





BUILT FORM (ENVIRONMENT + ARCHITECTURE)

RELIGIOUS SPECIALISTS (RITUAL CHOREOGRAPHERS)





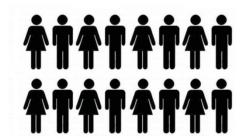






CEREMONIAL OCCASION (RITUAL + RELIGION)

PARTICIPANTS (ACTORS + AUDIENCES)













EXPECTATIONS, BELIEFS, TRADITIONS

(CULTURE + RELIGION)









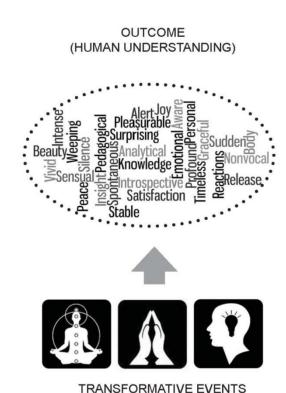


TRANSFORMATIVE EVENTS (EXPERIENCE)

What is a "Transformative Human Experience" in architecture?

A powerful **experience in architecture** which transforms, affects, or changes one's **human understanding**. The change can occur at one of the following levels:

- metaphysical an ontological, existential transformation in "being" (Heidegger, Gadamer)
- 2. sociopolitical a transintellectual social differentiation (Durkheim, Marx, Foucault)
- 3. **psychological** a multisensory bodily transformation (Victor Turner, Catherine Bell)
- religious the spiritual awakening or heightened awareness uniting one with the divine (Abbot Suger)
- pedagogical the broadened educational horizons of learning new information (Norberg-Schulz)



(EXPERIENCE)

EVIDENCE-BASED DESIGN PROCESS OCCUPANCY ORGANIZATIONAL READINESS CONSTRUCTION # PRE-DESIGN Based Design Process DESIGN

RITUAL-ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN PROCESS

DESIGNER (SPATIAL CHOREOGRAPHER)



RELIGIOUS SPECIALISTS (RITUAL CHOREOGRAPHERS)



PARTICIPANTS (ACTORS + AUDIENCES)



OUTCOME (HUMAN UNDERSTANDING)



























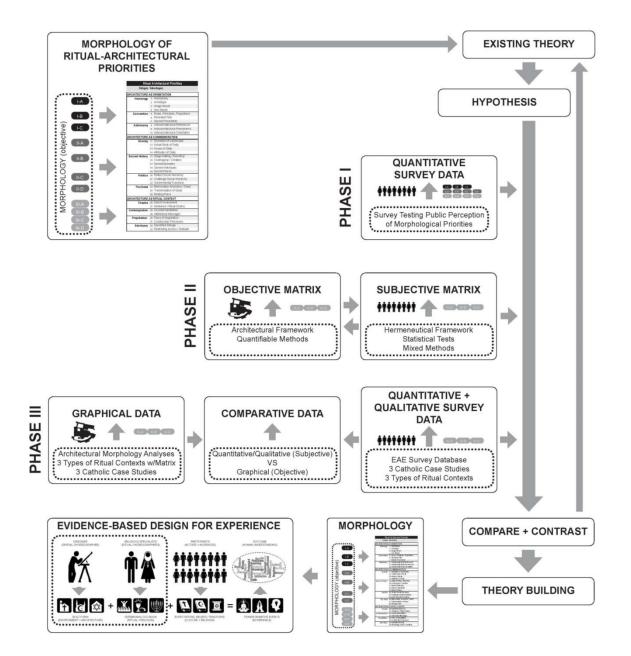




BUILT FORM (ENVIRONMENT + ARCHITECTURE) CEREMONIAL OCCASION (RITUAL + RELIGION)

EXPECTATIONS, BELIEFS, TRADITIONS (CULTURE + RELIGION)

DIAGRAM OVERVIEW OF METHODS



[Phase I]

THE IDEALIZED TEMPLE MORPHOLOGY:

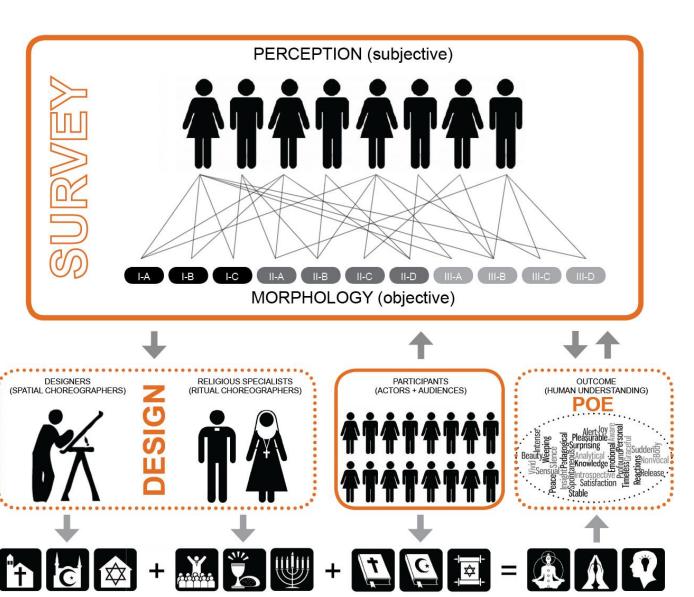
Surveying the Public Perception of Sacred Architecture

A SURVEY TESTING JONES' RITUAL-ARCHITECTURAL PRIORITIES:

OBJECTIVES:

- 1. to <u>test the relevance and public reaction to Jones' conceptual model</u> and theory of sacred architecture,
- 2. to <u>provide empirical and quantitative data</u> documenting sacred architecture's effect on human understanding and perception, and
- 3. to <u>produce</u> an idealized morphology or <u>set of design strategies</u> that can guide architects and religious specialists in the planning phases of new evidence-based design projects.





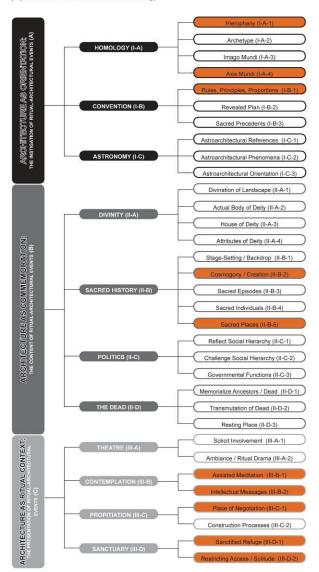
BUILT FORM (ENVIRONMENT + ARCHITECTURE)

CEREMONIAL OCCASION (RITUAL + RELIGION) EXPECTATIONS, BELIEFS, TRADITIONS (CULTURE + RELIGION)

TRANSFORMATIVE EVENTS (EXPERIENCE)

OVERVIEW OF JONES' MORPHOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

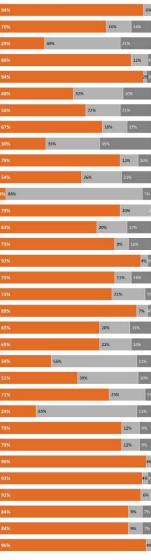
(Top 10 Ritual-Architectural Priorities from Survey)



SURVEY FINDINGS

(Idealized Perceptions of Sacred Architecture)

Yes = No = Don't Know



TOP 10 DESIGN STRATEGIES

Idealized Perceptions of Sacred Architecture)

1 Assisted Meditation, III-B-1 (96%) "A temple's architecture or features can help a person meditate or concentrate."

Concepts: path, object of devotion

Case Study: Labyrinth / Rose windows, Chartres Cathedral (Christian)





Place of Solitude, III-D-2 (96%) "A temple restricts its access in order to help keep it separate and sacred."

Concepts: retreat, sanctuary, fortress Case Study: Mont Saint-Michel, France (Christian)



3 Hierophany, I-A-1 (94%)



"A temple represents sacredness." Concepts: representation, sacred place, manifestation Case Study: Buddhist Stupa at Sanchi

 Rules, Principles, Proportions, I-B-1 (94%) "An architect uses rules, principles, or proportions in the design of temples."

Concepts: sacred geometry, order, harmony Case Studies: Vitruvian Man - Leonardo da Vinci Ideal City for Wanocheng, China



6 Messages and Meaning, III-B-2 (93%) "The temple's architecture or features communicate messages or meanings.*

Concepts: myth, symbolism, narrative Case Study: Borobudur Buddhist Temple



6 Cosmogony / Creation, II-B-2 (92%) "The design of temples can honor the creation of heaven and earth."

Concepts: first place of creation, sacred mountain Case Study: Angkor Wat Temple Complex (Hinduism)



Place of Negotiation, III-C-1 (92%)

"A temple is a place of prayer or negotiation with God(s). (i.e. interaction, covenants, contracts)* Concepts: sacrifice, altar, prayer



Sacred Places, II-B-5 (89%)

The temple's architecture can honor sacred places. (i.e. Garden of Eden, heaven, Calvary, Mecca, Zion)* Concepts: site location, mythic place, orientation

Case Study: Jerusalem Temple (Judaism)



Axis Mundi, I-A-4 (86%)

The temple's location is a sacred gathering place or axis. (i.e. ceremonial center)

Concepts: vertical link between worlds, centralized plan Case Study: Papal Altar, St. Peters, Rome, Italy



10 Restricting Access, III-D-1 (84%) *Temples can provide a place of solitude, retreat, and

Concepts: thresholds, gradations of space Case Study: Temple Khonsu (Ancient Egypt)

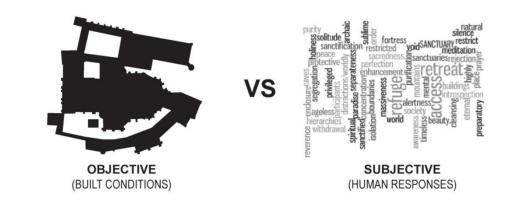


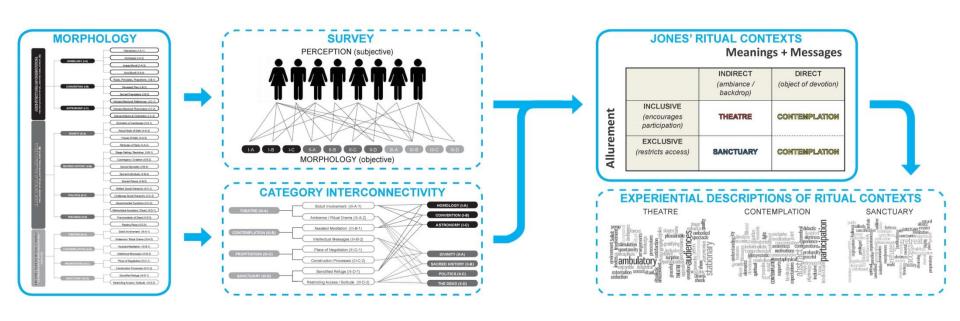
[Phase II]

CREATING A COMPARATIVE FRAMEWORK:

The Morphological Blending of Subjective and Objective Realms of Sacred Architecture

THE COMPARATIVE FRAMEWORK





Allurement

JONES' RITUAL CONTEXTS:

THE BRIDGE BETWEEN SUBJECTIVE AND OBJECTIVE:

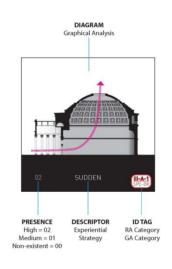
Meanings + Messages

	INDIRECT (ambiance / backdrop)	DIRECT (object of devotion)
INCLUSIVE (encourages participation)	THEATRE	CONTEMPLATION
EXCLUSIVE (restricts access)	SANCTUARY	CONTEMPLATION

THE OBJECTIVE SIDE:

ARCHITECTURAL / GRAPHICAL ANALYSES

ID Tag	Category	Key Concepts	
ENV	Environment		
UR	Urban	Hierarchy, Scale, Macro/Broader Context, Visibility/Prominence	
ST	Site	Micro/Immediate Context, Approach, Orientation, Building Placement on Site	
LA	Landscape	Terrain/Topography, Natural Features, Controlled Elements, Nature as Backdrop, Vegetation/Water	
FRM	Form		
SH	Shell	Silhouette/Outline, Massing, Façade Geometry, Openings/Fenestrations, Proportions	
ED	Exterior Details	Fixed Ornament, Non-Structural Elements, Texture/Materials, Sculpture, Painting	
ST	Structure	Grid, Additive/Subtractive, Columns, Buttresses, Planes, Walls	
SPC	Space		
CR	Core	Volume/Proportions, Overhead Planes, Spatial Geometry	
RT	Ritual	Program Distribution, Public/Private, Sacred/Profane, Ritual/Non-Ritual	
OR	Organization	Path/Narrative, Circulation, Spatial Sequence, Transitions/Thresholds, Progression/Gradation, Elevated Planes/Levels	
LT	Light	Daylight Factor/Levels, Filtered Light (Colors), Solstice/Equinox, Qualities	
AC	Acoustics	Sound Reverberation, Noise Control, Sound Absorption, Music Performance, Soun Distribution/Diffusion	
ID	Interior Details	Non-Structural Elements, Fixed Ornament, Floor Paving, Ceiling Décor, Sculpture, Painting, Art, Texture/Materials, Rood Screens/Rails, Curtains/Veils	
FN	Furniture	Moveable Elements, Fixed Features, Chairs, Altars, Benches, Pulpit, Lectern	



Meanings + Messages

	INDIRECT (ambiance / backdrop)	DIRECT (object of devotion)
INCLUSIVE (encourages participation)	THEATRE	CONTEMPLATION
EXCLUSIVE (restricts access)	SANCTUARY	CONTEMPLATION

MACRO

	ENVIRONMEN ⁻	Т		FORM					SPACE			
URBAN	SITE	LANDSCAPE	SHELL	EXT. DETAILS	STRUCTURE	CORE	RITUAL	ORGANIZATION	LIGHT	ACOUSTICS	INT. DETAILS	FURNITURE
82 INTROSPECTION		Z AMOS	22 EPHROLE MIGNINGS	CC DISACTIO	02 (ROTTING	02 ANALYTICAL	EZ COSLOSAFA	DZ AGENGIAN	52 CMSTGNAL NABBATWS	22 ORO-SETSATO	DE PRATTICIPATION PRATTIC	62 NOSE



Survey Database 1,890 (E) + 982 (S) = 2,872

"An encounter with a building or place that fundamentally alters one's normal state of being. By 'fundamental alteration' it is meant a powerful and lasting shift in one's physical, perceptual, emotional, intellectual, and/or spiritual appreciation of architecture."

Extraordinary Architectural Experiences (EAEs)

THE SUBJECTIVE SIDE:

EAE SURVEY QUESTIONS FOR EXPERIENTIAL ANALYSES

STAGE I - HERMENEUTICS

Meanings + Messages

	INDIRECT (ambiance / backdrop)	DIRECT (object of devotion)
INCLUSIVE (encourages participation)	5.1 32 72 6 72 23.1 29 31 7.4 7 6.1 18	211 15 17.6
EXCLUSIVE (restricts access)	11 8 22 29 214 42 73 215 11 11 22,7 216	15 27

STAGE II - CHI-SQUARE

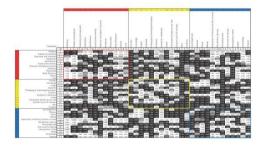
Meanings + Messages

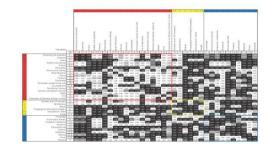
		INDIRECT (ambiance / backdrop)	DIRECT (object of devotion)
nent	INCLUSIVE (encourages participation)	11 30 77 A1 31 15 30 21A 20 72 8 31 A1 10 10	26
Allurement	EXCLUSIVE (restricts access)	1	11 21, 27 (31,7)

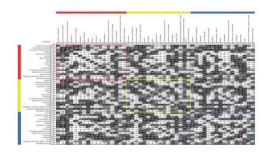
STAGE III - COMBINED

Meanings + Messages

	INDIRECT (ambiance / backdrop)	DIRECT (object of devotion)
INCLUSIVE (encourages participation)		5.2 7.3 8 11 12 15 16 12 18 19
EXCLUSIVE (restricts access)	#2 7.3 7.4 7.5 8 † 11 33 18 99 20 211 213 216 22 28	20 21.1 21.2 22 27







Meanings + Messages

		INDIRECT (ambiance / backdrop)	Object of devotion)
nent	INCLUSIVE (encourages participation)	71%	CONTEMPLATION
Allurement	EXCLUSIVE (restricts access)	sanctuary 49%	47%

Meanings + Messages

		INDIRECT (ambiance / backdrop)	DIRECT (object of devotion)
nent	INCLUSIVE (encourages participation)	THEATRE 77%	CONTEMPLATION
Allurement	EXCLUSIVE (restricts access)	70%	71%

STATISTICS CHI-SQUARE TEST

SUMMARY TOTAL CORRELATIONS

Meanings + Messages

	INDIRECT (ambiance / backdrop)	DIRECT (object of devotion)
INCLUSIVE (encourages participation)	THEATRE 66%	CONTEMPLATION
EXCLUSIVE (restricts access)	sanctuary 50%	48%

[Phase III]

THE PHENOMENOLOGY OF SACRED SPACE:

Ritual Contexts at The Pantheon, Chartres Cathedral, and the Chapel at Ronchamp

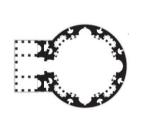
SELECTION OF CASE STUDIES

(Objective Selection Criteria)

PANTHEON

LOCATION: ROME, ITALY TIME PERIOD: 126 CE ARCHITECT: MARCUS AGRIPPA STYLE: PRE-CLASSICAL RITUAL PRESENCE: LOW-MEDIUM STATUS: CATHOLIC

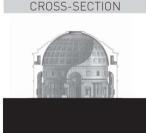


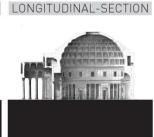


PLAN



ELEVATION

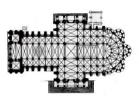




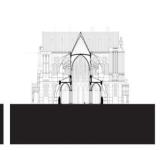
CHARTRES

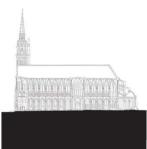
LOCATION: CHARTRES, FRANCE TIME PERIOD: 1193-1250 CE ARCHITECT: UNKNOWN STYLE: GOTHOC RITUAL PRESENCE: HIGH STATUS: CATHOLIC











RONCHAMP

LOCATION: RONCHAMP, FRANCE TIME PERIOD: 1954 ARCHITECT: LE CORBUSIER STYLE: MODERN RITUAL PRESENCE: MEDIUM-HIGH STATUS: CATHOLIC











SELECTION OF CASE STUDIES

(Subjective Selection Criteria)

EXTRAORDINARY ARCHITECTURAL EXPERIECNES

QUANTITY OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS PER CASE STUDY





QUANTITATIVE



QUALITATIVE

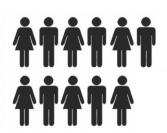






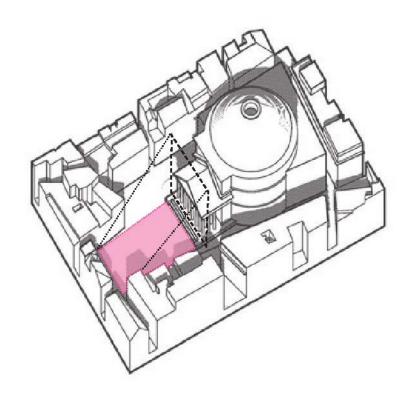








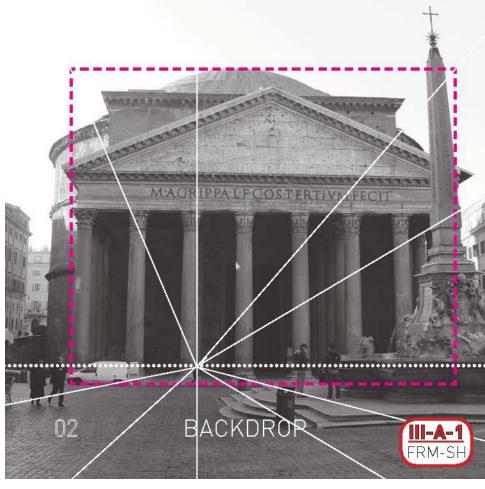
The Pantheon



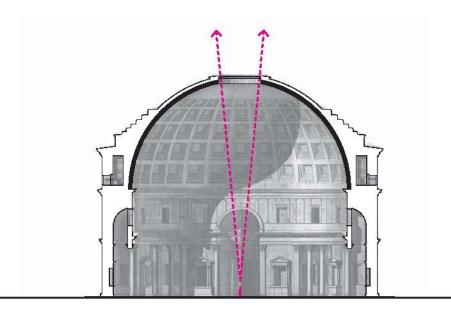
STAGE

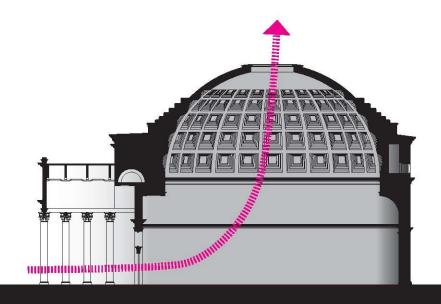
02











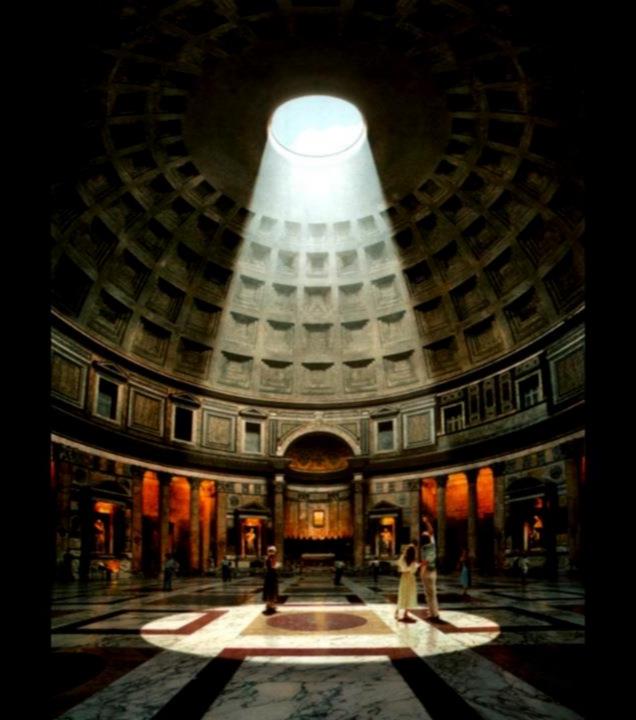
02 AMAZEMENT



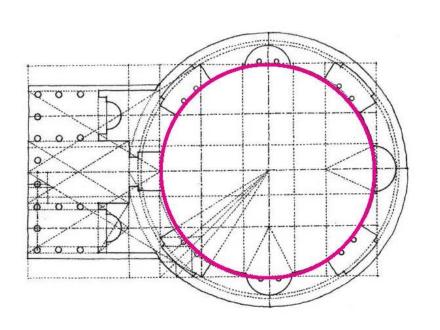
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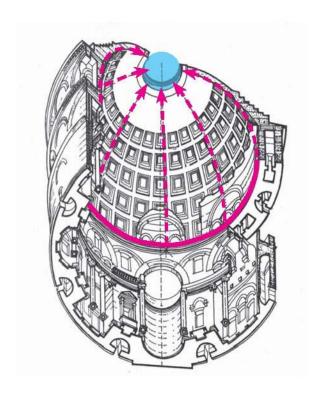
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02 SIMPLICITY

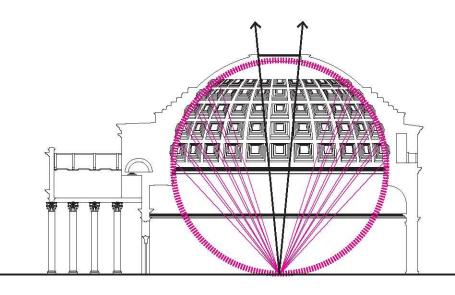


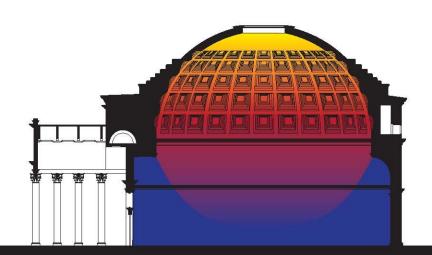
02 CENTALIZED FOCUS











02 PERFECTION



02

HERMETIC







Pantheon (Subjective) EAEs

Ritual-Architectural Presentations

- Theatre
- Contemplation
- Sanctuary

Outcome	PANTHEON
Joy	1 (60%)
Insight	2 (55%)
Peace	2 (55%)
Beauty	3 (50%)
Qualities	
Sensual	1 (75%)
Emotional	2 (65%)
Timeless	3 (50%)
Analytical	
Personal	

URBAN SITE LANDSCAPE SHELL EXT. DETAILS CORE LIGHT STRUCTURE RITUAL ORGANIZATION ACOUSTICS INT. DETAILS **FURNITURE** ALLUREMENT THEATRE 02 RITUAL FOOUS MESSAGES PANTHEON CONTEMPLATION ALLUREMENT MESSAGES ALLUREMENT SANCTUARY MESSAGES

SPACE

FORM

ENVIRONMENT

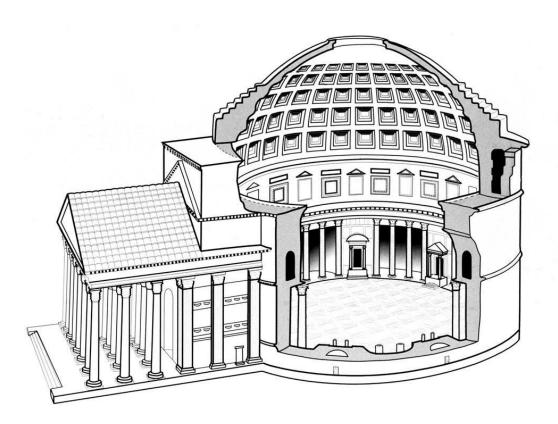


THEATRE





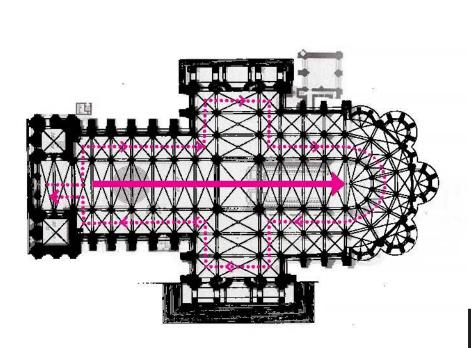


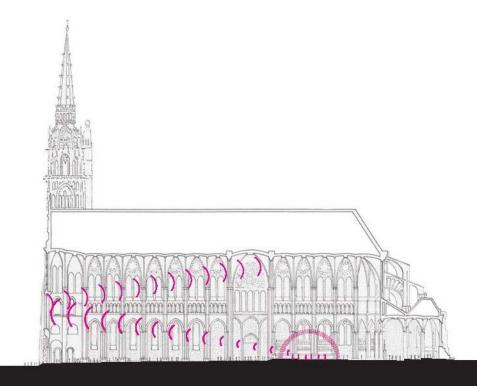




Chartres Cathedral







02 INCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE



02

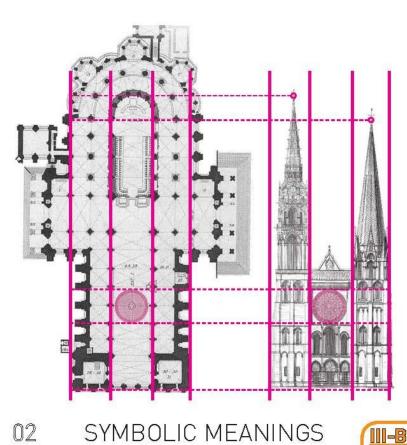
ORCHESTRATED





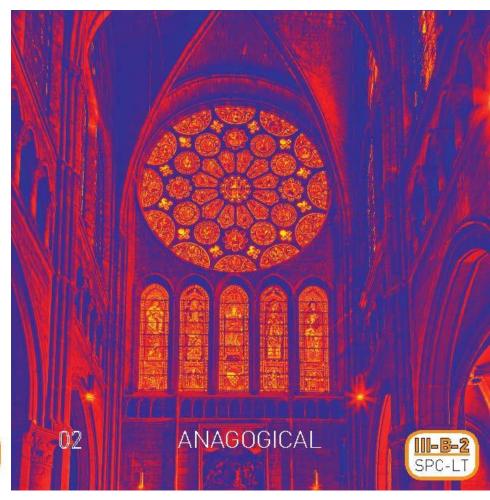






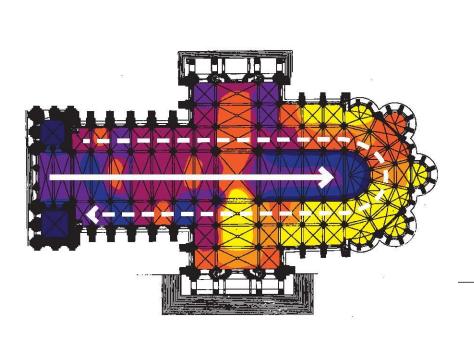
SYMBOLIC MEANINGS

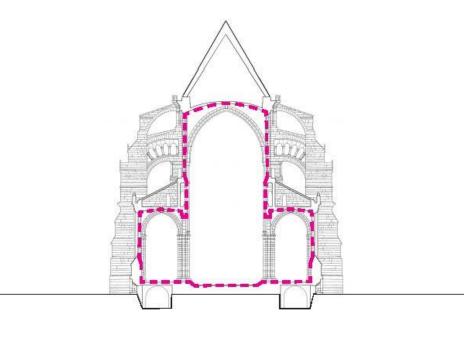












PURIFICATION

02



02 ENCLOSURE

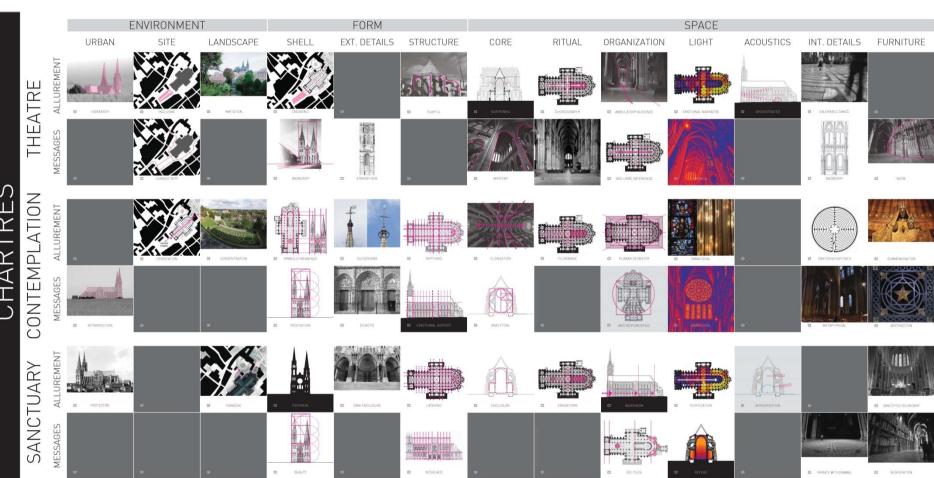


Chartres (Subjective) EAEs

Ritual-Architectural Presentations

- Theatre
- Contemplation
- Sanctuary

Outcome	CHARTRES
Joy	2 (46%)
Insight	1 (69%)
Peace	2 (46%)
Beauty	2 (46%)
Qualities	
Sensual	3 (62%)
Emotional	1 (85%)
Timeless	2 (77%)
Analytical	5 (46%)
Personal	4 (50%)





OBJECTIVE

SUBJECTIVE

PERCENT

RANK

PERCENT

RANK

THEATRE

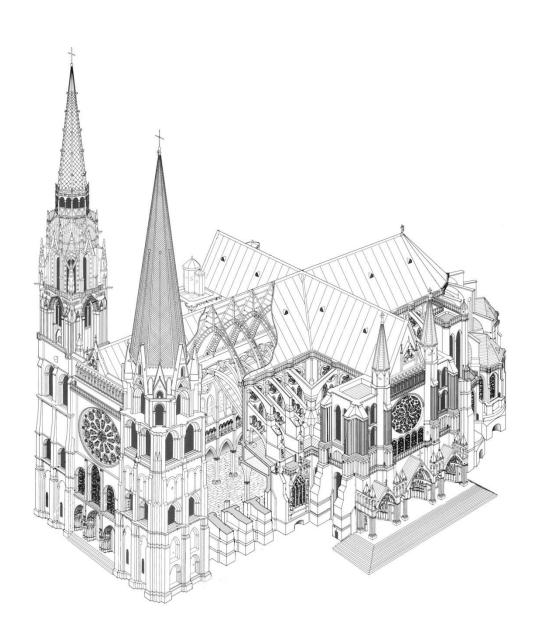
77% 1 67% 1

CONTEMPLATION

75% 2 66% 2

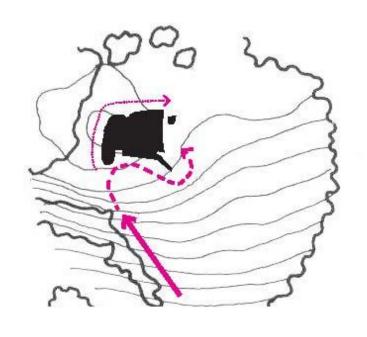
SANCTUARY

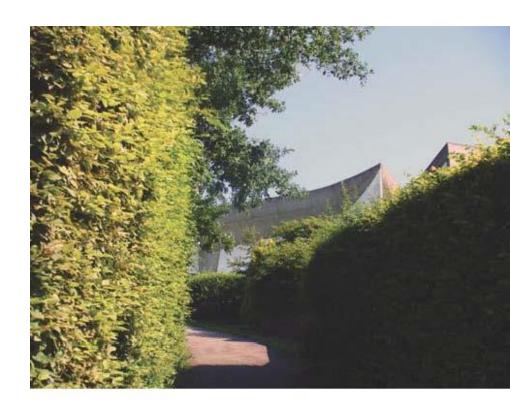
63% **3 53**% **3**





Chapel of Ronchamp





PARTICIPATORY



02 REVEALING LAYERS

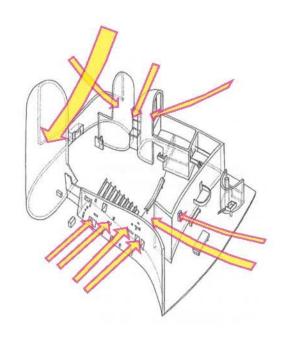


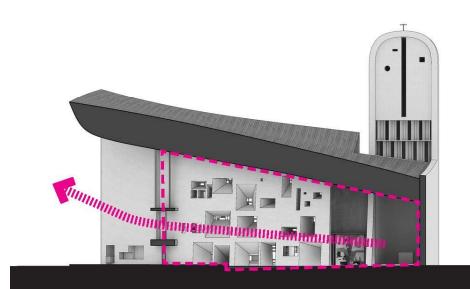












FILTERED



02

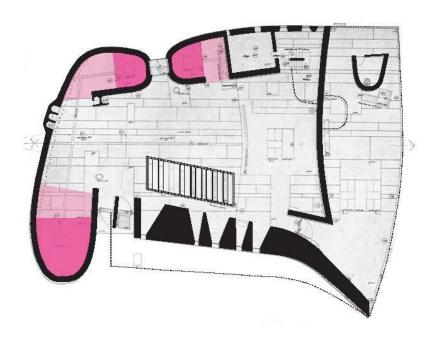
ASCENDING FOCUS

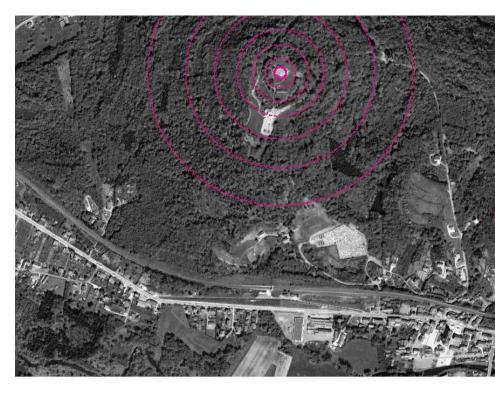












SOLITUDE 02



REMOTENESS



Ronchamp (Subjective) EAEs

Ritual-Architectural Presentations

- Theatre
- Contemplation
- Sanctuary

Outcome	RONCHAMP			
Joy	2 (57%)			
Insight	1 (62%)			
Peace	3 (48%)			
Beauty	2 (57%)			
Qualities				
Sensual	2 (71%)			
Emotional	1 (76%)			
Timeless	3 (52%)			
Analytical				
Personal	4 (50%)			

SPACE **ENVIRONMENT FORM** URBAN SITE LANDSCAPE SHELL CORE RITUAL ORGANIZATION LIGHT ACOUSTICS INT. DETAILS EXT. DETAILS STRUCTURE ALLUREMENT THEATRE MESSAGES RONCHAMP CONTEMPLATION ALLUREMENT MESSAGES ALLUREMENT SANCTUARY MESSAGES

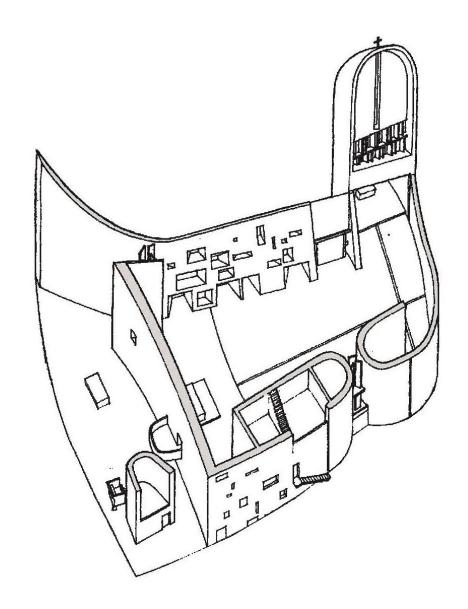


THEATRE



SANCTUARY

65% 3 50% 3



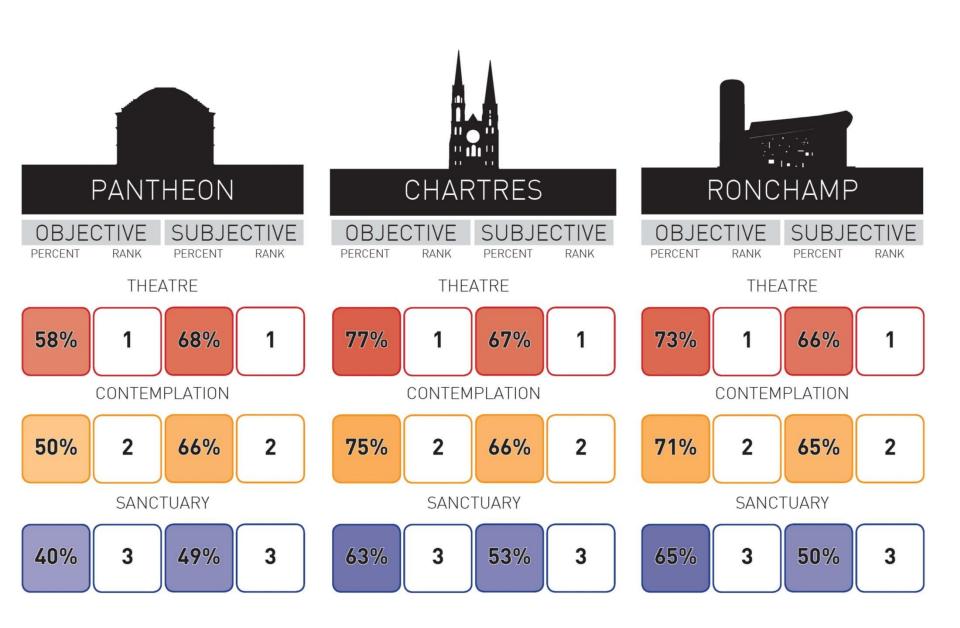
LINKING THE SUBJECTIVE AND OBJECTIVE:

Conclusions for The Pantheon, Chartres Cathedral, and the Chapel at Ronchamp

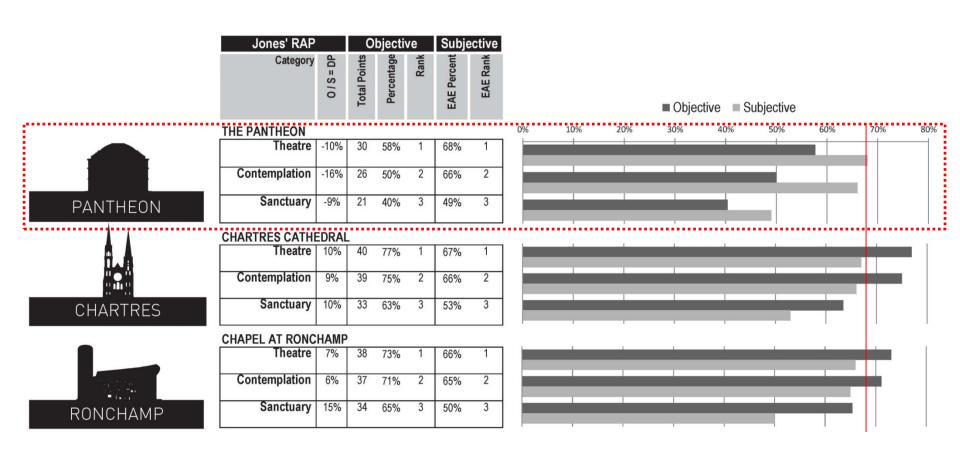
Summary of Subjective EAEs

Ritual-Architectural **Presentations** Theatre Contemplation Sanctuary PANTHEON **CHARTRES** RONCHAMP **Outcome** 1 (60%) 2 (46%) 2 (57%) Joy 1 (69%) (62%)Insight 2 (55%) 2 (55%) 2 (46%) 3 (48%) Peace 3 (50%) 2 (46%) 2 (57%) Beauty **Qualities** 1 (75%) 3 (62%) 2 (71%) Sensual 1 (85%) **Emotional** 2 (65%) 1 (76%) 3 (52%) 3 (50%) 2 (77%) **Timeless** Analytical 5 (46%) 4 (50%) 4 (50%) Personal

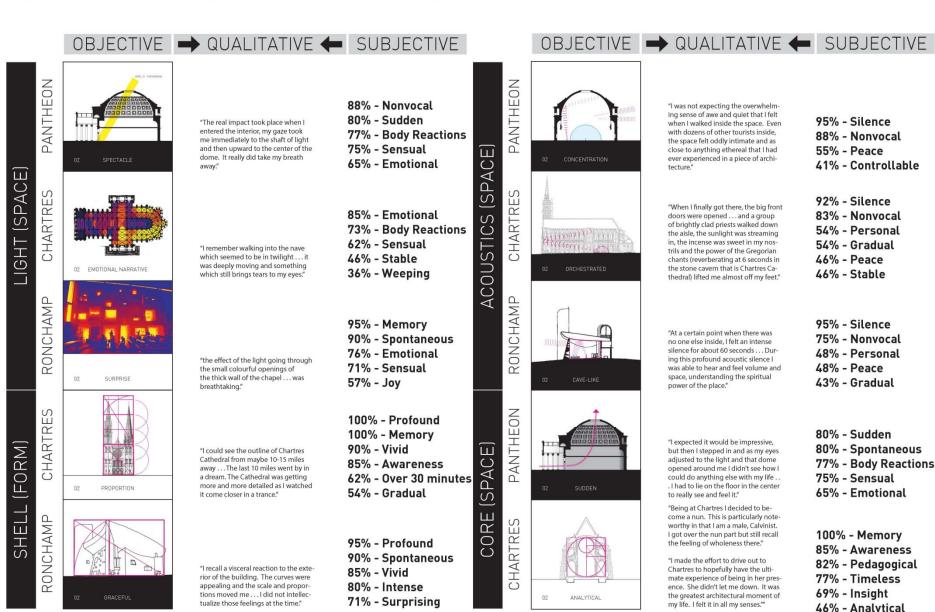
LINKING OBJECTIVE TO SUBJECTIVE: RANKINGS



LINKING OBJECTIVE TO SUBJECTIVE: PERCENTAGES



CONCRETE FINDINGS LINKING ARCHITECTURE AND EXPERIENCE



OBJECTIVE

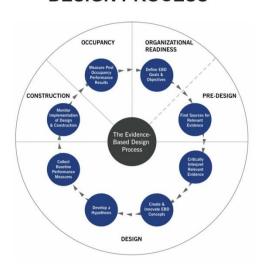


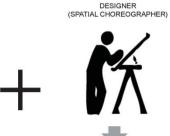
Design Guidelines

- Designers aiming for a specific ritual-architectural experience should pay attention to objective conditions
- This includes the external form's shell and
- The interior space's core, organization, light, and interior details.

EVIDENCE-BASED DESIGN PROCESS

RITUAL-ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN PROCESS













RELIGIOUS SPECIALISTS







EXPECTATIONS, BELIEFS, TRADITIONS

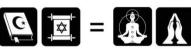
(CULTURE + RELIGION)

PARTICIPANTS

(ACTORS + AUDIENCES)









OUTCOME

(HUMAN UNDERSTANDING)

