



ISPSO 34th Annual Meeting, Copenhagen 3rd - 9th July 2017: Dreams always take place: Spaces, Places, Rooms, and Furniture, inside and around us

PARALLEL PAPERS V
SUNDAY 9th JULY 930-1045
ROOM V - 7.0.28

Mina Fies/Thomas Hoffman
Psychoanalysis and Architecture at the
Crossroads of Personal and
Organizational Understanding

The mutual influence of architectural and psychoanalytic concepts dates back to the earliest writings of Freud (1) and extends to contemporary ideas on the psychology of the self and the neuroscience the mind and brain (2,3, 4). These ideas have occasionally found their way into the psychoanalysis of organizations and their interpersonal dynamics, including architectural firms (5), but definitive examples of the relevance of the interactions between psychoanalytic thinking and architectural concepts to organizational life are scarce. In this paper, we will review the interdependence of psychoanalysis and architecture from a variety of theoretical viewpoints: Ego psychology, object relations theory, Lacan, and self/relational psychology.

Examples of the utility of specific psychoanalytic/architectural concepts will be illustrated in consultations to an architectural design firm and to a group of Emergency Room physicians. In addition, the interwoven roles of motivation, personality, and organization structure in the work of an interior design firm will be illustrated from the results of focused action research interviews with its leaders, designers, and clients. Finally, the special role of architecture in the emotional experience of spirituality in the context of places of worship and inspirational sacred structures will be addressed (6).

References:

- 1) Freud, S. (1897). Draft M. The Architecture of Hysteria, May 25, 1897. The Complete Letters of Sigmund Freud to Wilhelm Fliess, 1887-1904, 246-248.
- 2) Ralph, M. (2015). Architecture of the Unconscious. *Psychoanal. Dial.*, 25:163-175.

- 3) Bollas, C. (2000, January). Architecture and the Unconscious. In *International Forum of Psychoanalysis* (Vol. 9, No. 1-2, pp. 28-42). Taylor & Francis Group.
- 4) Can your city change your mind? The design of our cities can heal us, hurt us, and alter the way we think. Accessed November 29, 2016 from <http://www.curbed.com/2016/11/16/13637148/design-brain-architecture-psychology>.
- 5) Gutman, R. Design, Form and Reparation (1997) 14th Annual Meeting of the International Society for the Psychoanalytic Study of Organizations.
- 6) Bermudez, J. (2009). Amazing Grace. *New Research into Extraordinary Architectural Experiences' Reveals the Central Role of Sacred Places.* *Faith & Form*, 42(3), 8-13.

Thomas Hoffman, M.D.
Principal, Science Associates