

## Reflection Sybe Heusen 5425530

I started my graduation program with a fascination for applying environmental psychology principles to improve architectural visual communication techniques to non-architectural educated individuals. The broadness of this subject caused my architectural professors some skepticism. How was I going to create a concept that included so many different yet unique characteristics?

In order to make the research more tangible I specified environmental psychological applications towards stress reducing characteristics for outpatient care facilities. This would create a practical application of my research towards making healthcare centers more efficient, reducing patient stress would result in patients to be more susceptible to treatments alongside with reducing the chance of aggressive outbursts. When patients are more susceptible to treatment there would be less revisitations, thus increasing the efficiency of the hypothetical healthcare center. The research I conducted went well, I was able to find relevant literature and distill 'several' (63) architectural characteristics that could be implemented.

Thus getting to the biggest challenge of this graduation project;  
"How was I going to create a concept that included so many different yet unique characteristics?"

I sorted, labeled, characterized, and compressed the 63 results in several forms, scales, and shapes. The distillation of one overarching concept had proven itself difficult, as I was told "no-one can do this, to work from a complex answer to a simple question". I was also told to throw my research out, and start with a clean sheet. The design process for the conceptual form took many weeks as I had many things to learn in order to come to a method that suited me. Sketching left me with not enough grip on scale, foam models were too limiting, eventually clay proved to be the method that worked for me. Clay is very set in volume, and still free in shape; combining, separating, and reshaping gives the freedom to think and experiment with the restraint of reality.

The concept that I worked on was one of layers that organized the several types of functions on their public to private qualities, also allowing a sequence that limited how far certain visitors could access the building, avoiding unwanted intrusion. This method of compartmentalisation in turn allows every function cluster to have its own architectural characteristic, fitting to the specific needs for mental distraction, social interaction or territorial control (all reducing stress).

This answers the question of 'how was I going to create a concept that includes so many different yet unique characteristics?' However this also raises another question "if a multifunctional building wants to integrate environmental psychology based aspects in their concept, does it need some kind of compartmental aspect? Or does architecture come to its right in the best way when a building is dedicated to one single function, like a museum, church or bathhouse?

I chose this masters, and my classes on the basis of gaining as much knowledge as I could. While I am still finetuning the outcome of my creative processes, I have already learned a great deal, and feel confident in my research and architectural engineering qualities.