A SHARED PERSPECTIVE: MUTED VOICES

Theaters should reimagine the way we gather, engage and interact with our community. The “Theater of Truth” engages an underrepresented cast of characters, bring them to the foreground and not as an afterthought. If we listen to these silenced voices we break down the walls of own architectural “echo chambers” and learn how to better cohabitate with one another.

Architecture should support the harmonious relationship between humans and the 8.7 million other species that habitate this planet. Birds, bats, bees, butterflies, beetles, and other small mammals are responsible for bringing us 1 of every 3 bits of food. How can designers support this relationship between the natural and built environment? Our cast of character’s “unheard voices” help support this relationship while searching for the “Theater of Truth.”

If we design with the blind in mind, we think about sound as an attractor and warning. We design for awareness. We create spaces that are open, level and walkable.

If we design with pollinators in mind. We think about ecological impact. We enhance green space, native species and how architecture meets the ground and the sky.

If we design with the deaf in mind. We think about sight through transparency, openness, sight-lines and light.

If we design with children in mind. We create spaces to play and interact with.

If we design with aquatic species in mind. We think about water. How can architecture protect and reintroduce this vital resource to all life on this planet?

If we design for other species and demographics we break down the walls of “echo chambers” and learn how to better cohabitate with one another.
DESIGN FOR THE MUTED

Characters: Design Considerations:

Blind Human
Is our design open, level and walkable? Should we use sound as an attractor or warning?

Deaf Human
How are we addressing sight? Is our design transparent, open, and is our wayfinding clear? Do we capture site views and take advantage of daylight?

Young Human
Do our spaces support the adventurous spirit of our youth? Are we providing spaces to play and interact with our environment?

Migratory Birds
How does architecture meet the sky? How can we provide habitat for transient species?

Northern Leopard frog
How are we treating our watershed? Should we strive to restore habitat rather than destroy it?

Pollinators (Bees)
How can our built environment support our pollinators? Should we plant native species and restorative landscapes?

THE "RIVER OF KNOWLEDGE" AND OCULUS SERVES AS KEY WAYFINDING TO THE MAIN LOBBY, GALLERY FOOD SERVICE, MEETING RM AND RESTROOMS

STORMWATER RETENTION POND PROVIDES HABITAT FOR MIGRATORY BIRDS, RESTORATIVE WETLANDS AND PLAY SPACE

THE "TREE OF TRUTH" ANCHORS THE BUILDING, ITS CENTRALLY VISIBLE FROM BOTH THE EAST/WEST AND NORTH SOUTH AXIS.

OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE SPACE, LEVEL OPEN WALKWAYS FOR THE BLIND, CLEAR CIRCULATION AXIS FOR WAYFINDING.

"RIVER OF KNOWLEDGE" PROVIDES CLEAR WAYFINDING TO "TREE OF TRUTH" & MAIN LOBBY

NORTH WEST OVERALL PERSPECTIVE

2022 Ralph Rapson Traveling Study Award

SE PERSPECTIVE: PEDESTRIAN CONNECTIONS, VISITOR PICKUP AND DROP OFF

SW PERSPECTIVE: GREEN ROOF PROVIDES VIEWSHED TO MN STATE CAPITAL