

Form to Function: Pattern Design and Its Inherent Capability of Becoming a Way Finding System

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Abstract

This project uncovers the functional capability of pattern design and its ability of becoming a way finding system. Integration of patterns, use of space and light are key words used and explored in the project using a bus terminal as an application structure. I saw a chance where pattern design can be taken into the realms of way finding systems and not limit its possibilities to just being an ornamental application. My research began with finding about basic needs of navigation within a terminal and looking into possibilities of concepts from which pattern units can be formed. Patterns produced either came from the location itself or influenced how the structure can be built. They also provide an interactive environment that is affected by human's actions and is influenced by their reactions onto the space. One of the pattern applications involved waiting areas in bus terminals, where time and its clockwise motion influenced the pattern form and motion. Other applications involve exit doors of terminals. Here the projected pattern's motion and form reflect the different choices of routes available from the terminal. Pipelines as infrastructure were also used as a way finding system and also began to suggest the influence of pattern design on how a structure can be altered based on its navigation system. By developing a pattern that responds to sounds in a space and animates from thin sharp to bulky rounded forms, a motion pattern can be utilized to smoothly navigate commuters through a crowded terminal.

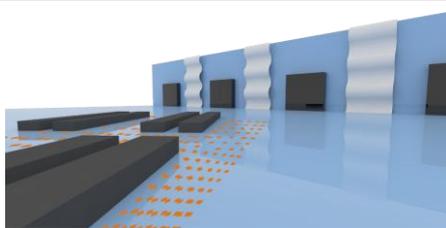


Figure 1 : Waiting area pattern application.

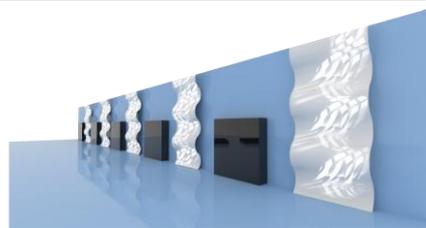


Figure 1 : Bus terminal exit area pattern application.