

Circulation and Movement in Space

CIRCULATION
or how people move through space

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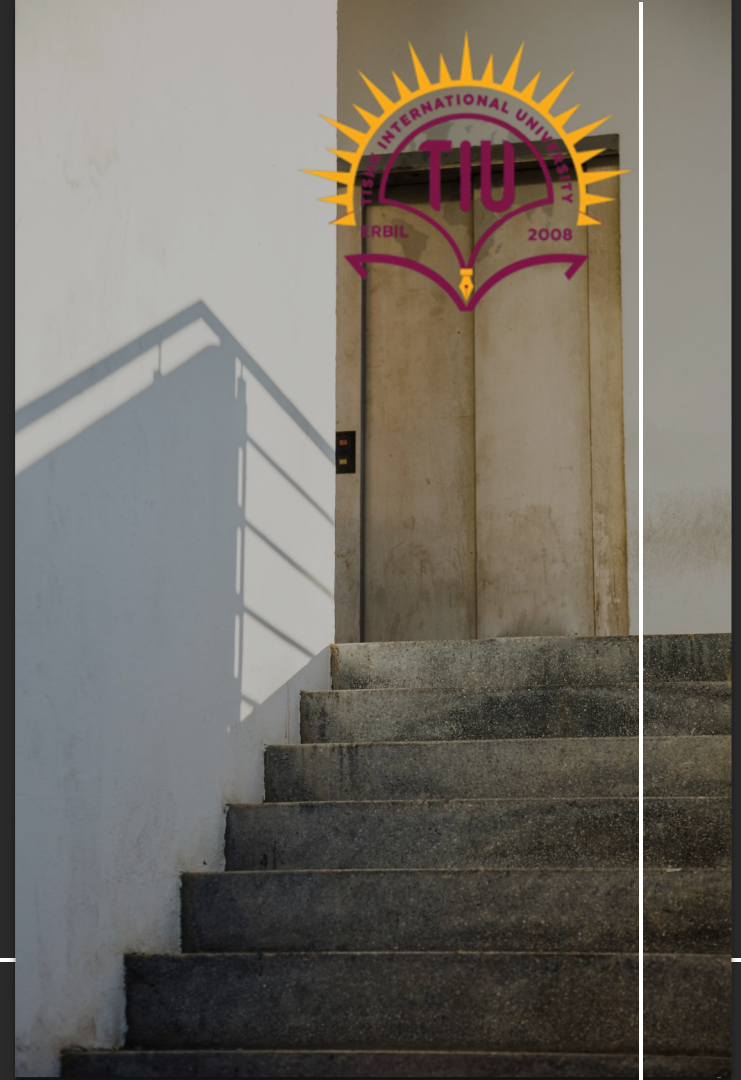


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WHAT IS CIRCULATION?





“Circulation: movement through space”

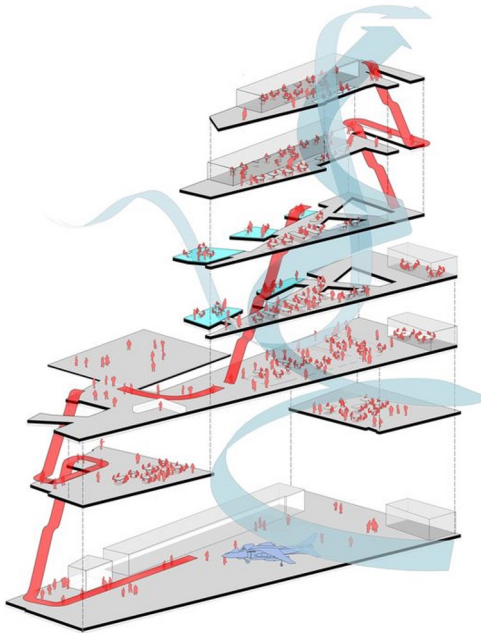
— FRANCIS DK CHING IN ARCHITECTURE:
FORM, SPACE & ORDER



In particular, **circulation** routes are the **pathways** people take through and around buildings or urban places. **Circulation** is often thought of as the **'space between the spaces'**, having a *connective function*, but it can be much more than that. It is the **concept that captures the experience of moving our bodies around a building, three-dimensionally and through time.**



Components of Circulation



The type and extent of these divisions will be project dependent, but might include:

1. direction of movement:

horizontal or vertical;

2. type of use: public or private,

3. frequency of use:

common or emergency;

4. time of use: morning, day, evening, continuous.

Direction



Horizontal circulation might include hallways, paths, entries and exits. It is also affected by the furniture layout, or other objects in the space such as columns, or topographic changes.

“This is why architects usually furniture as part of a concept design, because it is critically linked to the flow, function and feeling of the space.”

Vertical circulation is how people move up and down within the building, so includes things like stairs, lifts, ramps, ladders and escalators which allow us to move from one level to another.

Use

Public circulation is the areas of the building which are most widely and easily accessible.

In this guise, circulation is often overlapped with other functions, such as a lobby, atrium, or gallery, and is enhanced to a high level of architectural quality.

Private circulation accounts for the more intimate movements within the building.

In a house this might be the back door, staff offices or storage zones.

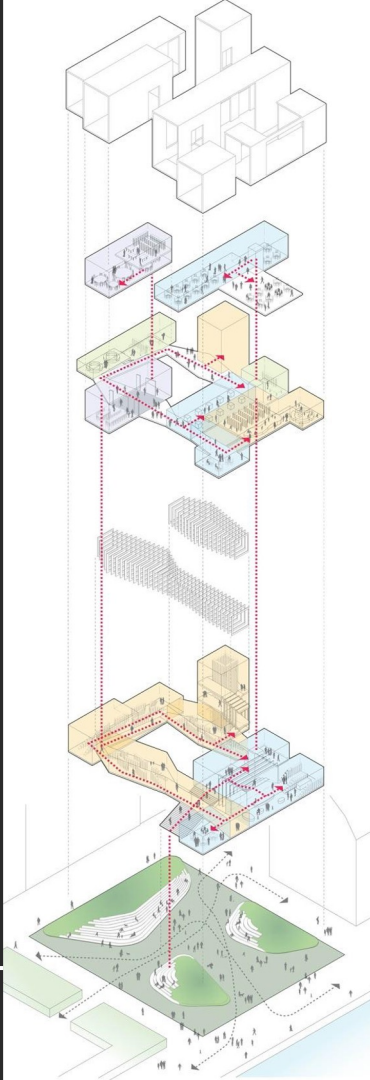




DESIGNING CIRCULATION

The key circulation pathways should:

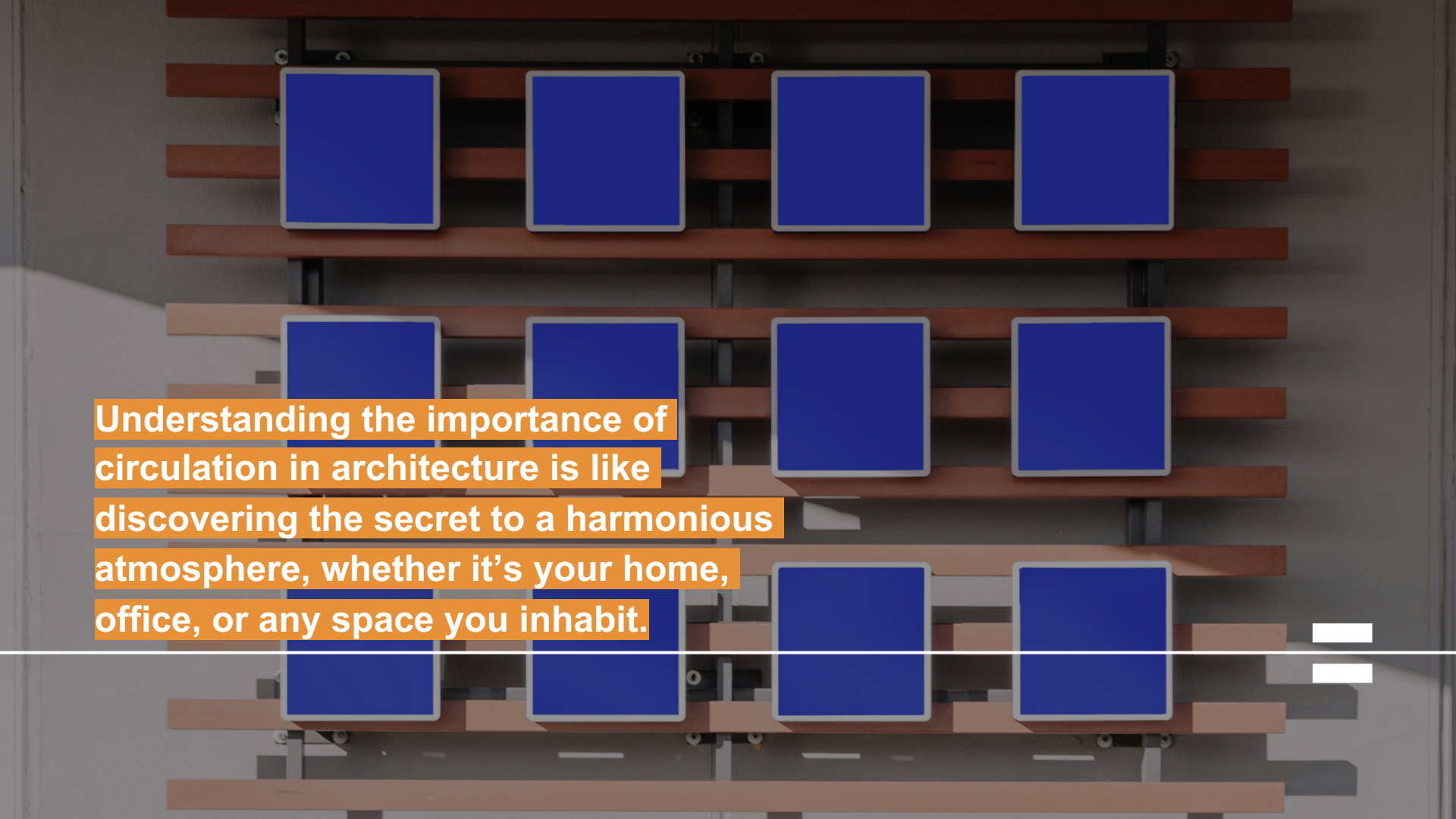
- be clear and unobstructed;
- follow the shortest distance between two points.



Representing circulation



Circulation is often represented using diagrams, with arrows showing the 'flow' of people or the proposed openness of spaces. You might use different colours or types of lines to describe the varying movements



Understanding the importance of
circulation in architecture is like
discovering the secret to a harmonious
atmosphere, whether it's your home,
office, or any space you inhabit.



THANKS

Does anyone have any questions?

References

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- Kubba, S. A. (2003). Space planning for commercial and residential interiors (No. 19844). McGraw-Hill.