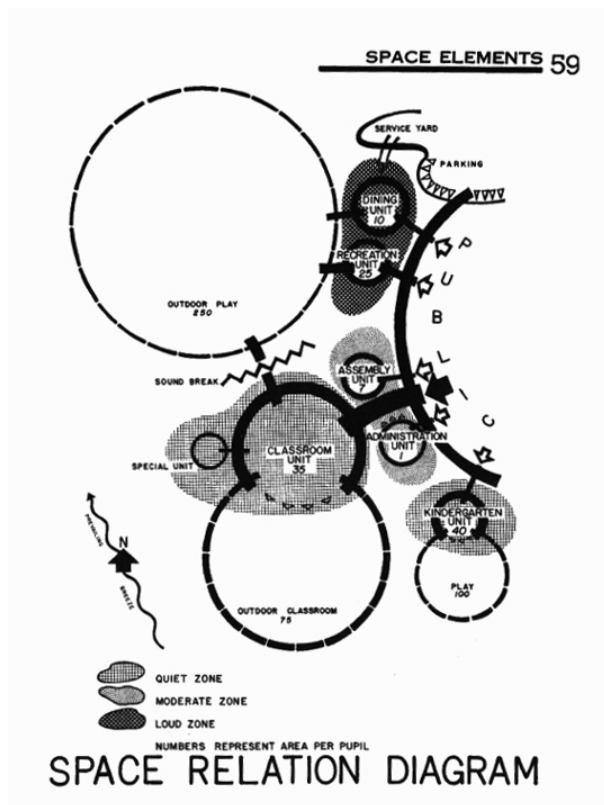


ARCH 603
Fall 2025 / 3 credits
Tuesdays 8:30a to 11:20a
AAB Room TBD

Instructor:
Joy Knoblauch, PhD
jknoblau@umich.edu
Office Hours:
Tuesday, 4p
or by appointment
Zoom / Room 2368 Taubman Wing

Caption: *William Caudill, Space for Teaching, (1941), 59.*

History of Architecture and Psychology



What impact does form have on psyche? How does form constrain or inhibit the social, emotional, and political experiences within? What difference does it make to speak of form and psyche as an interface, as an environment, or as a platform? Starting with these core questions, the course will unpack the legacy of environmental psychology from the 1970s. We will reanimate the canonical studies from that period and ask what we might learn about environment and psyche rather than environment and behavior. We will spend a few weeks with the 1970s and then consider contemporary lenses (trauma informed design and neurodiverse design) before returning to the large political entanglements of the midcentury. Students will undertake a reenactment to show their understanding of the history of psychology and architecture while offering new ideas about form, psyche, and power.

The course begins and ends with the belief that there is a lot of room to improve the way architecture engages psychology. Built examples and theories of form and behavior will be considered as assemblages of science, technology, and society where knowledge and power are mutually constituted. How have certain beliefs about psyche or behavior supported certain institutional formations? What other possible assemblages of power and psyche might be possible? How might architects use representation to include factors of emotion and psyche into their work without reinforcing dominant hierarchies that fall unevenly disadvantaged populations? Can architects design with psychology without producing violent environments that tell others what their needs are? Can we first, do no harm?