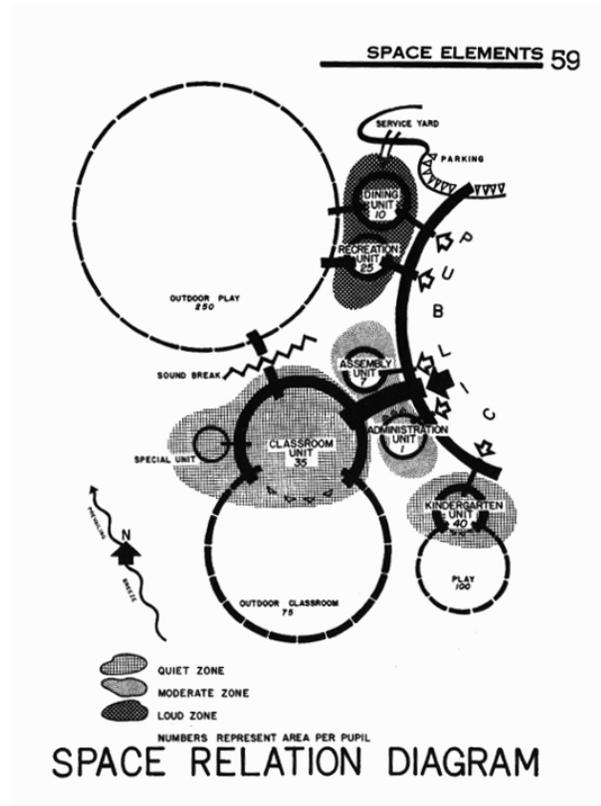


ARCH 603  
Fall 2026 / 3 credits

Instructor:  
Joy Knoblauch, PhD  
jknoblau@umich.edu  
Office Hours:  
Tuesday, 4p  
or by appointment  
Zoom / Room 2344 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 1960s and 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. 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 on disadvantaged populations? Can architects design with psychology without producing violent environments that tell others what their needs are? Can we first, do no harm?