

# Project 1: The Body Measure

Units, Proportion + The Body

Arch 4101 - Fall 2019

**PREMISE** You are the means of conveyance  
You are the unit  
You are the measure  
You are the recorder  
You are the interpreter

**OBJECTIVE** To facilitate the realization that the way in which we see and traverse the world can both be experiential as well as analytical.

It should be stated that many of the things we come in contact with everyday are themselves designed after the proportions of our bodies and while this may be obvious we have lost touch with this as a criteria for design, choosing instead to design for aesthetics, material effects or cost effectiveness and consequently rarely give spatial experience a second thought.

An example of this from our everyday lives is the simple, unassuming brick. It has become so pervasive that we have lost touch with its power as a material and rarely appreciate the subtleness that is embedded within the unit and with the profound effects it has on a space/place when aggregated together. But, the traditional brick is an object designed by ergonomic means, as all of its dimensions are derived from the size of a mason's hand. In this exercise we are seeking to understand the dimensions and proportional relationships embedded within our bodies so that we may more fully analyze our surrounding environment and uncover similar relationships in the world around us.

**METHOD** This exercise will seek to help you understand your body as a measuring device and as the beginnings of a method of presentation and interpretation that we will utilize throughout the semester. Think of this project as a blending of Le Corbusier's Modular Man and the Beaux Arts Analytique. The assignment is essentially composed of three parts as follows:

### ***Measurement***

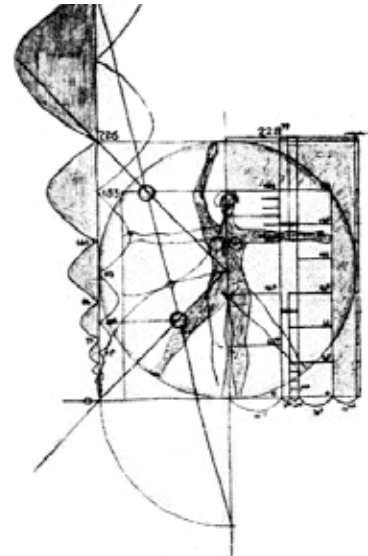
This stage is quite simple; take every measurement of your body that could be useful in measuring objects, buildings, public squares, building heights etc. These dimensions could include any number of things such as your hand, forearm and height to measure objects and or your stride length to measure site plans, floor plans, facades and the like.

### ***Derivation***

Once you will have completed the measurement segment of the project it is important to begin to draw relationships that give you an important insight into proportional relationships the potential expansion of your measurement phase. These interrelationships will/should become the basis for the next phase so a complete study is critical going forward.

### ***Analysis***

This stage is just as much about analysis as it is about comprehension, composition and presentation. Utilizing a Beaux Arts Method of presentation, the Analytique, you are to create a visually compelling and clearly composed visual representation of the scale, proportion and aggregation of your measurements. Your analytique should be representative yet abstract, this is not about creating a



lifelike representation on oneself but instead about creating a representative diagram that illustrates dimensional characteristics of your body as a device.

Consideration should also be given to your body as a receiver of information, documentation of your other senses should also be given consideration in representation, similar to those found in your reading and consider those a potential areas of quantitative or quantitative data consumption as well. While this method is more ethereal it give helps in giving you a fulsome interpretation of the means by which you interact with those things around you and how those objects and spaces interact with you.

## READINGS

Zumthor, Peter - The Body of Architecture  
Bloomer, Kent - The Body Matrix  
Nerdinger, Winfried – From Idea to Hand: The Importance of Architectural Sketches  
Harbeson, John – The Beaux Arts Method – The Analytique

## REQUIREMENTS

1. Series of sketches that demonstrate process
2. 4 – Representative Studies drawn on 4x6 or rough equivalent that are the preliminary studies for the final analytique
3. 1 – 11x17 or A3 Analytique

Digital copies of all projects to be scanned / photographed for grading and submitted to project website 48 hours after the due date and have a size limit of 10Mb per file

Final product documentation will be named and submitted as per regulations outlined in Project X

## GRADING

Grading will be calculated as follows:  
Craft 30%            Composition 30%  
Process 30%        Discovery 10%

## DATES

Dates  
Assigned:            08.21.2019  
Due:                    08.28.2019  
  
Project X:            08.30.2019

