



ARCHITECTURE DESIGN THEORY

PART 1: PRIMARY ELEMENTS

© JT Wunderlich PhD 2019

<http://users.etaown.edu/w/wunderjt/>

ARCHITECTURE DESIGN THEORY



LECTURE SERIES

- ❑ **PART 1 PRIMARY ELEMENTS** *(This Lecture)* [PPTX](#) [MP4](#) [YouTube](#) [PDF](#)
- ❑ PART 2 FORM [PPTX](#) [MP4](#) [YouTube](#) [PDF](#)
- ❑ PART 3 FORM & SPACE [PPTX](#) [MP4](#) [YouTube](#) [PDF](#)
- ❑ PART 4 ORGANIZATION [PPTX](#) [MP4](#) [YouTube](#) [PDF](#)
- ❑ PART 5 CIRCULATION [PPTX](#) [MP4](#) [YouTube](#) [PDF](#)
- ❑ PART 6 PROPORTION & SCALE [PPTX](#) [MP4](#) [YouTube](#) [PDF](#)
- ❑ PART 7 PRINCIPLES [PPTX](#) [MP4](#) [YouTube](#) [PDF](#)

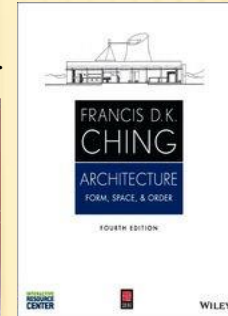
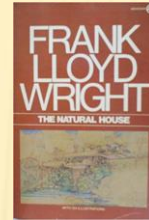
SOURCES

* Personal Architecture projects, frequent international travel, BS Architectural Engineering (U.Texas 84), plus 1-1/2 years of Urban Design (UCSD 1986-87)

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

[1] Ching, Francis D.K. *Architecture: Form, Space, and Order*. 4 ed., Wiley, 2014.

[2] Wright, Frank Lloyd. *The Natural House*. Bramhall House; 1954.



OTHER SOURCES

[3] Storrer, William A. *The Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright, Complete Catalog*. 4TH ed. U. of Chicago Press, 2017.

[4] Bacon, Edmond. *Design of Cities*. Thames & Hudson Ltd, 1978.

[5] Lynch, Kevin. *The Image of The City*. MIT Press, 1960.

[6] Wright, Frank Lloyd. *Testament*. New York, Bramhall House, 1957.

[7] Froebel; *Brief History of the Kindergarten*. Froebel Gifts, 2013.

<http://www.froebelgifts.com/history.htm>

[8] *PENN Rare Book and Manuscript: Frank Lloyd Wright's Paternal Family*. Penn Library. University of Pennsylvania, Feb. 20, 2014.

<http://www.library.upenn.edu/rbm/featured/mscoll822.html>

[9] Huxtable, Ada Louise. *Frank Lloyd Wright*. New York Times, Oct. 31, 2004.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2004/10/31/books/chapters/frank-lloyd-wright.html>

[10] Burns, Ken, and Novick, Lynn. *Frank Lloyd Wright: A Film by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick DVD*. PBS Home Video, August 28, 2001.

[11] Wright, Frank Lloyd. *The Art and Craft of the Machine*, Vol. 8, No. 2 pp. 77-81, 83-85, 87-90, May, 1901.

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/25505640.pdf>

[12] Wright, Frank Lloyd. *In the Cause of Architecture*. Architectural Record, vol. XXIII, March 1908.

[13] Wright, Frank Lloyd. *In the Cause of Architecture; Second Paper*. Architectural Record, May 1914.

PRIMARY ELEMENTS

“Primary elements of form:

Points, one-dimension lines, two-dimensional planes, and three-dimensional volumes, exist in spatial environments as conceptual elements. **They are not visible except in the minds eye, but we can sense their presence** [1]

“Points mark positions in space

Lines defining edges of planes

Planes define boundaries of volumes

Volumes of forms and space”
[1]



POINTS

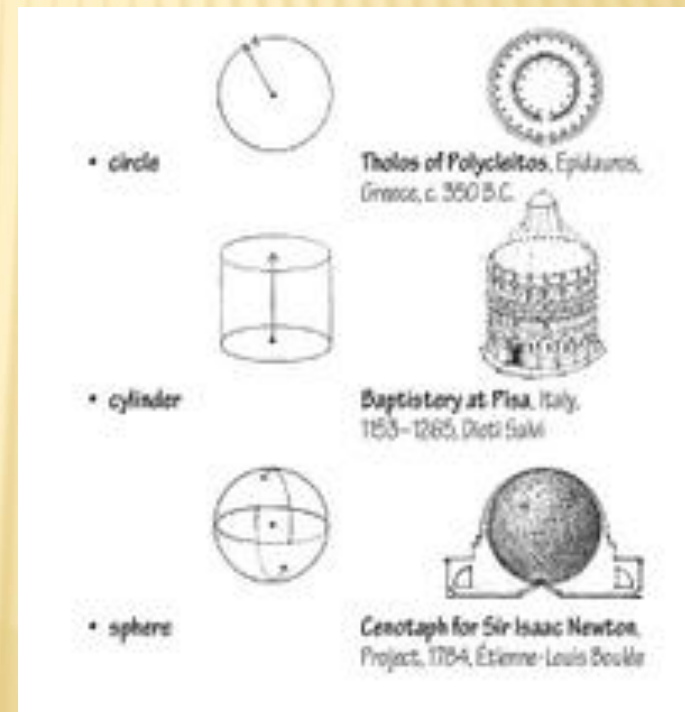
“mark positions in space relative to our environment, and attract attention”
[1]



POINT

“Point-generating forms in plan-view (from above)”

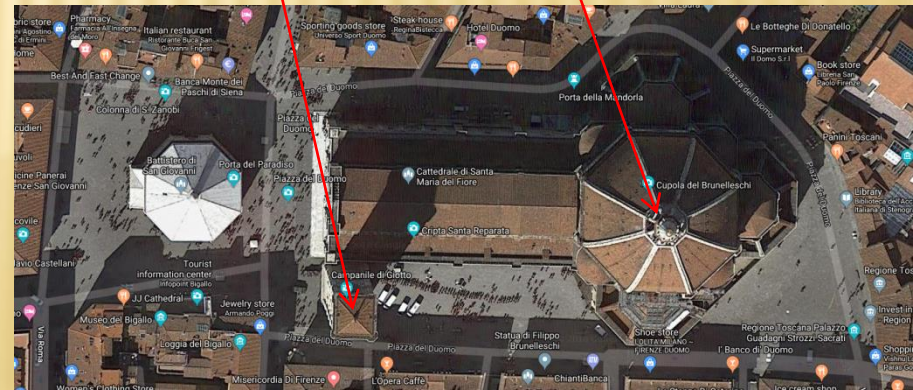
- The small-circle, cylinder, and sphere
- **FOUNTAIN, COLUMN, OBELISK, TOWER, or DOME**
 - a **STATUE** in plan view is also a point” [1]



TOWER, DOME

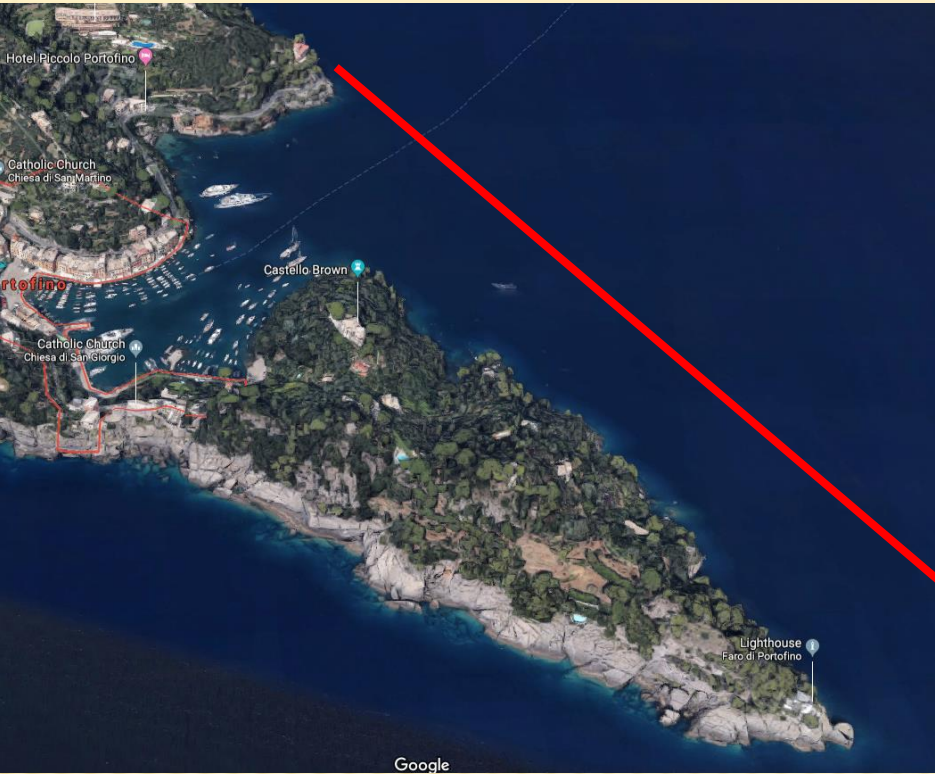
Travel to Florence Italy, 2004,2014

POINTS

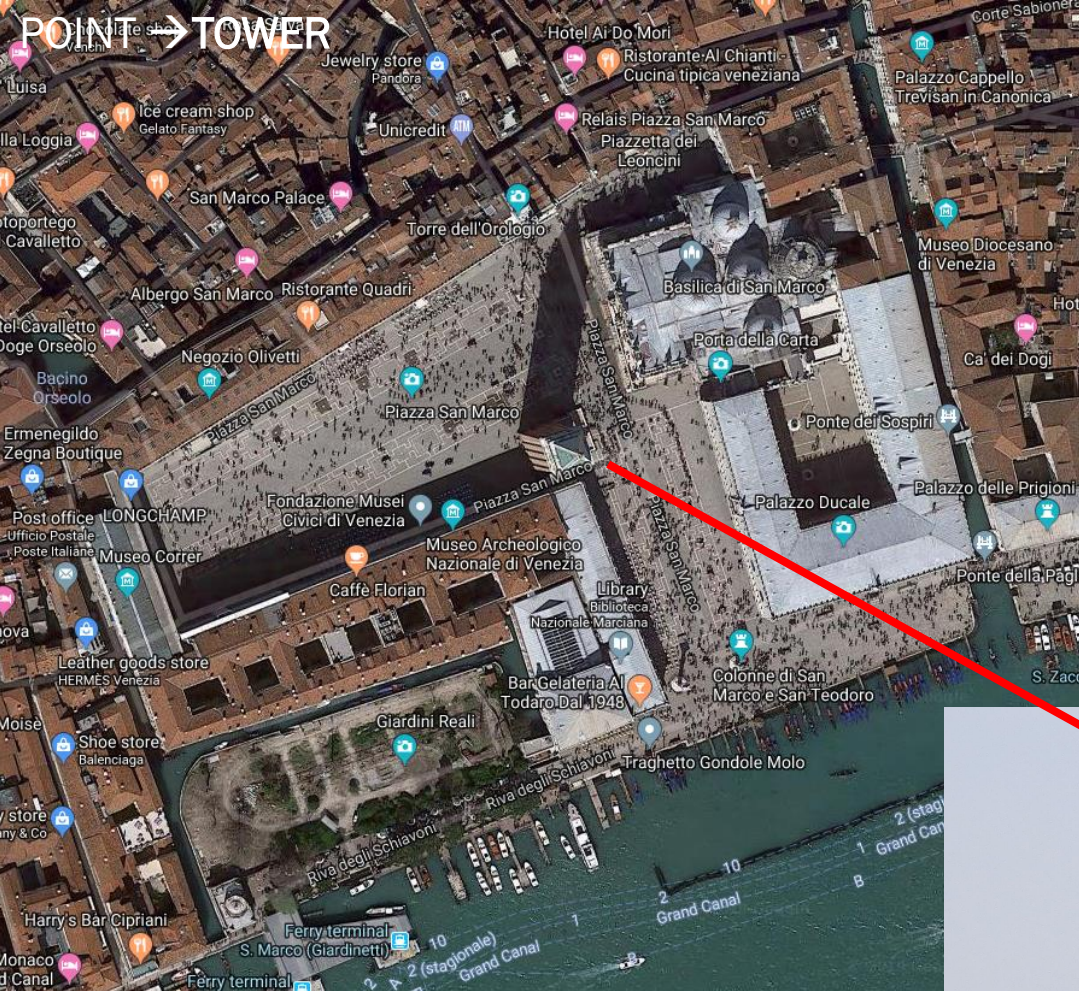


POINT → TOWER

Travel to Portofino Italy, 2004



























POINT

“This pyramidal composition culminates in a spire that establishes this fortified monastery as a specific place in the landscape” [1]



Mont Saint Michel France, 13th century



POINT off-center – >Visual Tension

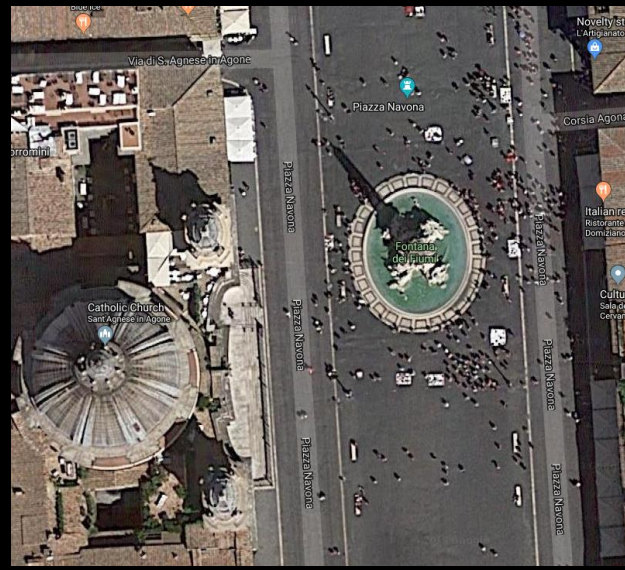
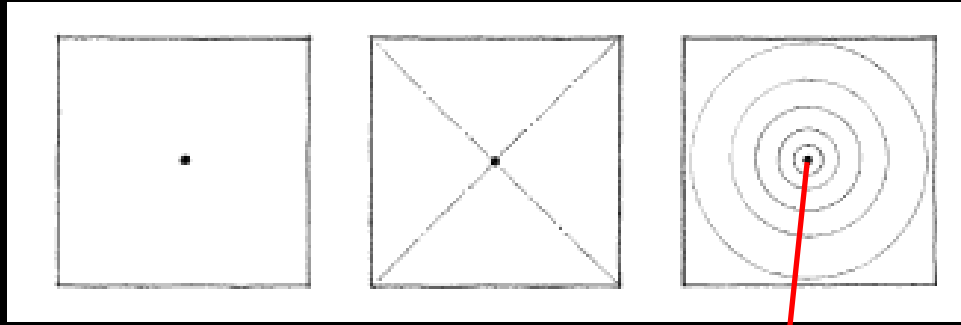
Travel to Venice,
2008,2011,2014,2017



Campanile di San Marco in Piazza San Marco, Venice

POINT – a Fountain defining space, and a sense of place

“At center, point is stable and at rest, organizing surrounding elements and dominating its field” [1]



Rome 2011

Fontana Del Fiumi in Piazza Novana , Rome





“Point can mark ends of lines whether real or imagined...”



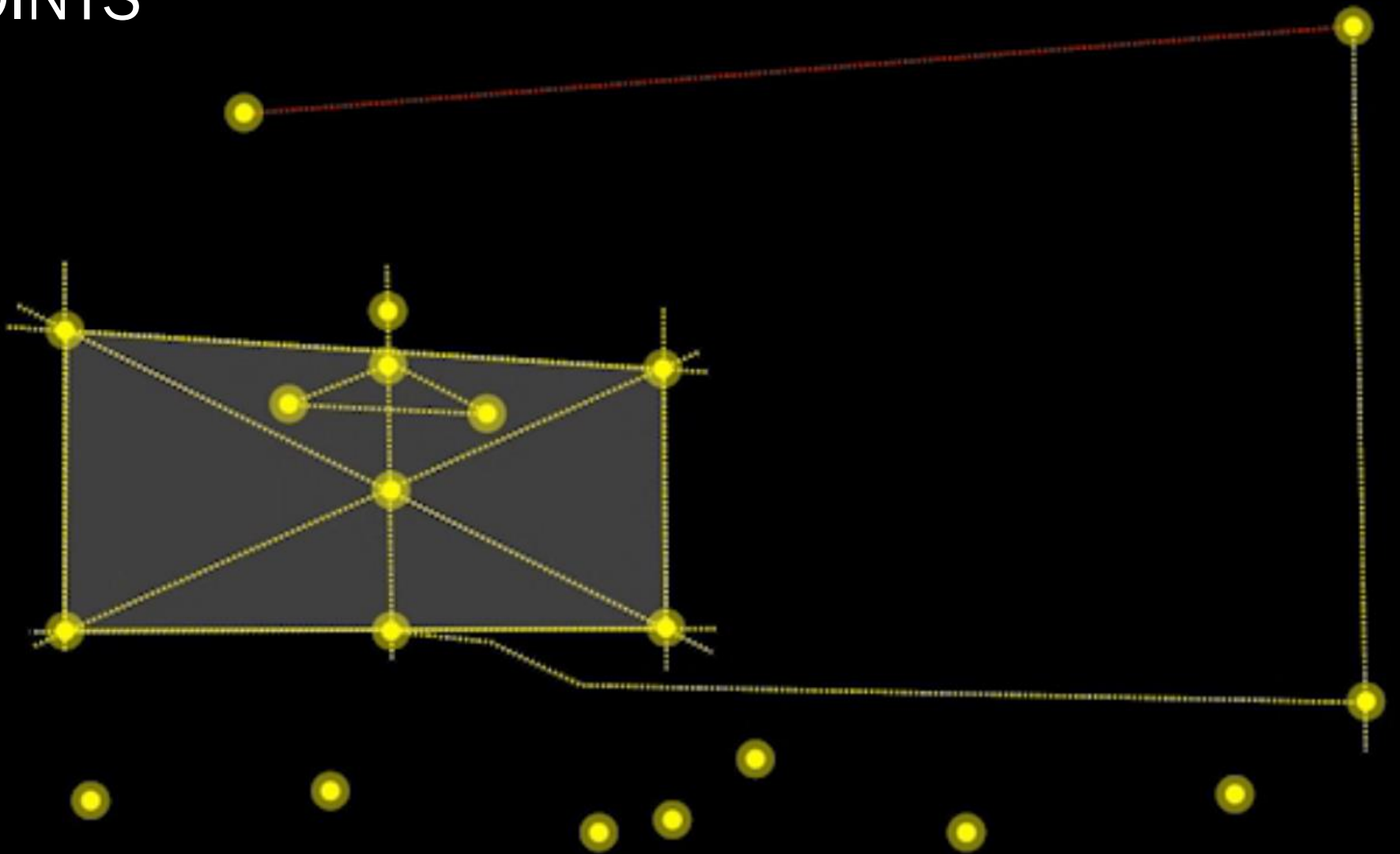
... or intersections of lines ...



... or the center of a field” [1]

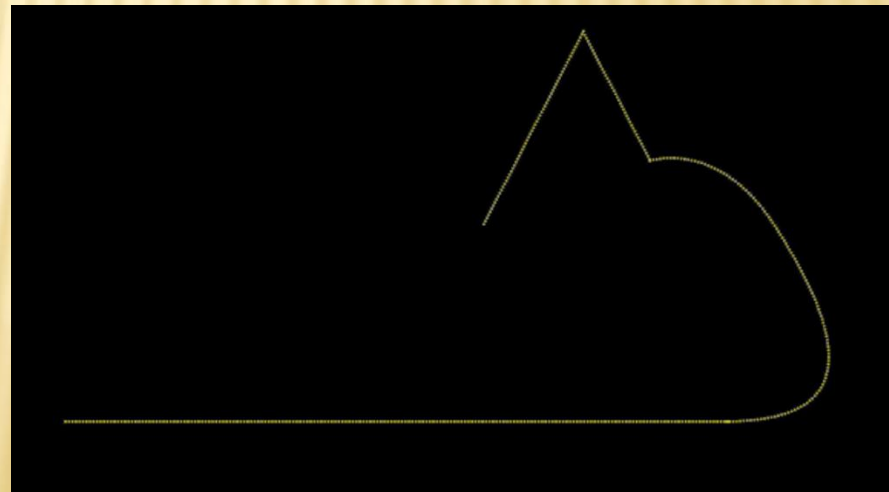
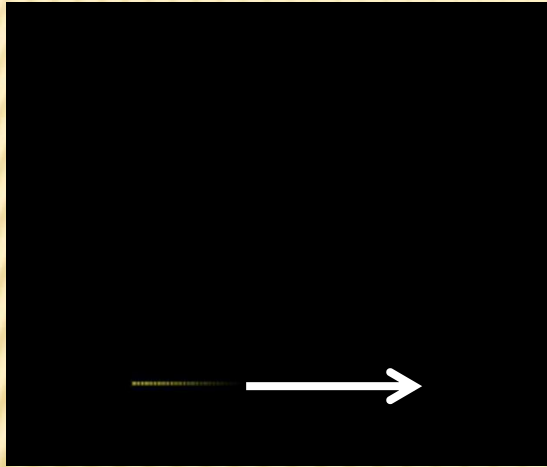


POINTS



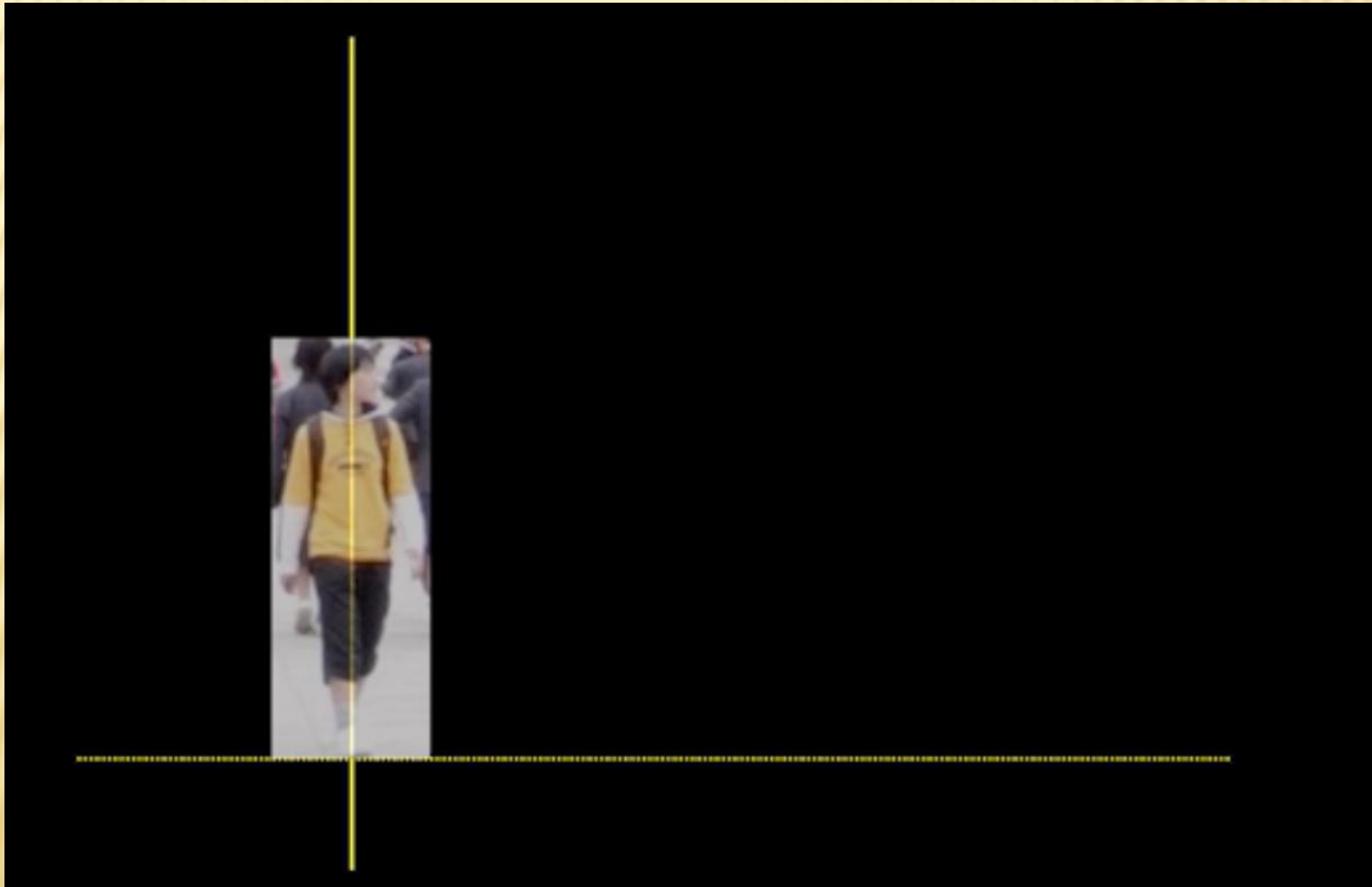
POINT in MOTION

“expresses *Direction, Movement, and Growth*” [1]



LINE

“a **vertical line** can express a state of **equilibrium** with gravity, and symbolize **the human condition**” [1]



LINE

“vertical equilibrium ...the human condition” [1]



Travel to Venice,
2008,2011,2014,2017

LINE/TOWER



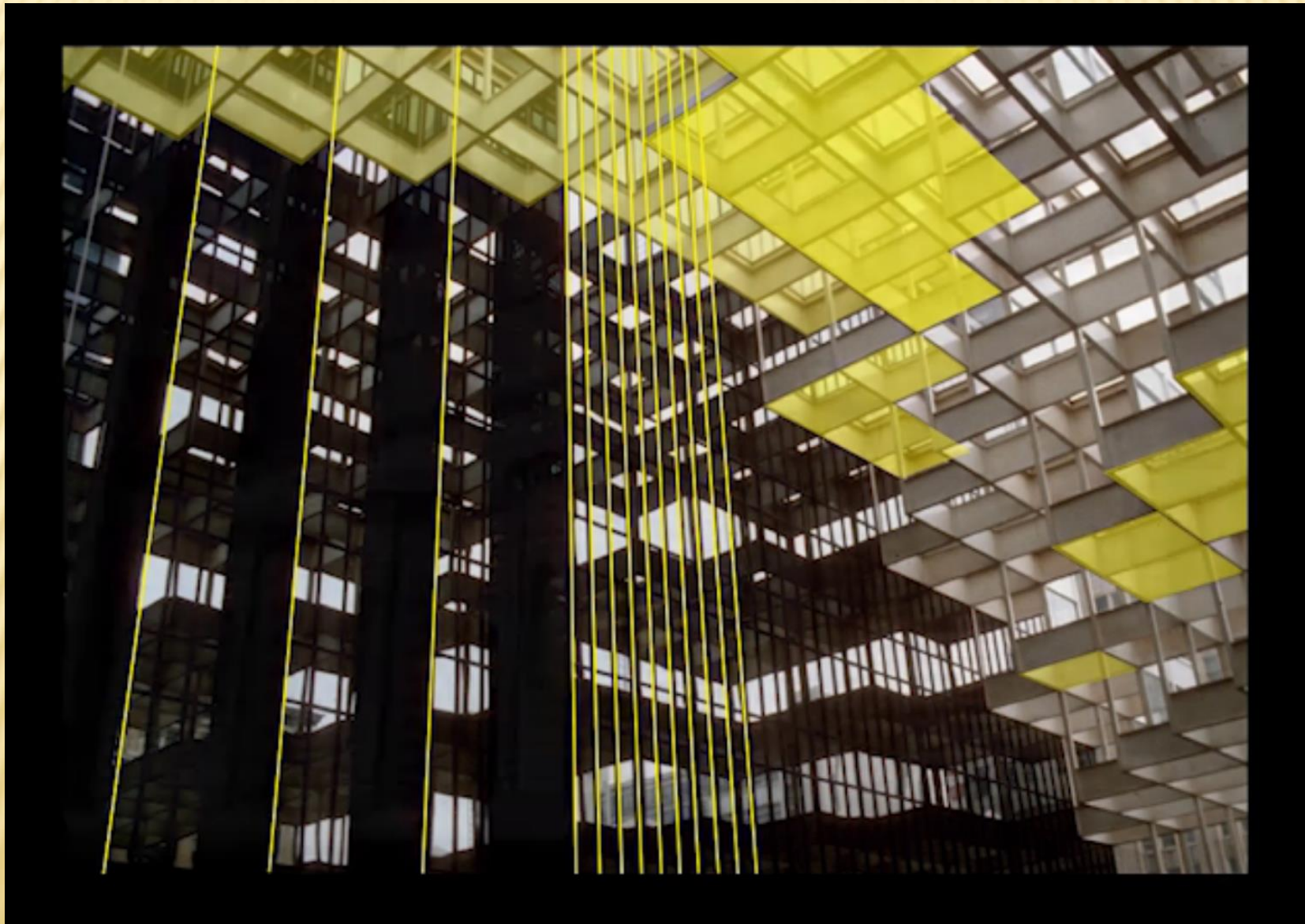
LINE/TOWER

Travel to Venice,
2008,2011,2014,2017



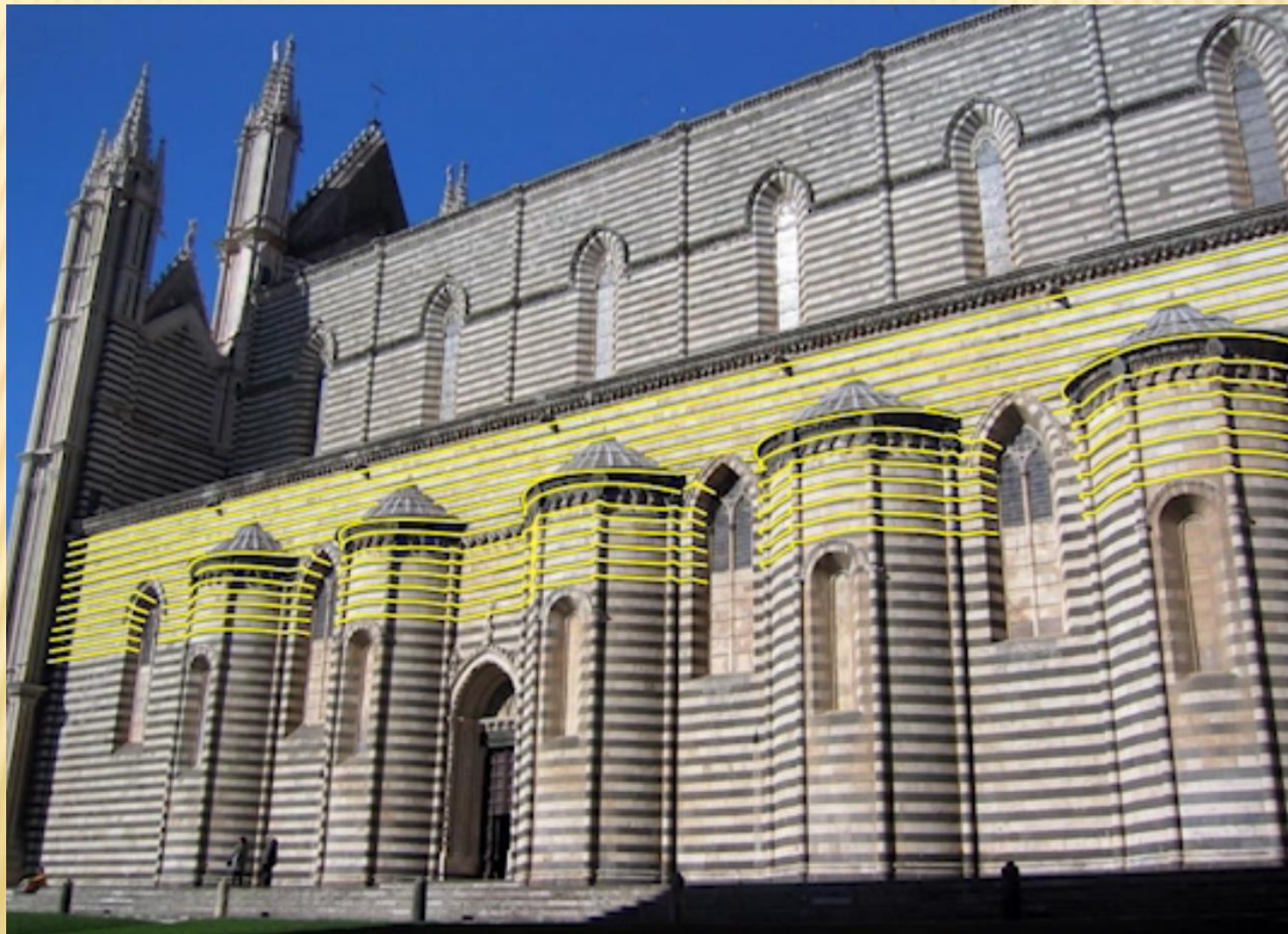
LINE

“can articulate the edges and surfaces of planes and volumes” [1]



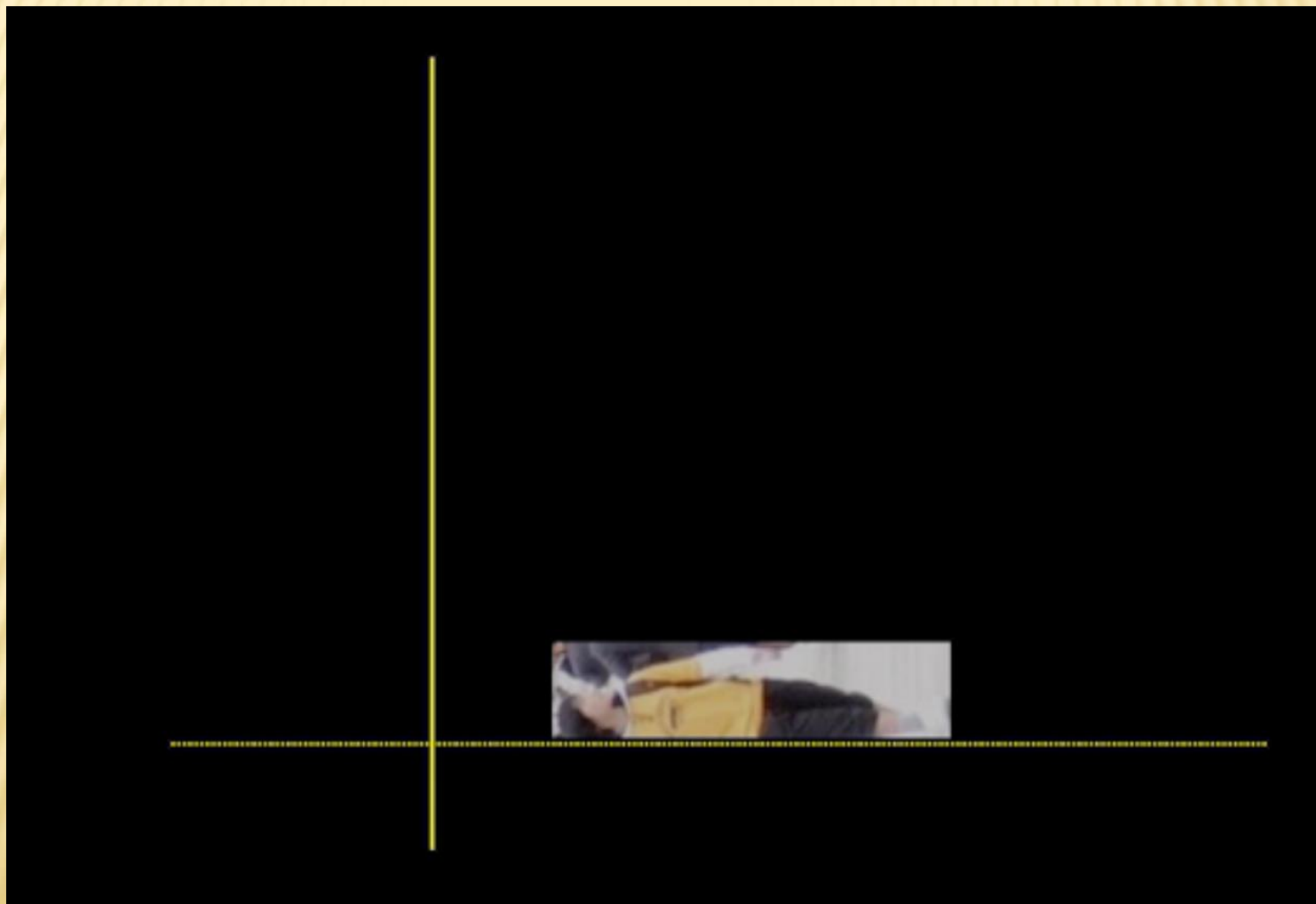
LINE

“as organizing devices -- aligning and ordering forms and spaces” [1]



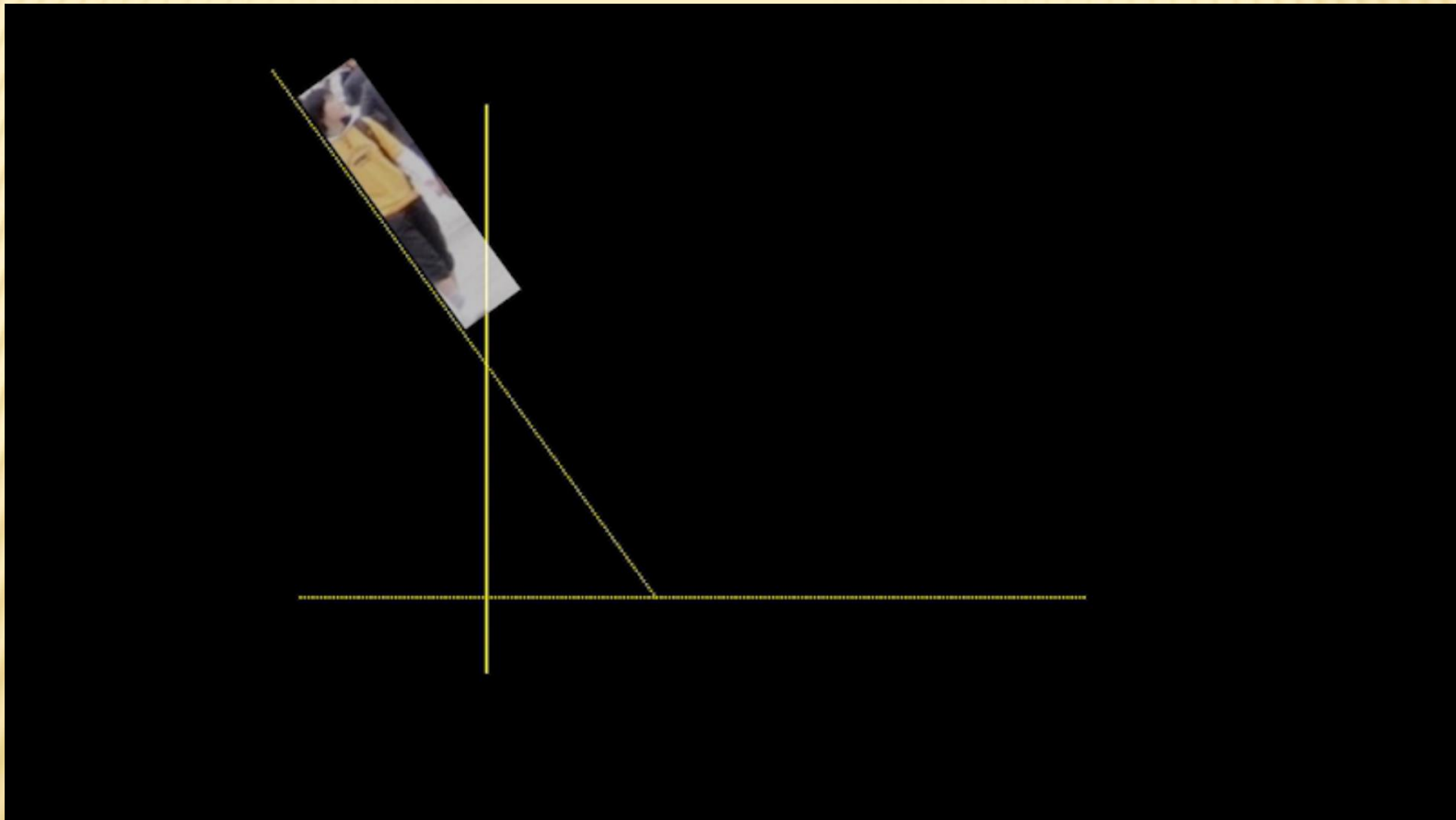
LINE

“A horizontal line can represent stability or a body at rest” [1]

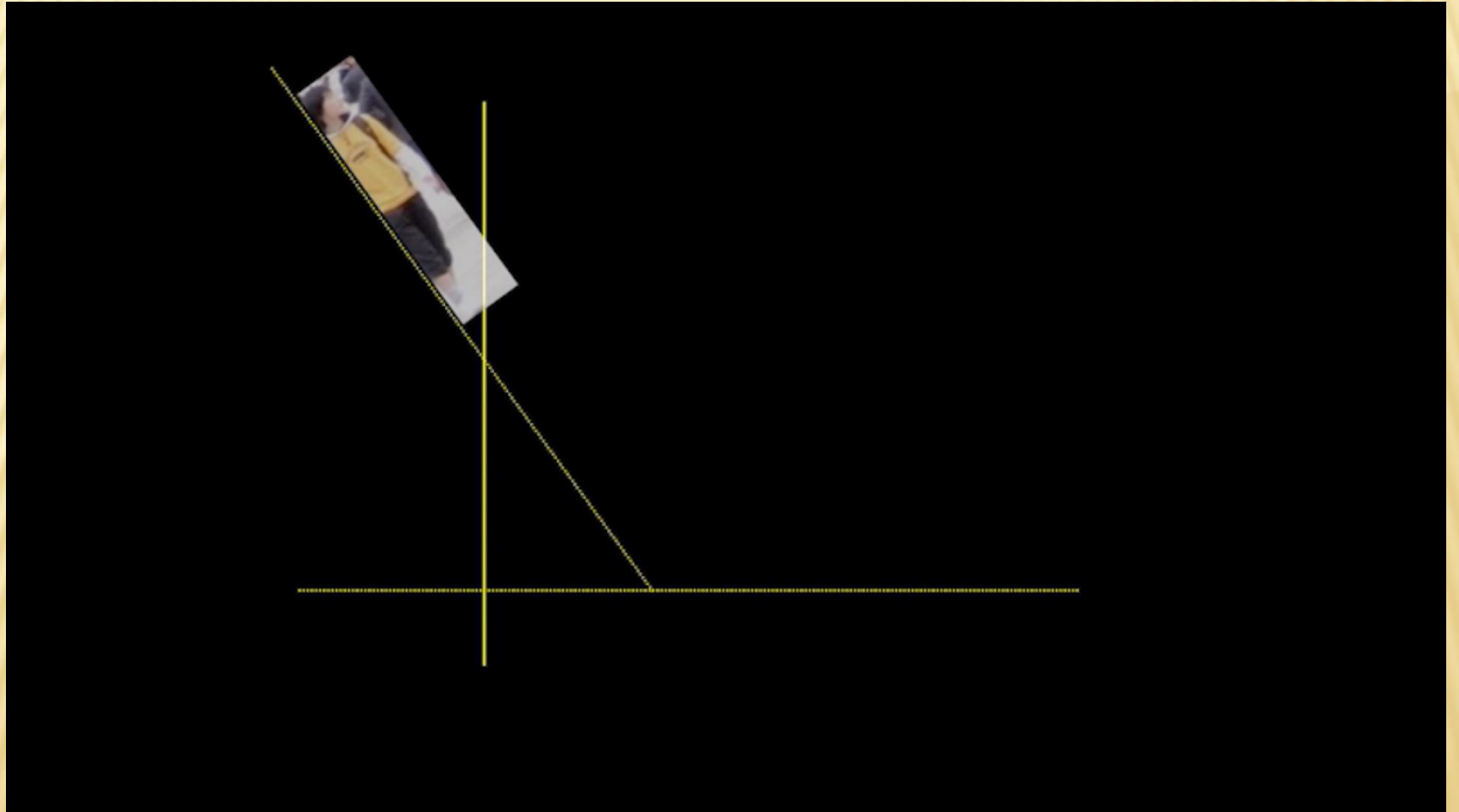


LINE

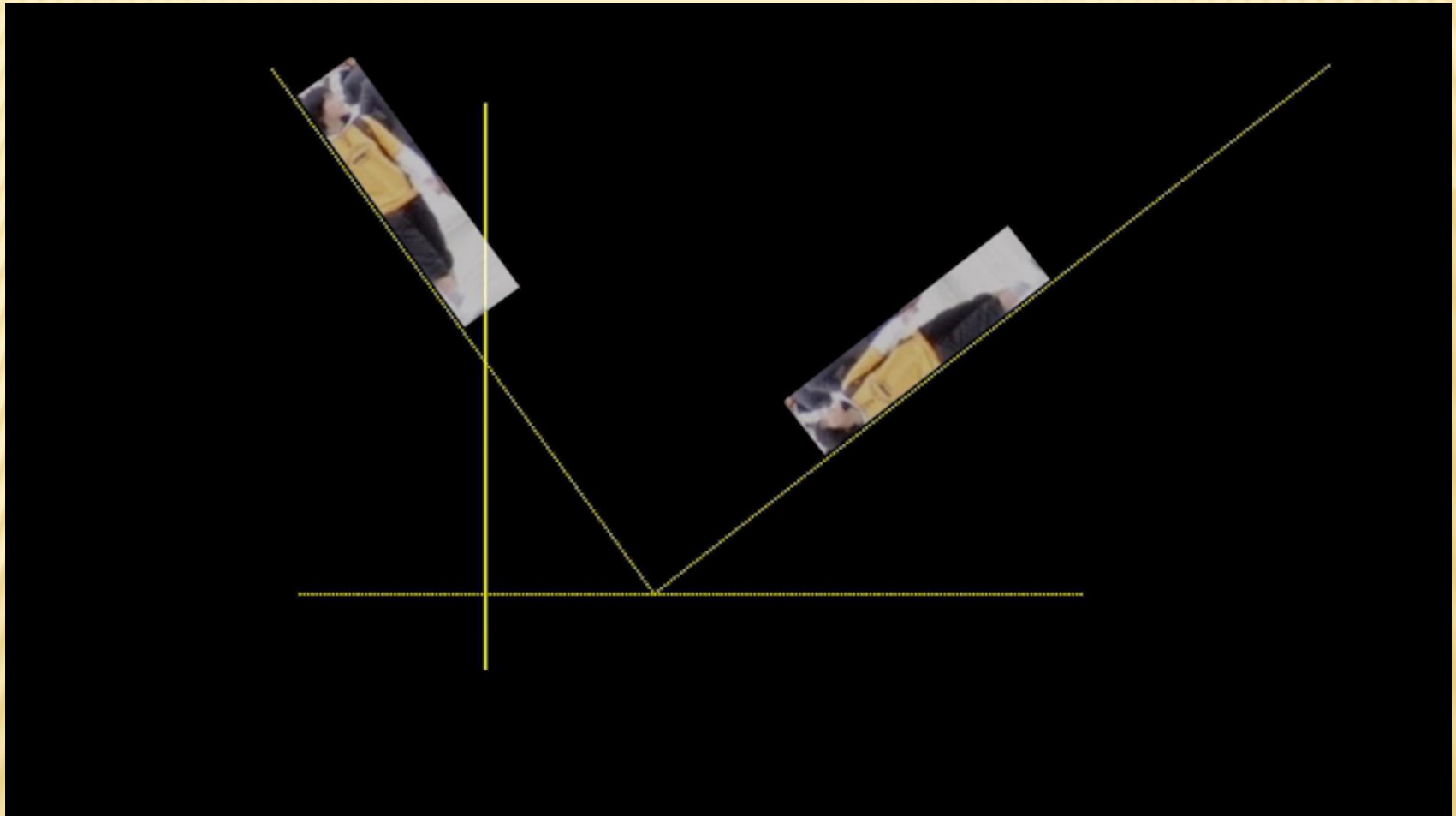
*“An **oblique line** is a deviation from the vertical or horizontal...”*



... and may be seen as a vertical line falling...

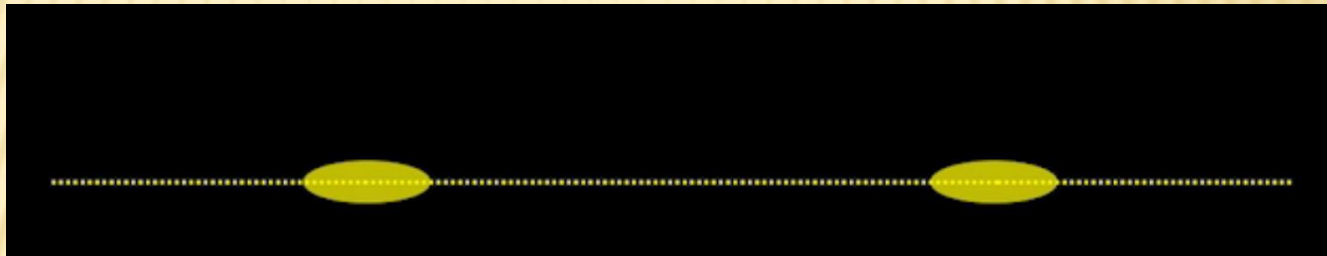


... or horizontal line rising” [1]



LINE

*“Although points give a line finite length, it can also be a segment of an infinitely longer **PATH**” [1]*

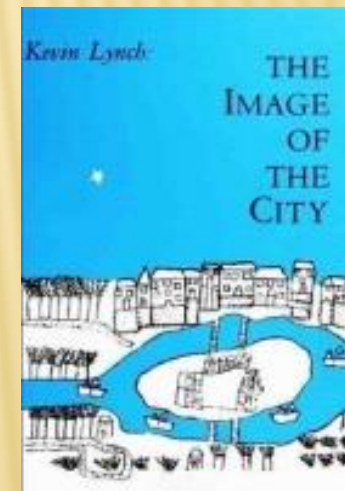
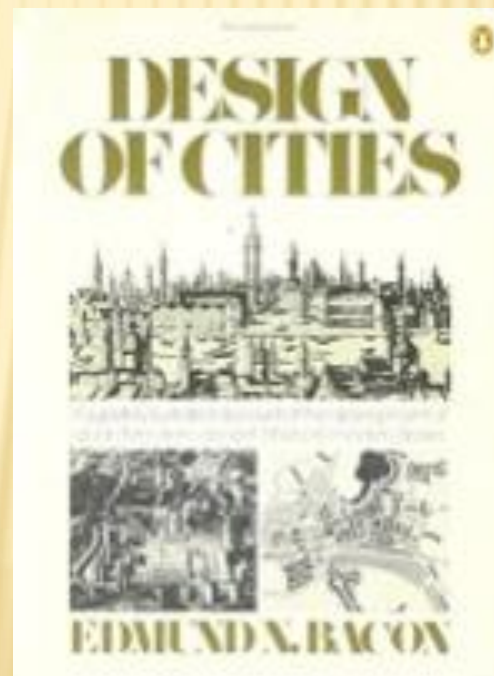


LINES IN URBAN DESIGN

a Line can create a **PATH** [5] ... more in PART 5 [CIRCULATION](#)

a Line can create an **EDGE** [5] ... more in PART 5 [CIRCULATION](#)

a Line can create an **AXIS** [4] ... more in PART 5 [CIRCULATION](#)
and in PART 7 [PRINCIPLES](#)



[4] Bacon, Edmond. *Design of Cities*. Thames & Hudson Ltd, 1978.

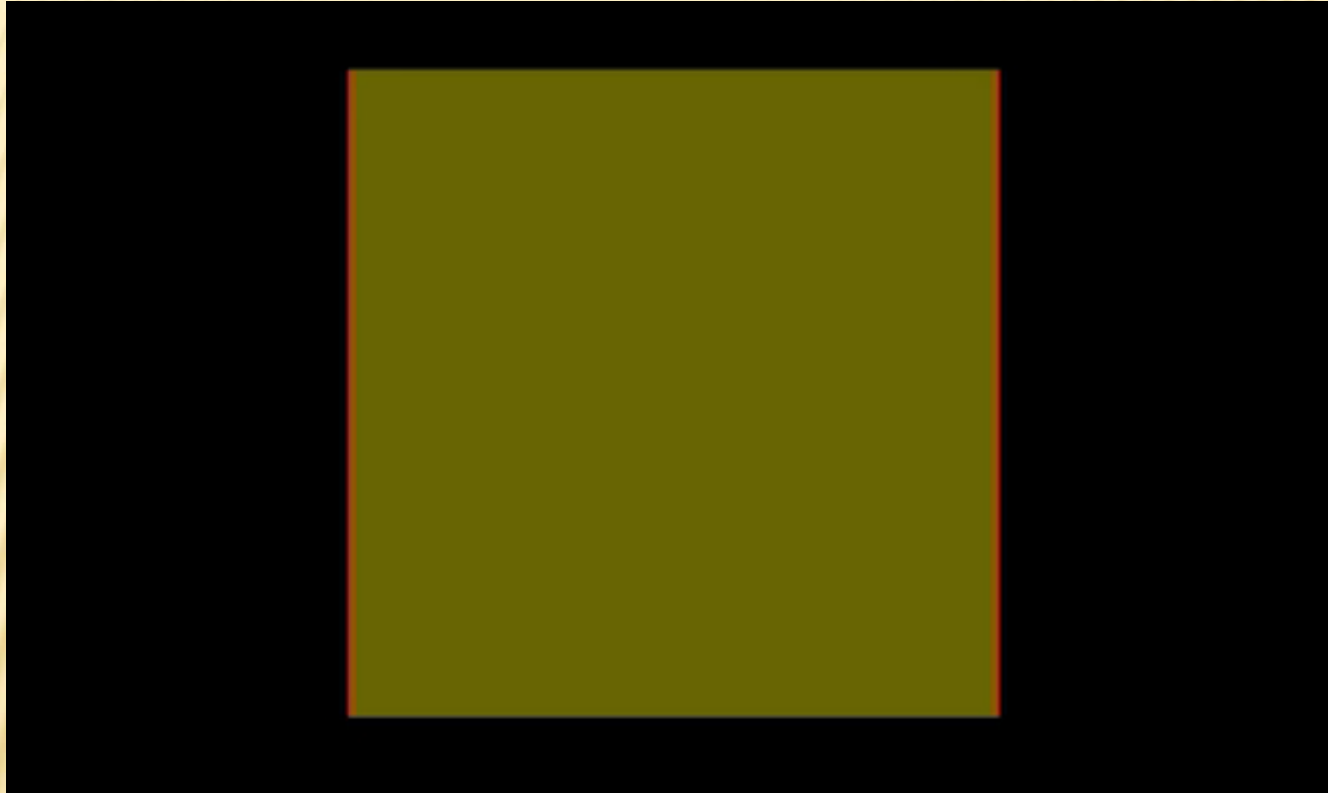
[5] Lynch, Kevin. *The Image of The City*. MIT Press, 1960.

- ✘ Line -> PATH
- ✘ Line -> EDGE
- ✘ Line -> AXIS

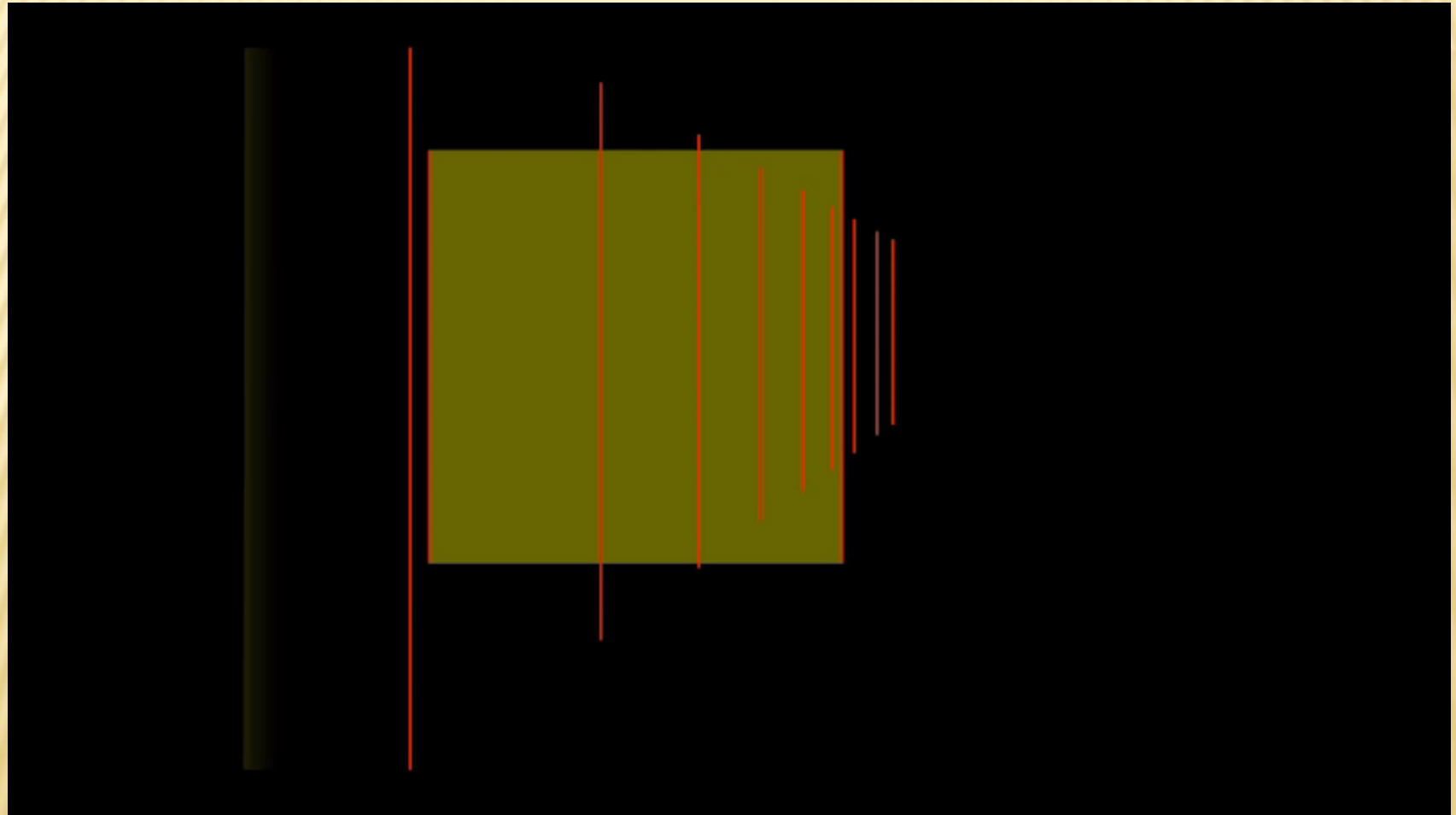


PLANE

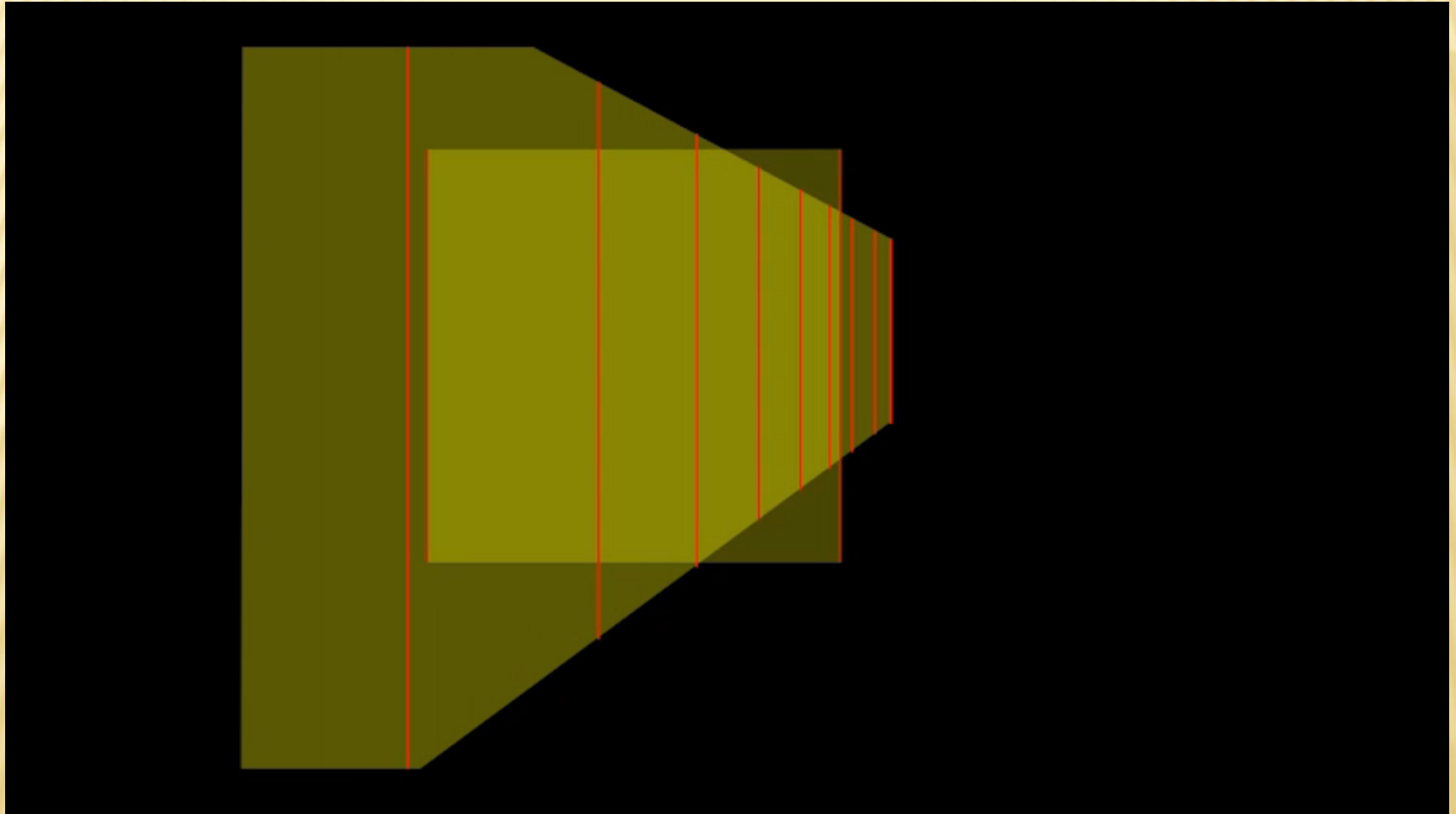
“A transparent spatial membrane stretched between two parallel lines” [1]



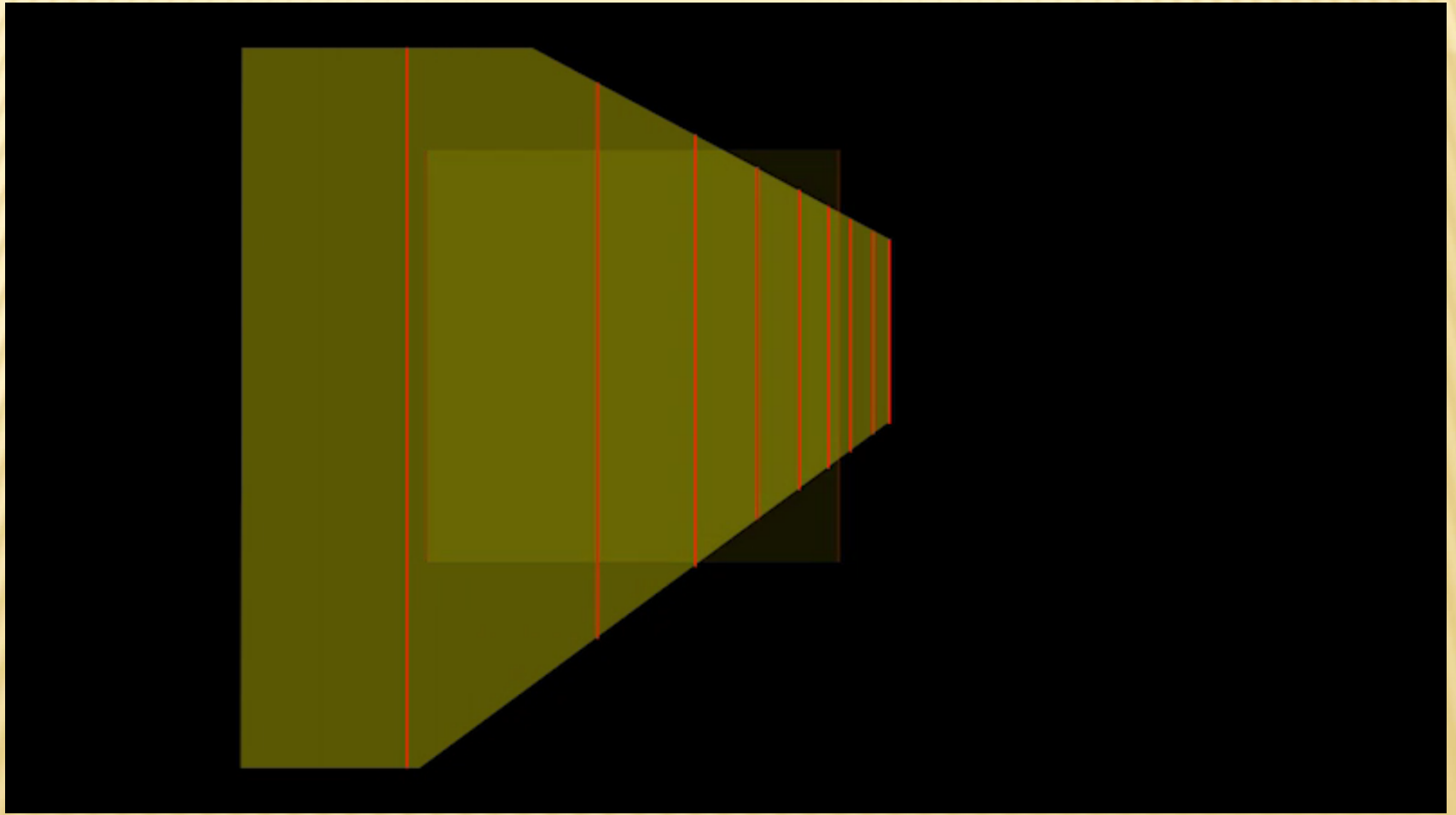
perception of the PLANE



perception of the PLANE



perception of the PLANE

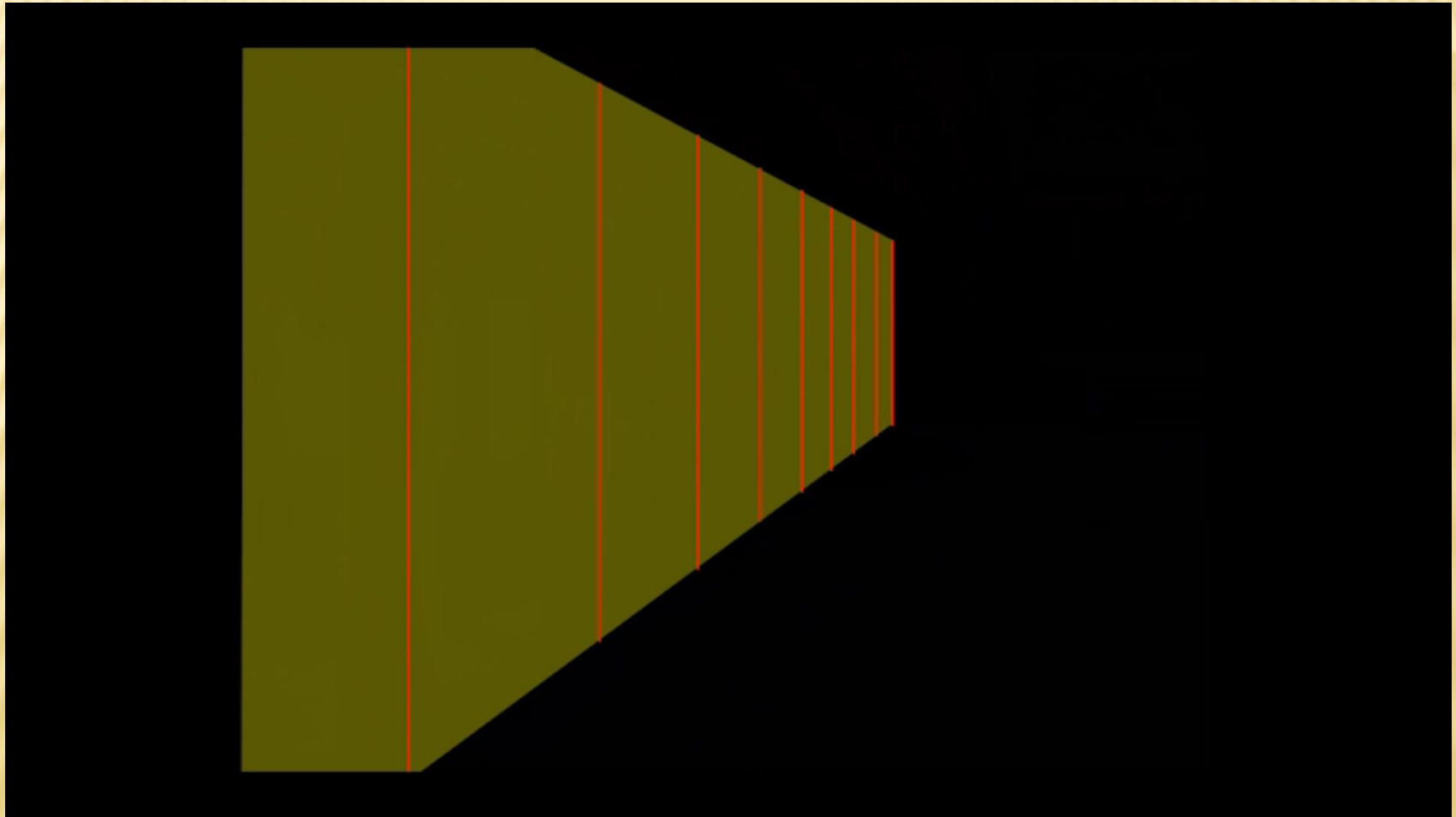


LINES-> Perceived PLANE, COLONNADE

“Lines can form a series of columns establishing a COLONNADE ... the penetrable boundary (plane) of adjacent spaces” [1]



LINES-> Perceived PLANE, COLONNADE “penetrable boundary of adjacent spaces” [1]



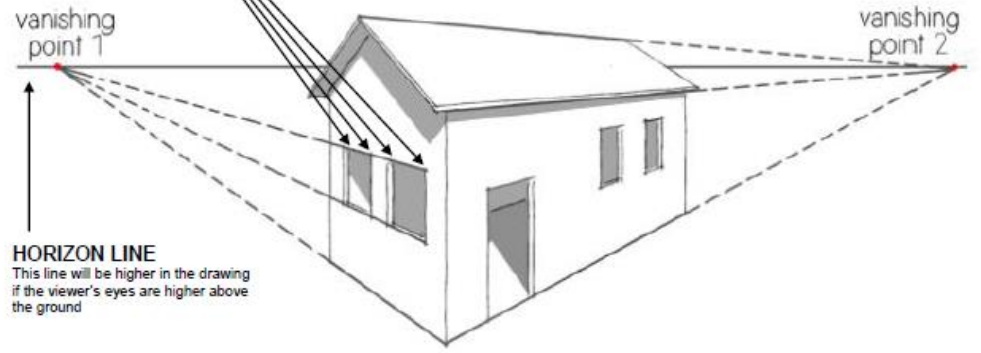
PLANE

“Shape is the primary identifying characteristic of a plane. It is determined by the contour of the line forming the edges of the plane. Because our perception of shape can be distorted by perspective **FORESHORTENING**, we see the true shape of a plane only when we view it frontally” [1]

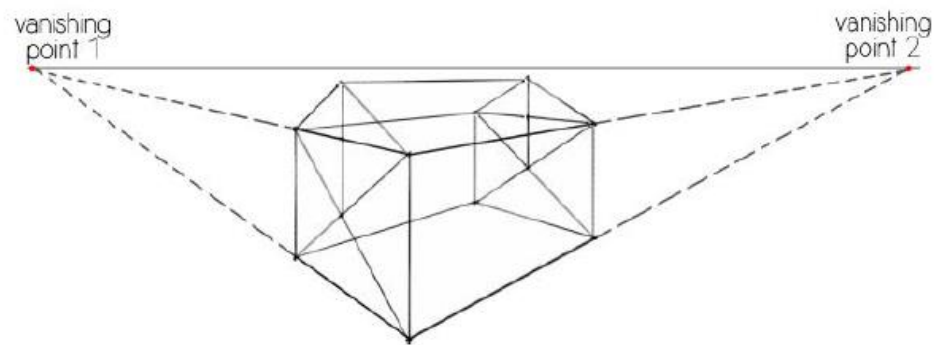


TWO POINT PERSPECTIVE (to Horizon)

- Vertical lines are parallel to the edges of the paper
- Horizontal lines converge to **TWO VANISHING POINTS** on **HORIZON LINE**
 - **FORESHORTENING** means things closer to you seem bigger, so sequences of horizontal or vertical lines get further apart as they get closer
 - Use **diagonal lines** to help with things like finding the centers of windows, or the location of roof peaks on gables



HORIZON LINE
This line will be higher in the drawing if the viewer's eyes are higher above the ground



JT Wunderlich Arts Interest House (1981)
Common area (left) with Dorms (right)

PLANE

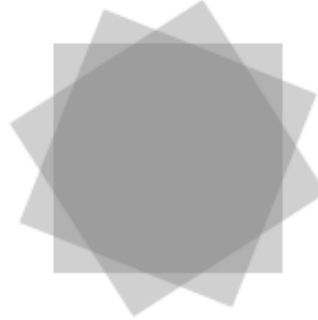
“surface, color, pattern, and texture affect its visual weight and stability” [1]



Solid plane
is static, yet
carries more mass



Textured plane
is more active,
but has less mass



Rotated plane
builds mass where
planes overlap,
while rotation
adds movement



Overlapping the textured
plane on top of the solid
plane creates tension.

The solid plane carries
more mass and so we
expect it to advance and
textured plane to recede
into the background

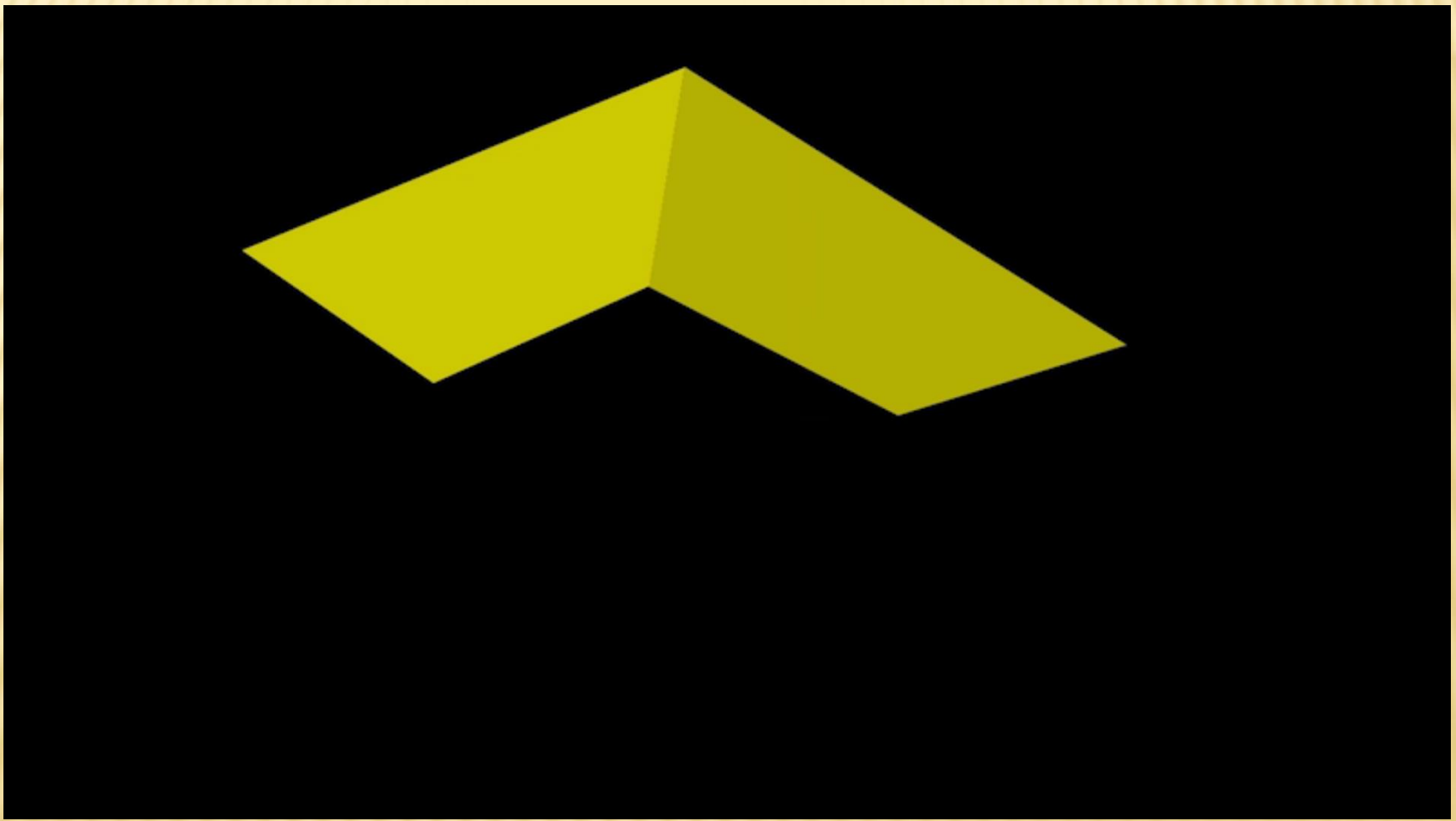


The 3-dimensional
sphere naturally carries
more mass than the
textured plane.

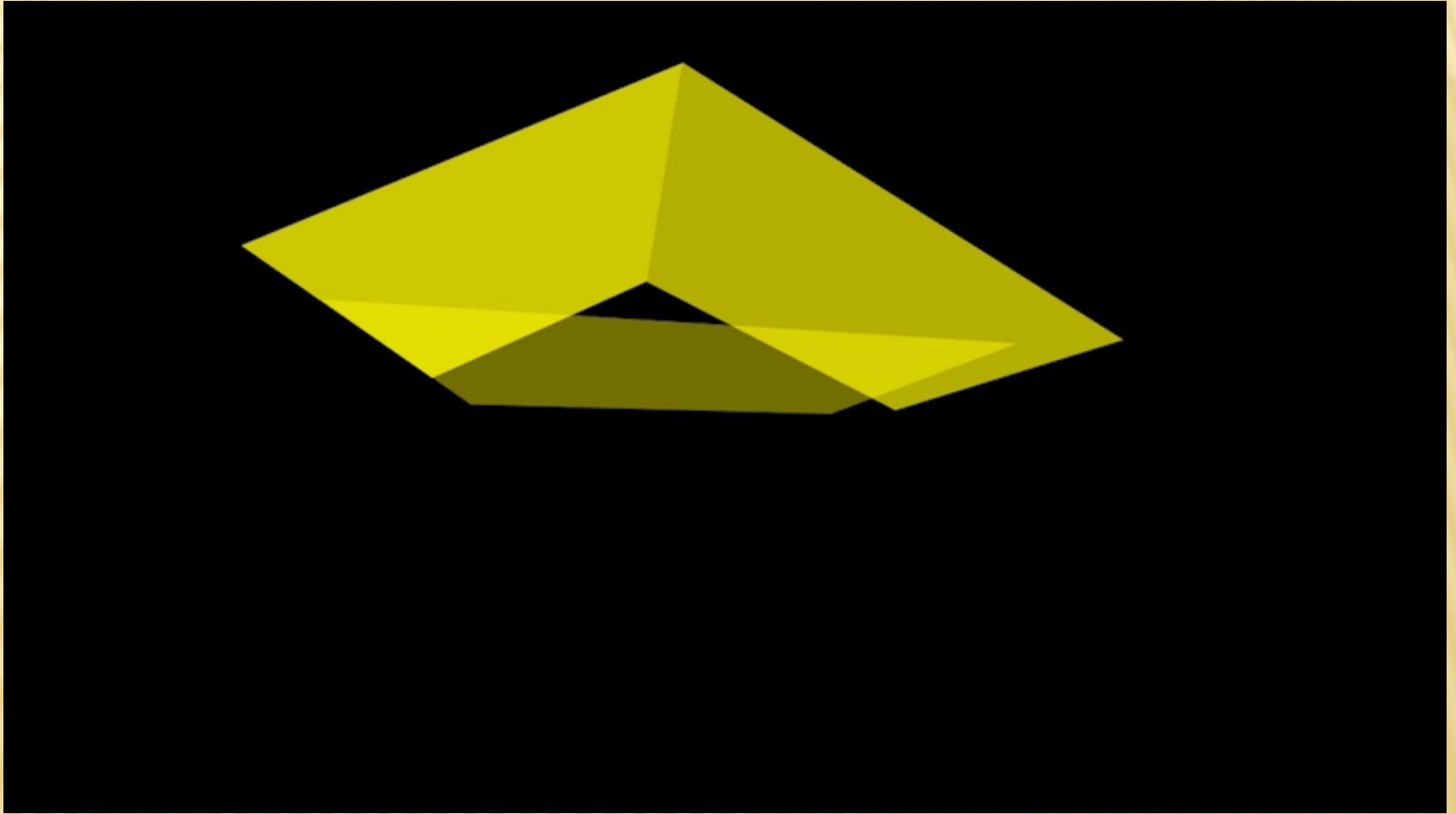
We expect the sphere
to advance and so tension
is reduced here

PLANE

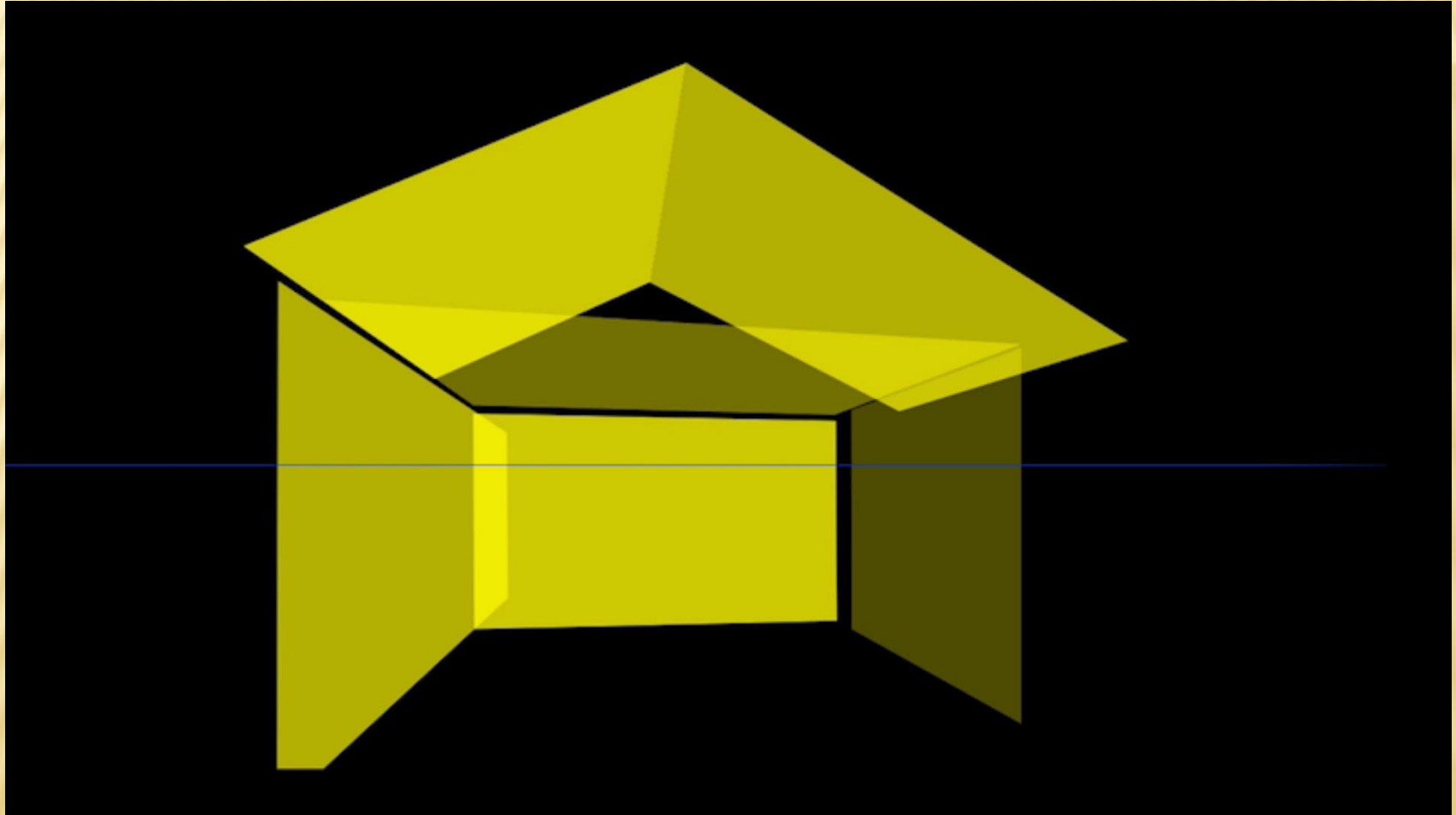
*“Planes define limits or boundaries; The **OVERHEAD PLANE** can be the **ROOF** that spans and shelters the interior” [1]*



*“The **CEILING PLANE** forms the upper enclosing surface of room” [1]*

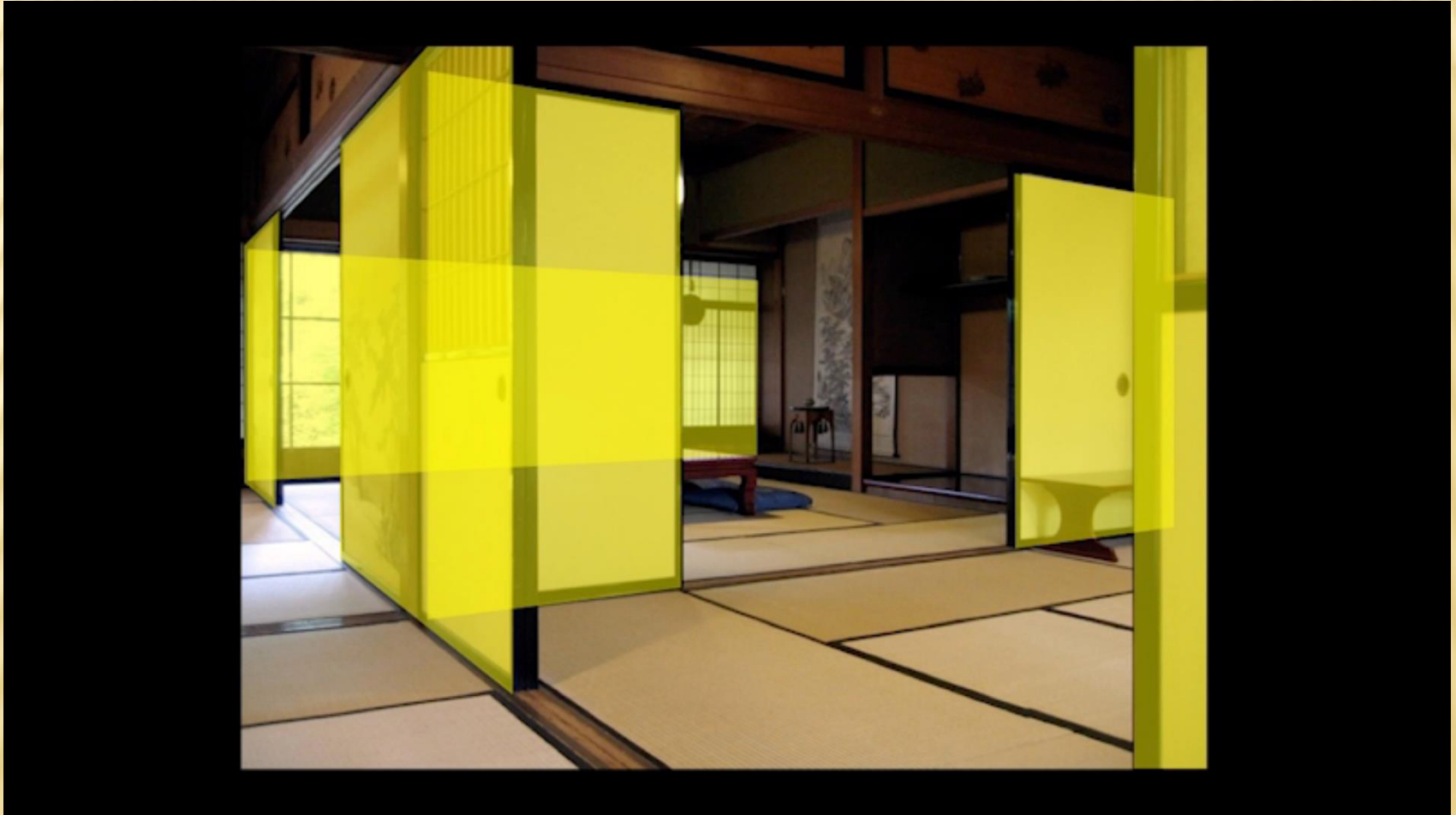


*“The **WALL PLANE** is active in our normal field of vision and vital to shaping and enclosing space [1] ”*



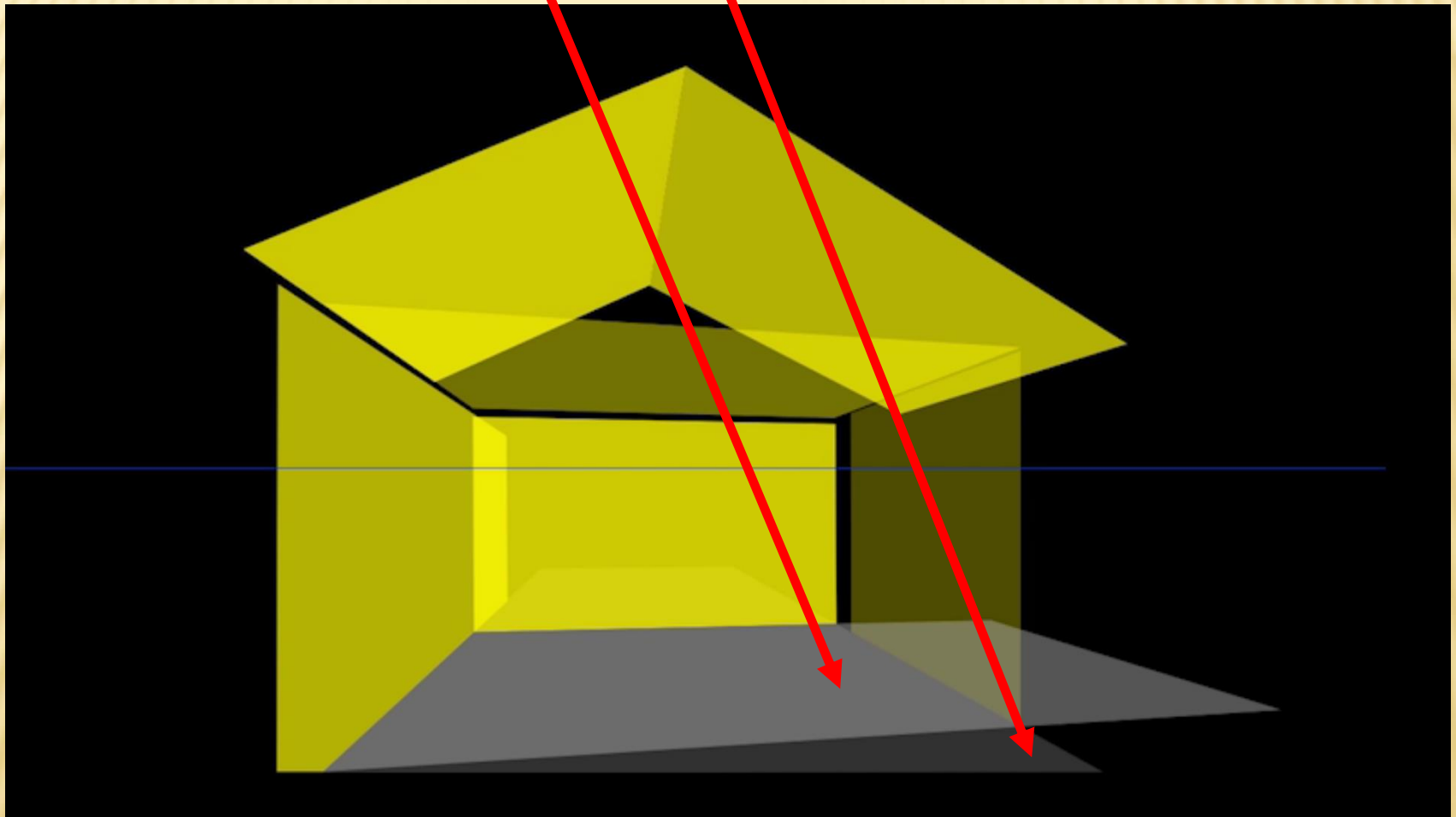
PLANE

“Interior WALL PLANES govern size and shape of internal spaces” [1]



BASE PLANE

*“can be either the **GROUND PLANE** -- the physical foundation for building forms, or the **FLOOR PLANE** upon which we walk” [1]*



PLANE

*“The **FLOOR PLANE** sustains the force of gravity as we move around and place objects” [1]*



*“... together with the **OVERHEAD CEILING PLANE**, it can define a spatial zone without walls” [1]*



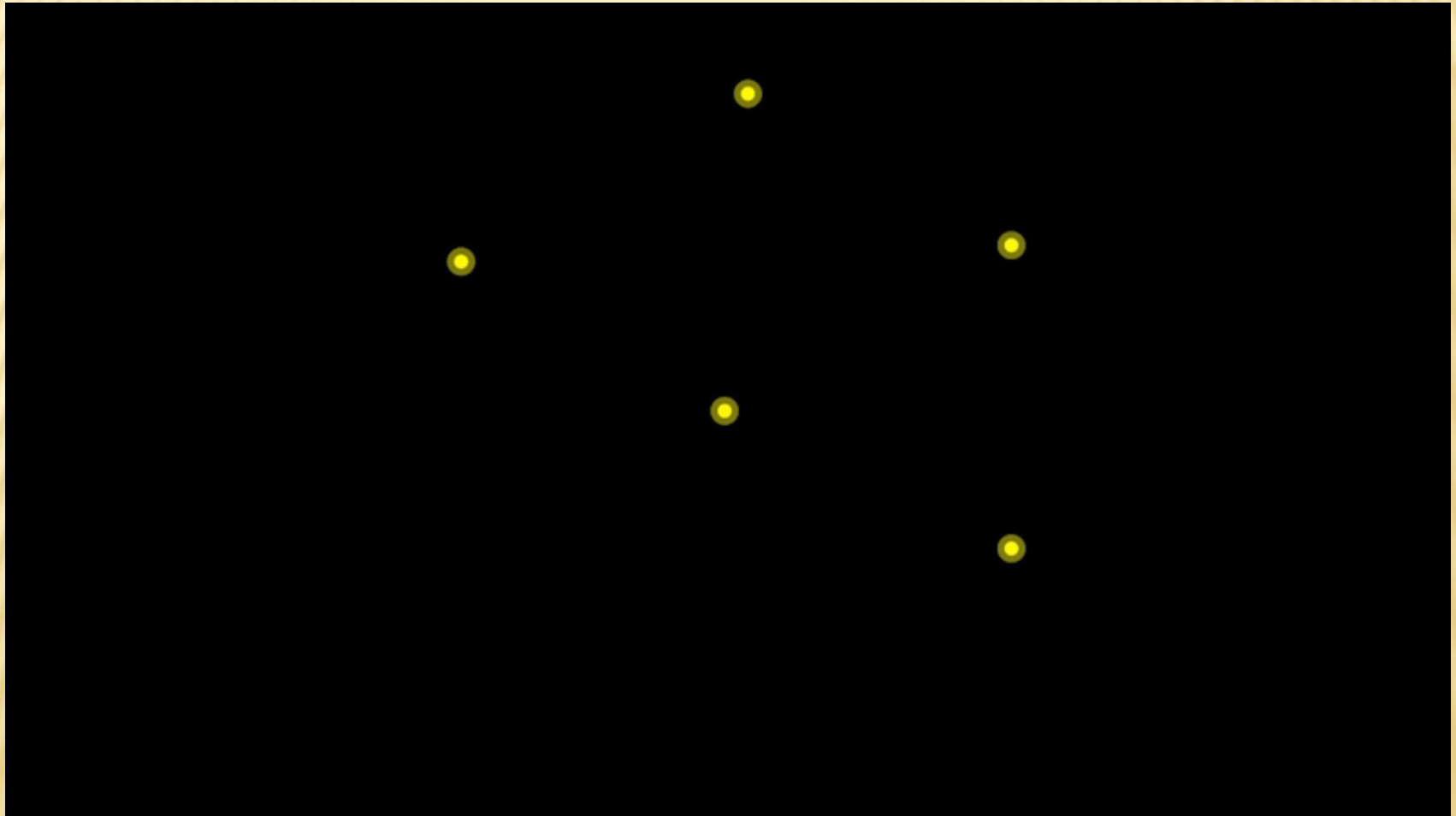
PLANE

*“Façades serve as walls that define courtyards, streets, and public gathering places like squares (**PIAZZA**) and marketplaces” [1]*



VOLUME

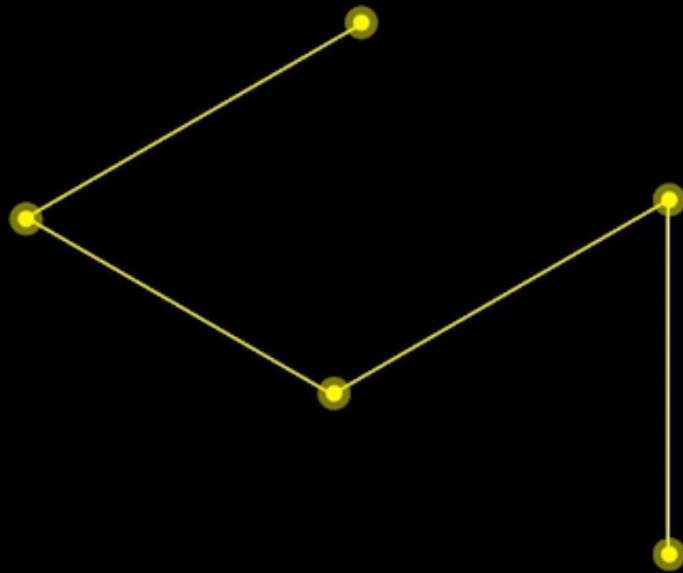
*“All volumes consist of points/vertices where **PLANES COME TOGETHER...**”*



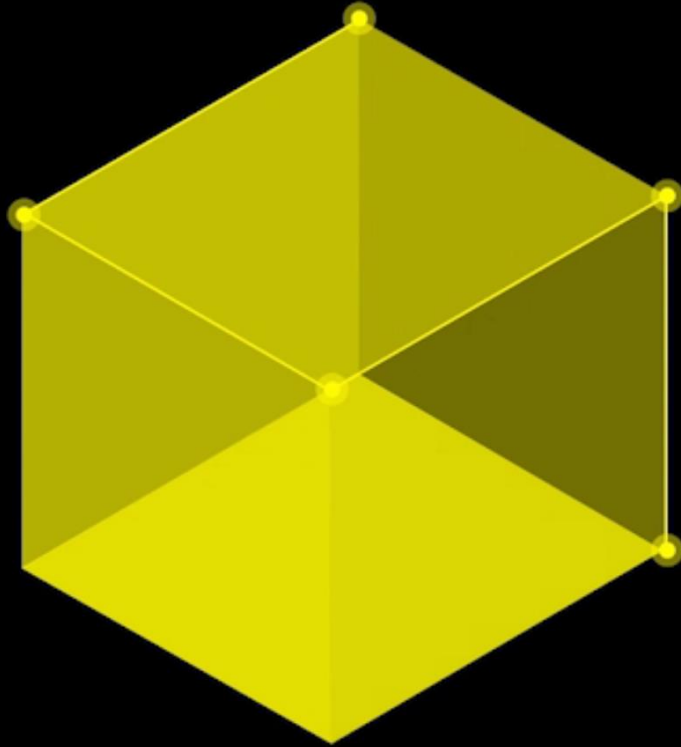
FRANCS & CHING
ARCHITECTURE
HOW TO USE IT



... or lines/edges where two **PLANES MEET** ...



... or planes which define **LIMITS** or **BOUNDARIES** of a volume” [1]



VOLUME

*“a **VOLUME** can be either: (1) A solid . . .*





... (2) **SPACE DISPLACED** by **MASS** such as a building that stands as an object in the landscape . . .



... or (3) A **VOID SPACE** contained or enclosed by planes such as a room contained and defined by wall, floor, and ceiling planes” [1]

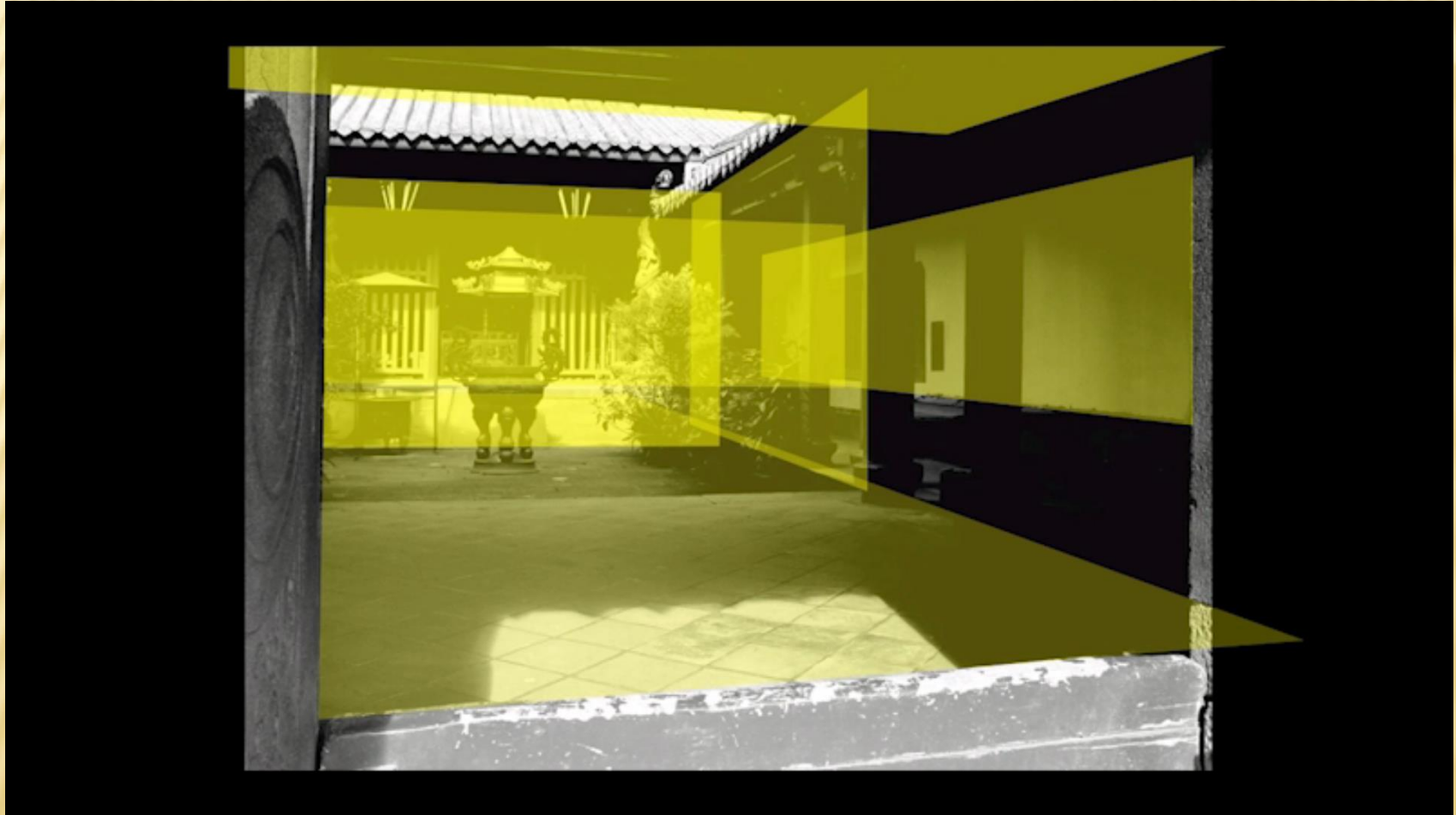


VOID SPACE



VOLUME

*“Many spaces are not discrete volumes, rather they **merge with, or overlap adjacent spaces** ... retaining their identity as singular entities” [1]*



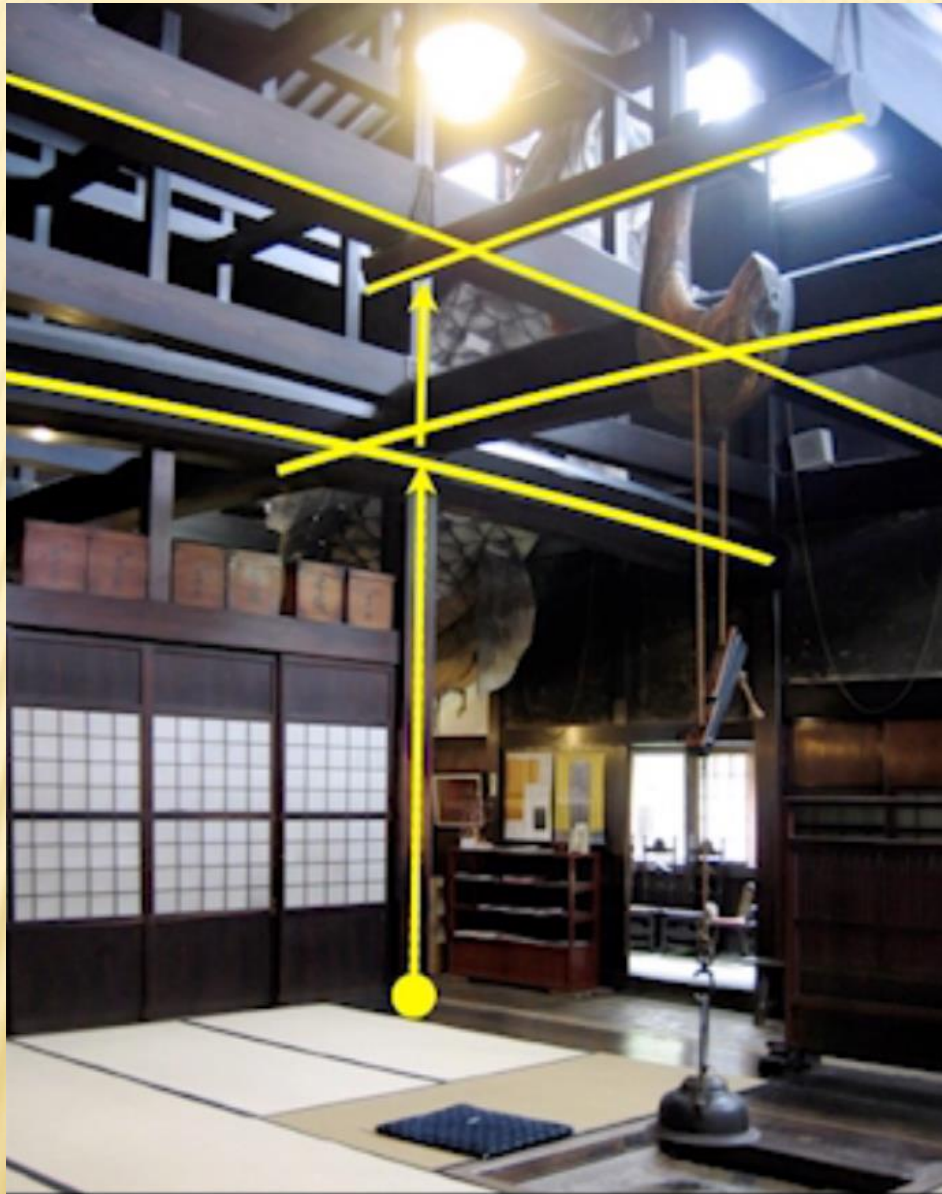
VOLUME

“Important to discern readings of space in the environments encountered or imagined” [1]



LINE → PLANES and VOLUMES

“Lines provide support as posts and columns, and carry loads across space as beams ...



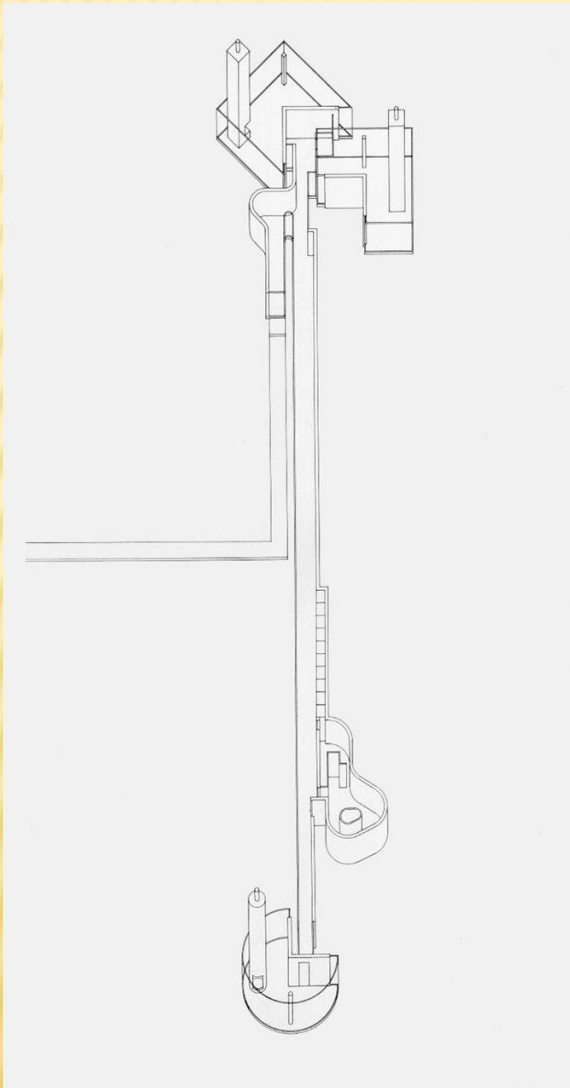
LINE → Perceived VOLUMES

... and can form a 3D structural FRAME for architectural space” [1]



LINEAR VOLUME

“Although architectural spaces exist in three dimensions, it could be linear in form to accommodate the path of movement through a building, and link spaces” [1]



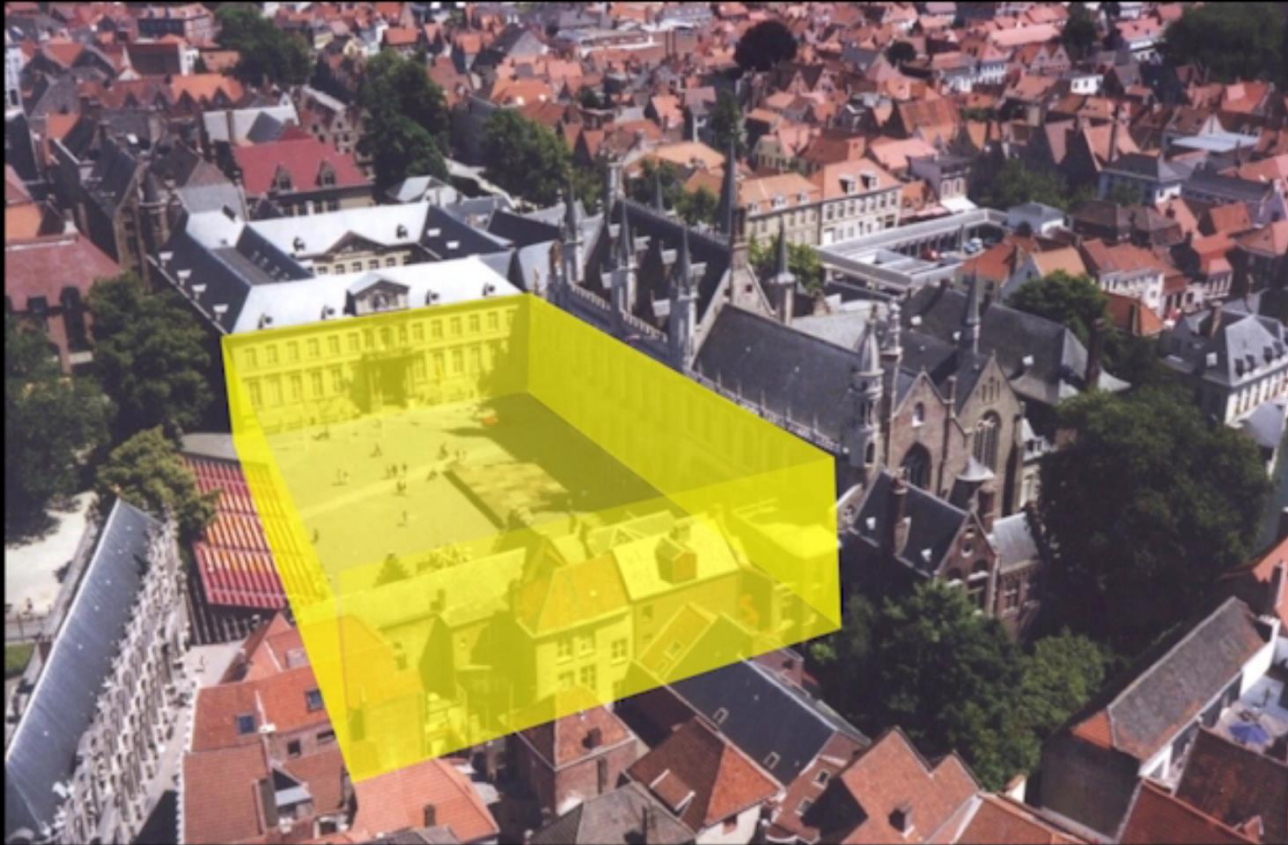
House 10, 1966, John Hejduk



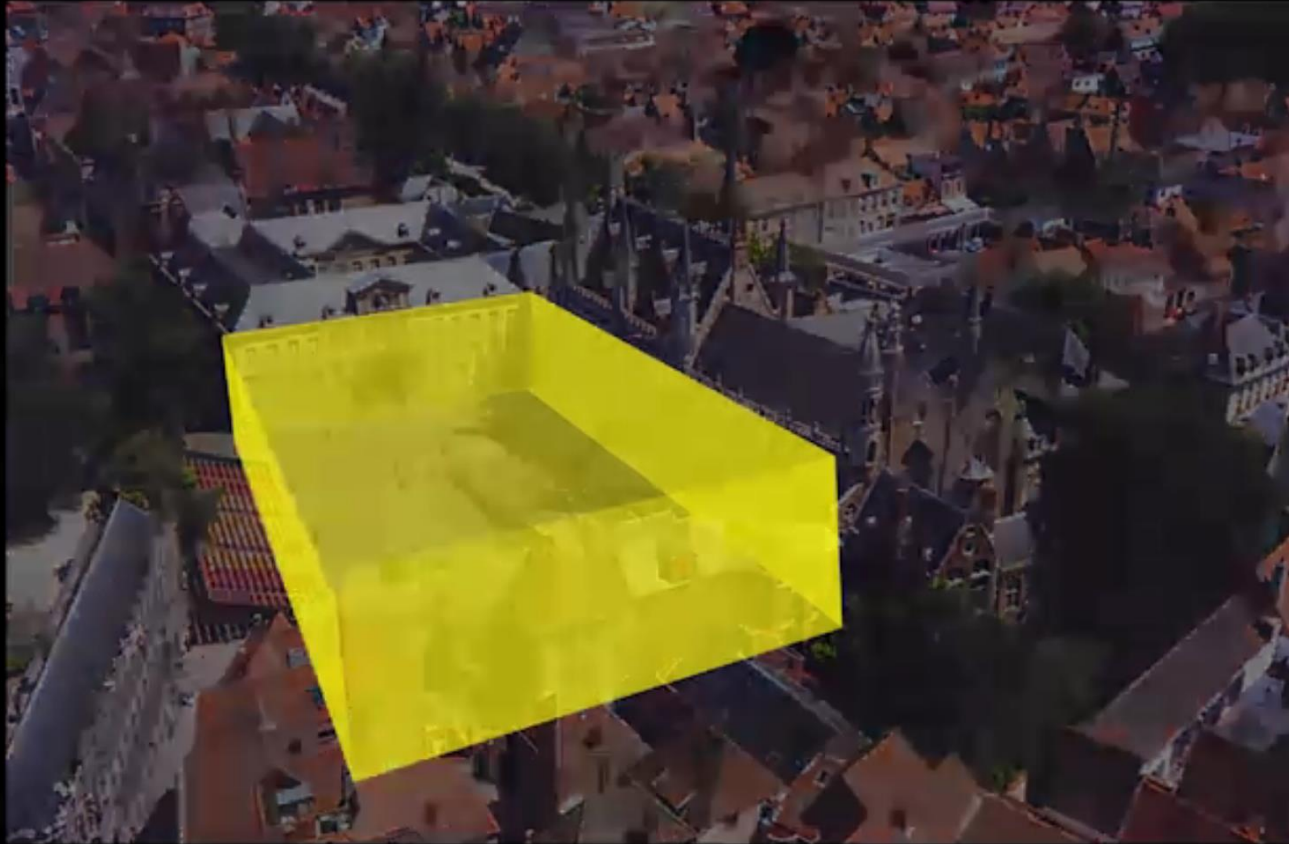
Wall House 2 by John Hejduk, Thomas Muller, Raimann Architekten & Otonomo Architecten, 2001, Netherlands

VOLUME

*“At the urban scale, building forms may serve as containers that can be read as **MASSSES** that **DEFINE VOLUMES** of **SPACE**” [1]*



Masses Define Volumes of Space



LINEAR VOLUME

Here, “repetitive spaces organize along the circulation path.

This building also adapts to the site” [1] like in Frank Lloyd Wright’s Organic Design

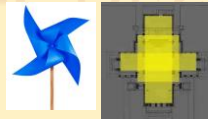


Cornell University undergraduate housing by Richard Meier, New York 1974

ORGANIC ARCHITECTURE DESIGN PRINCIPLES

CONFORM TO SITE, sun, topography, environment

PINWHEELED PLANES -- CRUCIFORM



- PRAIRIE-SCHOOL, BROAD CENTRAL CHIMNEY, LONG CANTILEVERS (overhangs & balconies)

FOLDED PLANE like origami ...continuity...walls, ceilings, and floors become one

SIMPLE GEOMETRIES

HUMAN SCALE

OPEN FLOOR PLAN

FROEBEL
BLOCKS



UNITARIAN
MOTHER
Teacher



Japanese Buddhism & Shintoism,
with some roots in Chinese Philosophy

Frank Lloyd Wright

✗ DESTROY BOX, no Victorian box-type rooms, – FLOW between rooms, and inside/outside

✗ Walls become screens, BANDS of WINDOWS, FRAME VIEWS – like ENGAWA

✗ Use MATERIALS IN NATURAL STATE -- same on exterior and interior



FORM and FUNCTION are one! Harmony, *not one following other, secondarily*

A UNIFIED WHOLE - inside and out - ORCHESTRATE SUN

BRING NATURE OUT OF MATERIALS, but Innovate (Textile Blocks, Modular "Ken" Design, etc.)

STRUCTURAL ART like in Nature (e.g., the veins in Leaves) - Interior space made exterior as architecture

SOFT WARM OPTIMISTIC COLOR TONES of earth, and autumn leaves

ASSIMILATE FIXTURES into structure, BUILT-IN FURNITURE many plants & planters

ARCHITECTURE = MUSIC



Mark 1: Paradise felt with the five senses

© JT Wunderlich PhD

Arts & Crafts, Italy, JAPAN



MUSICIAN
Preacher
FATHER



ARCHITECT
MENTOR Louis
Sullivan



"Key" Japanese words
by Mahua Bhattacharya,
Professor of Japanese,
for J Wunderlich's students

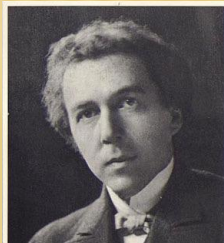
OMOIYARI – Considerate
ON - Duty
AMAE - Empathy
WA - Group Harmony
UCHI - Inner (or insider)
KENSEN - Modesty
GIRI - Moral Obligation
SOTO - Outside (or outsider)
GARMAN - Persistence
ENRYO - Restraint
HAJI - Shame



NOTE: COMPRESSION & RELEASE is not Organic Design, but commonly used by FLW to cramp/hide entries so as to magnify destination Architecture

See more on **ORGANIC ARCHITECTURE DESIGN PRINCIPLES:**

Wunderlich Lecture Series on *“The Life and Work of Frank Lloyd Wright”* ©



Frank Lloyd Wright
1867-1958

ARCHITECTURE DESIGN THEORY



LECTURE SERIES

- ❑ **PART 1 PRIMARY ELEMENTS** *(This Lecture)* [PPTX](#) [MP4](#) [YouTube](#) [PDF](#)
- ❑ PART 2 FORM [PPTX](#) [MP4](#) [YouTube](#) [PDF](#)
- ❑ PART 3 FORM & SPACE [PPTX](#) [MP4](#) [YouTube](#) [PDF](#)
- ❑ PART 4 ORGANIZATION [PPTX](#) [MP4](#) [YouTube](#) [PDF](#)
- ❑ PART 5 CIRCULATION [PPTX](#) [MP4](#) [YouTube](#) [PDF](#)
- ❑ PART 6 PROPORTION & SCALE [PPTX](#) [MP4](#) [YouTube](#) [PDF](#)
- ❑ PART 7 PRINCIPLES [PPTX](#) [MP4](#) [YouTube](#) [PDF](#)