

The effects of gallery layout on presenting the exhibition content are investigated by comparing the exhibit concept organization with spatial organization of the galleries, in particular, configuration of rooms and atria along with visual and physical connections between them. The role of the gallery layout shaping visitors' experience is investigated by correlating measures of visitors' space use patterns with measures of visibility relationships, which describe visual access from each space to its neighboring locations, visual connection of one room to entire configuration.

Thesis

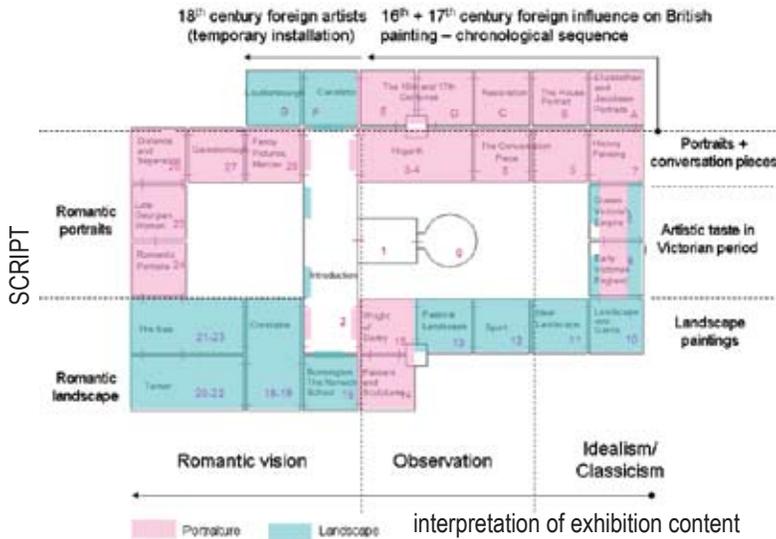
INFLUENCE OF MUSEUM GALLERY LAYOUT ON EXHIBITION NARRATIVES AND SPACE-USE PATTERNS: Analysis of the Yale Center for British Art

Role: Principal Investigator

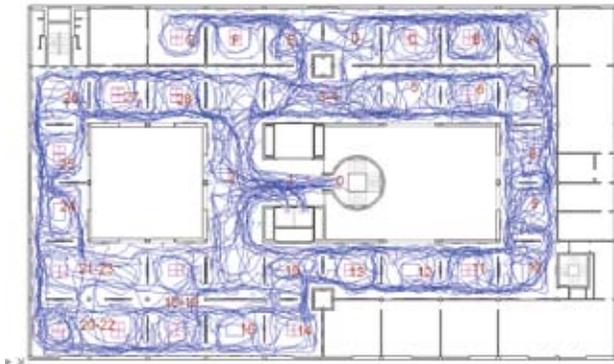
Results:

Visibility properties of the YCBA are shaped with atria spaces located at the central core, their wide openings to the gallery space and doorways between the rooms. Despite a rigid geometry of the layout, which is utilized to present a highly structured and scholarly interpreted layout, the visibility afforded with interconnectivities through atria and room openings allows to recognize alternative dialogues between the displays. Due to a stronger capacity of the layout to visually connect the spaces to every other space (global level visibility), the opportunities of comparing displays across distance is mostly available at a global level, and this introduces another layer to read the narratives within glimpses across distance, in addition to reading its scholarly interpretation. As visitors are guided mostly by global visibility properties, they are likely to read alternative relationships at a global level.

Visitors explorative behavior, viewing displays and scanning the gallery space and exhibits seem to be predicted by global and local syntactical properties at varying degrees. Thus, explorative behavior and viewing displays and scanning behavior are synergized by the visibility relationships in the layout. Within this synergy, art and the architecture can be experienced together. These potentials of the layout are shaped by centrally located atria spaces, their generous openings to the gallery spaces, and uninterrupted visibility (an permeability) among the rooms.



SPACE USAGE

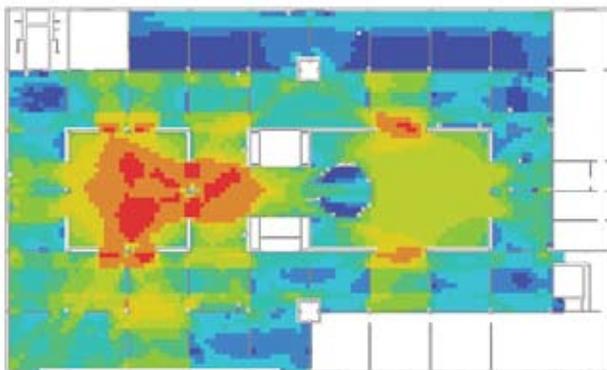


visitors' exploratory movement

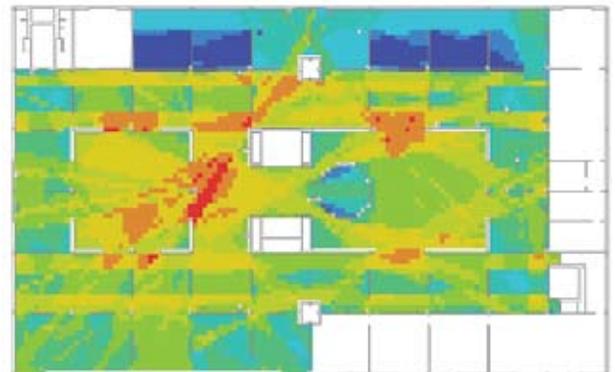


visitors' stops for viewing displays

VISIBILITY STRUCTURE



degree of visual connection to neighborhood



degree of visual connection to entire layout