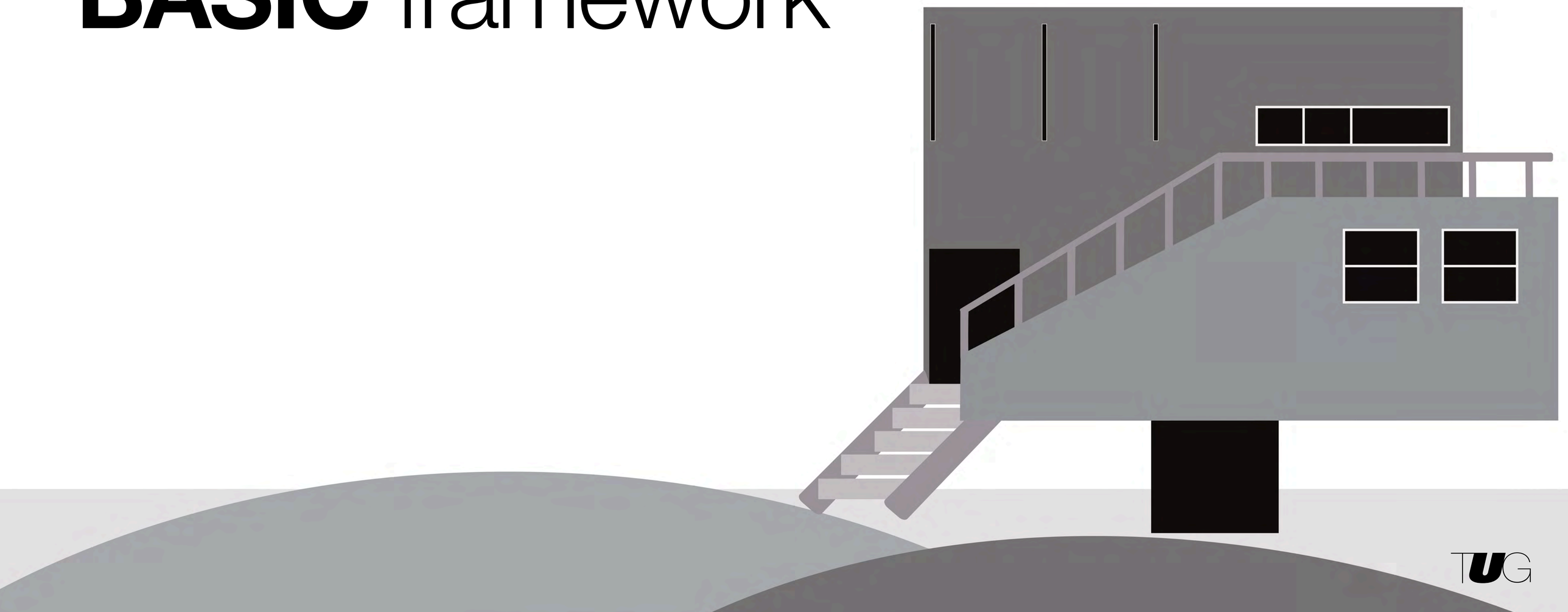
Dan Klyn 2022

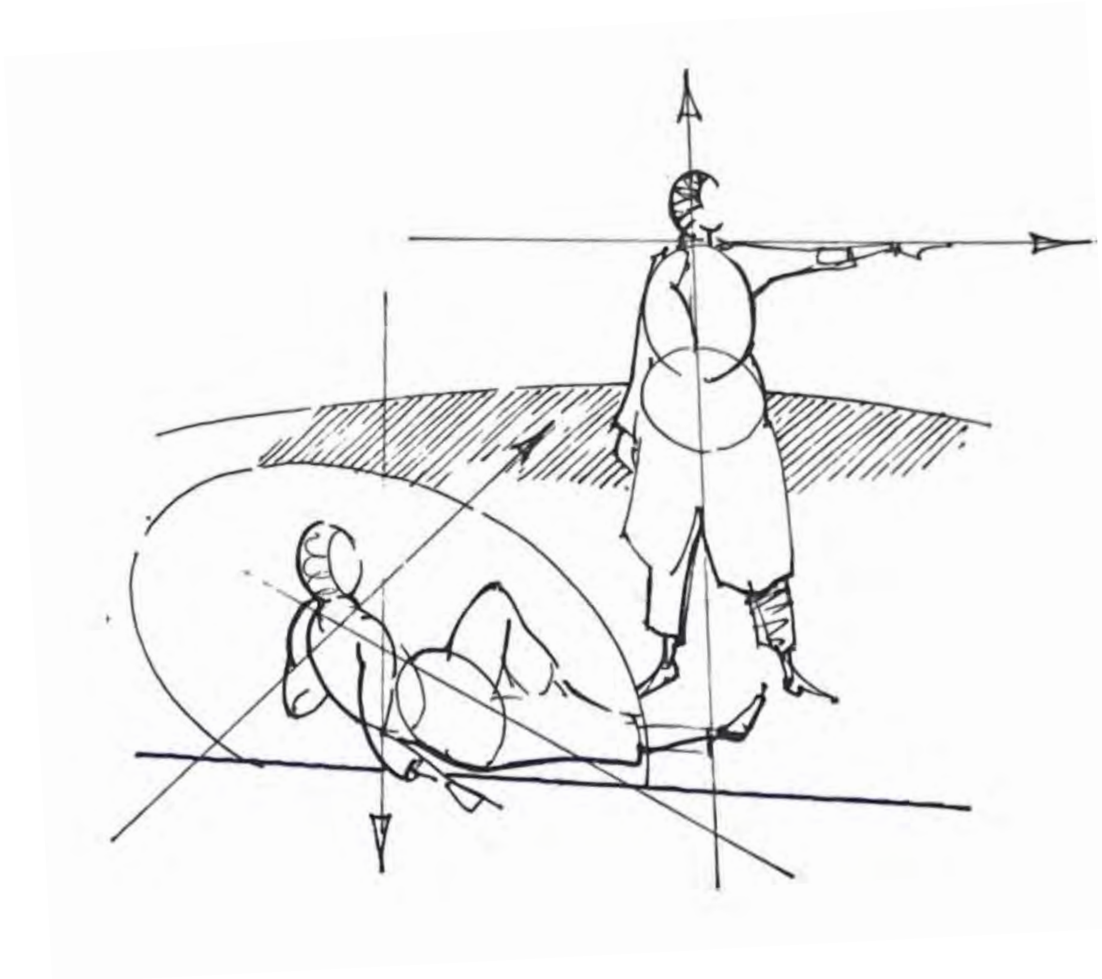
5 Ways to See the Architecture of Complex Systems

BASIC framework

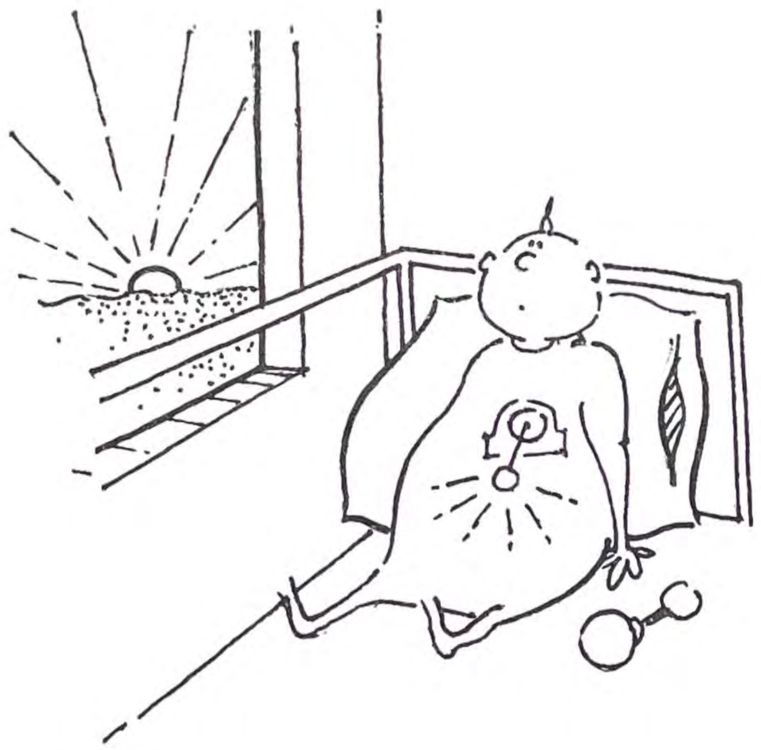


BASIC

5 Ways To See The Architecture Of Complex Systems



Kent Bloomer



Boundaries
Associations
Situations
Invariants
Cycles

“We must look for a long time before we can see.”

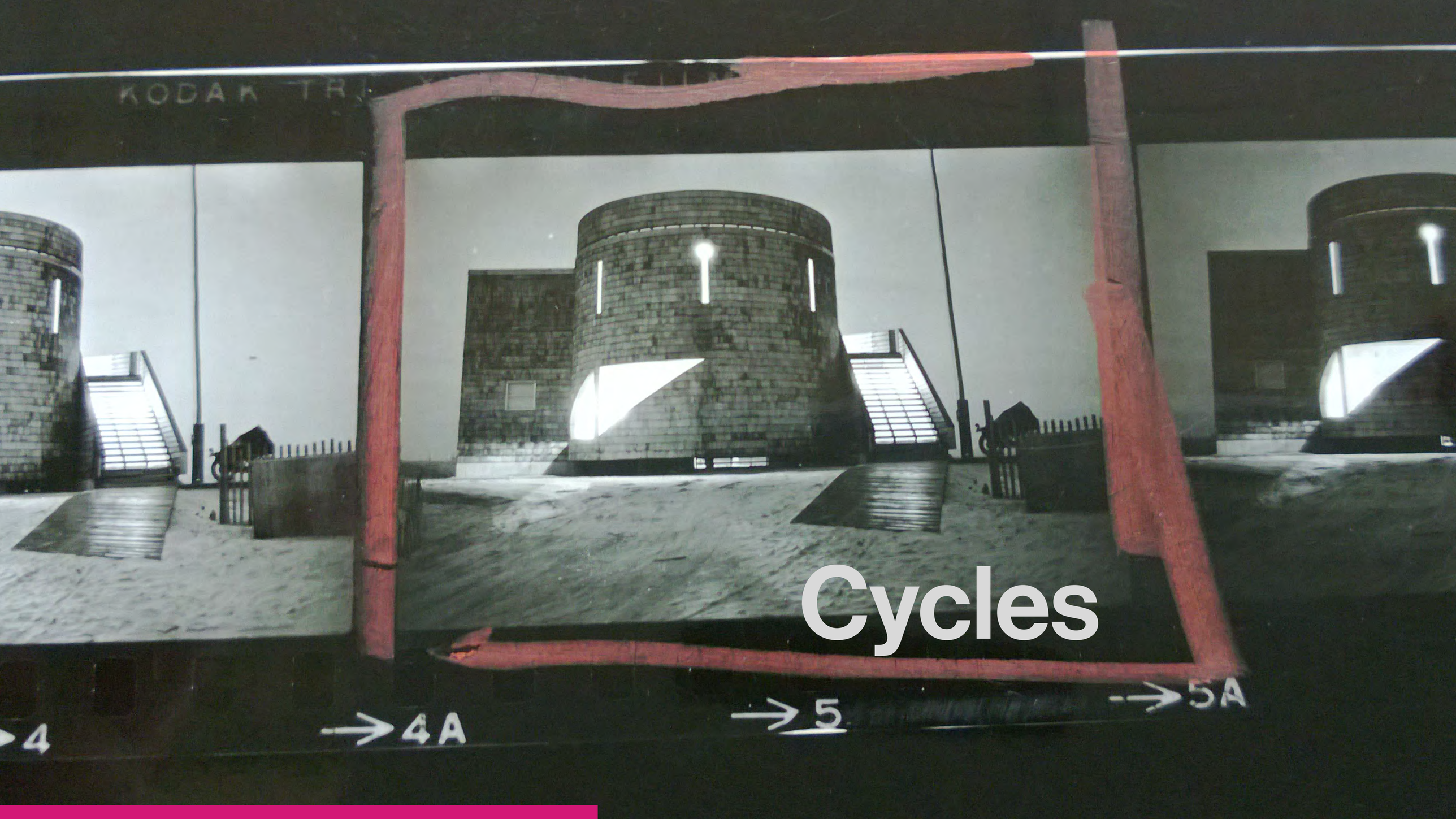
—H.D. Thoreau

Boundaries

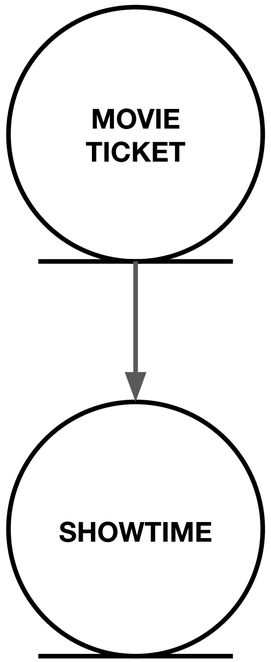
Associations

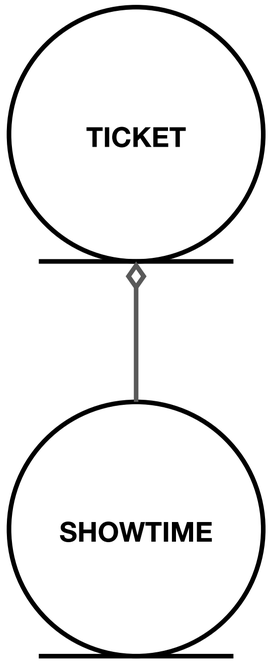
Situations

Invariants



Cycles





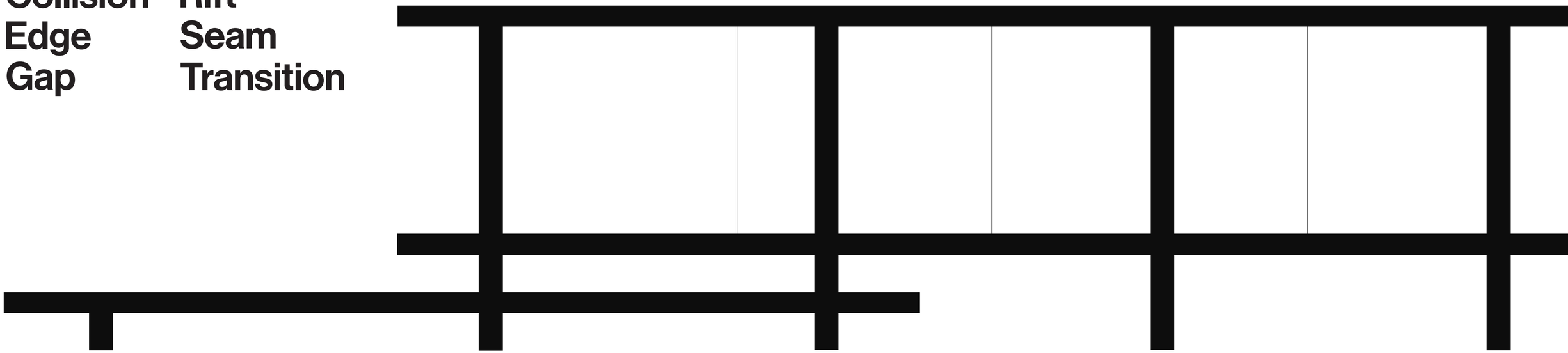
Boundaries
Associations
Situations
Invariants
Cycles

BECAUSE: [REASONS]

Boundaries

WHAT THINGS ARE

Absence
Border
Collision
Edge
Gap
Graft
Joint
Rift
Seam
Transition

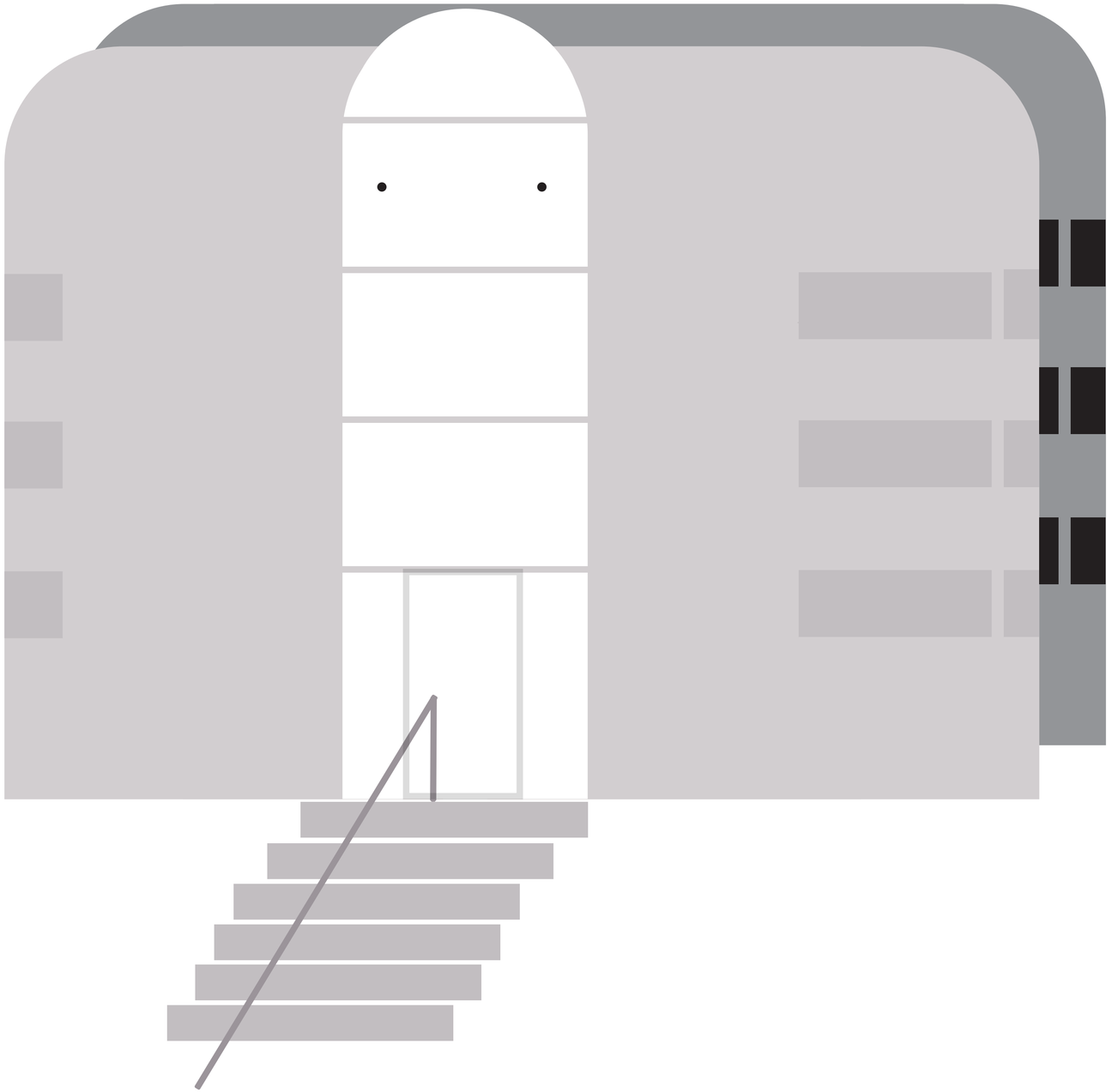


Edith Farnsworth House 1951

Associations

HOW THINGS CONNECT

Allusion
Antecedence
Connotation
Entailment
Hetero/Homogeneity
Metaphor
Progenesis

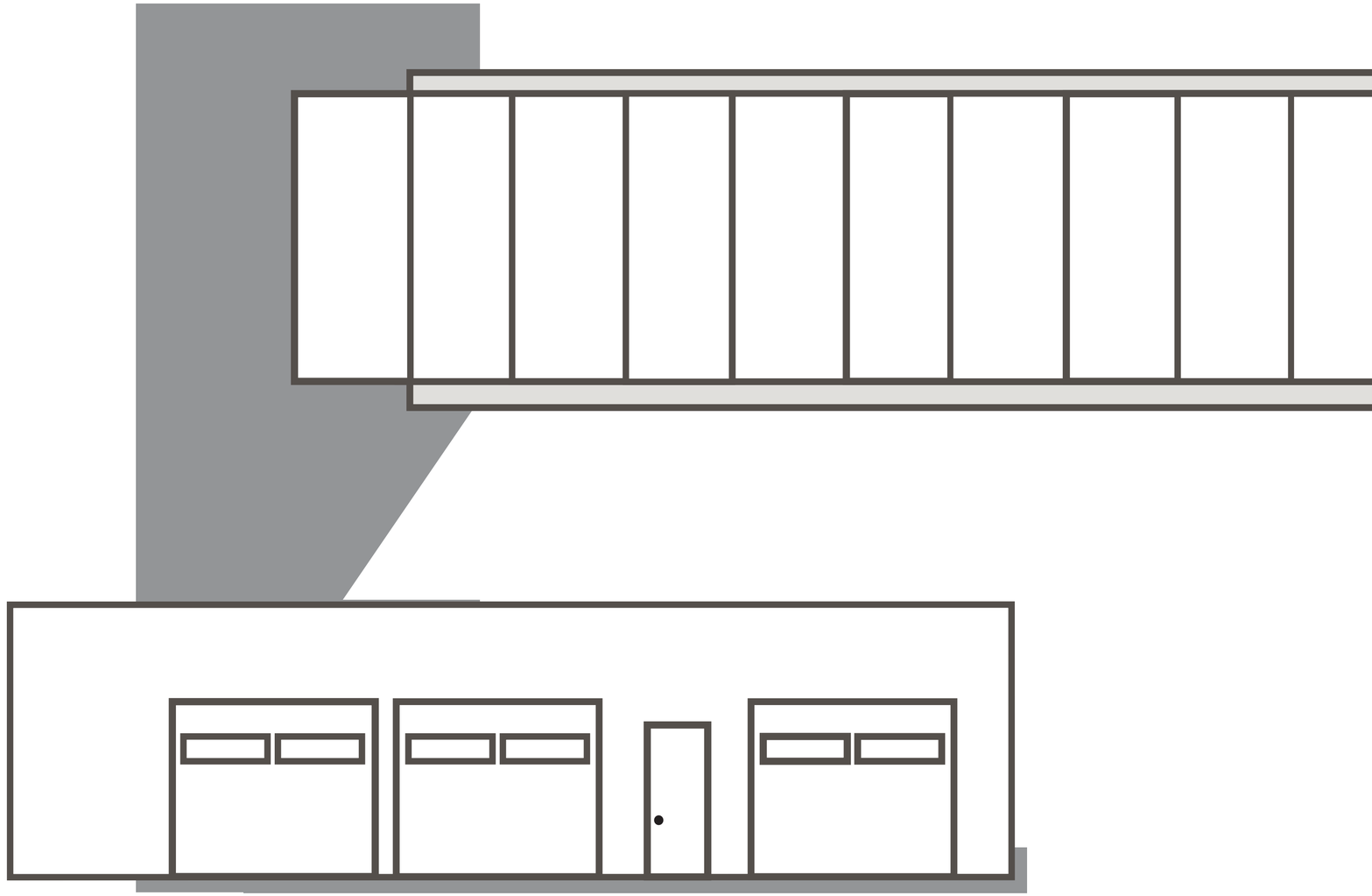


Howard Miller Clock Company 1992

Situations

WHERE THINGS ARE

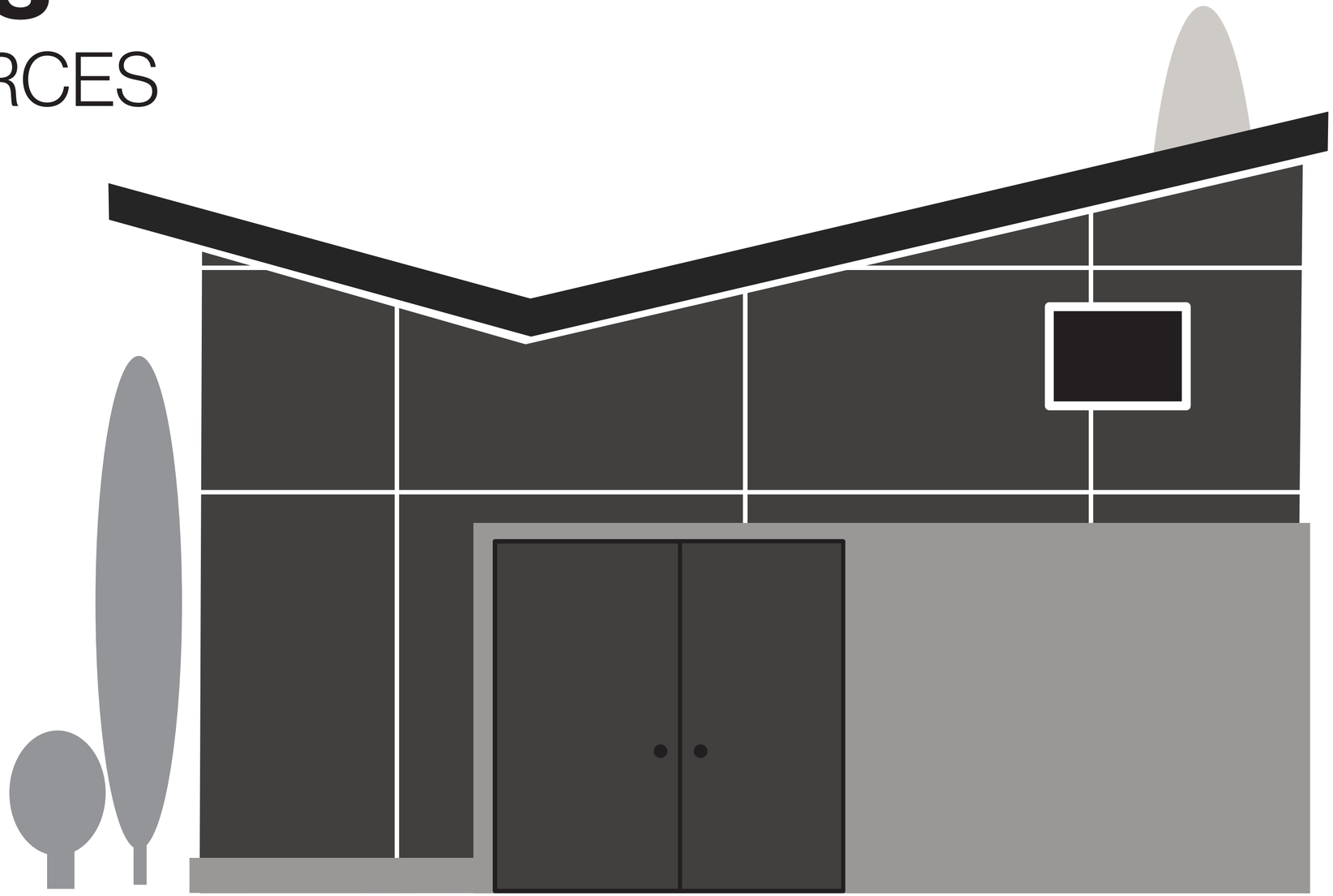
Adjacency
Down-ness
Emplacement
Juxtoposition
Nesting
Up-ness



Invariants

CONSTANT FORCES

Entropy
Friction
Gravity
History

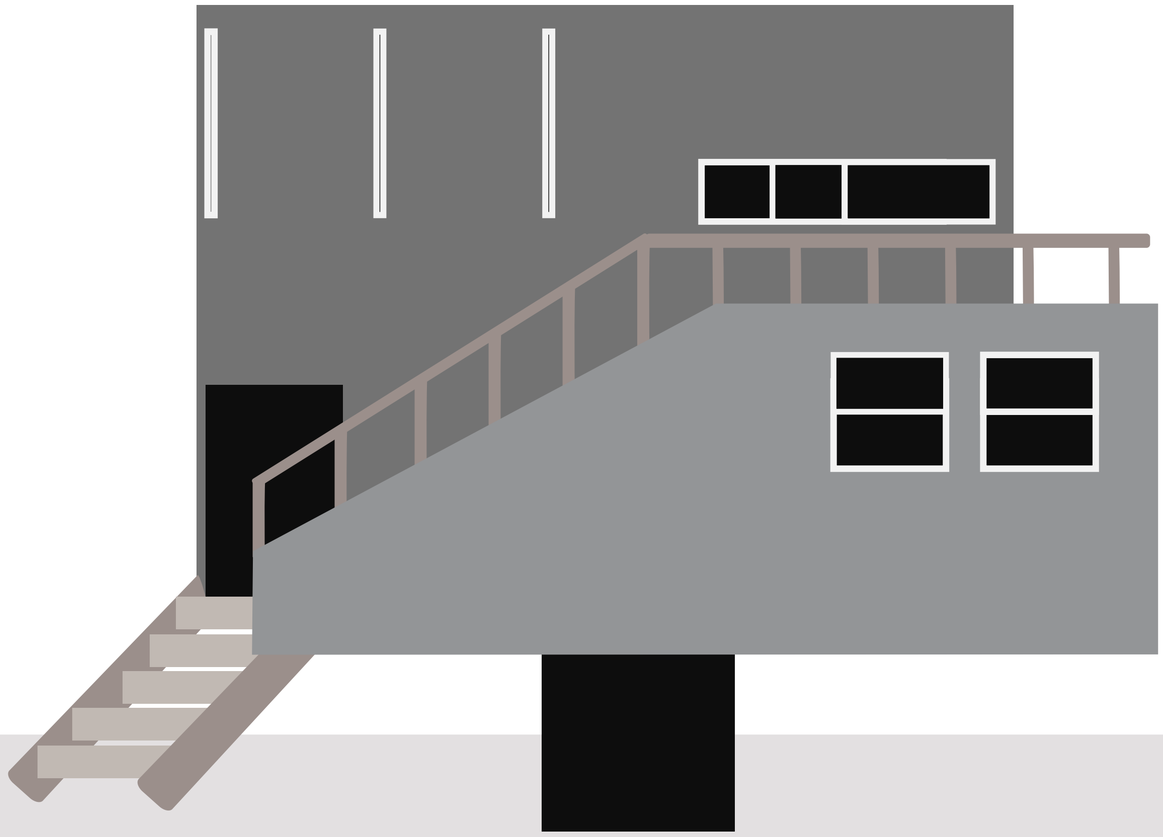


Seattle Garage circa 2000

Cycles

VARIABLE FORCES

Demand
Fashion
Season
Supply



Long Beach Island Sandcastles 1966

BASIC 5 Ways to See the Architecture of Complex Systems

Boundaries
WHAT THINGS ARE

- Absence
- Border
- Collision
- Edge
- Gap
- Graft
- Joint
- Rift
- Seam
- Transition

Associations
HOW THINGS CONNECT

- Allusion
- Antecedence
- Connotation
- Entailment
- Hetero/Homogeneity
- Metaphor
- Progenesis

Situations
WHERE THINGS ARE

- Adjacency
- Down-ness
- Emplacement
- Juxtoposition
- Nesting
- Up-ness

Invariants
CONSTANT FORCES

- Entropy
- Friction
- Gravity
- History

Cycles
VARIABLE FORCES

- Demand
- Fashion
- Season
- Supply

Activity Time

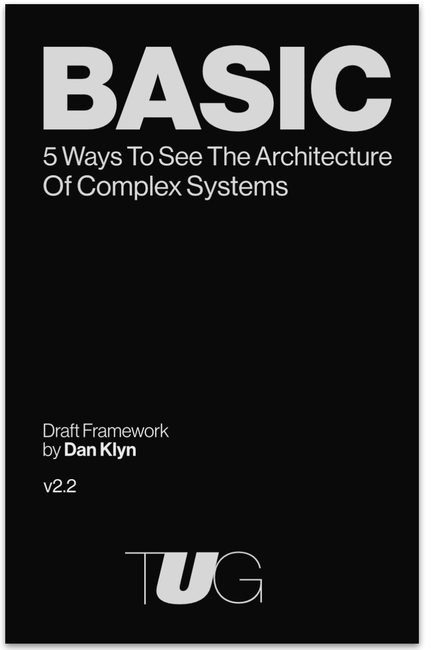
Boundaries Group
Identify a joint, seam, or transition where one thing stops and another starts.
Come up with an explanation for why the boundary exists in this way.

Associations Group
Enumerate three bases upon which the belonging of things is predicated.

Situations Group
Find two instances where the placement of things changes their meaning or purpose.

Invariants Group
In rank order, what are the three most powerful constant forces in the environment?

Cycles Group
What evidence can you find of latent or redundant structures that address forces not currently detectable in the environment?



https://understandinggroup.com/basic

End