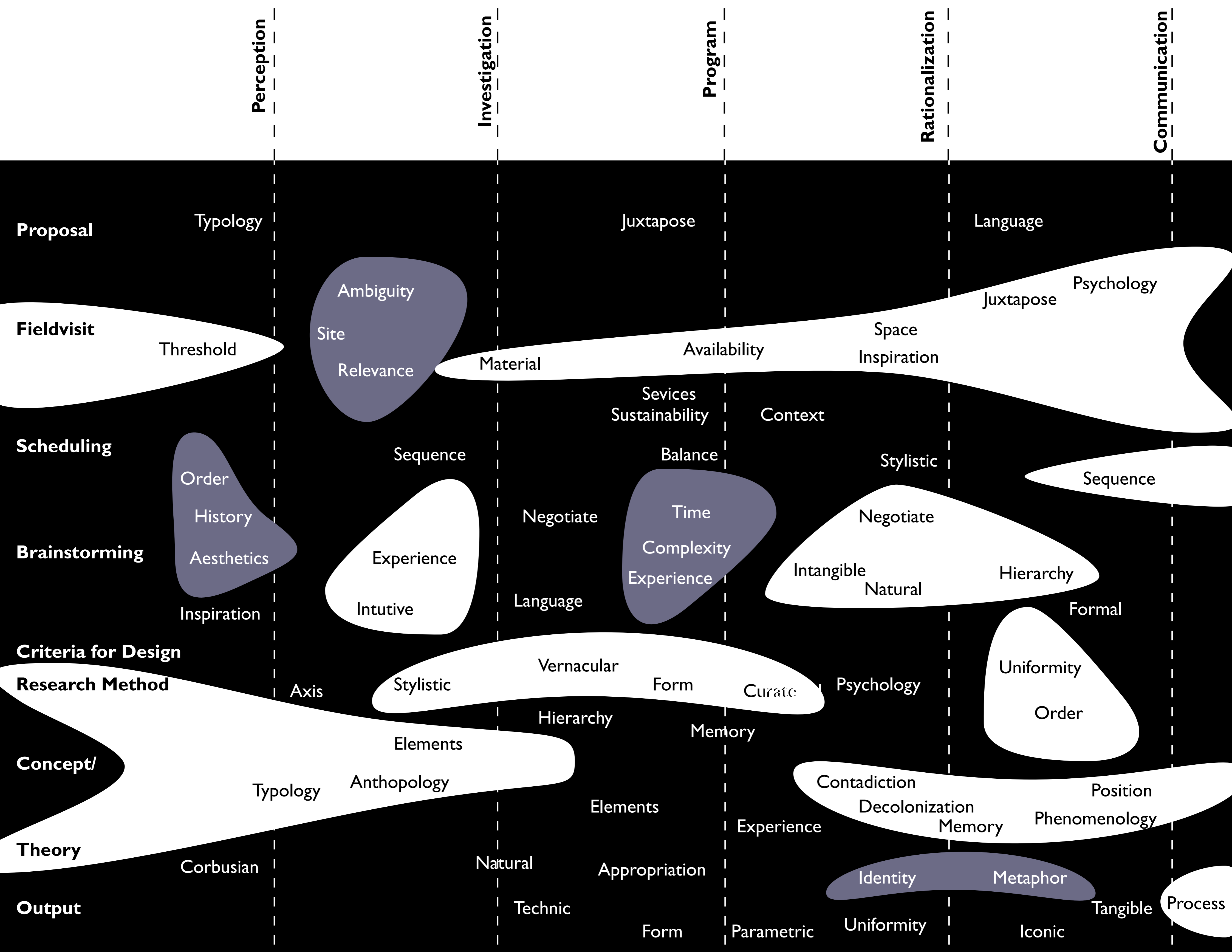


THE BURDEN OF RESEARCH IN ARCHITECTURE: why do researchers not have an equitable share in the glory of being called architects?

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Description: The visual is inspired from Charles Jencks' Tree of Evolution. Here the canvas represents the architect in a built environment, the terms on Y-axis describes the process a process of an architect and the terms on the X-axis refers to the large skill set architects are trained with. The other terms on the canvas are vocabulary of architects irrespective of the nature of work they perform in the fraternity. The words on the black and white spaces refers to the practitioners and researchers respectively and the grey region shows the intersection of these terms among design practitioners and research practitioners.

Architecture can be called a domain of infinite intangible equations. Advancement and innovative technologies in architecture are owed to the researchers who work behind the scenes and bring about these impactful changes. Nevertheless, there seems to be a significant disparity between research practitioners and practitioners in architecture even with these notable advancements.

The researchers follow a meticulous process that includes understanding the background of field visits and documentation. These steps involve a creative journey and skills similar to design in terms of generating visuals. However, the question arises of why despite these struggles researchers in architecture do not have the same recognition that practitioners have and are often classified as second-class citizens in the architectural fraternity.

This research positions that whether a designer or researcher they are primarily architects who acquired similar training in their formative years. They are not independent of each other and this can be seen in the process they respectively adopt for their professions. From Jorge Hauberg's paper on Research by Design: a research strategy it is established that researchers and designers are not very different and in fact, their processes and skills are common as are their working ground, the built environment.

"In many ways, the design process is similar to a research process, searching for new products or knowledge but working in the designer's language, drawings and models, rather than the written word." (Hauberg, 2021)

Architecture is synonymous with research as there is study and exhibition involved. While architectural practices cater to the individual or a community the research practices cater to the larger pool of architects. The work of researchers becomes vital in situating the work of architects and production of knowledge in the field. However, researchers do not gain their due respect among the fraternity. The issue addressed here is more complex than it seems. There are several perceptions of this issue depending on the region, gender, age and institution. Nevertheless, this study merely puts the activities performed by design practitioners and research practitioners to vouch for their interdependency by identifying their similarities through their differences. The integrity of the researcher needs to be understood and addressed from multiple vantage points and this study just scratched the surface for the same.