

## SPACE PROBLEM II



The Space Problem courses deal with the principles of the “free plan” or the continuity of space in contrast to the age-old compartmentalization of space which go back in history thousands of years to the earliest times. The “free plan” was made possible by the development of steel skeleton construction in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Gradually spans increased and supports decreased to very slender proportions making the enclosed space atmospheric. Enclosing wall materials of large sheets of transparent glass further defined a new kind of space markedly different from that of heavy masonry bearing walls and punched windows.

Space Problem II deals with the “free plan” or the modulation of space in the vertical as well as in the horizontal direction. Partial floors of varying size become large spatial planes in space that make possible the vertical continuity of space in contrast to conventional separation into stories. The success of a scheme depends upon how well all of the elements work towards an integrated whole while meeting the requirements of a program.

Works of art (i.e. paintings and sculpture) as well as furnishings are brought into play as integral parts of the whole. Often their true significances are realized in relation to such spaces.

The building will be situated in a typical lightly wooded, slightly sloped, mid-western site of deciduous trees. The trees will give shade to the building in the hot summer months and by shedding its dense foliage provide much welcome solar warmth in the cold winter months. The woods would also provide a wonderful backdrop, in winter or summer, for all internal elements as well as for the building itself.

The course also includes the design of the basic structural framing elements and the enclosing window wall. It will also take into account the internal environmental system necessary for comfort and well-being of the inhabitants.