May 6 1986

ANALYSIS OF NECESSARY AND DESIRABLE FEATURES
FOR CIRRUS

THESE ARE THE THINGS WE BELIEVE WE KNOW, RELIABLY, AFTER OBSERVING THE EXPERIMENTAL MOCKUPS IN BERKELEY AND COLUMBUS, AND TRYING TO EXTRACT GOOD QUALITIES AND MISTAKES FROM THESE EXPERIMENTS.

- 1. Departments. There are areas for 12 to 20 persons, which form well defined entities. Area of 1000-3000 sf.
- 2. Departments are separated by circulation areas. Circulation areas have floor surface different from department.
- 3. Walls which define departments are thick walls, heavy acoustically, go all the way to ceiling of building, have windows and doors so have some visual transparency, and are rather permanent: 5 year average life.
- 4. Inside department, there is an old fashioned arrangement of "rooms". Rooms may vary from 1 person to 6-8 persons. Inside a room, people work TOGETHER, there are not lots of individual workstations.
- 5. Each room is made up of walls with an average life of 18 months. The eighteen month wall is made of pieces of finished case work furniture, connected by pieces of trim, and other connectors.
- 6. The connectors include ceiling trim piece, baseboards, vertical connectors, and vertical connectors that are wider. Connectors pieces are custom made, on site, to permit a flexible and adaptable way of connecting case work to form furniture. Case work is finished

- 6. Flimsy construction with steel inserts that lets shelves etc hang on it, is psychologically devastating because too flimsy, and in principle unacceptable.
- 7. This implies that many things in the environment should be well built" ... i.e. permanent stable reliable objects. QUESTION. Is it possible to imagine building up walls, alcoves, assemblies, etc from beautiful furniture, by adding connector pieces to make larger wholes.
- 8. Planes of the front of walls must be variable i.e. each thing can have combination of different planes, not all one plane.
- 9. QUESTION. Is the wall of a "room" a five year wall, or is it an 18 month wall. If 18, then 18 must be consistent with 5 year wall, since otherwise room will feel incoherent (mixture of some 5s and some 18s around the edge). Reason for 18 is mistakes, and real needs to change.
- 10. Department wall is full height (9,10 11 feet). The casework wall (thick wall) is attached to it on both sides to form the wall of the room. Casework wall is 7 or 8 feet high.
- Slightly expensive, since department wall has three layers. ??
- 11. Some rooms have ceilings. QUESTION. Does every room have a ceiling.
- 12. QUESTION. Are ANY personal or individual workspaces permitted inside a room.

Answer NO.

Things like computer room at RS and small alcoves at RS are made up of 6 month elements, placed WITHIN the room.

- 13. There are very strong vistas between rooms, created by doors, windows and other openings, with various types of screening.
- 14. There is a good deal of loose free standing furniture. Much more than in RS or Sweet potatoes. We shall call these 6 month items, meaning that they can be picked up and moved at will.
- 15. Conduit trough along the top of every wall, as basic method of distribution for electricity and electronics.
- 16. Something about plans. Plan connections must be almost infinitely variable, not constrained by a "system". Hard to define, but crucial. How does 6 and 16 thickness fit in waith this, if given any point of connection. Still doesn't quite work???

My belief is that a good system must have messy connections. Any system that has clean connections, is somehow fucked.

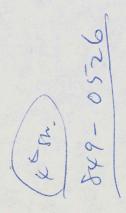
If 15 things meet 15 things, it would need 225 types of connections. There is no single nice way of doing this. It has to be ad hoc.

17. Six month level. There is a variety of stable furniture which is free standing stuff, from which various kinds of work station and partial enclosure can be made, within the rooms. This includes desks, tables, chairs, alcoves, screens, 6" columns (maybe), low walls, case furniture about seven feet high, bookcases, counters etc.

18. Perhaps some of these items can be connected by connector elements which tie them together.

The items of furniture are heavy enough to be stable when they are freestanding.

19. 18 month walls. Within the department, rooms are made of 18 month walls. YES.



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