

UNSTAKED TERRITORY: Frontiers of Beginning Design

Proceedings of the 19th National Conference on the Beginning
Design Student, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma
April 3-5, 2003



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Challenging The Boundaries I
Challenging The Boundaries II
Integrating The Boundaries
Obscuring The Boundaries
Various Terrains
Initial Terrain

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The Beginning Effects the Middle Effects the End

MARGARET TARAMPI, (Carnegie Mellon University) Virginia Polytechnic University

When I entered architecture school, I was not yet convinced that I chosen the correct path. My mother was a doctor in inner city Philadelphia. My mother's parents taught middle school in the Philippines. My father's mother taught deaf children in eastern Pennsylvania. I was raised in a culture of directly touching the lives of others and it deeply affected the way I would mature into adulthood. Following a pre-college program for architecture, I came to a crossroads. Architecture had become an integral part of my life in just a few months and I never looked at the world the same again. But I knew that I needed to enrich of lives of others as my loved ones did so clearly. In the back of my mind, I knew that my spirit yearned to play a more significant active part in humankind. At the time, I could not see how architecture responded to this framework. I sought advice from my studio professor from the summer. Little did I know that what she would say to me that day would affect me for the rest of my life, shaping my education and career pursuits. She simply stated, "people spend 95% of their days in the built environment. You can't help but believe that architecture affects them." And then it occurred to me at that moment the great power of architecture; it can improve the quality of life for all people. My work now focuses on determining how architecture affects human experience using neuroscience as the foundation for discovery.