

SOUL SHELTER

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LET'S BEGIN WITH SOUL - AND WHAT WE THINK IT MIGHT BE.

DEFINITIONS ABOUND ...

SOUL IS THE PART OF US THAT SEEKS FREEDOM, EXPRESSION, IMAGINATION, CREATIVITY AND SPIRITUALITY.

SOUL IS OUR MORAL OR EMOTIONAL NATURE, OUR SENSE OF IDENTITY.

SOUL IS THAT WHICH GIVES LIFE TO OUR BODIES.

SOUL IS MIND, PSYCHE, BREATH, EMOTION, LOVE, COMPASSION, DREAM, IMMORTAL ESSENCE, EVEN CONSCIOUSNESS ITSELF.

SUCH DEFINITIONS CONFOUND US BY THEIR LACK OF CLARITY, CHALLENGE THE VERY MIND THAT MIGHT POSSIBLY BE SOUL, SENDING US TRAWLING FOR CERTAINTY IN A SEA OF UNKNOWING, SETTING OUR SENSES ON EDGE AS THEY DELIVER A BLUR OF DATA TO THE BRAIN WHERE IT IS PROBED, DISSECTED, CATEGORISED AND OTHERWISE RENDERED SENSIBLE.

WITH LUCK THAT MAVERICK SENSE THAT WE CALL INTUITION MIGHT AT THIS POINT INTERVENE, DEMAND WE LAY DOWN OUR SCALPELS, REMOVE OUR BLOODY APRONS AND SIMPLY BE.

SUCH IS THE MODUS OPERANDI OF SOUL ... THAT FAITHFUL BUT INVISIBLE COMPANION THAT ACCOMPANIES US ON OUR LIFE'S JOURNEY ... THAT FRIEND, KNOWLEDGE OF WHOM IS OFTENTIMES DENIED.

SOUL IS THAT PART OF US WHICH OFTEN IS FORCEFULLY SHACKLED TO CONVENTION LEST IT WANDER INTO OUR REALITY AND UPSET THE HOSTESS, CHALLENGE THE BOSS OR OTHERWISE UPSET THE CAREFUL ARRANGEMENT THAT ARE REGULARLY PASSED OFF AS REAL LIFE.

SOUL IS THAT VOICE WHICH IS OFTENTIMES GAGGED LEST IT SPEAK OUT OF TURN, OR ARTICULATE THE TRUTH WHEN LIES ARE THE ORDER OF THE DAY.

SOUL SHELTER 2

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CONFINED IN THIS FASHION SOUL FINDS MYRIAD WAYS TO DELIVER ITS MESSAGE THROUGH DREAM, RITUAL, STORYTELLING, SYMBOL, MYTH, MEDITATION AND EVEN SILENCE.

SOUL HAS MANY NAMES AND DOCUMENTS TO SUPPORT ITS NUMEROUS IDENTITIES ...

PRANA
LIFEFORCE
LOVE
ARCHETYPE
DREAM
SPIRIT
CHI
PSYCHE
HERO
PURPOSE
MEANING
POETRY
COMPASSION

THE LIST GOES ON BUT THE SHAPESHIFTER OFTENTIMES REMAINS AT LARGE AND INVISIBLE.

ONE OPTION TO ENCOUNTER SOUL IS TO JOURNEY TO THE HERE&NOW AND ISSUE AN INVITATION FOR SOUL TO JOIN US, PERHAPS TO WITNESS TOGETHER ONE OF THE SPECTACULAR SUNRISSES THAT THE HERE&NOW IS FAMOUS FOR.

BEWARE HOWEVER.

SOUL HAS AN UNCANNY WAY OF ASSESSING IN SUCH INVITES ANY TRACE OF HUBRIS OR EFFORTS AT CONTROL AND CAN UNERRINGLY DETECT ANY INCLINATION TO LIMIT WHAT MIGHT ENSUE OR ANY LIKELIHOOD THAT AN AMBUSH BY THE THOUGHT POLICE MIGHT BE LAID IN AN EFFORT TO APPREHEND SOUL ON SUSPICION OF HAVING COMMITTED NUMEROUS CRIMES AGAINST LOGIC AND REASON.

SOUL SHELTER 3

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SOUL'S INVISIBILITY PROTECTS IT FROM SUCH RISK BUT BY THE SAME TOKEN THIS MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF SOUL SO THAT WE MIGHT CORROBORATE ITS EXISTENCE , MIGHT TOUCH ITS CLOAK, MIGHT VENTURE OUR FINGERS INTO ITS WOUNDS, MIGHT HEAR IT SPEAK, MIGHT EMBRACE IT COMPLETELY, MIGHT INVITE IT TO ACCOMPANY US BACK TO THE REAL WORLD.

FOR SUCH INTIMACY AND TO ENHANCE THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCCESS IT IS BEST TO MEET SOUL IN SOME ISOLATED PLACE, THE DESERT OR THE OPEN SEA, A MOUNTAINTOP OR A DEEP CAVE.

IF THE CONDITIONS ARE RIGHT SOUL WILL MANIFEST IN MATERIAL FORM - A ROCK, A CLOUD, A TREE, A STAR, A BIRD OR AN ANIMAL PERHAPS.

SO IT IS THAT SOUL RENDERS ITSELF VISIBLE TO OUR SENSES BY CONTRASTING ITSELF WITH SOMETHING OPPOSITE TO ITS NATURE.

SUCH INITIATION INTO THE QUALITY OF SOUL OFFERS INSIGHT INTO THE NATURE OF REALITY ITSELF WHERE DYNAMIC OPPOSITES ARE THE ORDER OF THE DAY.

DAY & NIGHT; LIGHT & DARK; CONSCIOUS & UNCONSCIOUS; MALE & FEMALE; GRAVITY & LEVITY; INSIDE & OUTSIDE; VISIBLE & INVISIBLE; MATTER & ENERGY; BODY & SOUL

DYNAMIC OPPOSITION IS THE ESSENCE OF NATURE AND OF THE UNIVERSE ITSELF, A CONDITION OF CONSTANT CHANGE WHICH CREATES SPACE, TIME, POSSIBILITY, POTENTIAL AND LIFE ENERGY.

SO IT IS, THAT IN THE UNIVERSE WE INHABIT, SOUL INVITES BODY TO JOIN IT ON THE FLOOR OF LIFE, TO DANCE IT'S DANCE, TO GLIDE THROUGH SPACE AND TIME, THE PERFECT COUPLE, IN HARMONY WITH EACH OTHER AND WITH THE MUSIC OF LIFE, BLESSED TO HAVE FOUND EACH OTHER, A JOY TO BEHOLD.

THIS IS THE ESSENCE OF OUR LONGING TO BE, OUR STRIVING FOR PERFECTION, OUR RELENTLESS PURSUIT OF THE DREAM OF OUR LIVES.

SOUL SHELTER 4

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BELONGING IS ACCEPTING THAT LIFE IS CHANGE, A SEE-SAW, A HEAVING DECK UPON WHICH WE MUST LEARN TO BALANCE LEST WE GET PITCHED OFF AND DROWN IN THE MUNDANE SEA.

SO IT IS THAT AS A SPECIES WE ARE DRIVEN TO MAINTAIN OUR ALIVENESS DEDICATING OURSELVES TO CONSTANT MOVEMENT LEST OUR LIVES RUN DOWN AND THE VITAL FORCE WHICH ENERGISES US CEASES TO FLOW.

SO IT IS THAT STILLNESS AND SILENCE ARE FEARED FOR THE WRONG REASONS.

SO IT IS THAT WE TRY TO SUBSTITUTE THE MOTOR OF LIFE WITH A HYBRID BETTER SUITED TO THE REALTY WE HAVE FASHIONED FOR OURSELVES.

SO IT IS THAT WE OPPOSE NATURE WITH HUMAN CULTURE AND ARE CHARGED THROUGH THE NOSE FOR THE ENERGY DERIVED FROM THIS 'GLOBAL ECONOMIC ENGINE'.

SO IT IS THAT SOUL FINDS ITSELF ON THE MOST WANTED LIST AND IS SURROUNDED BY A CULTURE OF SILENCE AND FEAR.

SO IT IS THAT NOT ONLY DO WALLS HAVE EARS BUT THE VERY SPACE & TIME WITHIN WHICH SOUL MOVES IS SCRUTINISED AND POLICED IN AN EFFORT TO TRACK IT DOWN AND ELIMINATE IT.

SO IT IS THAT OPPORTUNITIES SUCH AS WE SHARE IN THIS HERE&NOW TAKE ON SPECIAL VALUE WHERE WE ACKNOWLEDGE AND EMBRACE SOUL AND OPEN OURSELVES TO ITS NUMEROUS POSSIBILITIES.

SO, WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO RENDER IT THUS?

WHAT HAS HAPPENED THAT WE FIND OURSELVES IN A MINORITY, MUST SPEAK GUARDEDLY, MUST CONFORM TO REALITIES NOT OF OUR MAKING?

SOUL SHELTER 5

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TO ANSWER THAT WE MUST LOOK WITHIN OURSELVES, MUST DETECT WITHIN OUR GENETIC MEMORY A TIME WHEN IT WAS NOT SO, A TIME WHEN SOUL WAS PRIMARY AND LIFE WAS SYNONYMOUS WITH A DEEP CONNECTION TO CONSCIOUSNESS AND MEANING.

WE DO NOT HAVE TO TRAVEL TOO FAR BACK IN TIME TO UNCOVER THIS, A MERE FEW HUNDRED YEARS IN SOME CASES.

BUT MORE GENERALLY WE NEED TO JOURNEY BACK SOME 8 - 10,000 YEARS TO THE BEGINNINGS OF WHAT HAS BECOME KNOWN AS THE DAWN OF CIVILISATION, MARKED BY THE BIRTH OF THE SURVIVAL PARADIGM WHICH WE NOW ALL PARTICIPATE IN - THE AGE OF AGRICULTURE.

THIS MARKED A SHIFT FROM A HUNTER-GATHERER WAY OF LIFE TO ONE CHARACTERISED BY THE DOMESTICATION OF ANIMALS AND PEOPLE, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SETTLED COMMUNITIES AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF PERMANENT DWELLINGS AND OTHER BUILDINGS TO SUPPORT A SEDENTARY WAY OF LIFE.

WHEN ARCHEOLOGIST UNCOVER REMNANTS OF SUCH CONSTRUCTIONS THEY ARE CONFOUNDED BY WHAT THEY UNCOVER.

AROUND 10,000 YEARS AGO THEY BELIEVE THAT THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT BEGAN TO BE USED AS FRAME OF SYMBOLIC REFERENCE IMBIBED WITH MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE.

THIS PROVIDED PEOPLE WITH A MEANS OF EMBODYING ABSTRACT CONCEPTS, BELIEF AND IDEAS ABOUT THEMSELVES AND THEIR WORLD IN EXTERNALISED + PERMANENT FORM.

THIS ARCHITECTURE CONSTITUTED A FRAMEWORK FOR THE SOCIAL LIFE OF COMMUNITIES AS WELL AS PROVIDING AN ARENA WITHIN WHICH OTHER FORMS OF SYMBOLIC REPRESENTATION COULD BE CONTEXTUALISED.

SOUL SHELTER 6

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DOMINANT SYMBOLS SUCH AS REPRESENTATIONS OF FEMALE DIVINITIES + DIVINE MALES FIGURES IN THE FORM OF BULLS BEGAN TO APPEAR.

IT IS BELIEVED THAT THESE DEVELOPMENTS AROSE BECAUSE ENCLOSING SPACE CREATED AN AWARENESS OF BOUNDARIES - AS OPPOSED TO THE OPENESS CHARACTERISTIC OF A HUNTER-GATHERER AND NOMADIC WAY OF LIFE.

THIS CONTRIBUTED TO THE CREATION OF AN ARTIFICIAL OR 'FABRICATED' SOCIETY, ONE THAT NO LONGER MIMICKED NATURE IN ITS OPENESS BUT RATHER CREATED A SEPARATION FROM NATURE BY INTRODUCING A MEDIATING LAYER BETWEEN INSIDE AND OUTSIDE, BETWEEN US AND THEM, BETWEEN ME AND YOU.

AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THIS A NEW SOCIAL REALITY BASED ON THE SEPARATION OF INSIDE AND OUTSIDE WAS FORGED, A NEW REALITY DEFINED BY THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE INDOORS AND THE OUTDOORS.

THIS STIMULATED SELF-AWARENESS, BRAIN DEVELOPMENT AND AN INCREASED CAPACITY FOR MEMORY WHICH WAS 'OFFLOADED' OR STORED IN SYMBOLIC DEVICES - SUCH AS BUILDINGS.

THIS CHANGED HOW HUMANS THOUGHT AND REMEMBERED ALLOWING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SYMBOLIC SYSTEMS OF LAYERED MEANING BOUND INTO THE ARCHITECTURE.

THIS SHAPING OF THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT CONSTITUTED A 'WAY OF LIFE', THEREBY MATERIALISING SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS, FRAMING PERCEPTIONS OF SELF AND OTHER AND CREATING AN ARENA WITHIN WHICH INTER-PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATIONSHIPS TO NATURE WERE PLAYED OUT.

WITH THE FACILITY OF LANGUAGE PEOPLE COULD NOW ARTICULATE IDEAS ABOUT THEIR WORLD, ABOUT THEMSELVES AND ABOUT THEIR RELATIONS TO THE INVISIBLE REALM OF SPACE AND TIME THAT THEY INHABITED.

SOUL SHELTER 7

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IN THIS WAY THE EXPERIENCE OF ARCHITECTURE WAS IMBUED WITH MEANING GENERALLY FOCUSED ON THE REALITIES OF BIRTH, REPRODUCTION AND DEATH.

THESE EARLY SHELTERS OFTENTIMES MIMICKED THE FORM OF THE HUMAN BODY ITSELF.

THAT BUILDINGS ARE A REFLECTION OF PEOPLE AND OF THE WORLD THEY INHABIT IS A COMMON THEME IN ALL VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE TRADITIONS.

THE DYNAMIC OPPOSITES OF INSIDE AND OUTSIDE ARTICULATE THIS IN THE FORM OF THE VISIBLE AND MATERIAL BUILDING FABRIC WHICH BOUNDS THE ABSTRACT AND INVISIBLE SPACE OF A BUILDING'S INTERIOR.

IN THIS WAY SHELTER MIRRORS PEOPLE AND INDEED LIFE ITSELF WITH ITS DYNAMIC COMBINATION OF MATERIAL AND ABSTRACT ELEMENTS.

THIS ABILITY TO LITERALLY RECREATE THE WORLD ALLOWED FOR THE VASTNESS OF THE UNIVERSE TO BE REDUCED TO A MANAGEABLE SCALE.

THIS FOSTERED AN AWARENESS OF SELF BECAUSE THE GROUP IDENTITY CHARACTERISTIC OF HUNTER-GATHERER SOCIETY WAS NOW SHATTERED BY THE CENTRIFUGE OF CHANGE.

THIS FRACTURING OF GROUP IDENTITY CREATED COLLECTIONS OF INDIVIDUALS WHO COULD OCCUPY THEIR OWN SPACE SEPARATE FROM EACH OTHER.

THIS SHATTERING NOT ONLY DEFINED INDIVIDUALITY IN RESPECT OF PEOPLE BUT IT ALSO DEFINED THE NATURE OF SPACE SHATTERING THE VERY LAND ITSELF INTO DISTINCT TERRITORIES.

TRACES OF THE CHAIN REACTION WHICH ENSUED FROM THIS, THE BIG BANG OF CIVILISATION IF YOU LIKE, CAN STILL BE DETECTED IN OUR GENETIC MAKEUP AND IN OUR SELF-AWARENESS.

SOUL SHELTER 8

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MALE WAS SEPARATED FROM FEMALE WITH DISTINCT ROLES BEING ASSIGNED TO BOTH.

A NEW DEFENSIVENESS AROSE TO GUARD TERRITORY AND FOOD STOCKS.

THE ACCUMULATION OF POSSESSION BECAME POSSIBLE THANKS TO A SEDENTARY WAY OF LIFE.

HIERARCHIES FORMED.

ARTISTIC EXPRESSION FLOURISHED, STORYTELLING AND MYTH ARTICULATING STORIES OF ORIGINS WHICH ALONG WITH THE ENACTMENT OF RITUAL LAID DOWN THE FOUNDATION OF CULTURE AND IDENTITY.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON THE COSMOS DEVELOPED, BASED ON CALIBRATION OF THE CYCLES OF CHANGE SO NECESSARY TO THE PRACTICE OF THE ART OF AGRICULTURE.

THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT WAS BORN.

ALL OF THIS WAS MADE POSSIBLE BECAUSE PEOPLE SETTLED AND MADE PERMANENT DWELLINGS WHICH STIMULATED SELF-AWARENESS AND CONSCIOUSNESS BECAUSE THE PROTECTIVE LAYERS OF BUILDINGS ALLOWED FOR THE PROTECTIVE LAYERS AROUND THE EMERGING INDIVIDUAL TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THE PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES OF THE BUILDING, ALLOWING INDIVIDUALITY TO BE EXPERIENCED WITHIN THE PROTECTED INNER SPACE.

IN THIS WAY BODY AND SOUL WERE ARTICULATED AND COULD BE EXPERIENCED DIRECTLY. THIS POTENT CHEMISTRY LOOSED THE SOUL FROM ITS CONFINEMENT WITHIN PEOPLE ALLOWING THEM TO LITERALLY BE WITHIN THEMSELVES.

THIS ALLOWED SOUL TO BE EXPERIENCE AS AN ASPECT OF SPACE LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR THE EMOTIONALITY WHICH TO THIS DAY INFUSES THE IDEA OF HOME, SELF, IDENTITY, INDIVIDUALITY, PROPERTY AND TERRITORY

SOUL SHELTER 9

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SCALING THE UNIVERSE DOWN TO A HUMAN SCALE BY CREATING SHELTER NOT ONLY ALLOWS US TO BE WITHIN OUR SELVES BUT IT ALSO ALLOWS SOUL TO ASSIST US IN CONSTRUCTING OUR WORLD ACCORDING TO WHO WE ARE, WHERE WE ARE GOING AND HOW WE PLAN ON GETTING THERE.

IT IS THIS ABILITY OF THE HUMAN MIND TO MANAGE SYMBOLIC REPRESENTATION WHICH STIMULATES CONSCIOUSNESS, IMBUES US WITH A SENSE OF WHO WE ARE AND OFFERS US DIRECTION IN OUR LIVES.

THIS THAT CAN BE AN ASPECT OF ARCHITECTURE DERIVES FROM THE FACT THAT BUILDINGS EMBODY THE 4 DIMENSIONS WITH WHICH WE MEASURE THE UNIVERSE - THE 3 DIMENSIONS OF LENGTH, BREADTH AND HEIGHT AND THEIR CONSTANT COMPANION, TIME.

WHEN WE CREATE BUILDINGS WE ACTIVELY ENGAGE WITH THESE 4 DIMENSIONS THEREBY GAINING ACCESS TO THE INVISIBLE REALM OF SPACETIME, THE REPOSITORY OF SOUL.

THESE UNDERSTANDINGS INFORMED VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE PRACTICE IN RESPECT OF MATERIAL USE, ORIENTATION, LOCATION, PLAN FORM AND BUILDING SHAPE AS WELL AS INFORMING RITUAL, ART, DANCE, STORYTELLING, DREAM, MYTH AND OF COURSE ISSUES TO DO WITH TERRITORY, HEALTH, WELLBEING, WATER, FOOD PRODUCTION, FOOD STORAGE AND OTHER ASPECTS OF SURVIVAL.

IN THIS WAY THE ASPIRATION TO MAINTAIN ALIVENESS WAS MATERIALISED IN THE ARCHITECTURE INCLUDING THE ABSTRACTION THAT WE REFER TO AS SOUL, THEREBY LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR WHAT WE REFER TO AS CULTURE.

SUCH TRADITIONS WERE ORAL AND WERE PERPETUATED BY PRACTICAL EXAMPLE, HANDED DOWN THROUGH THE EXPERIENCE OF LIVING AND BUILDING.

SUCH LIVING ARCHITECTURE WAS THE VERY EMBODIMENT OF PEOPLE, THEIR LIVES AND THEIR BELIEFS AND THESE PRACTICES CONTINUE TO THIS DAY,

SOUL SHELTER 10

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FRAMING THE REALITY OF A HUGE PERCENTAGE OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION. HOWEVER IN THE WORLD WHICH WE INHABIT THE POTENTIAL WHICH SHELTERMaking OFFERS IN RESPECT OF EXPERIENCING SOUL IN OUR EVERYDAY LIVES IS CONSTANTLY UNDER THREAT.

TO UNDERSTAND HOW THIS IS PERPETUATED WE MUST FIRST EXAMINE HOW THESE SEEDS OF SELF-AWARENESS AND SOUL CONSCIOUSNESS WHICH EMERGED FROM THE EARLY SHELTERMaking PROCESSES WERE USURPED AND APPROPRIATED AND EFFORTS MADE TO PATENT THEM MUCH LIKE WE SEE TODAY WHEN COMPANYS STRIVE TO PATENT NATURAL SEEDS AND EXPLOIT SUCH MONOPOLIES FOR THEIR OWN GAIN.

WHERE EARLY ARCHITECTURE PRACTICE IS KNOWN AS THE VERNACULAR THE ARCHITECTURE PROFESSION DERIVED FROM THIS IS KNOWN AS FORMAL ARCHITECTURE.

FORMAL ARCHITECTURE PRACTICE INVESTIGATED AND ENCODED THE ESOTERIC ASPECTS OF ARCHITECTURE WHICH EMERGED FROM THIS VERNACULAR, CREATING A PRIESTHOOD WHICH GUARDED WHAT WERE CONSIDERED TO BE THE SECRETS OF LIFE.

THE OLDEST OF THESE TRADITIONS, THE VASTU SHASTRA TRADITION OF INDIA, CONCERNED ITSELF WITH THE CREATION OF BUILDINGS WITH POSITIVE, UPLIFTING AND PEACEFUL ENVIRONMENTS, SUCH ACTIVITY BEING CONSIDERED TO BE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MINIATURE UNIVERSE EMBODYING THE INTERPLAY AND HARMONY OF THE 5 ELEMENTS OF EARTH, AIR, FIRE, WATER AND SPACE WHICH SUSTAINS LIFE AND CREATE EQUILIBRIUM, ANY IMBALANCE IN THIS HARMONY RESULTING IN CHAOS.

CHINESE SACRED ARCHITECTURE IS CALLED 'FENG SHUI' AND IS DERIVED FROM THE INDIAN VASTU SHASTRA TRADITION.

FENG SHUI IS BASED UPON THE WORKINGS OF MYSTERIOUS EARTH FORCES WHICH ARE CONSIDERED TO BE THE MERIDIANS OF THE GREAT EARTH MOTHER.

SOUL SHELTER 11

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THE CHI OR LIFE ENERGY WHICH FLOW ALONG THESE MERIDIANS AFFECT THE BUILDINGS AND PEOPLE IN THEIR PATH.

THESE EFFECTS LINK TO CHINESE MEDICINE WHICH IS BASED UPON THE INTERPLAY AND BALANCE BETWEEN THE TWELVE ENERGY CHANNELS OR ACUPUNCTURE MERIDIANS WHICH CARRY VITAL CH'I ENERGY THROUGHOUT THE BODY.

THESE ENERGY CHANNELS CONTAINS DYNAMICALLY BALANCED YIN AND YANG ENERGIES WHICH PROMOTE HEALTH AND GOOD FORTUNE.

THE ESSENCE OF CHINESE PHILOSOPHY AS MANIFEST IN THE I CHING IS THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN THESE TWO OPPOSITE ENERGIES, ARCHITECTURE BEING A POPULAR AND NECESSARY GROUND FOR THEIR INTERACTION.

THE EUROPEAN TRADITION OF SACRED ARCHITECTURE OR SACRED GEOMETRY BEGAN WITH THE EGYPTIANS, THOUGH BUILDINGS SUCH AS THOSE LOCATED AT CARROWKEEL IN COUNTY SLIGO AND NEWGRANGE PRECEDED THEM AND FEATURED ELEMENTS SIMILAR TO THOSE FOUND IN THE ORIENTAL TRADITION.

GEOMETRY MEANS 'MEASURE OF THE EARTH' AND IN EGYPT THIS PRACTICE WAS LINKED TO THE NILE FLOODS, TO THE AGRICULTURE WHICH DEPENDED ON THESE AND TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TERRITORY AND WITH THE LAND BOUNDARIES WHICH DELINEATED THESE.

SUCH MEASUREMENTS WERE ABOUT SPATIAL ORDER AND THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE TEMPORAL MOVEMENTS OF THE HEAVENS AND SPATIAL ORDER ON EARTH.

THE ORIGIN OF EGYPTIAN SACRED ARCHITECTURE IS LINKED TO THE FIRST KNOWN ARCHITECT, IMHOTEP WHO WAS ALSO A SKILLED HEALER WHO AFTER HIS DEATH WAS DEIFIED AS THE GOD OF MEDICINE.

SOUL SHELTER 12

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THE EGYPTIANS BELIEVED THAT THE TEMPLE WAS IN MAN AS WELL AS OF MAN. THIS BELIEF THAT THE TEMPLE COULD BE BOTH A REFLECTION OF THE PERFECT ORDER OF THE COSMOS AND ALSO SYMBOLIC OF THE INDIVIDUAL WAS A CONSTANT THEME IN ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE IN ANCIENT EGYPT AS WAS THE BELIEF THAT SPACE WAS FEMININE AND THAT THE PHYSICAL ASPECTS OF BUILDINGS REPRESENTED THE RATIONAL MALE PRINCIPLE.

THE GREEK EVOKATION OF SACRED ARCHITECTURE WAS INSPIRED BY THE EGYPTIAN TRADITION AND PARTICULARLY FEATURED THE PRINCIPLE OF THE GOLDEN MEAN, THE MATHEMATICAL EVOCATION OF DYNAMIC OPPOSITION.

GREEK SACRED ARCHITECTURE WAS ALSO LINKED TO THE ART OF HEALING, THE TEMPLE AT EPIDAUROS IN THE PELOPENSESE CONTAINING A HOSPITAL AND A THEATRE WHERE DRAMAS WERE ENACTED AS A MEANS OF PROMOTING CATHARSIS, OR EMOTIONAL RELEASE.

ALL OF THESE EARLY ARCHITECTURAL TRADITIONS WERE CHARACTERISED BY SECRECY, WERE CONTROLLED BY MEN AND FEATURED THEMES RELATING TO SPACE, TIME, LIGHT, WELLBEING, SOUL, LIFE AND DEATH.

THE VALUES EMBODIED IN THIS ARCHITECTURE WAS CONSIDERED TO REPRESENT THE VALUES OF THE STATE AND OF SOCIETY IN GENERAL AND WAS DESIGNED TO INSPIRE AWE AND TO REDUCE THE STATUS OF THE INDIVIDUAL TO A SUPPORT ROLE WHICH MIGHT LITERALLY INVOLVE A LIFE OF SERVITUDE AS SUCH MONUMENTS AS THE GREAT PYRAMIDS WERE CONSTRUCTED.

THE SUCCESSION OF THESE SACRED ARCHITECTURE TRADITIONS WAS CARRIED ON IN EUROPE BY THE GUILD OF STONEMASONS PARTICULARLY IN THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE GOTHIC CATHEDRALS WHICH FEATURED SIMILAR THEMES.

IT WAS ONLY IN THE LATE 18TH CENTURY THAT THESE CLASSICALLY DERIVED PRACTICES WERE SUPERCEDED BY A MORE RATIONAL APPROACH TO THE PRACTICE OF ARCHITECTURE.

SOUL SHELTER 13

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THIS USHERED IN WHAT WAS TO BECOME KNOWN AS THE MODERN MOVEMENT WHICH WAS CHARACTERISED BY THE ELIMINATION OF ANY REFERENCE WHATSOEVER TO THE UNKNOWN PARTICULARLY TO INVISIBLE ASPECTS OF LIFE WHICH WE REFER TO AS SOUL.

THIS LEGACY OF THE AGE OF REASON SURVIVES TO THIS DAY.

IN THIS WAY THE EMBODIMENT OF SOUL WAS ELIMINATED FROM THE PRACTICE OF ARCHITECTURE, RENDERING BUILDINGS SOULESS AND DEMANDING THAT THEY BE APPRECIATED BY THE INTELLECT ALONE.

THIS IS WHY ARCHITECTURAL AWARDS ARE BESTOWED FOR HOW A BUILDING LOOKS ON THE OUTSIDE RATHER THAN HOW IT MAKES PEOPLE FEEL WHEN THEY EXPERIENCE ITS INTERIOR SPACES.

WITHIN VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE PRACTICE A CONNECTION TO SOUL WAS MAINTAINED UNTIL RECENT TIMES THROUGH THE CONTINUATION OF ANCIENT TRADITIONS HANDED DOWN ORALLY.

SUCH PRACTICES HAVE COME TO BE REGARDED AS THE EMBODIMENT OF NATIONAL CULTURES, ICONIC STATEMENT OF VALUES, TRADITIONS AND ASPIRATIONS WHICH INFORM A NOSTALGIA FOR SOME UNSPECIFIED THING WHICH HAS BEEN LOST, A NIGGLING MEMORY OF BETTER TIMES WHICH HAS TO BE SUPPRESSED BY THE FORCE OF REASON WHICH, IN THE CASE OF THE TRADITIONAL IRISH DWELLING, CITES THE SUPPOSED DAMP, CRAMPED AND INSANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE THATCHED COTTAGE AS JUSTIFICATION FOR THE SUPERIORITY OF THE MODERN DWELLING DESPITE ITS OFTEN DAMP, CRAMPED AND, FREQUENTLY, IT'S INSANITARY NATURE.

THIS EXEMPLIFICATION OF THE INDUSTRIAL-ERA HOME ALLOWS US TO VIEW THEM FOR WHAT THEY ARE - SOULESS UTILITARIAN BOXES WITHIN WHICH PEOPLE CAN PARTAKE OF FOOD, REST AND PROCREATION AND LITTLE ELSE.

SOUL SHELTER 14

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FORGED OUT OF OBEISANCE TO THE NEW GODS OF POWER AND MONEY, SUCH 'HOMES' PROVIDE NONE OF THE NATURAL CONNECTIVITY TO THE LIFE OR SOUL QUALITIES WHICH THE TRADITIONAL SHELTER AND LIFESTYLE OFFERED.

THE NEW INDUSTRIAL AGE PROMISED THAT THE DRUDGERY AND UNCERTAINTY OF THE AGRICULTURAL WAY OF LIFE WOULD BE REPLACED BY SURETY.

INSTEAD OF SPENDING TIME PRODUCING ONES OWN FOOD AND BUILDING ONES OWN HOME, PEOPLE COULD USE THE PROCEEDS FROM PAID EMPLOYMENT TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR NEEDS ON THE OPEN MARKET.

SO, TIME WAS MADE CONVERTIBLE INTO MONEY.

BY SELLING ONE'S TIME ACCESS TO THE OPEN MARKET WAS GAINED THEREBY PLACING EVERYTHING MACHINES COULD MAKE WITHIN EASY REACH.

BECAUSE TIME WAS UNDERSTOOD TO BE ETERNAL IT WAS ASSUMED THAT THE SUPPLY OF MONEY THAT SYMBOLISES TIME WAS ALSO ETERNAL.

IT IS THIS ILLUSION WHICH LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR THE ABSURDITIY THAT IS ENDLESS ECONOMIC GROWTH.

BECAUSE TIME IS ALL THAT A PERSON COMES INTO THE WORLD WITH - THEIR 'LIFETIME' - AND BECAUSE OF THE DEEP CONNECTIONS BETWEEN TIME, SPACE AND SOUL, THE COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION OF PEOPLE'S TIME HAS BEEN DESTRUCTIVE TO PEOPLE AND PLANET ALIKE, DRAINING THE WORLD OF VITALITY AND SOUL, MAKING WAY FOR EXPENSIVE IMITATIONS WHICH ARE PASSED OFF AS 'REAL LIFE'.

EFFECTIVELY WHAT HAS HAPPENED IS THAT PEOPLE HAVE SOLD THEIR TIME AND THE SPACE THAT IS CONJUNCT WITH IT FOR AN EMPTY PROMISE.

THE MACHINE AGE IN WHICH WE NOW LIVE IS UNIDIMENSIONAL, BASED ENTIRELY ON THE APPLICATION OF LOGIC, REASON AND THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD WHICH DENIES THE EXISTENCE OF THE INVISIBLE REALMS OF LIFE.

SOUL SHELTER 15

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BECAUSE MACHINES ARE INANIMATE, SOULLESS, TIRELESS AND WITHOUT EMOTION, THE PREVALENCE OF MACHINES IN HUMAN LIFE HAS RESULTED IN A DULLING OF THE EMOTIONS AND A DISTANCING FROM SOUL AND FROM NATURAL RHYTHMS, REMOVING PEOPLE FROM A SENSE OF WHO THEY ARE AND WHERE THEY WERE GOING.

LACKING THE DYNAMIC OPPOSITION OF SOUL THE IMBALANCE WHICH EMERGES FROM THIS DEIFICATION OF THE MATERIAL REALM RELIES ON THE ENERGIES EXPROPRIATED FROM THE EARTH TO GENERATE FORWARD MOTION, OR, PROGRESS AS IT IS OFTENTIMES CALLED.

WHILE DOMESTIC-SCALE FOOD PRODUCTION DID NOT ENTIRELY CEASE AS A RESULT OF THE NEW WAY OF LIFE USHERED IN BY THE INDUSTRIAL AGE, THE PRACTICE OF BUILDING ONES OWN HOME DID.

BECAUSE VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE TRADITIONS WERE ORAL AND PERPETUATED BY PRACTICAL EXAMPLE WHEN THIS ACTIVITY CEASED VITAL SHELTERMaking KNOWLEDGE WAS FORGOTTEN.

IN THIS NEW WORLD SHELTERMaking ACTIVITY BECAME THE RESPONSIBILITY OF A BUILDING 'INDUSTRY' CONTROLLED BY SELF-INTERESTED THIRD PARTIES MOTIVATED BY PROFIT, THE HEGEMONY OF THE ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSION ENSURING THAT SOULESSNESS IN ARCHITECTURE REPRESENTED THE PINNACLE OF ARTISTIC SKILL.

IN THIS WAY BUILDINGS AND PARTICULARLY DWELLINGS WERE COMMODIFIED AND TURNED INTO YET MORE PRODUCTS OF THE MACHINE AGE.

ACQUIRING A HOME IN THIS NEW WORLD INVOLVED ENGAGEMENT WITH LENDING INSTITUTIONS LOCKING PEOPLE INTO A CYCLE OF WORK AND CREDIT OBLIGATIONS IN ORDER TO SURVIVE.

AS A CONSEQUENCE, CULTURE AND IDENTITY, WHICH SPONTANEOUSLY EMERGE FROM THE TRADITIONAL FOOD AND SHELTERMaking CYCLES OF

SOUL SHELTER 16

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ACTIVITY, WERE REPLACED BY IDEALISATIONS EXCLUSIVELY AVAILABLE THROUGH THE NEW MATRIX OF SURVIVAL ACTIVITY - THE MARKET ECONOMY.

HOWEVER, AS HAS BEEN AMPLY DEMONSTRATED IN THE PAST TWO HUNDRED YEARS, THE DISCONNECTION FROM THE NATURAL WORLD AND FROM QUALITIES OF SOUL WHICH RESULTS CAN HAVE THE EFFECT OF STARVING PEOPLE OF THE STIMULUS WHICH A LIFE LIVED CLOSER TO NATURE DELIVERS.

WHILE IT IS PERHAPS UNDERSTANDABLE, EVEN NECESSARY, THAT THE WORLD CHANGED IN THIS WAY, NO ONE REALISED THAT THE CONFLAGRATION OF THE PAST WOULD CONSUME A SENSE OF WHO WE WERE BEFORE WE HAD QUITE FIGURED OUT WHO WE HAD BECOME.

THIS MODERN WORLD DEVALUED SOUL AND ALONG WITH IT THE INSTINCTS AND EMOTIONS WHICH ALLOWED PEOPLE TO INTERPRET IT.

THIS DISCREDITATION OF THE HEART AS AN ESSENTIAL AND INNATE INTERPRETATION TOOL PLACED UNDUE EMPHASIS ON MATERIAL VALUES THEREBY DEFINING SHELTER AS A PURELY MATERIAL PHENOMENON.

WITH THE ABSENCE OF SOUL THERE WAS NOTHING TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY OPPOSITION TO THIS MATERIALITY THEREBY CREATING NOT ONLY AN IMBALANCE BUT ALSO A CESSION OF THE GENERATION OF CHI OR LIFE ENERGY FROM THE ARCHITECTURE ITSELF.

THIS DEADENING OF ARCHITECTURE IS NOW SO COMMON THAT PEOPLE ARE FORCED TO LOOK ELSEWHERE FOR THE STIMULATION AND MEANING THAT SOUL CRAVES, THEREBY FALLING INTO THE CLUTCHES OF THE MARKET WHICH CREATES ILLUSIONS AND MOUTHS PROMISES THAT LURE THE UNWARY INTO A FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY AND FEEDS ON PEOPLE'S DESIRES TO MAINTAIN THEIR ALIVENESS AT ANY COST IN THE HOPE THAT THEY MIGHT DISCOVER SOUL AND ACHIEVE WHOLENESS.

WHILE THIS IS GENERALLY REALISED AND EXPRESSED IN SUCH PHRASES AS 'I'M WORKING FULLTIME SO I HAVE NO TIME' OR, 'I HAVE A MORTGAGE' MEANING, 'I

SOUL SHELTER 17

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HAVE TO KEEP MY NOSE TO THE GRINDSTONE OR MY SPACE WILL BE REPOSESSED BY THE BANK'.

HOW TO ESCAPE THIS TYRANNY IS THE REAL QUESTION.

BE ASSURED HOWEVER THAT ALL IS NOT LOST.

SOUL STILL SPEAKS TO US PARTICULARLY THROUGH DREAMS.

DREAMING IMPELS US TO PURSUE OUR OWN DISTINCTIVENESS, WHICH AS KARL JUNG PROPOSED, IS A PROCESS OF 'INDIVIDUATION' A 'CIRCUMAMBULATION OF THE SELF' AS WE SEEK TO DISCOVER THE 'MATERNAL WOMB' AS HE DESCRIBED IT.

JUNG BELIEVED THAT OUR LIVES COULD BE UNDERSTOOD AS A 'PROCESS OF BECOMING WHAT WAS INTENDED FROM THE BEGINNING' IF WE PAID ATTENTION TO OUR DREAMS.

HE HIMSELF USED ARCHITECTURE AS A MEANS OF ACCESSING HIS INNER WORLD - BY PLAYING HOUSE AND DESIGNING AND CONSTRUCTING HIS OWN HOME.

A CLEAR LINK CAN BE DETECTED HERE BETWEEN EXPLORING ONES 'INNER WORLD' , THE CREATING OF ONE'S 'DREAM HOME' AND RECONNECTING WITH SOUL.

AT THE HEART OF THIS IDEA OF IS THE NOTION OF A SPACE WHERE ONE CAN TRULY BE ONESELF. THIS ALLOWS US TO THINK OF SHELTERMAKING AS A NUTRIENT FOR OUR SELF-DEVELOPMENT - A PLACE INTO WHICH WE CAN LITERALLY PLANT OUR SELVES SO THAT WE MIGHT GROW INTO SELFHOOD.

THIS SEARCH FOR DEEPER MEANING IS A PROCESS THAT STIMULATES STRONG EMOTIONS WHICH HAS THE POTENTIAL TO REUNITE THE SEPARATED STRANDS OF OUR INNER AND OUTER WORLDS ALLOWING US TO RECONNECT WITH SOUL.

SOUL SHELTER 18

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SUCH AN ARCHITECTURE EMERGES FROM THE LIVES PEOPLE HAVE TO LIVE, A PROCESS OF MERGING 'INNER' QUALITIES WITH THOSE OF THE 'OUTER' WORLD TO FORM A 'LIVING' ARCHITECTURE WHICH CAN CONTRIBUTE TO AND COMPLIMENT A 'SUSTAINABLE' CULTURE FOUNDED ON A DEEP COMMITMENT TO LIFE AND TO SOUL.

UNDERSTANDING THE PUZZLE OF OUR SELVES AND OF MODERN LIFE IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF REPOSSESSING THIS SHELTERMAKING PROCESS - IDENTIFYING WHO WE ARE, WHERE WE ARE GOING AND HOW WE PLAN TO GET THERE.

THIS BEGINS BY ACKNOWLEDGING THE SOUL QUALITIES OF LIFE AS EXPERIENCED WITHIN OURSELVES THAT ARE SO CRITICAL TO THE PROCESS OF HARMONISATION WITH NATURE.

THESE ARE INVISIBLE AND MYSTERIOUS, RESIDING WITHIN OUR DEEPER SELVES.

WHEN WE ARTICULATE OUR DESIRES ABOUT HOW WE WISH TO LIVE - OR, TO PUT IT ANOTHER WAY, HOW WE WISH TO SPEND OUR TIME - IT STIMULATES THESE PARTS OF OURSELVES THAT LONG FOR A DEEPER CONNECTION TO LIFE AND SOUL.

SUCH A PERSPECTIVE INVITES US TO RECLAIM OUR TIME AND OUR SPACE, TO ALTER OUR CONSCIOUSNESS AND OUR ENTIRE WAY OF LIFE AS WE EMBARK ON A PROCESS OF RENEWAL, THE FORGING OF A NEW CULTURAL PARADIGM.

WHERE THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT IS DOMINATED BY THE VERY FORCES WHICH DENY SOUL NEW WAYS HAVE TO BE FOUND TO RECAPTURE THE SHELTERMAKING PROCESS WHICH OFFERS ACCESS TO SOUL.

OPPORTUNITIES TO DO THIS EXIST WITHIN PLANNING LAW.

EXEMPTED DEVELOPMENT FACILITATES THE CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS UP TO 25SQM IN SIZE AND 4M IN HEIGHT IN THE BACK GARDENS OF EXISTING PROPERTIES EXEMPT FROM THE NEED TO APPLY FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

SOUL SHELTER 19

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ALLOWING ONE TO SIMPLY DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT SUCH BUILDINGS FREE OF REGULATORY CONTROL.

IN THIS WAY PEOPLE CAN RE-ENGAGE WITH THE PRACTICE OF ARCHITECTURE, OR SHELTERMAKING AS I LIKE TO CALL IT, THEREBY ACCESSING THE INVISIBLE REALM WHERE SOUL RESIDES.

THE EXPERIENCE OF DOING THIS IS LITERALLY LIFE-CHANGING.

NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE OF DESIGN OR CONSTRUCTION IS NEEDED TO ACHIEVE SUCH LIBERATION.

THE COMPLICATIONS NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH BUILDING DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION HAVE MORE TO DO WITH LIFE AND SOUL RATHER THAN WITH BUILDING ITSELF.

THIS ARISES BECAUSE SOUL IS ALWAYS TRYING TO GET IN ON THE ACT.

IF WE LISTEN TO SUCH DEMANDS THE WAY LIES OPEN FOR US TO MAKE OURSELVES WHOLE IN OUR OWN IMAGE EXPERIENCING THE JOY OF OUR ALIVENESS.

SUCH EXPERIENCES SPEAK TO US AND LEND DIRECTION TO OUR LIVES CARRYING US FORWARD TOWARDS FULFILLMENT AND THE REWARD OF THE LIVES WE HAVE TO LIVE.

THE PROCESS OF CREATING SUCH SOUL SHELTER DEMANDS THAT WE REGARD BUILDINGS IN AN ENTIRELY NEW WAY.

RATHER THAN THINKING OF BUILDINGS AS 'THINGS' WE MUST REGARD THEM AS EXPERIENCES.

IT IS WHAT HAPPENS INSIDE BUILDINGS THAT MATTERS, LITERALLY HOW WE SPEND OUR TIME, OR TO PUT IT ANOTHER WAY, HOW WE ACCOMMODATE SOUL WITHIN OUR LIVES.

SOUL SHELTER 20

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A GOOD ANALOGY FOR THIS IS OUR OWN BODIES AND SOULS. THE ENCRUSTATION THAT IS FLESH AND EGO AND EVEN SELF, IS MERELY THE PROTECTIVE AND DISPOSABLE WRAPPING THAT FACILITATES SOUL IN IT'S JOURNEYING, PROVIDING THE NECESSARY OPPOSING DYNAMIC TO GENERATE ENERGY FOR THE JOURNEY OF LIFE.

IF THIS OUTER WRAPPING IS MISTAKEN FOR SUBSTANCE WE MERELY IMITATE THE UNIDIMENSIONAL WORLD THAT SURROUNDS US.

SO, THE SHELTERMAKER'S JOURNEY BEGINS NOT WITH THE VISIBLE WRAPPING BUT BY ARTICULATING THE INVISIBLE INTERIOR SUBSTANCE WHICH IS SOUL.

THIS REFLECTS OUR OWN EMBODIMENT, THE CONJUNCTION OF THE OPPOSITES OF MALE AND FEMALE WITHIN THE FERTILISED SEED AND THE FORMATIVE PROCESS OF DIVISION THAT ARTICULATES THE EVOLUTIONARY JOURNEY FROM SIMPLE UNICELLULAR BEGINNINGS TO COMPLEX AND SELF-AWARE LIFEFORMS WHICH WE LIVE OUT WITHIN THE WOMB, THE COMMON ARCHITECTURE WHICH WE ALL SHARE.

SO THE SHELTERMAKER'S JOURNEY PROGRESSES, NOT IN A LINEAR WAY, BUT IN SPIRALLING FASHION, REFLECTING THE MOVEMENT OF ALL ENERGY AND MATTER WITHIN THE UNIVERSE.

IT IS FROM SUCH AWARENESS, FROM OUR CONSCIOUSNESS OF OUR ALIVENESS, FROM THE PROMPTINGS OF INVISIBLE SOUL THAT WE STRIVE TO RECREATE THE SAFE PLACE WITHIN OUR MOTHERS THAT WE REMEMBER SO FONDLY.

THIS ARTICULATION OF SOUL CAN BE MADE BY A SIMPLE DESCRIPTION OF HOW WE WISH TO SPEND OUR TIME AND THE SPACE WE NEED TO SPEND THIS TIME IN.

SOUL GUIDES US UNERRINGLY ON THIS JOURNEY, PARTICULARLY WHEN WE MOVE TO CREATE A WRAPPING TO PROTECT OUR SELVES AS WE JOURNEY, INFORMING THE SELECTION OF PLACE, MATERIALS, SCALE, COLOUR, FORM AND DIRECTION.

SOUL SHELTER 21

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SO, WE COME TO KNOW OURSELVES AND THE NATURE OF THE LIVES WE HAVE TO LIVE, A KNOWING THAT EMERGES NOT WHEN THE SOUL SHELTER IS 'FINISHED' AS IT WERE BUT WHEN IT BEGINS ON THE BLANK PAGE, REPRESENTING AS THIS DOES, THE VERY NATURE OF SOUL'S INVISIBILITY.

SO WE CAN EXPERIENCE SHELTERMAKING AS THE LIVING OF OUR LIVES.

SO WE CAN EXPERIENCE SOUL AS THE UNFOLDING OF THE MYSTERIES OF THE UNIVERSE.

SO WE CAN INFORM OUR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT OUR LIVES ARE ALL ABOUT.

SO WE CAN BE THE MYSTERY, SURFING THE WAVES GENERATED FROM THE INTERACTION OF VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE, OF MATTER AND ENERGY OF BODY AND SOUL.

WE ARE ALL NATURAL ARCHITECTS A FACT WE FREELY ACT OUT AS CHILDREN BEFORE THE TYRANNY OF EDUCATION CONDITIONS US TO SIT STILL AND ASSUME THE UNIFORM OF COMPLIANCE PRETENDING THAT WE ARE ALL THE SAME.

THE KEY THEREFORE TO RE-ENGAGING WITH THE ARCHITECT INSIDE OURSELVES IS TO ACCEPT THIS NATURAL FACILITY WE HAVE BEEN ALL GRACED WITH AND TO BE ASSURED THAT IT IS THE VOICE OF SOUL WHICH ENCOURAGES WHEN WE EMBARK ON THE SHELTERMAKER'S JOURNEY.