2.1.6 - Form-Giving

AIR Grid was found to be irreducible to the Miesian architecture out of which it arose; but that did not mean there was nothing more to learn about AIR Grid from Mies. In the early AIR Grid work Miesian architecture served as a model and in those first structures the Miesian subject was considered to be an urban artifact, a building set within the space of a city. With the move away from the Miesian model towards generic AIR Grid the implied urban scale of the Miesian model disappeared. If AIR Grid did not represent anything, but simply was what it was then the scale of operation had shifted to one-to-one. The AIR Grid structure dealt in groups of centimetres ranging from fifteen to one-hundred-and-twenty. Returning these dimensions to Miesian architecture we are in the realm of paving slabs, of ceiling tiles, of wall panels.

In the analysis of the New National Gallery, set out in the second section of the first part of this thesis, Miesian Architecture & Lefebvrian Space, the smallest increment of form-giving was identified as thirty centimetres. This increment is the off-set dimension relating the grid lines of the top surface of the floor-slab to the grid lines of the suspended ceiling below. However, what was not mentioned in that analysis is the lighting grid that sits below the roof-plate-grid. It divides the three-point-six metre module of the roof-plate-grid into ten equal increments, each of which is thirty-six centimetres. The common denominator of thirty and thirty-six is six. Six-by-six is the smallest increment necessary for the horizontal divisibility of the NNG form-giving. Now, as we have seen, in the vertical dimension there is a difference between the rhythm of spatial striations above the surface of the floor-slab and the rhythm below. Between the underside of the roof-plate-grid and the top surface of the floor-slab there are nine striations of space, while between the underside of the basement-ceiling-grid and the datum of the basement floor there are six striations of space. The common denominator of nine and six is three. The sum of nine and six is fifteen. Extrusion of six-by-six through fifteen generates a volume measuring six-by-six-by-fifteen. This measure is taken to be the basic unit of an AIR Grid family of proportioned structures.

FORM-GIVING: SUSPENDED GRID, pencil & paper   FORM-GIVING: LIGHTING GRID, card & cotton

FORM-GIVING: MAINTENANCE, digital photography   FORM-GIVING: MATERIAL MODULE, digital photography

FORM-GIVING, electronic model, view 01

FORM-GIVING, electronic model, view 02

FORM-GIVING, electronic model, view 03

FORM-GIVING, electronic model, view 04

FORM-GIVING, electronic model, view 05 - 08

FORM-GIVING, electronic model, view 09 - 12

FORM-GIVING, electronic model, order@ A'

FORM-GIVING, electronic model, order@ A''