

# MEETING PLACES IN A HERTZBERGER BUILDING

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## Introduction

This poster contains a comparison of two buildings, made by Herman Hertzberger. The goal of this poster is to understand the ideas the architect had during the design process and how these operate in his buildings. Since he makes a 'city in a building', we chose to analyze two buildings on the theme "meeting places in a Hertzberger building". These are one of his first buildings, the Centraal Beheer headquarters in Apeldoorn (1972) and the later Montessori College Oost (MCO) in Amsterdam (2000). Centraal Beheer is an office building, built with the purpose of eliminating hierarchy and getting as much transparency as possible. It is located at the side of the city, because the new train station was planned nearby, but that never happened. The MCO is a high school for vMBO, getting ready for the work floor with practical and theoretical classes. It is in the middle of a residential neighbourhood, not far from the Muiderpoort railway station.

## About the Architect

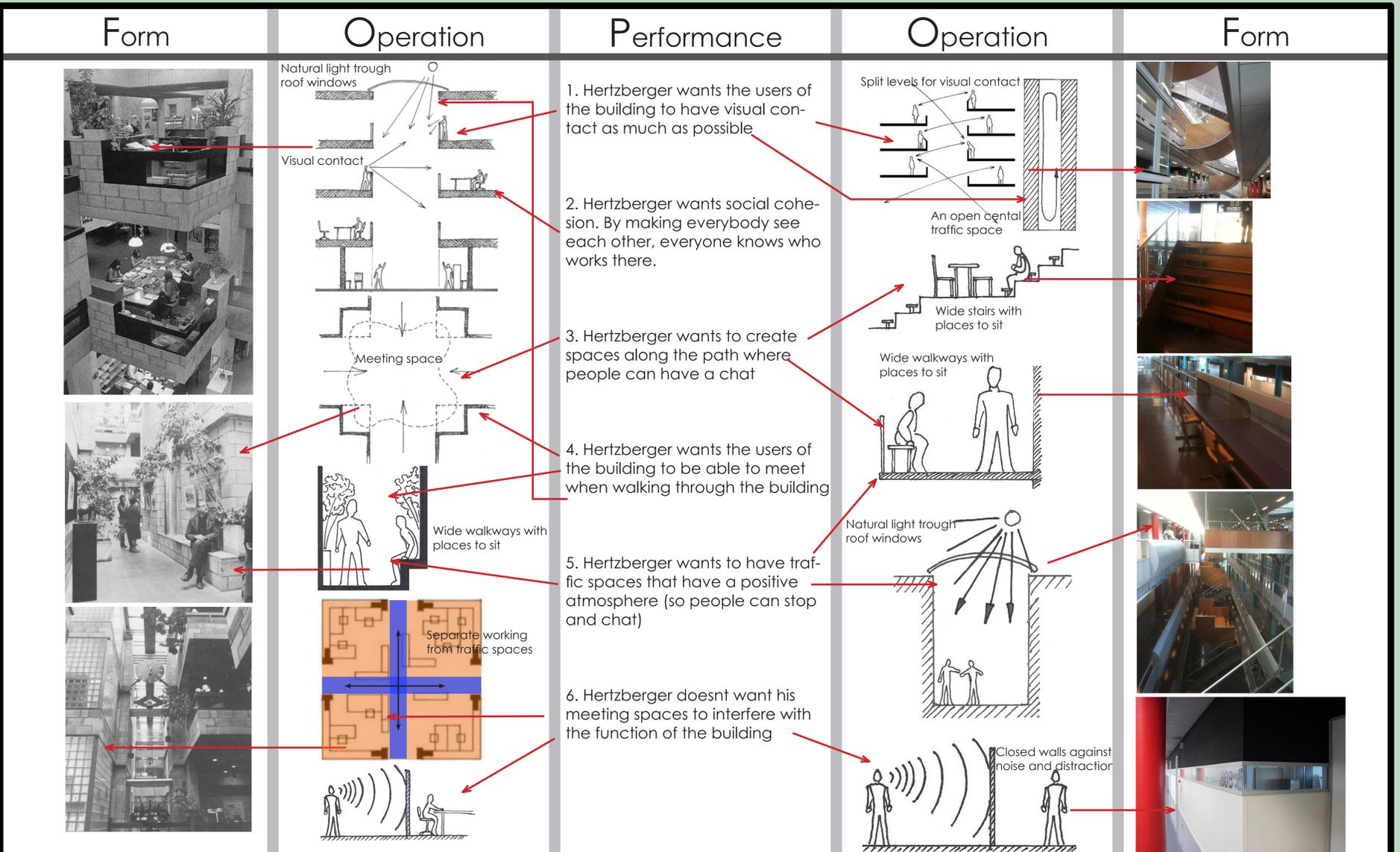
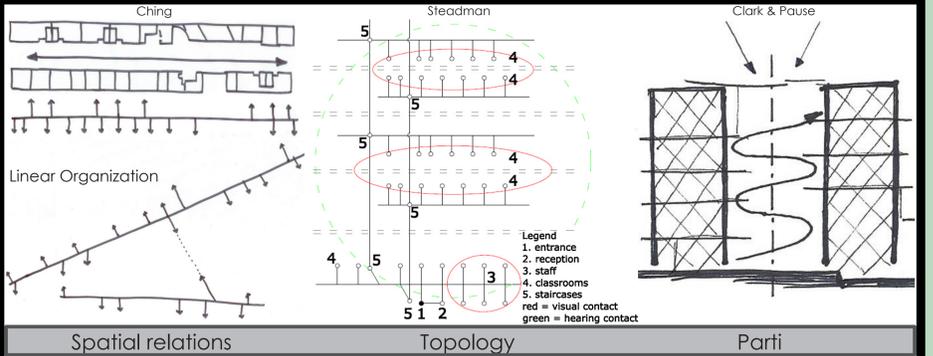
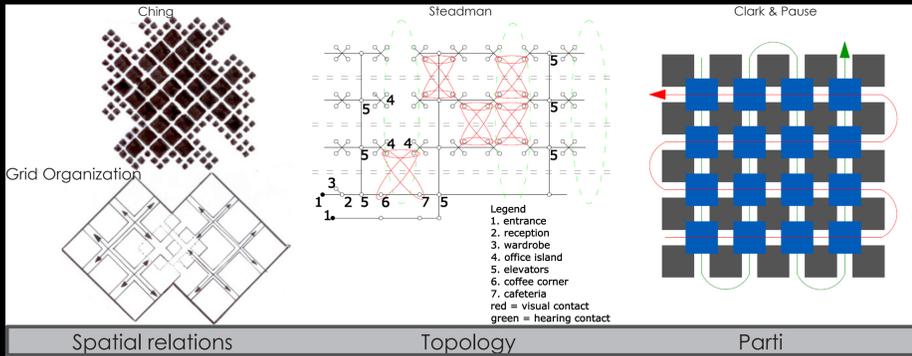
Herman Hertzberger was born in Amsterdam 1932. After completing his studies at the TU Delft in 1958, he states that the reconstruction after the second World War is functionalistic, not making good nor beautiful buildings. He adheres to a philosophy of human relations, 'human measure and human scale'. He always tries to stimulate meetings inside his buildings, which is called structuralism. Hertzberger has successfully applied his theory to a range of different building types, including houses, schools, theaters and offices.



## Centraal Beheer-1972



## Montessori School Oost-2000



## CONCLUSION

The two buildings analyzed on meeting places, attain Hertzberger's goals. There is a choice between meeting and seclusion, being in the open or hidden. It even gives the sense of a city within a building. The meeting places are always present in Hertzberger's building, but they changed overtime. In the MCO, the visual contact is reinforced by making split levels and one huge atrium. The place of the physical meeting has changed from ground floor or atrium in Centraal Beheer to the stairs connecting the atrium in MCO, making those places more lively. The angular, constructivist materialization is released for more free, fluid lines and more attention to the finish. In the end, we believe that Hertzberger's buildings are put together in an interesting spatial fashion which encourage meetings.

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HERMAN HERTZBERGER