ENDLESS HOUSE
FREDERICK KIESLER

Case Study by
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TYPE

The Endless House is seen by some critics as well ahead of it’s time, becoming influential and relevant only in the last 10 or 20 years despite being the final work (or self-proclaimed singular problem) of a man who died in 1965. Within the strict classification of type-form this infinite surface is hybrid of biomorphic and modernist tendencies. Inspired by the human body the architect searches for the boundary between man and architecture object and seems to find none. However the ground plane is severed from the home, which may indicate a boundary for him, in interview he is quoted as saying that the building could float in air, water, sit in desert sand or stand on pilotis.

FUNCTION

Kiesler’s endless form was a reaction to the modern style popular during his time. Distinct from the function understood by modern style Kiesler insisted his work was more sensual, like a woman’s body, unlike the bare bones of International Style. He saw architecture as a body with systems and organs, an extension of the endless human body. His studies of correlations, and interest in the psyche and the body(l’Esprit Nouveau)$^3$ show how broad his definition of function was, compared to the efficiency and health model of the modern style.

PROCESS

The creative process for kiesler was lifelong, he did not see the endless house as one problem, but the problem he had always worked on. A belief that humans and nature were not seperate guided his work.$^1$ Study sketches which were essentially scribbles (including the one pictured on page 1) were the basis of the form, these uninhibited and curvilinear shapes were not formed by the conscious mind.
This diagram, drawn by Kiesler, conveys the quality of light he sought to offer inhabitants with his prism system, in his view a shift in the colour spectrum was much more appropriate way to tell time than being a slave to the mechanical clock. The images below are also drawn by Kiesler, these demonstrate the difference between organic cellular growth and manufactured construction.⁴
Bibliography


