

Task 4. CONCEPT

Titel: Structure

Keywords: orders, descriptions, principles

Quote: 'Of Orders above Orders.' (Titel of Chapter in p.51 to p.56)

The book 'A Treatise on Civil Architecture' by William Chambers not only contains descriptive texts and drawings of the different orders, but the architecture of the book is also based on fundamental principles that appear throughout the book, therefore allowing to structure the book in a certain order.

As mentioned before the book contains informational texts as well as drawings. Within one chapter they are structured such, that the title opens up the chapter, then the text provides more in-depth information about the topic and lastly the drawings give a visual insight about the topic. Each chapter is dedicated to a certain element of a building.

Although, some chapters do have drawings throughout the chapter not only at the end of it, the drawings never interrupt a text and are always given enough space on a separate page. However, the drawings do contain little texts, but because the author uses another font than that of the textual descriptions it does not bother the structure of the chapter nor the drawings.

To perhaps emphasize the structure of the book Chambers places at the end of it again drawings. Just as he composes his chapters with texts and drawings, he then goes further to use the same structure on a larger scale: he opens his book with a title, then follow the descriptions either in the form of a text or a visualization of an element of a building, then at the end he visualizes all that is described throughout the book by bringing examples of how the different elements could be combined to make a building based on principles and orders.

It is interesting how much attention the author pays to the orders, not only because it is one of the main topics of his book, but also because he structures his book such that even the topic of orders itself is placed in the middle of the book. The quote 'Of Orders above Orders.' refers to the title of the chapter, where he thematizes the combination of different architectural orders. This chapter being based in the middle of the book puts the topic of the orders at the center of attention.

In conclusion I can tell that structure is a very important concept of the book that the author uses to emphasize the topic of the book, which is the principles and orders of architecture. Structure being so precious to him, he composed his book by following certain principles and thus creating an order for the architecture of the book.