

## Origin of the concept of “The Void” in Christopher Alexander's thought

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Submitted:

2019-07-15

Accepted:

2020-02-01

### Abstract

“The void” is a broad concept and is present in various fields, from mysticism, philosophy and metaphysics to sciences such as physics, material science, astronomy, as well as sciences and arts like calligraphy, music and architecture. In the area of architecture and among the scholars, Christopher Alexander has paid special attention to this concept and made it a point. He has always tried to develop a thought in which human returns to his worthy architecture. He writes of the mechanical worldview of architects to matter and the universe, and believes that in the mechanical sense of matter, architecture cannot be deserved, so there is a need to review the deep layers of the minds of architects and their view of the universe. He selects a way of speech, which, at the same time seemingly simple, requires understanding some of the concepts used. These concepts are the key to entering the deep layers of Alexander's thought, and we cannot seek that thought, but through the understanding of their concepts and their origins. One of these concepts, are the void. The analysis of the context of his comments shows that the void is present in this context, in the form of three related concepts, which are directly (The Great Void and The Void), or indirectly (The Voidness) have been paid attention to them. These concepts can be represented by thinking about their themes and their features in two parts: non-physical (The Great Void and The Voidness) and physical (The Void). According the breadth and depth of these concepts and to fully understand them in the thought of Alexander, This article tries to identify the origin and home of these concepts. The main purpose of this paper is to clarify the source of this idea by identifying the origin of Alexander's thinking about the concept, and to determine which areas are the basis for explaining the concept of the borrower, and how those fields are related to different layers of the concept in his thought. For this purpose, three domains of religions, mysticism, science and art and architecture, which he has the most references to them, are examined. The results of this research show that the origin of Alexander's thinking about The Void, due to Alexander's references and common characteristics, is more than anything else in the field of religions and mysticism in the East, and also in the field of science, in particular, new physics. Meanwhile, the dominate of religions and mysticism is furthermore on his thesis about The Void, and forms the essence of this concept, while the findings of new physics gives scientific and experimental aspect to his ideas about this concept. Since these two domains make up the two systems of thought for understanding the truth of the universe and, therefore, share the same, we can say that the origin of the teh void concept in Alexander's thought is from the common point of the two domains, discovery of the truth of the universe, go over these two convergent intellectual systems, and develops by him. Indeed, Alexander uses these two domains explain this concept, which is a complex concept with a variety of metaphysical and physical meanings, so that all the dimensions and aspects of that concept are taken into account, but what ultimately offer is not fully metaphysical And not entirely physical, but is a Nutritional and conjunction thought of Eastern religions and mysticism, and new physics, which expanded by Alexander as an architect.

**Keyword:** The Void, The Great Void, Voidness, Christopher Alexander, Architecture.

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