Designing tribunal spaces

How can architecture contribute to effective communication?

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Landsgericht und Amtsgerich, Dusseldorf
Architect: Andreas Reichau
Overview

• My background
• Strengths and challenges for tribunals
• Messages conveyed by design of tribunal spaces
• How can design contribute to better tribunal processes?
Strengths of tribunals

- Cheap and accessible access to justice
- Dynamic and Innovative
- Variation across country – natural experiment
- Flexible people and spaces

Palais de Justice, Pontoise
Henri Ciriani
Special challenges for tribunals

- Diversity of hearings
- Diverse spaces
- Diverse technologies
- Diverse populations

Watercolour
John Hockings
From 2005 Court architecture tour
Diversity of hearings

- Nature of hearing
- Complexity of issues
- Intensity of emotions
- Expectations
- Role of government
Diverse spaces

Grouped Rooms: Dual Access
Different Configurations
Ability to open up
Diane Jones, PTW Architects
Diverse populations

Tonga
A tapa cloth presented to the Manukau Family Court by a staff member
Source: Jan Doogue, Chief Judge, District Court of NZ
Diverse technologies

- Logistics of accessing up-to-date files
- Cluttered rooms
- Providing speedy decisions
- Tribunal in a box

ICTY courtroom, The Hague
Photograph: Alan Wilson
Communicating messages

• Authority
• Cultural inclusion
• Serenity
• Dignity

Port Augusta Courthouse
Denis Harrison, DAIS
Communicating authority in low symbolism environment

Collingwood Neighbourhood Justice Centre
Lyons

Photography: Graham Brawn
Communicating cultural inclusion

New Port Augusta Courthouse - Denis Harrison of DAIS

Photography by PTW Architects
Communicating serenity

Steiner Social therapy workshop,
Berlin-Brandenburg
Communicating dignity

Familiengericht, Templehof-Kreuzberg, Berlin
Architect: Oswald Mathias Ungers
Photograph: Emma Rowden
How can better design improve tribunal processes?

- Strengthen transitions
- Create ‘just distances’
- Provide relief- views
- Improve the waiting experience

Avignon, New courthouse