

THE CONSTITUTION OF BDTH

Constitutional Edition

PAPER 17

Freedom

POSITION

Freedom is frequently understood as the unrestricted ability to choose.

BDTH examines a different question.

To what extent does acquired architecture progressively organise the choices experienced as available?

Freedom therefore concerns availability before selection.

F R E E D O M

P O S S I B I L I T Y

The coherent human system ordinarily encounters multiple possibilities.

Interference progressively narrows those possibilities.

Expectation acquires authority.

Prediction increasingly appears as certainty.

The future gradually presents itself as though already determined.

R E C O G N I T I O N

Freedom is often recognised before it is explained.

Moments of reduced interference frequently reveal possibilities that previously appeared absent.

Nothing external need have changed.

Availability has.

The distinction is architectural.

F R E E D O M

C O N S T R A I N T

Constraint should not be confused with circumstance.

Circumstances frequently remain unchanged.

Architectural organisation may nevertheless alter the possibilities recognised within them.

The individual experiences greater freedom before external conditions necessarily improve.

R E S P O N S I B I L I T Y

Greater freedom enlarges responsibility.

As additional possibilities become recognisable, the architecture progressively transfers organisation from automatic anticipation towards deliberate participation.

The coherent system increasingly responds.

It reacts less.

F R E E D O M

W O R K I N G P O S I T I O N

BDTH proceeds from the working position that freedom progressively increases as unnecessary interference diminishes.

Freedom therefore represents an architectural consequence rather than an independently pursued objective.

C L O S I N G P O S I T I O N

Freedom should not be measured solely by the number of available choices.

It should also be measured by the degree to which acquired architecture determines which choices become visible.