

The Concept Diagram

Architecture

What a concept diagram has to do, and the four ways they usually fail.

Works

- One idea, one diagram
- Readable at a glance across a room
- Shows a relationship, not a shape
- Abstracts away everything else
- Predicts the plan you will draw

Fails

- Three ideas fighting for the page
- A pretty picture with no argument
- A plan traced and coloured in
- Arrows that mean nothing specific
- Invented after the design was finished

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

A concept diagram is an argument, not a decoration. It should be falsifiable by the plan.

Test it by covering the label. If a stranger cannot say what the building does, redraw it.