

Poche

Architecture

The filled cut in a plan or section, and what it tells a reader about a building.

Poche is the filling in of everything the drawing cuts through, so mass reads as mass and space reads as space at a glance.

AT 1:200
solid fill

AT 1:20
layers shown

- From the French for pocketed, or stuffed.
- Solid black at small scales, hatched at large ones.
- It shows wall thickness, which shows the structure.
- Thick poche implies masonry; thin implies a frame.
- Poche can hold servant spaces, as in Kahn's work.
- A plan without poche reads as lines, not as rooms.

LOOK FOR IT

In Beaux-Arts plans the poche was thick enough to contain stairs, flues and stores within the wall itself.

As scale increases, poche stops being a black shape and becomes the real build-up. The change happens around 1:50.