The new soft technology, soft control, soft systems are embarrassing to those who live in the print world . . . soft architecture is revealed by the plant as lecturer in experiencing biostructure . . . the plants way of coping by materially, informationally, energetically behaving in time.

Soft structures are like sponges with kleinform cells, that impinge on each other by pressing, exchanging heat chemicals, each cell is a space not a boundary. We are cells in the maero beast we call the System, we crowd, we exchange heat chemicals with our surround which loops these and many others back through our System to become a part of the uncontained portion again and this vitality is a fine structured flow of consequences intwined.
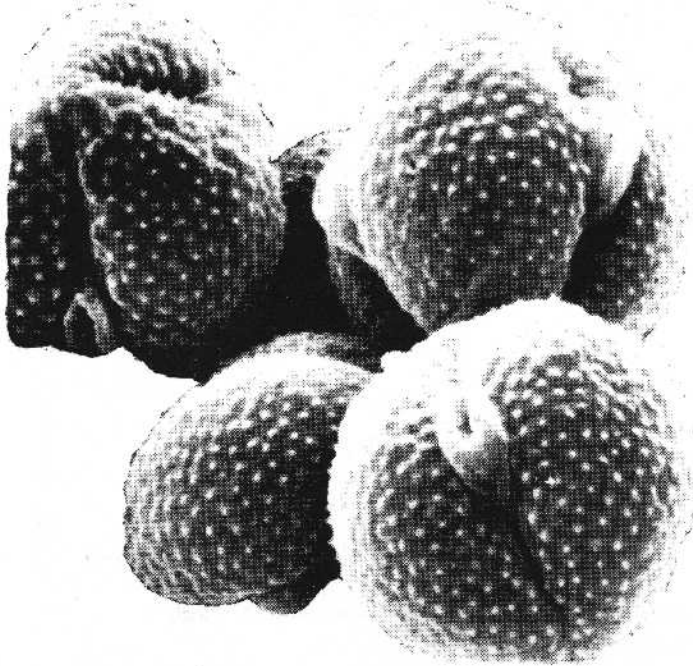
I found a new way to think of kleinforms. Remember I said there was a world of spherical cells. This is what you see when you cross section dead biological material and deny its liveliness as expressed in energetic and information flow that does not stay inside the snapshot boundary. Behaviours loop around the cell walls permeating the spaces that coalesce more densely . . . but do I mean information spaces, energy spaces, timely rythmic similarly spaces. No! Put these all into one unfragmented living way, there are no words; build it. But loops over time spiral and we're still talking linear holes and spaces are not spirals; the loop crawls out of itself extending beyond its boundary bit by bit. Oh, this sounds like nonsense. As Joe Seale put it, imagine your hand on your hip and thus forming a loop of energy, information, material and then your elbow sprouts a purple flower that grows breathing its way into the center of the loop, joining its walls to the donut (what a terrible word . . . for something so beautiful as a flower growing out of your elbow and breathing in the space your arm encloses.) A kleinform is not a cross section of a stopped click snapshot.

It flows back through itself, defining itself as it flows. A relation with Joe cannot be a snap shot. He has no energy for unshared space with unshared resources.

Each person is a clump of ecological meaning that can be known best in his way of giving meaning to what we experience as sharing.

Do Soft Structues have any value as meta tools? Yep, gets you unprogrammed, teaches you about ecology. Courteous systems cannot be mechanical, timeless, objects.

If the material is hard with hinges and joints, there can never be enough variability freedom to engage in nonlinear multiplicative activities.

Can you build a structure that in the simplest way behaves like the plant you are watching. If you try you will ask yourself questions that no descriptive biologist ever thought to ask, in your new problem.you are asking synthesizing questions not analytically fragmenting.

Consider . . .

A chair-like structure, that if you move so it rocks forward inflates a pad under the small of your back so that it is well supported, or oscillates several rythmically swelling air bags so they relax your back.

Or try telegrasp . . .

a system made of plastic foam, air which can expand/contract locally which tries to keep its movement organized in a manner relative to what's happening in its environment. Its movement may be mediated by telephone so its head is in Chicago, its tail in New York. If you massage its head, its head and tail will both react so as to try and maintain their connected organization in spite of your interference. The behavior in Chicago relates to which way you touch the lively system in New York and so the person grasping the head in N.Y. will receive information as to the style with which the tail was grasped in Chicago. Thus begins the technology of biological-like soft systems as a tool as well as a toy.

I speak of assembling a critical mass of toys made by people who are using them as a language to imitate and evolve their way of connecting softly with wind and shrubs and paramecium.

You won't understand as easily until you watch a time lapse image of a paramecium (a single celled critter) and try to build a much larger swimming thing that moves like a paramecium, whose image you can overlay on the image of the critter, now slowed or speeded as well as changed in size so you can imitate it even by overlaying an image of your own body as you try physically to dance in rythm with its dance.

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