My ideogram is based on a shoebox theatre. We are the audience, and the profiles on the lower left and along the right hand side represent some of that audience. People are there to remind us that everyone has a personal history in space, built up around our spatial intelligence. Some profiles contain key points about spatial intelligence. The curtains to the left list other human intelligences and note that our intelligence is emotionally framed, and inflected by our relationships. The right hand curtains note the evolution of our spatial intelligence over millennia, and cite WG Sebald as a writer who describes life through space. The proscenium arch notes ‘Design City Melbourne: the mental space of the city is housed in its great works of architecture…’ Drops note the search for continuums in human experience of space: domestic to professional, and the phenomenon of ‘relegation to the humdrum’ that erodes our spatial awareness in everyday life. On the stage a banner quotes Gaston Bachelard’s “Poetics of Space”: “the house holds childhood motionless in its arms”. Below this on the stage two personae watch a spatial tennis game… while in front of them a spiral of spatial engagement twirls, the first order awareness of the surveyor followed by the lawyer, then the engineer, and now the second order awareness of the architect… Each side of the stair are mnemonics for spatial analyses of spaces domestic and workaday.

Leon van Schaik

Ideogram and caption also published in Spatial Intelligence, Wiley © 2008