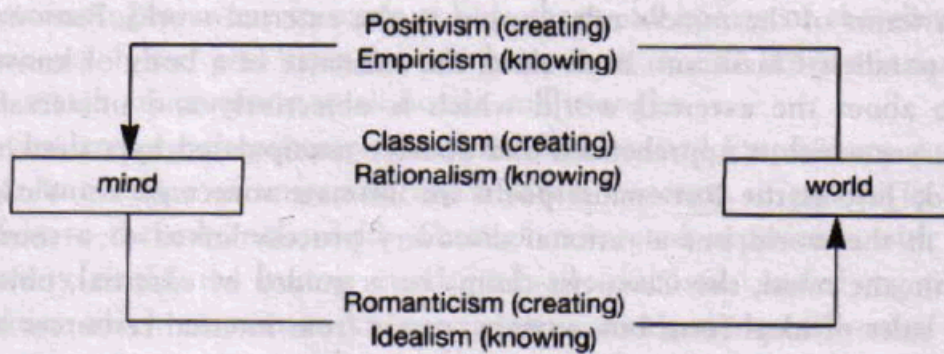


it will be seen later that its proposal remains an uneasy conflation. Eventually we will find a few theories that did reconcile these two, by the way, but they emerged only very recently in the history of the West, and have not yet engendered popular theories of design.



## 22 Theories of knowledge and creation generated by the subject-object problem.

Now that we have seen the abstract logic of the subject-object problem and the manner in which it ties theories of design to theories of knowledge, let us turn to a chronological history of these theories in the West. The abstract analysis just completed and the historical study to follow are meant to complement each other. The abstract pattern becomes convincing only when it is seen to exist over time, and the historical evidence becomes meaningful only when it is seen in terms of its underlying logic. We will discover numerous interesting variations on these themes, and we will see how new ideas brilliantly answered shortcomings of their predecessors, only to create new problems for their successors. This abstract pattern should help us examine the following history of ideas in context, not distract us from the rich variety of ideas in our philosophical heritage.

### Notes

- 1 See Edward Robert de Zurko, *Origins of Functionalist Theory*, Columbia University Press, New York, 1957.
- 2 Christopher Alexander, *Notes on the Synthesis of Form*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1964. Alexander has since repudiated this position.
- 3 Nikolaus Pevsner, *Pioneers of Modern Design from William Morris to Walter Gropius*, Penguin Books, Harmondsworth, 1974. First published in a different form as *Pioneers of the Modern Movement* in 1936.