Assumptions

Two assumptions underlie the method of analysis I developed inductively from examining and re-creating the plans of illuminations in the great Insular gospels books, of some of the contemporary vernacular English texts of verse on religious topics, and of a number of Irish high cross designs.

ASSUMPTION 1. Each structural plan has an integrated (or catenate, or commodular) set of relations among its essential extensional features.

ASSUMPTION 2. All the structural lines were developed without use of numeral computation, and they accordingly can be described without use of numbers.

In so far as these assumptions support derivations that yield accurate representations of the structural plans of the artefacts, to that extent they are validated inductively for the study of these and other designs.

I have employed these assumptions in following two opposed approaches. One is that of creating a plan: it begins from a single quantitative given—a single magnitude in lineal measure—and emanates in a plan exhibiting coherent geometry. This first approach is made through drawings, using constructional geometry. The other is that of discovering the plan as a conceptual schema. This second approach employs algebraic notation to represent relations among constituents of the form, in the absence of examples of the mode of representation in use when the designs were created originally.