

The Philosophy of Environmental Design

My creative piece, "The Philosophy of Environmental Design", advocates for the reader to reconsider what the places they encounter or live life through say about themselves through visual design. The creative prose asks the reader if a living space should not just be a place to live, but rather a place to self-express. This short piece of writing emphasizes the importance of acknowledging past and future ambitions through visual design to help enhance reflection in the present moment.

I do a lot of travelling, a lot of visiting, from the start of my day until the end of it. When I am allowed to visit a friend or get invited to a coffee shop, I find my mind questioning the environment design of the places I visit. I question why the environment I live in is designed in such a way. And what the environment says about itself, its owner, or its own philosophy through its built design.

When I visit a friend, I look around at the small details of their house. Not because I am nosey, but rather because I question how their interior design reflects them as a person. Do they have books because they are academics? Or are they just avid readers? Is the small car model on their table just a gift? Or is it a reflection of a passion or hobby? I believe that if we're to

consider the environment we inhabit a conversation piece, not just a place to wind down, the internal design philosophy of the home then changes. It becomes a personal canvas for self-expression. Even staying on trend, or designing the living space in order to accommodate the trend speaks for itself. It then switches the self-expressive home into a member towards what the design trend represents, rather than a self-expressive space.

The same goes for corporate businesses. I find that with corporate buildings, the design is based on modern trends rather than a specific philosophy. It makes those short visits to family-owned businesses all the more exciting for someone like me. The corporation is built on adaptation, yet the home is built upon a journey.

I find myself distancing my living space from basic trendiness or order. While I still believe a space should be clean, of course, I aim to include myself within the space between the symmetry of my furniture. I aim to be the designer of my living space in a way that is reflective of my journey, my memories, and the people I cherish throughout life. I argue that personal expression through our materialistic possessions and living spaces enhance and re-contextualize who we are, what we want to be, and how we want others to perceive us. By allowing ourselves to be expressed this way, we provide ourselves with a journey and a lookback from the start till the present moment.

Even if you love orderly design, or prefer minimalism, somewhere in between, don't forget to add a bit of yourself. Your past and future self will thank you for it.