Enticing Possibilities

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Experimentation could lead to many doors and treasures within the process of making; the vast inquiry of making though, in truth is what is truly remarkable. The multi-media approach that we undertake to conceptualize, represent and solidify, the ideas we pursue, relate to fields that far extend its arms into the ocean of knowledge and exploration out there. A prime example would be when looking at the Firm Free Cell, it goes for artists like Zack Bent and Jason Boone that both were architects and now focus on solely art installation and woodcraft. Of course vice versa could be stated, since we all speak of the Pritzker Prize laureates, we have to consider what made them who they are today. Rem Koolhaas was a filmmaker, Zaha Hadid is a contemporary artist, Le-Corbusier practiced art, Tadao Ando was a truck driver and Boxer, etc... Once in thought, we realize that these endeavors happened outside the realm of the architecture that speaks only to buildings. They were all architects in their own right, as they constructed realities specific to them and tailored to their interests.

Enticing Possibilities.

A question, as architects we often ask, but rarely in education we elaborate upon early in our careers. At hands, we are solution makers, to various problems or questions, whether it is fashion, urban refinement and revival, political gestures, product design, art, film, graphic design or even video games, making us the overall package in the industry of analytical thinking and creative processing. The set of tools that exist at our disposal, should not only give person(s) a reason romanticize only about, becoming a master building designer or maker, but rather pursue the very fabric of what makes one excited about the process of making. If now, along the path of education one finds the interest of other forms of practice more lavishing to dwell upon, one should pursue, after all there is no reason to remain in the field of the architecture of buildings after graduation. Given the time, once we inhabit ourselves in the momentous movements of architecture, the world should open its doors to possibilities that lay far beyond the boundaries and walls of studio and the coherent College of Design. The world, then, opens its doors to the magic that lays beyond them; we can start to see that the amount of “architect” turned to artists, planners, landscape architects, philosophers, etc... Are staggering, they not only are famous, but they contributed a lot to the professions and majors that they once were a part of.

Design Build Roster:
1. Morgan Aalgaard
2. Abby Bengford
3. Weiqi Chu
4. Amber Gable
5. Shayan Gharagozlu
6. Aubrey Gillman
7. Mary Gould
8. Heather Hansen
9. Bo Hu
10. Paige Hubbard
11. Kevin McFarland
12. Ashley Moeller
13. Dan Piepho
14. Bec Ribeiro
15. Raena Sampson
16. Ryan Smart
17. Tammy Steffen
18. Jessica Skorjdal
19. Kelsey Vetter
20. Austin Weil
21. Emily Wilson
22. Jason Zeman
The merit of mentioning this of course, especially coming from a foreign student that have experienced education in a world where creativity is not only a struggle but also a fight to achieve. In a world of “A” must equal “B”, architecture school here at Iowa State, provided a canvas on which anything in my mind and soul could painted on and in a way that hopes could be achieved. When I had to write to describe the philosophy, the spirit, analysis and romanticization of the projects I dwelled within, it offered a spark of interest and a lens of unprecedented awesomeness, that I not only could branch of architecture, but also could actually do and make whatever I enjoy and truly love. What I truly loved in writing evolved into drawing and that was a major pivot point for me. As senior in architecture school I find it still amazing that for final review I can pick up a piece of 18” x 24” Strathmore and elaborate a perspective render by hand for final review rather than the typical render through the digital norm. I found portal to practice art in Architecture and not only does it entice the soul, it gives hope that once education is completed, I can start a greater focus on art and expand through it and perhaps nor I can focus on writing as well. This made the formula that was “A” equals “B”, I apply to architecture and become an architect, turn into “A” equals infinity, I attain the tools and methodologies that I need through the education of architecture, and I can become whatever I chose really, a writer, an artist and a practicing architect.

Perhaps, if anything, I would love to elude you to the possibility that the gates within the architectural realm of study are vast and they are all equally beautiful. I hope that the same as myself you will be able to find your true calling within the education that you fought for and the one you are thriving within.

DO WE ONLY MAKE BUILDINGS?

Our pursuit is one of poetic nature, it holds a little bit of something from every profession out there, from every culture, language and era. With that I hope whatever you are to make, is one that is close to your heart, beautiful to your mind and charging to your spirit. Because, truly, if the world that we practice in, ever needs anything, it would be your passions in making what you love to make, no matter what profession it lays in, even after the study of architecture. With That, I hope that all passion could become door to a bright future and a world of Enticing Possibilities.

Thank you.

By Mohammed Ali