

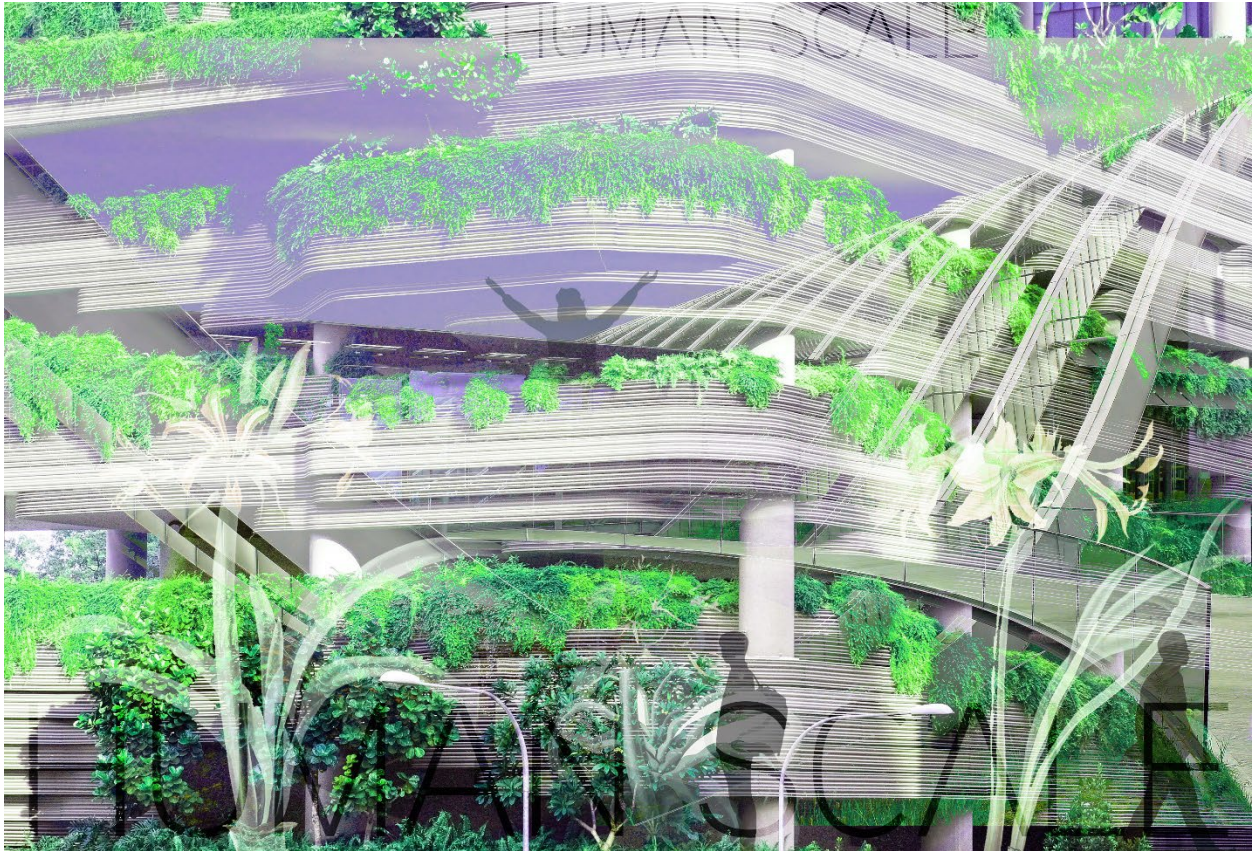
The New Zeitgeist

The built environment we live in whether it is man-made or nature, is altered and effected by the architects and designers which live in that world, in a sense they can be understood as the stewards of the future environment. I say the future environment because I believe as with all things, change can happen in a moment, but major change will not be seen until that thing has existed past the lifetime of the designer. We must create the future we want to see now and with time the architecture, environment, and world we live in will meet or hopefully exceed that future we imagine. To create this new world, we must identify what hasn't worked in the past and completely re-imagine and re-learn what is important to the environment, with this new knowledge and foresight a new architectural style will emerge. The different architectural styles and eras can be classified and understood based on the collective understanding and pool of knowledge of the practicing architects and designers of that era. Therefore, we can see styles of architecture and art last for decades, people will practice this style collectively across nations marking it as something which is "good". When more things are learned, and the canons of mathematics, philosophy, psychology, and philosophy change, the current style will suddenly change. When people look back at these different styles they can be classified as effective for the time or outright because a lack of knowledge and understanding.



Chapter 1 – Systemic Sadness

This is a story of black and white. Taking place in a time where all thinking is binary, either black or white. Privileging one thing and devaluing the other naturally leads to a nation of kings and peasants, haves and have nots, “somebodies” and “nobodies”. This can be seen in many aspects of the Black and White city, productive labor is the only valued type of labor this leads to a desolate dirty streets, parks, and homes which are in a state of disarray. In *Caring Architecture* Tronto warns of the importance of caring in architecture and outlines exactly how architects are caring wrongly, “The first part of making this shift is to see architecture as a reflection of power. Throughout human history and in civilizations around the world, architectural accomplishments has displayed such power – Capitalism, as an economic system that produces vast discrepancies in wealth, has rewarded architects and urban designers who have mirrored the values of capitalism” (Fitz). Capitalism reigns supreme in this city, architects who create in the name of capitalism are favored and are the only ones to get clients, this is compounded by the attitude of an architect being an independent genius. All buildings in this city are a mirror to the personality of capitalism, the buildings are brutally massive looming over everyone in an inhumane scale, sitting as a reminder that you will never be anything, but an ant compared to the machine of capitalism which unfurls its invasive roots in every nook and cranny of the city. No attention is paid to the sustainability or functionality of these buildings as there is no need for this, they are meant to stand as corporate symbols which pay no attention to the people around or within them. Higher education is only allowed for those of prominent families who are men, this bottlenecks the talent pool and de-democratizes the environment, only favoring those who are wealthy, white and men. This translates into an environment which caters towards those specific people who are the only ones allowed to create. This city is like a potted plant, it lacks resources, suffers from overcrowding, and lives in an unnatural biome, like a plant in the similar situation the city dies and withers if it doesn’t address these major underlying problems which manifest in the form of; urbanization, overcrowding, and climate change. Sadly, since this city is married to money and money has no regard for any of these problems, there is an expiration date which is quickly emerging. Much like the cities disregard for nature, the city mirrors this thinking when it comes to the people which inhabit the city. It sees people as machinery that are essential to the functioning of the city but dispensable and non-unique, this leaks over to the aesthetic of the city as we know you are a product of the environment that creates you. The black and white city is an invasive plant which is finally withering, it has overconsumed its environment and soon it will die and nature will return as it once was.



Chapter 2 – Human Scale

Nature always wins. Long after cities have been erected, used, and left for decay they will soon return their vast amounts of materials and resources back to the earth. This is the inevitable fate for every living and non-living thing, there are innumerable civilizations, cities, and populations. Which have been lost to history because of nature's great ability to return all substances back to its soil. This will be the fate of the black and white city, but this is not a bad thing. With change comes great opportunity to start with a clean slate, rethink and reapply what we have learned from our chaotic past to create a more desirable present, and productive future. This can be simply put; we need to understand ancient technology and architecture processes and study what worked about them and what didn't. This doesn't solely apply to ancient civilizations and technologies either, this can be equally valuable to study past generations and decades and learn from their trails and tribulations. In the reading *Places Of The Heart* Colin Ellard describes this strategy, "the key to building better places at all scales is to begin by observing the intricate relationships between our lived experiences and the places that contain them-an enterprise in which everyone can participate-and to continue by bringing to bear the new arsenal of both scientific theory and modern technology to make sense of such relationships. This venture is doubly pressing now because the same kinds of technologies that we can use to study the human response to place." (Ellard) The same technique can be used, but instead of studying the history of past people and groups we need to study ourselves. To understand what humans, want and how to create environments that are nourishing we must first understand every nook, cranny, and process that takes place in the human body, and we also must understand why the body does such a thing. To begin we can study the theory of Darwinian Evolution. The more we understand humans as an artifact of Darwin's theory of evolution, the more creatively and successfully we will design and plan for inhabitants of the Caring city. If an architect understand evolution and why people are built the way they are, in a sense he will be able to create for the generic client, which is much more valuable than designing for the highest paying client. At this point it should be

obvious that the Caring city can only be created with a wealth of understanding various things, from ourselves, our ancient relatives, and perhaps the most important understanding we need for the wellbeing of every living thing on this earth, is the human to nature connection. The biophilic hypothesis tells us that there is an innate bond between humans and all other living things, humans are quite literally a part of nature like bees. When biophilic design strategies are used, it ensures that new projects recognize and meet the human need to observe and engage with nature.



Chapter 3 – Affordable Future

Life everywhere can be saturated with happiness. When the collective understanding and effort towards creating an architecture and environment which promotes a healthy nature and humanity, is practiced and understood for many generations, the world we know it heals itself. We are a product of the environment we live in, and when we collectively agree the environment isn't a product is when the environment is affordable to all. Environments become more equitable for everybody, nobody in these environments are impaired because the definition of being impaired is not being able to properly maneuver the environment. In this city it is understood "Complex environments are expected to be rewarding for cognitive effort and they motivate individuals to increase their cognitive and intellectual capacities which could be further used in various scenarios. On the contrary, simple environments could have a detrimental effect on intellectual capabilities" (Palti) because of the complex environments which are intertwined with nature all spaces in the city have positive effects on the brain, increasing dopamine receptors thus lowering cognitive decline. This means naturally these environments which stimulate, promote activity, and interaction with nature will help people age in place and once again be healed from their environment.

Bibliography

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