

“Exploring Design Approaches - A Personal Perspective”

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*Essay 1 - Lightivity | Louvre
Museum Abu Dhabi*

Introduction

Richard Cameron's Lightivity at the Louvre Museum Abu Dhabi is an example of how light can surpass its role to become a primary design element. Using a combination of reflective surfaces, conductors and LED technology, this installation enhances Jean Nouvel's structured dome which creates an immersive experience for users entering the dome. By combining natural and artificial light, Lightivity converts the perception of space, demonstrating the role that lighting plays in contemporary design. As an interior designer, I find this project very inspiring because it makes the boundaries of how we encounter and manipulate light in architectural environments.

Analysis

One of the key factors of Lightivity is its ability to create an interactive environment where light is not only just brighten the surroundings but a sculptural force that creates insight. The installation uses reflective surfaces to boost the natural light filtering through the Louvre's dome; This can reinforce the museum's atmosphere. LED technology is blended which allows for a vibrant interaction between artificial and natural light that can change throughout the day. These outcomes are an ever-evolving spatial experience that enables users to engage with architecture in a new way.

Furthermore, Lightivity demonstrates sustainability by maximising natural brightness and lowering energy consumption. The combination of LED lighting and reflective surfaces reduces the need for extreme artificial brightness which aligns with sustainable design's principles. The project acts as an example of how lighting design can be both attractive, effective and environmentally responsible.

Personal Reflection

Following these guest speaker events has influenced my method of interior design. Richard Cameron's Lightivity enlightened me to see lighting as a transformative design element, highlighting sustainability. As a designer, From my perspective, I began to feel that Lightivity suggested myself to reconsider the role of lighting in my projects. Lighting is viewed as a mere afterthought as it is a critical element for functionality instead of a creative tool that creates experience.

Cameron's work strengthens the idea that lighting can represent spatial characters that can create moods and even affect behaviour. His approach motivates me to explore creative ways

to combine natural and artificial light which can make lighting a main element of my design process rather than an accessory.

Moreover, Lightivity aligns with my interest in sustainable design. It highlights how lighting choices can reduce energy consumption without any problem with aesthetics. This enables me to include more reflective surfaces, energy-efficient fixtures and vibrant lighting systems into my own interior spaces; This can ensure that my designs are not only engaging but also environmentally responsible.

Conclusion

Richard Cameron's Lightivity at the Louvre Museum Abu Dhabi is an inspiration on how lighting can be a design element rather than a tolerant need as a last thing to apply for the design. Through its creative use of reflective surfaces and LED technology, the installation enhances spatial perception while encouraging sustainability.

As I continue to develop my skills as a designer, Lightivity acts as a strong reminder of the potential of lighting to shape experiences, create atmosphere and contribute to energy-efficient design solutions. This project has strengthened my opinion that lighting should be a major consideration in every design; It impacting how spaces are sensed and experienced.

*Essay 2 - Apple Park | Foster &
Partners*

Introduction

Apple Park, designed by Foster & Partners, represents the intersection of technology, sustainability and human-centred design. The circular structure with its wide glass at the front and open-plan interiors is planned to encourage partnership while keeping a strong connection to nature. The headquarters' self-sustaining energy model, powered by extensive solar panels, shows Apple's dedication to sustainability. In addition, the use of natural materials and planned landscaping combine the park with its surroundings.

Analysis

One of the key factors of Apple Park is its focus on openness and clearness. The use of glass walls separates the limitation between interior and exterior spaces which creates a flow between the built environment and nature. This design choice maximises natural light that reduces the need for artificial brightness and encourages employee well-being. The open-plan interiors promote collaboration and communication; This makes it more comfortable for employees to share ideas and work efficiently in a flexible environment. The areas are designed to foster a feeling of openness without compromising privacy with positioned furniture and compartments illustrating work areas without making visible blocks.

Apple Park's sustainability ambitions are another key factor. The use of solar panels allows the campus to run on renewable energy which significantly reduces its carbon footprint. In addition, its ventilation system minimizes support for air conditioning which ensures that indoor spaces stay comfortable without intense energy consumption. The thoughtful integration of water recycling systems demonstrates a commitment to resource conservation; This highlights how sustainability can be implanted within the design of a large-scale corporate space.

Personal Reflection

Following these guest speaker events has influenced my method of interior design. Foster & Partners' Apple Park showed the power of mixing technology and nature to create adaptive, user-focused spaces which aligns with my confidence in focusing on well-being in design. As a designer, Apple Park inspires me to consider how design can shape human interaction. The office layouts prioritize efficiency over comfort but this project inquires that idea by putting well-being at the forefront. It shows that workspaces should be flexible, encouraging creativity and collaboration while promoting a connection to nature.

This aligns with my belief that interior spaces should not only be functional but even improve the quality of life for their users. I am inspired by the incorporation of natural materials, lighting solutions, and flexible workspaces that focus on employee concentration and comfort.

Conclusion

Apple Park is an example of how design can transform work environments. By highlighting openness, collaboration and sustainability, Foster & Partners have designed a space that challenges traditional office design while developing a new standard for workplace well-being. The combination of architecture, interior design and environment acts as a model for future spaces to design.

This project has inspired me to focus on adaptability, sustainability and user-centred design in my projects; This ensures that spaces are not only functional but also supplementing for those who use them. On the other hand, I aim to include the principles of design, energy efficiency and adjustable layouts in my work; This aims to create interiors that improve both productivity and commitment.

*Essay 3: Pirouet Bricks |
Vandersanden*

Introduction

Vandersanden's Pirouet bricks represent a revolutionary approach to sustainable building materials. By capturing CO₂ and recycling industrial byproducts, these carbon-negative bricks redefine the potential of construction materials. Their dry-stacking system further enhances efficiency and reduces emissions, demonstrating how sustainability and durability can coexist. As an interior designer, I see Pirouet bricks as an opportunity to rethink material choices, ensuring that sustainability is an integral part of the design process rather than an afterthought. By integrating eco-friendly materials, we can create spaces that not only meet functional and aesthetic needs but also contribute positively to the environment. This innovation challenges traditional design approaches and encourages a shift toward more responsible material usage in interior spaces.

Analysis

The main creation of pirouet bricks depends on their ability to capture and store carbon dioxide which reduces environmental effects. This material sets a new example for energy-efficient structure as it lowers carbon emissions compared to traditional bricks. By using a carbon-negative manufacturing process, Vandersanden not only neutralises its environmental footprint but it creates a long-term solution for sustainable building techniques. This aligns with the demand for green construction where materials contribute to environmental restoration rather than degradation.

In addition, Vandersanden's responsibility to circular materials ensures that waste is minimised. Rather than depending on pure resources, the company repurposes industrial byproducts to create these bricks that can reinforce resource efficiency. This method follows the principles of the circular economy in which materials are reused that reduce the lack of natural resources and minimising waste. By combining this principle into the design process, interior designers can make a choice that reduces environmental harm while keeping high-quality aesthetics and functionality.

Personal Reflection

Following these guest speaker events has influenced my method of interior design. Vandersanden's Pirouet bricks reminded me of the importance of sustainable materials in reducing environmental impact.

As a designer, this creation challenges me to focus on sustainability for the material choice. The eco-friendly choices are ignored due to aesthetic limitations but with Pirouet bricks, it

can show that sustainability and design can coexist. This encourages me to explore materials that contribute to greener interiors without ruining visual attraction. Moreover, it supports the importance of researching and selecting materials that align with both aesthetic choices and environmental commitment.

The ability to connect sustainability with design is a key part of this project. Many traditional materials cause environmental degradation; However, sustainable options like Pirouet bricks provide a possible solution. This encouraged me to include these principles in my creation as a designer.

Conclusion

Vandersanden's Pirouet bricks set a new standard for sustainable materials; it shows that construction can give environmental solutions. By merging carbon-negative technology, circular material and design flexibility, this creation delivers a blueprint for the future of eco-conscious building materials. As I refine my method of design, this design supports the importance of material choice in shaping both the aesthetic and ecological effects of spaces. Sustainable design should be essential and not optional as it needs to be considered in every project before selecting choices. In the future, I'll aim to merge more friendly materials and support for design practices that give a more sustainable constructed environment.