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THE NEWER
SCHOOL NEWS

Transforming Spaces
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EDITOR'S NOTE

I remember my experience when I first arrived in New York City. Landing at JFK was an exciting moment because it was the beginning of a new chapter and also the first time I had ever been to NYC. Today I wanted to share a little bit about my experience with transforming a space. As it turns out, the first place I moved into was already furnished and decorated. During my time living in this space I was grateful for having the opportunity to live in the city, but there was still a part of me that felt unsatisfied. After all, what is a room without photographs to remember those special moments, posters of your favorite movies and decorations that reflect who you are? Now, I don't spend much time at home, which I would venture to say is pretty common in New York City, but I've always enjoyed coming home after a long day and sitting down to relax. I would later have the opportunity to stay in a space that allowed me to do so and since then, I have found others who share the same joy and benefits from creating their space. In this issue we've spoken with a number of people who all have different ways and means of transforming their space. We begin with the skin as a concept of a canvas then delve into the idea of transforming an individual versus community space. It is through these stories and insights we hope readers will gain a better understanding of this concept and be able to apply it in their own life. We hope you enjoy reading this issue of Transforming Spaces!

*Sincerely,
Breanna Fields & Mahek Singh*



BEYOND THE INK

Spaces can play an important role in an individual's life, there's one form of art that's even more personal: tattoos.



TRANSFORMING SPACES

The creative space defines us: it brings to life our aesthetic and is an empowering tool for transformation.

BUILDING COMMUNITY

While there may be no straight path to solve our communities' complex issues, there is the potential in what may be considered an unexpected places: public spaces.



ON THE STREET [NYC]

We caught up with a few local women who shared some of the simple measures that they take to stay safe in the Big Apple.

BEYOND THE INK

When it comes to the concept of transforming space, the first thing that comes to mind is typically home or office renovation. While those spaces can play an important role in an individual's life, there's one form of art that's even more personal: tattoos. It's becoming more and more prevalent in society and has been embraced by a new generation.

Graphics by Mahek Singh

TIFFANY FIELDS



My tattoo says “vegan” and it was something I got a few years back when I hit my five year vegan anniversary. I’m an animal advocate and strong supporter of a plant-based lifestyle. I really wanted to commemorate animal victims and celebrate this powerful movement.

YASMIN AHRAM



As a Lebano-Palestinian girl, my family has always believed in evil eyes. I have always had evil eye jewelry. I believe in good energy and try to surround myself with only that if I can, and this tattoo is pretty much the permanent evil eye that is there as a helper of keeping bad energy away.

DREW DAVIS



My sister and I have the same tattoo in the same place. We got it because we’re really close and wanted to symbolize that. It’s also a low key reference to Lemonade by Beyoncé because we both love Beyoncé and met her together which was a landmark moment in both of our lives.

HANNA CHASE



I'm a musician and the number symbol was used on the cover of one of my albums. The heart represents strength and hope for the LGBT community. I'm lesbian and do what I can to be a voice and support the community. This tattoo commerates both of these things.

MUSKAAN AMIN



I thought I needed someone to validate my existence and make me happy. The diamond signifies a sort of freedom , that I don't want to be saved, and nobody ever actually needs to. they just get lazy along the way and need somebody to pick them up. But I picked myself up and put a diamond on it.

NICK HAZE



I play guitar and was in a band called Bang Feather Bang. The singer, who was also my best friend, passed away from cancer. I had a tough time processing it and ink became my form of expression and coping with it. It's a reminder of my past, present, and future relationships.

TRANSFORMING SPACES

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH CREATION



*Words by Breanna Fields
Graphics by Mahek Singh*

The creative space defines us: it brings to life our aesthetic and is a powerful tool for creation. It's rare that we get a glimpse into the mind of an artist, but through the transformative power of creative spaces we can come to better understand not only their process, but inspiration and gain insight into their challenges and triumphs.

Molly Mintz, a Journalism + Design student at The New School, moved into her own apartment at the beginning of August having previously lived in a dorm. Mintz is an aspiring lawyer whose passion and drive is apparent through not only her personality but the design of the space. She found that having more space to re-think the possibilities of the design allowed her greater freedom than the dorm she previously lived in. Mintz transformed every aspect, from the kitchen/living room to the bathroom as well as her and her housemate's individual rooms.

“Transforming my space from an empty, white

and wood-floored room into a comfortable sanctuary of my own allowed me to showcase my interests in art, traveling and music, reading and other interests with piles and piles of books and magazines that fill my bookshelf and crannies throughout my room.”

Through the art of expression in her creative space, Mintz has been able to represent her identity in a way that allows her to relax and remember “who I am, what I stand for and what I am dedicated to.” It’s through the framed Roy Lichtenstein poster above her bed, the vintage soccer poster from Spain that she bought while visiting Valencia and piles of books and magazines that she is able to experience the transformative impact of her own creative space. In the living room hangs a vintage subway map, owned by her father while he too studied in NYC. Its presence represents not only the legacy she has carried on, but the future that awaits.



"My creative spaces allow me to relax and remember who I am, what I stand for, and what I am dedicated to."









Building Community Through Public Spaces

There are boroughs in New York City that face struggles on a daily basis as a result of economic instability, diminishing resources, unemployment and a number of other factors. In many neighborhoods, social bonds among neighbors are under stress or in some cases non-existent and a sense of community is severely lacking. While there may be no straight path to solve all of our communities' complex issues, there is potential in what may be considered an unexpected place: public spaces. By creating and transforming public spaces, we have the ability to truly change local communities.

The New School's Vera List courtyard is no exception of how community can be created, specifically, among current students who are studying a variety of subjects. It's an outdoor, 4,902-square-foot space where students can gather. It links Arnold Hall and Alvin Johnson/J.M. Kaplan Hall. It also acts as a quick way to get from one classroom to another and can accommodate up to 80 people. From the steps leading to the courtyard to the greenery and beautifully designed sky bridge, the Vera List courtyard is never empty. This space allows students of all backgrounds and interests to come together to work on projects, have discussions and casual conversations between classes. There are many incoming students who are often concerned with the social life of an urban campus; Kjersti O'Connel, was among them.

"Before I started at The New School I was slightly concerned about the urban campus situation," said O'Connel, "While I knew living in a city like this was great to make connections, I still wanted to have a normal social life. After my freshman year I realized that it wouldn't be an issue, like the courtyard, there are a lot of spaces for my friends and I to get together."

Looking beyond The New School to public spaces around NYC you'll find that they also possess strategic design and planning. Public parks, markets and downtown squares provide not only an opportunity for locals to gather and mingle, but thousands of visitors as well.

"I've heard people say before that they could never live here because it's all made of concrete," said local Ari Daie, "I've thought that was a funny comment because we have so many parks, green spaces and public areas like the Chelsea piers."

There's a new project under way that is scheduled to begin during the summer called Pier 55 according to the Hudson River Park Trust. It's a 2.7 acre park along the Hudson River close to Chelsea Market. It will include a space for events, a stage and futuristic looking landscapes and architecture.

"I heard about Pier 55 and can't wait till it's done," said Daie, "It just goes to show that even though we live in this massive city, there is always room to grow and bring these spaces to life."



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S A R A H D I E S T C H Y

Creating a space that
feels like home.



When it comes to college there is a lot to look forward to: taking interesting courses, building new friendships and living on your own, which is a first for many. While space isn't easy to come by in New York City, students have proven that with a creative mindset an empty room can be transformed into a place that feels like home.

Sarah Dietschy, an Interior Design student at Parson's who is originally from California, took it upon herself to design her space in a unique way that stays true to her style and personality. Through this, she has been able to transform her room in a way that inspires her each day and acts as a reminder of her accomplishments.

"I was planning the look of my future college room before I even graduated from high school," said Dietschy, "This might not be normal, but I think it kind of comes with the territory of being a passionate about interior design — I'm always thinking about my next space to decorate. It's addicting in a way; to have this vision in your mind and see it when it becomes reality."

Despite facing the challenge of limited space, Dietschy seemed to be upbeat about the process and said that it's still currently a work in progress, but right now the foundation has been laid.

"To be honest, the small space is actually some-

thing that I prefer. It took me quite a while to do it just because I'm such a perfectionist when it comes to the look and design," said Dietschy, "The process went something like this (and it was the same for my old room designs): first I start pulling together a collection of images that represent the aesthetic that I'm going for. From that point I go to a number of different stores for whatever I need... furniture, lighting, bedding. I always try to stay within a budget."

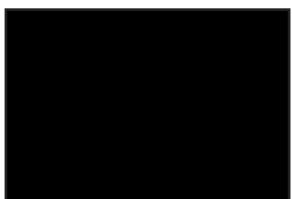
Her room is best described as minimal with the essence of bohemian decor. Her photos on the wall represent some of her favorite memories back home: her black pug, Oliver, and the house she grew up in. Hung from the ceiling is a lamp that illuminates her space during the winter months. In the second bedroom, which is currently unoccupied, she transformed it into a meditation space. With string lights framing the window and a yoga mat in the middle of the room she finds herself at piece and able to relax after a long day.

"It's my sanctuary. Especially after spending all day in class I just want to retreat to my room, drink tea, read a book or meditate. In a way it represents who I am and I think that's why it really feels like home even when I'm more than 2,000 miles from my family in California."





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