

Transforming Spaces: Empowerment Through Creation

Words by Breanna Fields // Design 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 the artist, but through the transformative power of creative spaces we can come to better understand not only their process, but their inspiration and gain insight into their struggles and diversity faced on a regular basis. It is through understanding an artist's outlook and methods that viewers can also become inspired and recognize the tools necessary to embark on their own creative journey, no matter the chosen field.

What inspires a person to transform their space? How does this capture their personal aesthetic? In what ways does their space provide insight into culture and organizational creativity? These are just a few of the questions that will be asked to each subject that our group will interview for the feature article. We will be covering individual spaces as well as community spaces that are open to The New School students.

The first person we will speak with is Molly Mintz, a Journalism + Design student at The New School's Eugene Lang College. Molly is one of many who have transformed their apartment space in an expressive and resourceful way that reflects her work. We will capture not only the creative process and methods that she utilizes, but also showcase the innovative qualities and ingenuity that she and other students possess given the restraints an individual has to deal with as a result of limited space in New York City and other factors that may come into play such as finance and time. The transformation of an apartment space in particular can take place in a number of ways: it can be as simple as a desk space that surrounds a creator with photographs and inspirational works or it can take the shape of an extensive project that spans not only their workspace, but living room, kitchen and other areas where daily activities take place.

We will also be speaking with students who live in the dorms and how their process may compare to an apartment and the challenges that they face with certain limits (no wall painting, space issues, etc). We hope that this gives readers of our zine an extensive array of projects to look to for inspiration that feature images, quotes, lighthearted information as well as thorough, researched detail and data which will help them understand how their own spaces can be brought to life. Not only will we be speaking to students to gather quotes and resources, but we will also be diving deeper into research on the topic by collecting reputable articles online that provide detailed insight and scholarly sources that contain useful data.

In our zine we will also be discussing the power of transforming public spaces and how it shapes the community. It's easy to see a public space as nothing more than a physical location with some thought to the design, but what makes these places so much more than that is that these are locations where communities can come alive, relationships are built and where a sense of belonging can form. According to the Project for Public Spaces, placemaking is "the art and science of developing public spaces that attract people, build community by bringing people together and create local

identity.” In the instance of the Lang courtyard we see an area where students can collaborate and environmental sustainability is taken into account. The potential to transform not only the space, but the lives of the people that encounter these places is what makes it such a powerful medium.

While clever design may not be the first thing that comes to mind when you think of what might be considered a necessity, the restrictions on space in New York City almost makes it inevitable. Whether it's intentional or not, space and aesthetics affect us on a psychological and subconscious level; this is another area that will be weaved into the storytelling of our feature article through quotes and researched information. There are many things to consider when thinking about the psychology, but we find the most important is to begin with the understand that individuals may react differently to space design. What are some of the subconscious effects of our environment? How does the impact of the environment evolve or even become reduced over time? We seek to provide answers to these questions and many more like it.

The back matter of our zine will take the shape of a visual form of images that invoke questions of a different subject: the concept of what makes an area/space considered to be safe versus unsafe for women in New York City. We will ask questions to students and women who live here about their experience and include quotes and specific information on these places. Some of the questions may include: What are the characteristics of an area or space that makes you feel safe? What is your definition of safe? What are ways you think a space can be transformed to be considered safe for women? The goal is to represent a feminist concept in a new, refreshing way to engage readers and introduce a new subject while maintaining the continuity of space and it's purpose in New York city.

Lastly, the design of our zine will be clean and modern. The goal is to create design, photographs and write text around the idea of providing insightful and useful information in a way that's palatable for readers. We want to make sure the content in our zine is clear and provides researched, useful information, while making sure that it's not too dense to be an enjoyable experience to read. Through this zine our goal is to not only provide an entertaining reading source, but to inspire action and change for individual and community spaces and their inhabitants. The psychological affects, both conscious and subconscious will be explored as well through questions via interview and research. It is through the transformation of spaces that creators can be empowered to find their voice, represent their aesthetic and build lasting relationships and community.