

Exploring Domesticity Through Design

By Jany Chinapodok

My design journey began with observing a simple yet meaningful space, which is the communal sofas at Mega Bangna mall. While intended for short rests, people seemed to treat them like their own living rooms, showing personal behaviours such as leaving items behind without worry, gathering in groups, and feeling completely at ease. That sense of trust and comfort made me realize that domesticity is not limited to private spaces, it's rather about feeling safe, being yourself, and forming quiet connections, even in public.

To build on this, I explored the MM Apartment in Japan by Ohno Japan and Nakae Architects. With their apartment design, it is stacked vertically in a way that balances compact living with a sense of privacy, although minimal and efficient, it still encourages social interaction. Its tight, enclosed spaces reminded me of Deep Pressure Therapy, a calming technique that simulates the feeling of a hug. Similarly, the MM Apartment's design might create a mental sense of comfort and safety through its spatial arrangement.

I also looked into the Net Nest (my MM apartment inspired furniture design), a flexible, multifunctional piece of furniture made from woven nylon rope and minimal components. It acts as both seating and storage, using very little material, which not only it is practical and space saving, but it also reflects a thoughtful, eco-friendly approach to design.

Inspired by these ideas, my current design creates an environment that blends curved forms, playful pathways, and hidden pockets within a larger open space. It is like a mini playground that encourages movement to discover, connect, and retreat. The goal is to blur the line between public and private, offering spaces for interaction while still allowing moments of solitude and reflection.

Through this process, I have understood that design is not just about form or function, it's about creating spaces where people can feel emotionally and mentally at home, whether they are alone, with others, in private, or in public.