

## Incompleteness & Timelessness in Design

Visual Design is changing. Who knows in future, we can be expected to design life-like things like an aging character. The design norm of last 4 years, the systems-focus, is changing into something more organic, generative, living, breathing, and continuously-building: Designers are not expected to deliver finished products but evolving objects with space for development. What's more, future of design has artificial intelligence and biomimicry at its forefronts and it is really challenging to define timeless design with respect to the constant change in design. In this quixotic quest of designer's search for timelessness, the wisdom of ancient cultures and the visual culture of Japan acts as a friendly helper. The aesthetic principle Wabi-Sabi offers definitions of beauty that align surprisingly closely with what timelessness means/is to me as a visual designer. Wabi-Sabi is a concept that helps one understand *the timeless value in completeness*. This concept advocates the truth that comes from the observation of the nature . Wabi-Sabi deals with small things, accepts ugliness besides beauty and cherishes the universal perspective. Wabi-Sabi abstracts 3 values from nature: impermanence, imperfection and incompleteness. Its material design properties embrace simplicity and the natural. According to Wabi-Sabi: "All things, including the universe itself, are in a constant, never ending state of becoming and dissolving. [However] Often we arbitrarily designate moments, points along the way, as "finished" or "complete." These teachings are not so unfamiliar for us designers. After all we have have gotten used to thinking of products with an open-end (things have gone from fixed to flexible and responsive). What Wabi-Sabi advocates is really similar to this mindset of the open-ended design. Designing for timelessness requires the ability to design for incomplete; and embracing it will become the tomorrow's quest for us designers. This is also the definition of timelessness for the state of visual design now and tomorrow: We will be expected to further internalize responsive design; embrace biological in design, be open to 3D and factor in time and location as important variables. As an avid designer I considerably value the teachings of the Japanese visual culture for it factors in the nature. I believe that we must embrace incompleteness as a criteria for timelessness. To put simply, Incompleteness will characterize the design assignments of tomorrow and we got to be ok with the incomplete.