Jeana Chesnik

Major Studio 2

Final Project Domains

For my final project I would like to create a project focused around renewable clean energy. Designing around sustainable energy gives me the opportunity to combine some of my current design interests including clean energy, urban planning design, reusable materials, and natural resources.

During Major Studio 1 I began to explore my growing interest in light projection and how light is utilized in our daily lives. For my final project I created a concept called [Kind Light](https://jeanachesnik.wordpress.com/2016/12/15/final-project-kind-light/) where I used light as a medium to invite people into new crowded spaces. The light was intended to function as a “soft ask” for those currently occupying a space to open up and let newcomers in. Originally, I wanted Kind Light to function with only natural light, but through my testing process I realized that projection light was necessary in order to create the effect I was aiming for. Since then I’ve still wanted to create a project that utilizes natural light sources. Especially, [solar energy and solar charged products](https://www.birksun.com/). This semester I decided to continue exploring this persistent interest of mine in solar energy, but quickly found myself researching outside of the realm of solar and into the world of renewable energy.

My interest in renewable clean energy have broadened into kinetic, wind, and wave energy as well. According to the International Energy Agency, in 2012 only 13% of the world’s energy was considered renewable. One year later the number increased to 22% and at the current rate renewable energy usage is projected to reach 26% by 2020. [1] As our world continues to suffer from climate change, I am worried that we are not moving fast enough and 26% is not enough of an increase. I find renewable energy resources to be a great educational tool and can be eye opening. Once people realize an alternative clean energy option, they tend to want to learn more about how it’s achieved. If I’m able to create a project that helps bring attention to how we can repurpose and utilize natural resources in our daily lives, then I feel this will be an accomplishment.

In addition to exploring renewable energy sources I’m also growing an interest in urban design and planning. Currently I am enrolled in an Urban Interaction Design course where we are learning about how cities all over the world designed their urban landscapes. [During the early 20th century when the car was invented, we designed our cities around the vehicle instead of the human being living in the city.](https://vimeo.com/162029805) Thus resulting in concrete landscapes and high risers that cram us into small spaces and create frantic wasteful energy usage. Even though the car moved our century forward, it also created a demand for fast product development and quicker transportation, which natural resources couldn’t produce at the time. As technology evolved, our patience dwindled and our attention to natural resources continued to fall into the background. Why explore wind energy when oil and coal is supplying millions of jobs and driving our economy forward? Decades later and with the dangers of climate change staring us in the face, I feel there isn’t a more crucial time than now to continue creating renewable energy solutions. It’s imperative that we continue the work accomplished by previous generations of scientists and current entrepreneurs. Some examples include Michael Faraday exploring Kinetic Energy creating Faraday’s Law, Elon Musk exploration of solar and clean energy, and various engineers who’ve created Kickstarter campaigns to help supply communities all over the world with alternative lighting resources.

Even though I have a strong passion for creating a renewable energy product or resource, I’m still exploring how to accomplish this by the end of semester. Next steps include gaining a better understanding of renewable energy and the challenges it’s faces. When my project is completed I want people to have a moment of discovery where they see something they use everyday repurposed in a clean energy way. If people are mesmerized enough by how a product uses renewable energy, it may be possible to grow its popularity and educate the upcoming generations on alternative energy usages.

Bibligography

1. Renewable Energy Website - <https://www.iea.org/about/faqs/renewableenergy/>
2. Human Scale Documentary - <https://vimeo.com/162029805>