

Valerie Suriato

Russel Pensyl

ARTF 2223

9/9/2019

Assignment 1: The Designed Object, Utility and Constraints

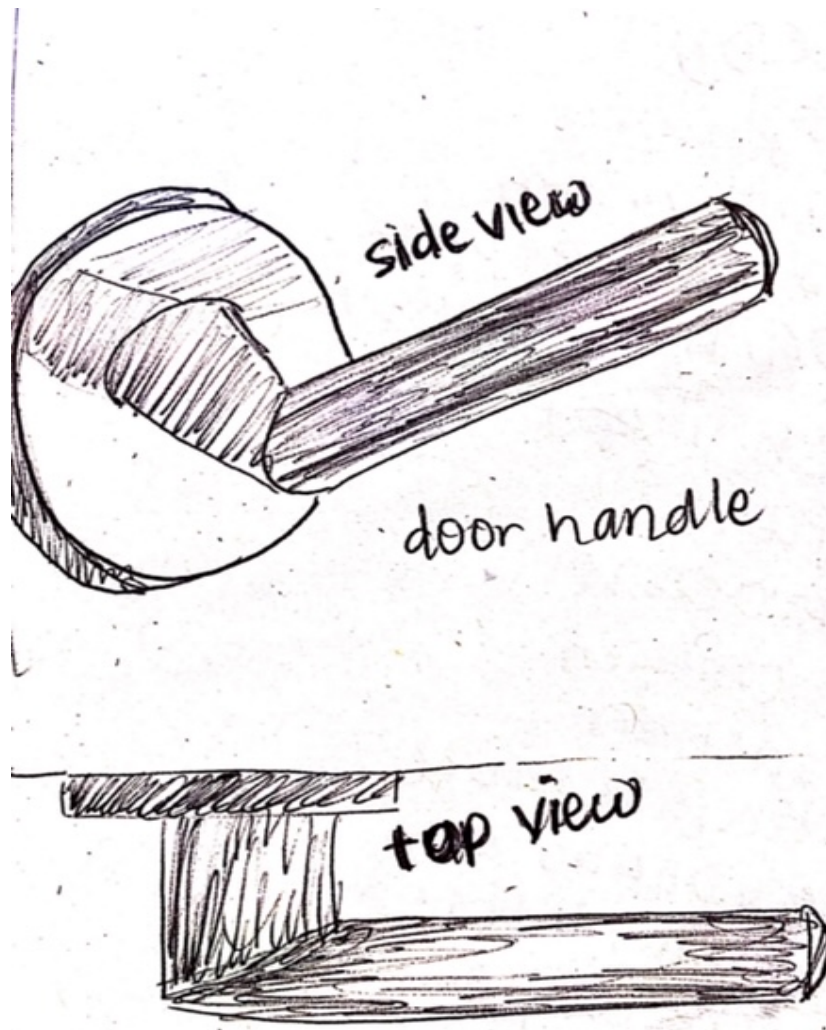
Object:

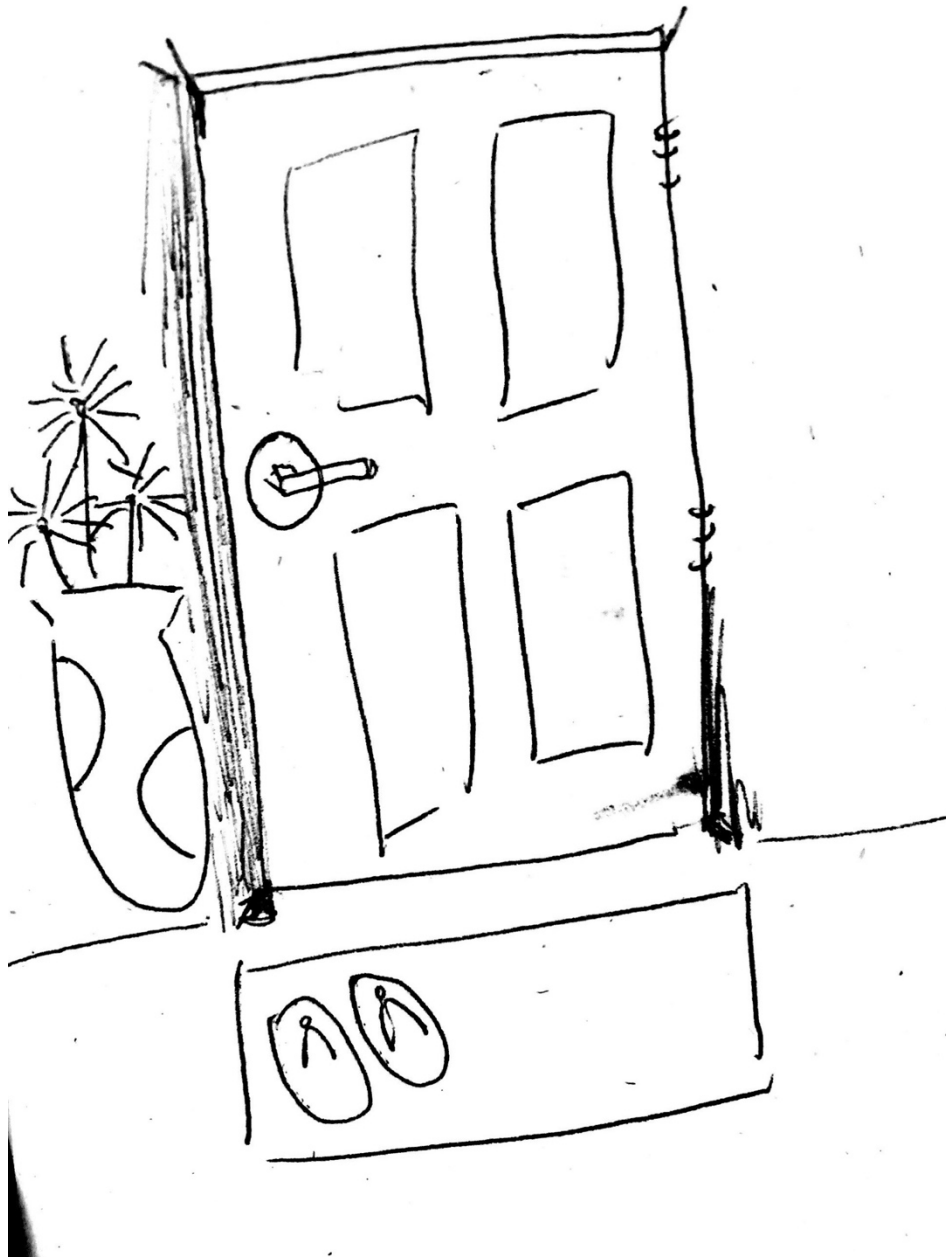
The object that I will focus on is a door handle. Door handles are found on doors to make opening and closing of doors easier for the user.

Utility vs Aesthetics:

A door handle has a higher regard to usefulness rather than beauty. Most door handles are there to get the job done. Meaning, make opening doors easier. Although, there are door handles today that are designed beautifully.

Sketch:





Affordances:

As seen above the door handle's placement, shape, size all suggests how we are supposed to use it. It is usually located approximately at waist-height – suggesting the use of a standing person's hand. The size of a regular door handle also communicates that we should use our hands to wrap around it and open the door. The placement of a door handle that is usually on the left side of the door suggests the direction in which the door opens as well.

Constraint:

As seen in the second sketch, the door frame protrudes out and blocks the door from moving forward. This tells the user that they should push, not pull. A physical constraint would be that it is easier for people to turn hands outward than inward (clockwise)

Convention:

Users will assume that door handles rotate clockwise, like door knobs. Thus, pushing downwards to open doors.

History:

Before door handles, people used to tie a through a hole made on the door and pull it to open. Then it came door knobs. Then the whole system of levers was integrated into door handles.

Pictures:

