

Project Proposal maHKU MA Design pathway Interior Design

#1 Sustainable and Ecologically Friendly Design

As the world becomes increasingly populated and resources are overused by the western world, sustainability becomes an even more pressing subject. The issue of reducing wasted energy and creating buildings that are designed to ventilate and light naturally as well as stand the test of time, is a topic I would like to investigate further. I would like to experiment with lightning naturally and artificially as well as researching designers that are concerned with new methods of living and working that embrace eco-friendly ideas. Flexible interiors that change with the growing of a company and its needs are sustainable. This means looking at office interiors, the new way of working and how this is changing and will continue to change. Within the leisure industry I would like to research into bar and restaurant design and the constantly changing tastes and styles that must keep up with the market. From looking at furniture that is flexible to materials that are renewable I would like to ask questions such as what are the ethics of today's design industry?

During my Bachelor Undergraduate studies I wrote a thesis on alternative building materials in the changing world of Architecture. I looked at traditional materials used for construction in developing countries. I focused, particularly, on bamboo as a very fast growing renewable source of building material widely used in Asia. My research uncovered many desirable properties of bamboo including very high tensile and compressive strength whilst it is very durable in wet conditions. I concluded that bamboo would be the next widely used building material due to the rapid loss of fossil fuels and high energy input in steel production. Some forms of bamboo can grow up to a metre a day at peak growing season and take very little energy consumption in preparation for use in building. This proves that economically and ecologically bamboo appears to be a better choice for the building industry.

During my MA course I would like to learn how to look at the world in a reflective and inquisitive way. By enquiring about other designers and design methodologies, I plan to fuel my creativity into making a short film about my findings on sustainable architecture. I feel that by researching into this topic I come one step further to becoming a more ethical designer.

#2 Why is the upper part of the Interior 'body' often naked and untrained?

I have divided the space in four sections:

Section 1 The lower part, where the designed interior is situated

Section 2 the breathing space when in a sitting pose

Section 3 The breathing space when in a standing pose

Section 4 The upper part of the Interior

I want to research the upper body of the Interior.

If you consider the furniture as the muscle of the interior then only the lower body is well muscled.

The upper part on the other hand is hardly ever used. Under used, not adapted in short no muscle. So if you want to balance an interior you need to design an upper space that compliments and/or complements the lower space. That way a total, added value comes into being.

I came to this question because for the last couple of years I lived in a sub-let room. The room was totally white and 4 metres high. After a month or so the ceiling was driving me crazy. And because it was a sub-let I couldn't change a thing about the room. So I started thinking about the upper part of the naked interior. And then questions came up: Why is the transition between walls and ceiling squared in almost every interior design, ever room? If you decide to make the transitions between walls and ceiling round the interior designs forms a integral whole.