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### Mr. Lee's Strong Architectural Values That You Should Know

Throughout human history, architecture has reflected what societies deem culturally acceptable, unique, and purposeful. From the giant Roman coliseums to the seemingly impossible Pyramids of Egypt, from the compact Parisian cafes to the tall glass buildings of New York City. Our creative minds have been expanded and it shows with architecture around the world.

The many marvelous structures we encounter don't simply appear; each follows an intentional design process performed by architects. "A lot of decision comes through aesthetics, like how does it matches what you like, your preferences. And some people may have other criteria for their preferences. For me, it's about aesthetics. It's about the kind of style of things, how they look, and also a lot about craftsmanship" (Lee). Meet Do-Ho Lee, an Apple retail store architect who loves to specialize in commercial homes. After working in this industry for a while, Lee believes that the key principles of architecture are customer preferences, aesthetics, and craftsmanship. These values deserve to take priority in commercial designs.

Aesthetics is a key factor to architecture because it is one of the first things the viewer will experience when witnessing architecture firsthand. Apple retail stores are a great example of this value. "They're minimalist. They emphasize natural materials, like wood and stone and they're easy to move through because they are clean and open" (Mills). Once the customer walks in the store, they will immediately notice the large open space with tables filled with modern

technology. All of this is surrounded by consuming white walls made of glass and white walls which emphasizes the longevity of the company, Apple. All of these observations will instantly make the customer just want to walk in and explore the area. This has been a major success and is a huge factor to why Apple is as big as it is today. Many other retail stores have tried to recreate Apple retail store's aesthetics, but were seen as lazy, copycats, and simply just not as good and actually made people more appreciative of Apple stores. This shows how powerful aesthetics can bring to the table when it comes to architecture, but it must be accompanied by specific materials to be able to make it work so there must be a foundation for this to work.

Craftsmanship is another key factor to architecture because this value is what helps aesthetics and preferences to be fully integrated. "Craftsmanship is really important in architecture in general, but it's also very important for me, how things are made, how well they're built, are they designed and built to last or are they sort of made in a flimsy way and cheap and things like that?" (Lee). Craftsmanship can help influence how the viewer will react to the architecture through psychological means. If the viewer is presented with more natural and enjoyable colors, it is expected that they would appreciate the design more compared to dull and unexpressive colors. "It's been shown that people who work in well-designed spaces take less sick leave, are more focused, and generally contribute more to their company. Sterile, concrete landscapes and unimaginative buildings cause higher levels of stress" (Vangelatos). With the right craftsmanship, the occupants will take the full benefits of mental health compared to occupants who are exposed to less-focused craftsmanship. In modern times, we are implementing better craftsmanship into our work stations such as offices as we should expand this level of craftsmanship to schools, hospitals, and much more so people can feel more

comfortable and happier. Although aesthetics and craftsmanship are extremely important when designing architecture, none of this would matter if the viewer has a specific preference.

Preferences can impact the reason why architects and designers are doing their job in the first place. This is why the architect must keep the audience's preferences in mind when designing the structure. Preferences of specific architecture comes from the vast variety of designs around the world. This is why we keep on expanding in the first place and why architecture is so interesting to so many people. Mr. Lee is currently renovating his home because he feels it is best for his and his family's well being. "We're at the beginning stages of it, it's been really great. It's wonderful to be able to imagine how to improve on the house that you have. And I think the direction that we're taking is to basically enhance the house and also follow and be true to the original style of the house, which is the Spanish colonial style" (Lee). Lee sees more potential for his home and wants to act on it and other people should do the same because naturally, our preferences change and we should do what's best for our health mentally and physically so architecture can help with that sense of necessary change.

Mr. Lee has recently worked on an Apple retail store in Los Angeles. This isn't an average apple store with the popular rectangular design with white and glass walls, it is a renovation of an old closed-down theater. He felt it was best to bring this theater back to life because it will show the theater's significance in not just today, but also its past. "And I think you want to pay as much sort of respect to the original building and to bring out qualities of the original building that may have been sort of forgotten or hidden to a certain extent" (Lee). The community was very supportive of this renovation, which showed in the grand opening when crowds of excited people poured in the store, Tim Cook greeted guests, employees clapped, and

news reporters and media showcased the event. Mr. Lee was able to facilitate this outcome by merging aesthetics, craftsmanship, and preferences.

As technology is constantly evolving in ways we never thought possible such as 3d printing, augmented reality, and much more, it will only continue to expand. Lee reflects, “I think there’s been a tremendous shift in the way the architecture kind of evolved and it obviously impacts the building industry and how materials come together, but it also impacts the principles that we’re talking about, like for making the forms get richer, maybe more sculptural, and therefore the spaces inside of those forms get more could potentially get more interesting as well” (Lee). It is truly wonderful how fast humanity has advanced in terms of technology and this will affect our processes of architecture, but in the end, we are doing this to expand our creative minds and do what most of us live to do. To create.

#### Works Cited

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