

Green Artists Affect Environmental Change

The J. Paul Getty Museum encourages its visitors to consider contemporary art on a deeper level. They ask, is the work aesthetically pleasing? However more significantly, is it challenging or interesting? That is because contemporary art has great power to promote perpetual transformation. Our planet is constantly in motion. To continue on, green artists prioritize climate change. According to the Huffington Post, the following artists express environmental ideas in their work ñ sculptor Paulo Grangeon, digital age artist Naziha Mestaoui, and architects Amanda Schachter and Alexander Levi.



Paulo Grangeon is a French sculptor famous for 1,600 Pandas. Pictured here are his 1,600 Paper-Mache bears, which represent the approximate number of pandas left on the planet which numbered only 1,596 when the project began in 2008. The display has made its way around the world, to more than 20 countries. This visual strikes passers by, who may not have taken this number to heart. Thanks to support from the World Wildlife Fund, the pandas have graced such landmarks as Hong Kong Victoria Park.

As Grangeon's sculptures inspire conversations about endangered animals, Mestaoui's Heart Tree evokes the natural world where they live. Virtual forests are projected onto monuments, in a stunning display of sight and sound. Viewers connect to it on an emotional level, through a smartphone sensor that makes each tree emerge to the

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Archi-fact:

Many people attend architectural school and decide to move on to other careers.

Best known for her role as Monica Geller on the hit sitcom 'Friends,' from 1994 through 2004, Courteney Cox briefly studied architecture at Mount Vernon College in Washington D.C. Partially into her degree Cox withdrew to pursue a modeling career in New York City. Then on to acting.

Iconic Building Of The Month

This month's Iconic Building is The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York City



Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum is Frank Lloyd Wright's self-described archeseum. An icon for perpetual change in the world of modern art, Wright's architecture is a work of art itself. In 1943, museum director Hill von Rebay wrote to him: "I need a fighter, a lover of space, an originator, a tester and a wise man." After more than 700 sketches, intensive meetings, a new director, and the deaths of Guggenheim and Wright the museum opened in 1959 on Fifth Avenue in New York City.

Its function was to house the art collection of Solomon R. Guggenheim, the heir to a mining fortune. His art advisor Rebay envisioned "a temple for the spirit." Wright had built many temples, and embraced the idea that any building could serve as a place of worship. Through his signature style, the museum balances privacy with community. Each visitor travels along a spiral ramp that leads to a domed skylight. The experience encourages each person to focus on the art and remain aware of the fellow visitors traveling along the same route.

"The ramp creates a space-time continuum" reflects Bruce Brooks, director the FLW Archives. This harmonious experience mirrors Wright's forward-thinking mindset. Four decades later, Frank Gehry's Guggenheim Bilbao in northern Spain showcases many of the same elements as Wright's original Guggenheim. Open to the public, it is a National Historic Landmark and on the National Register of Historic Places.

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Archi-Quote

In honor of Frank Lloyd Wright as his Guggenheim Museum in New York City is the Iconic Building of the Month, we quote him in one of his statements of life from 1940 written while at the architecture school he established known as Taliesin.

"THE ORGANIC COMMANDMENT"

"Love is the virtue of the heart,
Sincerity the virtue of the mind,
Courage the virtue of the spirit,
Decision the virtue of the will."

Green Artists Affect Environmental Change

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rhythm of the person's heartbeat. As each digital tree grows, a real tree is planted somewhere else in the world. The project launched on the Eiffel Tower as part of the United Nations COP 21. More than one million participated in-person and online, resulting in 55,000 real trees being planted in partnership with seven reforestation programs on five continents. So the virtual becomes real, Mestaoui says. The deeper meaning in nature and technology exists side by side. With smart phones in hand, we still are one with the Earth.

These artists make a great impact with three-dimensional art, in a multi-dimension world. Schachter and Levi's Harvest Dome stimulates on lookers to rethink their waste. The 24 by 18-foot dome consists 450 umbrellas

and 128 bottles. Known as performance architecture, it moves like a dancer along the inlet water of Inwood Hill Park in New York City. While ethereal-looking from afar, the piece is very concrete in its message, we can get creative with our garbage and reuse it in countless ways.

Science and art unite, a greater force combined than apart. Communities come together over green art because it speaks to modern society. That is us, humans and pandas alike, we are the target audience. Before throwing away that water bottle, think of the Harvest Dome. What could you do with that garbage? Make it a work of art. Or check for the recycling symbol on the back. Either way, you are joining the green art movement, which inspires us to work toward a better future.

Archi-Speak

Can you find all these visual art forms?

Architecture Murals Drawings
Photography Sculptures

Q E R U T C E T I H C R A G S
K O N I C X E A X M O R T S E
E F C N J C D B Y P P U H O R
B J Y D Z X Q L U C J O T L U
S R L Q N E Z M C Z V I W J T
D X X N D G T U J X L V Z D P
O B K Y H P A R G O T O H P L
A J G R V R D A V C R I B H U
K C F W G I R L E I W T K T C
P G N T K L A S F C I Z E K S
R U W V K U W H Z G Z U S H T
W Q Y F O T I N Q U C Y Z A E
Y U A Z I I N Z U M L Z Q C K
W V R O C Q G R M D X A T N C
N V M H M Y S X N R R K F Y G

Ask M

In the James Bond books and movies the character "M" heads the Secret British Intelligence Service known as MI 6, of which James Bond is Agent 007. When contemplating adding on to your home or building, renovating or building a new home or building you should have someone like "M" on your side. Each month the "Ask M" column will answer a reader's question to place more information at your finger tips. **This month's question is...**

We have a typical 7 foot high garage door. We would like to increase it to 8 feet high so we can park our van in the garage. Can this be done.

Mason E.

Mason,

It can be accomplished, the question is how difficult will it be. That depends on the structure above the door. There will be a header beam above the door opening. Is it supporting the roof or second floor above? Or is there an additional header beam up at the ceiling supporting the roof or second floor above. This must be investigated prior to removing any structural members.

Some times you just do not know what you do not know when it comes to what is behind walls and the condition they may be in.

Email your questions to info@designMgroup.com, and in the subject line type in "Ask M". We look forward to hearing from you and hope we can answer the questions to everyone's satisfaction.

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About

Marcus Marino, RA, AIA, NCARB
President



photo credit: Jenna Glatzer

Marcus Marino, RA, AIA, NCARB is a leading architect in New York City. He received a Bachelors of Architecture from the prestigious Pratt Institute and a Masters in the Science of Architecture and Urban Design from Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. He received his license to practice architecture in New York State in 1981 and is licensed in a number of other States. Marcus Marino has served on numerous Governmental Panels and serves as an expert consultant to other architectural firms and legal firms. He is the former Vice President of Public Advocacy of the New York State American Institute of Architects.

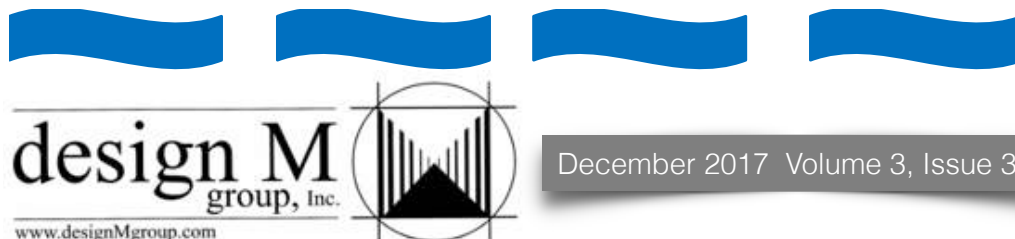
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