 **CONTEXTUAL REVIEW 2019-20**

*Foundation Diploma in Art and Design*

Unit 3: Developing Specialist Practice

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| Antony Gormley  Room  2014 | Filip Dujardin  Fictional Architecture  2013 | Tadao Ando  Church of the Light  1999 |

Student Name: Tatiana Davis

750 Word Review: 798 words

Through experiencing the workshops I have been given new creative techniques and ways of conveying my ideas. It has given me the opportunity to consider and evaluate different pathways and discover my key interests and strengths. The process has led me to want to pursue the Architecture and Spatial Design pathway.

Two of the pathways I am considering to take further are, Architecture and Spatial Design (Build It) and Fine Art: Sculpture (Personality Quiz). I think I’m suited to both because of the hands on learning and development experience. Architecture and Spatial Design has more of a structured route where you design taking into account function. The way of working is more restricted as you have criteria that you need to meet. The ASD workshop was very interactive but you had to remain conscious of the way the structure is created to ensure stability etc. However with Sculpture the options for creativity are much more expansive and can be more conceptual. The way of working in this workshop was very free and we were able to find our own paths through experimentation and re-evaluation. I preferred the way of working in the Build It workshop as we were working to a tighter brief which gave the work direction.

One of the most influential practitioners for me has been Antony Gormley. Although he mainly works in relation to the human body his work resonates with me due to his use of shape and materials. His style is very geometric, using simple shapes to create complex outcomes. I also enjoy creating using simple shapes but then taking them to create something greater with more visual complexity. His use of materials is also very interesting to me as he uses a lot of heavy industrial looking media which gives a very sturdy/strong portrayal of his pieces. Another practitioner that I recently was introduced to who has influenced me is Filip Dujardin, who is primarily an architectural photographer. I looked in particular at his series of Fictional Architecture. His outcomes are two dimensional digital edits that convey unrealistic constructions. I like his thought process and the way he expertly creates these unique outcomes that make you question reality. His work has led me to consider more intricate and complex arrangements when creating a structure and to challenge my use of materials. I also looked at a piece that he photographed by design firm Gijs Van Vaerenbergh which is a huge metal maze. The piece is structurally complex but this is emphasised by the way in which Dujardin has framed and captured it.

I chose the Architecture and Spatial Design extension project brief. I was drawn to this brief by the model making and the task of integrating a new element with an existing building. I started off with researching different buildings which I was able to access as this allowed me to do my own primary research by visiting the site. I chose No.1 Warehouse at West India Quay which houses the Museum of London Docklands. Through visiting the sight I was able to understand the history of the building and look around to see what improvements I could make. Key things that I noticed were that the atmosphere inside the building was very gloomy and unpleasant due to the limited natural lighting, and also the misuse of the old loophole doors. Being able to use my own starting points and creating my own timetable to work to allowed me to work in a way which benefited my creative process. The part of the project I enjoyed the most was creating my model as I prefer a hands on approach to ideas development. Making a final model enabled me to showcase my proposed design more clearly.

Through doing the extension project I definitely realised that I enjoyed the tasks, although some aspects of it presented new challenges. I challenged myself through the problem solving and by considering the nature of the improvements needed. In the end I came out with a successful proposal for an extension.

The Architecture and Spatial Design pathway suits me the most because I think through making and because I possess many of the desired skills needed, such as good practical skills and wanting to generate 3D work. I have also had a keen interest in architecture ever since I visited an exhibition of Tadao Ando’s work at the Pompidou Centre.

If I was able to reconsider my outcome I would take more time in creating a more accurate model and do more practices to find the right materials that I can manipulate in the way I want to show my intention. I would also potentially revisit my final design and make it more elaborate, potentially spanning a larger area to create even more space.

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