

THE MEANING OF CRAFTING

“To craft” is to make or manufacture an object with skill and careful attention to detail. The traditional approach that so closely links art and craft within architecture instills the basic, but invaluable principles of form, shape, proportion, and scale that are inherent to successful design. Incorporating these skills, through a hands-on approach to your study or practice, strengthens the understanding and appreciation for the craft of building design. Crafting can also be defined as an occupation, trade, or activity requiring manual dexterity or artistic skill

The essential meaning of *craft* in architecture lies in the nature of the connections a building or space creates—both internally, between its constituent parts, and externally, through its relationship to its place. These connections can be physical, temporal, or even spiritual. Ideally, all three are integrated into one effort

When we think about craft today, we realize that it ultimately offers ways of meaningfully thinking through how we make, and unmake, a world that is a complete creation of humans. ‘Craftsmanship names an enduring, basic human impulse, the desire to do a job well for its own sake’, argued the sociologist, Sennett in *The Craftsman*. Contemporary craft is under-literate while historically inherited morality. Craft revivals keep getting on and off, but in between these rapid changes in fashion and trend, some people choose to make and buy handmade goods, and

craft continues to be at the core of all stages of creative practice, being an integral part of the process including manufacturing, innovation, and technology.

Crafting is one of the greatest expressions of human creativity and imagination through a visual form. Every design decision involves thoughtful purpose, attention to detail, and care. St. Francis of Assisi said that “A man who works with his hands is a laborer, a man who works with his hands and his brain is a craftsman, but a man who works with his hands and his brains and his heart is an artist.” We must continue to celebrate the art and craft of architecture.

The major difference between art and crafts is that crafts are something you can easily reproduce, while arts are more unique and cannot be duplicated. Crafts and design includes painting, sculpture, photography, illustration, jewellery making, pottery, product design, graphic design and fashion. Being creative is essential in this industry. A craft or trade is traditionally a hobby or an occupation that requires skilled workers to produce an item.

TYPES OF CRAFT

Crafting includes a variety of art forms, from sculpture and metalwork to knitting and printing. These crafts can all be divided into five basic types based on their form and purpose:

1. textile,
2. decorative,
3. paper,
4. functional,
5. fashion crafts.

Textile crafts

These include any type of craft where you work with fabric, yarn, or surface design. Some examples are knitting, quilting, appliqué, weaving, and dyeing. Many of these could obviously also fall into the decorative or fashion crafts categories since the finished goods are often sold as sweaters or wall hangings. However, they are technically textile crafts since they all start with the fabric.

Decorative crafts

Furniture making, metalwork, stenciling, stained glass, gilding, sponge ware, and basketry all fall into the category of decorative crafts. This category also includes toy making and other arts—anything where the final product is a piece of decor. Unlike fine art, decorative art typically has some element of utility to it. A piece of furniture, for example, may be beautiful in its own right—but its main function is to provide a place to sit.

Combining furniture-making with metalwork is a popular trend. Arts and crafts and home décor magazines often showcase furniture constructed from wood but with metalwork legs or trim. The

metalwork tends to be very industrial-looking but there is a good amount of ornate metalwork included as well.

Paper crafts

As the name implies, paper crafts have to do with paper. Many kids get their first introduction to paper crafts in pre-school when they use carved potatoes to hand print designs on construction paper. The grown-up version of this is wood and linoleum engraving. Other paper crafts include papier-mache, calligraphy, and papermaking.

Fashion crafts

This craft encompasses all the elements of dressing the human body: jewelry, hats, leatherwork (shoes, belts, handbags), and garments. It will naturally intersect with other craft types since jewelry can be made through metalworking and garments are fabricated by sewing—which can be classified as a textile craft.

Fashion crafts involve a variety of materials, from soft fabrics such as cotton, linen, and wool to sturdier materials such as nylon, canvas, and leather. Sewing is just one part of making a garment; design and construction of clothing is a multi-step process that requires precise technique and careful attention to detail.

Functional.

Many of the four other types of crafts can also be classified as functional. For example, decorative pottery—including serving platters and utensils—is often made with components that are okay for people to eat from. Many furniture crafts are primarily functional but can also be quite decorative.

Obviously, to attract the widest possible customer base, it's good to have functionality built into your art or craft. Many times customers who won't shell out the big bucks for an original creation just because of its good looks will justify the cost because it can also be used in day-to-day life.

The role of crafting

The role crafts play in architecture is in place-making, then, is to deepen the purpose of constructed environments through the type and quality of the connections those environments embody and enable. These connections can be either intrinsic or extrinsic to the place or its elements. Intrinsic connections might be literal, as in the way components are assembled; or symbolic, as when a contextual association is placed in the space. While intrinsic connections internalize those associations, extrinsic connections are projections of an object, building, or place's character into the larger physical or cultural landscape beyond its physical boundaries.

The role craft plays in our sense of identity, culture, and society directly reflects in the way our cities are shaped. A way to reconnect with the physical realm and an antidote to mass consumption of digitally shaped objects.

Embracing Craftsmanship

The Arts and crafts Movement (1870-1910) is a reaction against machines. It originated in England in the mid-19th century. The artisans and craftsmen went against machine aesthetics. Arts and Crafts Style Architecture was a celebration of art forms and individual craftsmanship.

One of the main principles of Arts and Crafts Style Architecture was to create an architectural style that expressed the hand of the craftsman who created it. They have used mostly hand-crafted elements and their inspiration was from the earlier styles of architecture such as Baroque, Rococo, and Classical as well as traditional craftsmanship. It is an individual expression by both artists and workers.

One of the pioneer architects who led the Arts and Crafts Movement both spiritually and intellectually was designer William Morris. He believes that the nature of the material and the method of production are two important aspects; where the craftsman has to deal according to the nature of the material and the method of production will express their own individuality and expression through the material. A unique piece of product can be formed (combining artisans and materials), which cannot be mass produced (by machine).

It focuses on the social structure and economic livelihood of artisans around an art form. The movement was to provide affordable, beautiful, hand-crafted, natural, light-filled home interiors that only add to the aesthetics but also delight and nurture society.

Inspired by nature, the Arts and Crafts Style of architecture uses a lot of figurative depictions and quality materials noted for handmade as well as expressing a folk style of visual expression.

Purpose and benefits of crafting.

Through arts and craft, we learn to value and appreciate artifacts and images across cultures and times. Experience in design, art, and crafts enable them to reflect critically on their own work and those by others. we learn to act and think like designers and artists, working intelligently and creatively. we also learn about the preservation of heritage through art. A lot of the information we have now about people that lived millions of years ago came solely from art. Research has shown that crafting, regardless of the medium you use, can bolster mood, improve self-confidence, and reduce stress overall. In addition, crafting has also shown to improve mental agility, improves both gross and fine motor movements, and also decrease cognitive decline.

One of the best example of ancient crafting in architecture is the “red house” which was designed by architect phillip webb for William Morris and his family. The home has steeply pitched roofs with chimneys projecting the roof that breaks the monotony. Windows are placed according to the function of the room, thus giving the exterior an irregular and asymmetrical form. The conical roof continued to be a part of many houses in the arts and crafts style of architecture.

Onother great example is **The Ningbo History Musuem in china** here again is a building whose constructional techniques, temporal references, and spiritual associations function in concert to imbue the structure with connective strengths that elevate it to the status of true craft.