

Evaluation

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In this first unit, I am researching about old window grill in Taiwan. Every nation has their own style to create a boundary and Taiwanese window grill has always been a very magical vision and a wonder existence in my childhood memory. I enjoy observing window grills after school, seeing all the windows on the way home and try to remember the styles of grills. Although each grill on a street is made by the same maker/designer, each one of them have their own characteristic because every house owner can add his favourite elements in the grill, such as put on his surname or profession.

When seeing these old iron window grills nowadays, I feel like immersing myself in retrospect memory, which leads me back to the childhood of the way back to home. I love the feeling that too fancy on observing at the window grills and got dizzy from the summer heat or space out for a while. It has got a perception illusion, a hypnotic of feeling, and transformation of objects. All the solid matters seem to be softened. And I am trying to transfer this part of architecture design into our indoor design.

Unfortunately, that 60% of the old fashion style window grills have not producing in present time and many of them have turned into waste and sold. Since high-rise modern building and 24 hours security CCTV has gradually replaced the traditional style of building (build in 1930-1970), and more importantly, that all the old window grills are mainly handmade designed to keep thieves away, however the only escape scuttle was shut by this beautiful design which can increase the risk of escape. Under various considerations, many factories closed as a result.

Therefore, in order to find out the boundary and a balance between outside and inside. I aim to make different scales of screen and place them in-door, which can be a one-to-one size as a general size of window and splice to any size I want to aim. Instead of calling my work as a grill, I prefer it to be a screen

because for me to view grill from outside, it can be a cage which reduce the area that can be seen. Also, the screen is an object that can separate the space nicely, but at the same time retains the freedom of two spaces to move around.

At first, I was not quite sure about what material I can use during this term because many factories closed due to Covid-19. So, I grabbed some reusable materials such as plastic, cloth, newspaper, and yarn to start my first making and following by my five key words. At the beginning of this project, old object, culture, mix-media, repair and survive were my five key words, however, by continuing challenge the tasks that given by tutors my words had changed slightly to window grill, insolate, geometric, boundary, and shadow.

One of the tasks was “1 object should be the opposite of the first 2”, so I changed from foam mesh to clay then paper because I find when clay gets dry it becomes hard, and for me the opposite of the material is paper. Paper cut is the technique I find confident of because when I was cutting the paper, I feel very calm and focus. Therefore, I had cut kraft paper and print paper as my process. In these two materials I find I worked better on print paper because it is easier to outline the shape compared to kraft paper. Then I research artist Rob Ryan, and I like the way he works on a huge sheet of paper and he can mark the positive and negative space clearly, which is a skill I am still learning.

So, I aim to create my work in a similar way, for me, instead of making my work in one cut, I find deconstructed to small pieces will be quicker to produce by hand. After that is a 35 x 100 cm screen model, which I find the width is not long enough, so I used photoshop to place them in kitchen as my sample.

After this testing, I understand that paper will not be a valuable material to take further if I want to make a screen because it is too fragile to be an outcome. Therefore, in the last month, I focus more on light and shadow and simplified the design pattern to triangle. By bending wire and dip into resin to build up a wire ball. This model I find quite satisfied because the shadow it creates exceeded my expectations, and it works well under white light compared to other colours.

Overall, after this unit, I will have to amend my approach to design and development, perhaps start with more making than planning. Dive straight into modelling as soon as ideas are sketched out and begin development from here.