

Nostalgia

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Nostalgia is the product of various explorations into my main topic of interest; architecture. Throughout the study of architectural principles and understanding the geometrical shapes used in creating space in architecture, I found myself more passionate about the aesthetic of traditional and ancient architecture of various cultures such as the Victorian era, Greek temples although I am also inspired from Zaha Hadid's work. This helped me decide that my final product should highlight the beauty of traditional architecture and its appealing contextual details.

I realized through further exploration in ancient architecture that my country of origin Iraq had outstanding traditional architectural pieces. So I used it as a focus of the traditional architecture in my final. In contrast with the Iraqi traditional architecture, the reality of emerging modern architecture gave me the realization of the endangered era of ancient architecture by the development and rising modern architecture in big and evolving cities such as Dubai, Australia and France. This is when I came up with the idea of 'Nostalgia' where I personally felt nostalgic to ancient and detailed architecture. As it reminded me of the beauty of ancient architecture in my hometown country, which has been disregarded due to the attraction of society nowadays to a more modern and large architecture such as the skyscrapers in Dubai. So I chose to include Burj Khalifa, Burj Al-Arab, The twin market towers, Sydney opera house and Ronchamp Le Corbusier in my background and give the focus to the ancient architecture of Iraq; The house of Wisdom and Al-Malwiyya.

To portray the emotion of nostalgia, I photographed my friend with Iraqi background who had a beautiful face features. In order to create the look required for my drawing, I searched the makeup Iraqi women used to wear back in the days they used to wear black eyeliner and dark lipstick shades. Furthermore, I found that woman used to have tattoos on their chin as a part of accessory which they believed it adds beauty to the woman. Finally the look was applied on the model and several proposition photographs were taken to find the perfect fit to the drawing. The gold leaf surrounding her and the embodied traditional architecture was inspired by Yoann Lossel and Gustav Klimt, where I wanted it to be portrayed as the golden era of architecture. As Yoann tends to create the contrast between the dullness of graphite with gold leaf I followed the technique to create a similar approach by keeping all my elements graphite and keeping the arc in gold leaf to attract the eye.

As the ancient architecture The house of wisdom and AL-Malwiyya are engraved with rich details, the medium must be able to emphasize them. I believed that graphite was the perfect fit for that matter, as I was able to add infinite details and shading that attract the eyes. However, I made the modern architecture less appealing by poorly shading and detailing the buildings; to give the total attraction towards the traditional architecture.

I am genuinely pleased with the outcome of my final art piece. As I was introduced to so many techniques and skill that I later adapted throughout the journey of this assessment and also improved my current skills using graphite. I was able to attain the wide knowledge of architecture and its different types and eras throughout the history. Which finally has inspired me to create a piece of emotion and beauty bringing the stillness of architecture to life and context.