

11 AI summary

Friday, February 9, 2024 2:26 PM

Quick recap	
Jean Hertzberg discussed the Arts and Crafts movement, its history, impact, and potential future relevance. She highlighted the potential backlash against AI and the shift towards more homemade, organic materials. Jean also led a discussion about the comparison of the Arts and Crafts aesthetic with the Gothic revival, emphasizing the differences in visual aesthetic, furniture styles, and light fixtures.	
Summary	
Upcoming Project and Art Nouveau Discussion	
Jean Hertzberg discussed an upcoming project due in 10 days, encouraging students to start working on it if possible. She offered to assist students who were struggling with choosing aesthetics and materials, and mentioned she would post her suggestions on Slack. She also mentioned an activity involving drawing and arts and crafts, and a discussion about the Art Nouveau aesthetic.	
Arts and Crafts Movement: A Reaction to Industrialization	
Jean Hertzberg discussed the Arts and Crafts movement, a reaction to the negative impact of industry during the Industrial Revolution. Jean highlighted how the movement, led by figures such as William Morris, promoted craftsmanship, economic, and social reform, and celebrated ordinary workers and under-appreciated craftspeople. Jean also posited a potential future backlash against the rise of AI, theorizing that it could lead to another reevaluation of craftsmanship and a shift towards more homemade, organic materials.	
Arts and Crafts Design Discussion	
Jean Hertzberg led a discussion about the Arts and Crafts aesthetic, emphasizing the beauty of imperfection and the differences between this aesthetic and the Gothic revival. She assigned students to various breakout rooms to explore the Arts and Crafts Design movement from 1850 to 1914 and to compare it with other aesthetics. Jean also asked students to share their findings in Slack channels. Technical issues such as website crashes and problems with breakout rooms were also discussed.	

Gothic vs. Arts and Crafts Design Aesthetics

Jean Hertzberg led a discussion on the comparison of Gothic and Arts and Crafts design aesthetics. The conversation emphasized the simpler and more practical visual aesthetic of Arts and Crafts, with less emphasis on intricate point designs and more use of raw wood and metal frames. Jean also pointed out differences in furniture styles and light fixtures, highlighting the handmade and nature-inspired elements of the Arts and Crafts period. Peter Arnold, in a breakout room, highlighted the softer lines and nature motifs of the Gothic style.

Common Elements in Art and Crafts

Jean and Peter discussed the common elements in their respective areas of expertise. They talked about the prevalence of gold and peacock motifs in jewelry, the use of naturalistic designs and bright colors in arts and crafts, and the shift from Gothic to simpler, stylized fonts. They also highlighted the emphasis on nature and moral themes in pottery, with a noticeable handmade quality rather than machine-made precision. Kevin Kim pointed out the poor quality of the fonts, which led to a discussion about the creation of more elegant fonts by William Morris.

Arts and Crafts Movement: Political, Social Implications

Jean Hertzberg discussed the Arts and Crafts movement, emphasizing its political and social implications, including its aim to promote democracy and social cohesion through handcrafted goods. She noted the irony that these products were expensive, due to the higher cost of labor than materials, a fact that still resonates today. Jean also touched upon the modern equivalents of this movement, such as the DIY culture, hacker culture, and the maker spaces. She encouraged those present to familiarize themselves with these concepts and even suggested joining Tinker Mill, a local maker space, after graduation. Additionally, Jean introduced a free online book from 1916 that provides design rules for creating Arts and Crafts-style objects. She concluded by briefly mentioning the Gothic period and the Victorian era.

Aesthetic Movement and Art Nouveau Discussion

Jean Hertzberg discussed the aesthetic movement from 1870 to 1900, emphasizing the importance of art for art's sake and the pursuit of beauty. She traced the evolution of this movement into Art Nouveau, highlighting its characteristic curves and whiplash curves, as well as its influence on furniture design and the arts. Jean also mentioned the McDonald sisters, Margaret and Frances, who were instrumental in developing the Art Nouveau style.