

Space = Experience = Collaboration

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What would happen if art, senses, technology, and space collide?

One of the answers is TeamLab Borderless, an immersive digital art exhibition presented with visuals, sounds, interactions, and even tastes. Curated by an interdisciplinary group of artists, technologists, and designers, Teamlab created an unforeseen experience that inspired every person who has seen it personally. It is a perfect example of how technology allows collaboration between space and other disciplines to exist.

As spatial designers today, we can no longer limit ourselves in the field of architecture or interior. Environment is not only about where things are, but also about touch, smell, sound, and every other sense a human has to feel the outside world. More importantly, we have to realize that we have the power to affect people, start a conversation, or raise awareness using our profession, and with this mindset and mission we are no longer just architects or interior designers, we are experience curators. Thus, we have to look beyond designing spaces, look at other disciplines and what we can learn from them.

It is amazing how diverse human culture is. This diversity offers enormous opportunities and inspiration for us. Art, music, fashion, food, politics, psychology, technology... Every discipline has something attractive and fascinating. While the internet gives us easy access to that diverse range of information, fast advancing technology allows our imagination to happen in reality. Therefore, we have to look beyond the trend and create opportunities by exploring other disciplines.

There are so many ways spatial designers can be inspired by and learn from other disciplines. For example, once I was inspired by a food stylist, who simply used a knife with peanut butter left on, an opened jar of jam, and a piece of toast to show the imagery of a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. He led me to rethink the ways a space can express an idea. If TeamLab Borderless is an outcome of digital art+space, can music+space possibly create a new way for people to experience music? We can now see how other disciplines can be influential on our design thinking, whether it is just a small inspiration from the work of a food stylist, or a big idea as the result of seeing collaboration between different disciplines.

We, as spatial experience designers, narrate stories without writing down words, we convey messages without saying anything out loud, we do it all through material, color, scent, temperature, and many other things that evoke people's feelings, lead people to think and start conversations. So we ask ourselves what makes a better experience instead of what makes a better space. Those who will succeed in the future in the field of interior and architecture are those who are able to challenge themselves to explore the world outside of space. While other designers are trying to chase the trend, they will eventually be the influencers and reformers to create new trends. Ultimately, our mission is to create a better future for humans to live in.

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