

EMBRACING COMPLEXITY IN BUILDING DESIGN

...investigating aesthetic theory as one mode of embracing the complexity of modern architectural design
with the advent of post-industrial data-gathering tools and methods.

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QUESTION:

-The overall goal of the research is to offer different ways of dealing with the complexity inherent in building design.

-This research specifically is an attempt to define what is known about aesthetics in the context of embracing complexity in architectural design.

BACKGROUND:

-Historically, the response to complexity has been a linear resolution of individual problems.

-The past few decades have seen exponential growth in the perceptible issues involved in design.

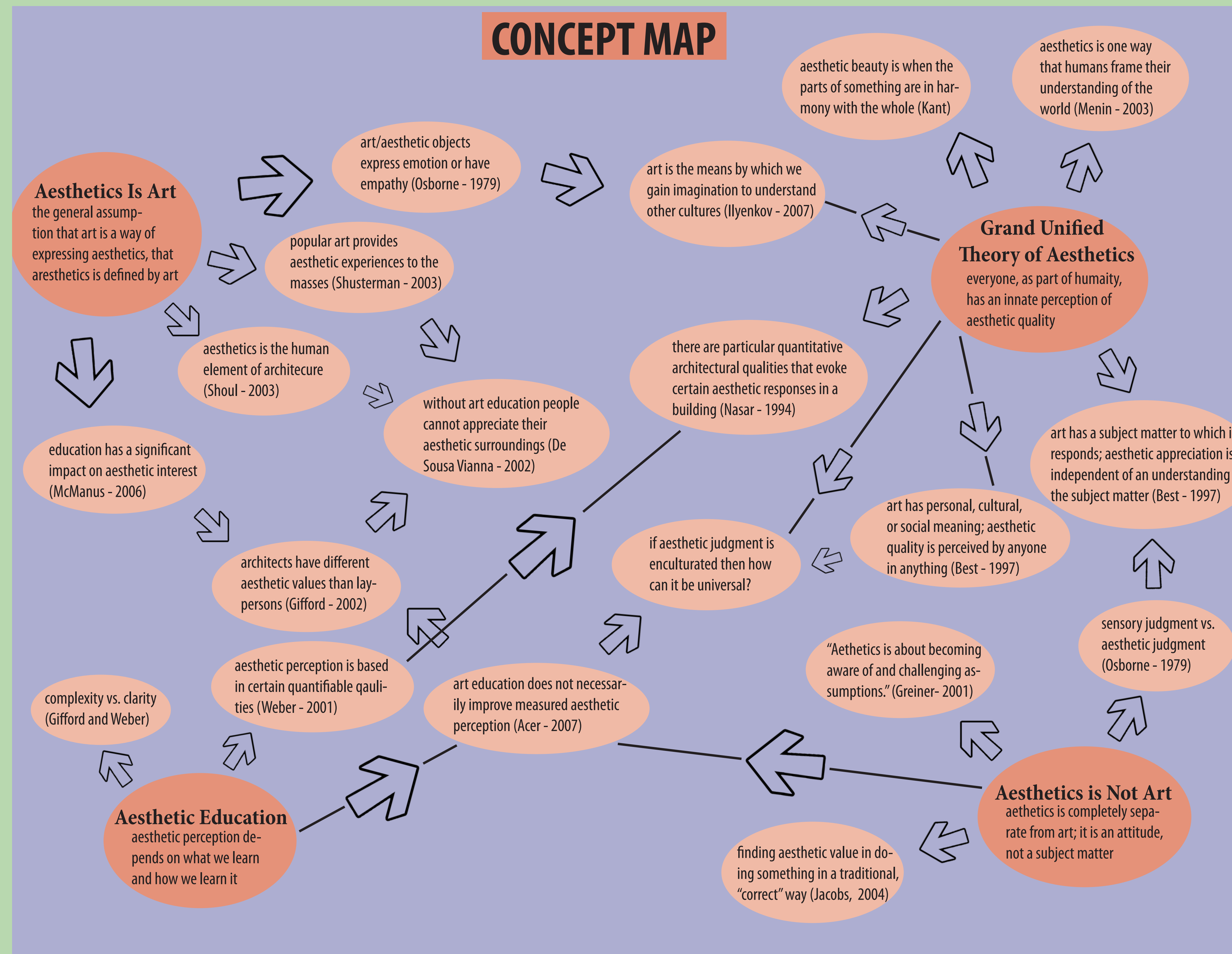
-This necessitates a new attitude toward the integration of complex design issues.

-Aesthetics, the philosophy of the perception of beauty, may be one mode of embracing complexity.

SIGNIFICANCE:

-Understanding and embracing the complexity inherent in architectural design is vital to a more complete social experience of the built environment.

-Without understanding all the dynamic issues involved in design, how can architecture bridge the gap between simple construction and true art, between an attempt and a true resolution?



ANALYSIS:

Aesthetic theory can be divided into sub-categories based on two essential differences in belief: the nature of the relationship between art and aesthetics, and the nature of aesthetic perception itself.

IMPLICATIONS:

-Aesthetic theory offers different, coincident beliefs about aesthetics.

-Who is the judge of the aesthetic merit of a work of architecture?

-How can aesthetics be used to judge architecture if it is by nature subjective?

-Designers need to understand their own beliefs about aesthetics and acknowledge that aesthetic perception is defined in many ways.

RESOLUTION:

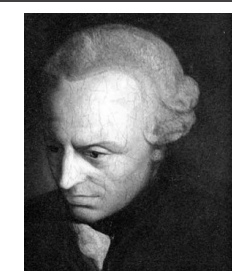
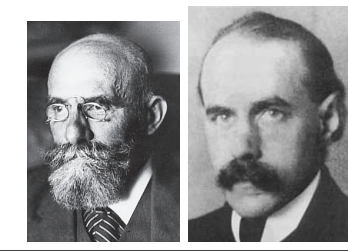
-Aesthetic theory has merit in architecture because architecture is seen by all people and is representative of all people.

-A clear definition of aesthetic values according to architects is called for.

-We should seek to identify the factors that make architecture beautiful in the eyes of architects, and then educate others with that knowledge.

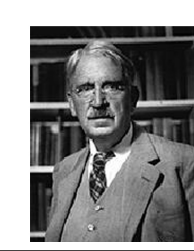
-To embrace complexity with aesthetics, architecture must understand its audience and their responses to the form of design.

1790 - Kant founds
Aesthetic theory



1800s - Ehrenfels and
Wertheimer found
Gestalt theory

1800s - Vischer founds
theory of Einfühlung



1934 - Dewey's "Art
Is Experience"

1977 - Best
1979 - Osborne

1994 - Nasar
2001 - Weber
and Greiner

2002 - Gifford and
De Sousa Vianna
2003 - Shoul and
Shusterman

2004 - Jacobs
2006 - McManus

2007 - Ilyenkov
and Acer

the belief that an object of true aesthetic quality will be recognizable to any human who sees it.

the belief that art and aesthetics are the same quality.

the belief that aesthetics are not directly tied to objects of art.

the belief that aesthetic perception is dependent on our own experiences, education, enculturation, etc.

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