
Final Project: Artist Statement “1700 Years”

My piece *1700 Years* was created to fantasize what space travel vehicles could look like 1700 years into the future if they were designed using the 7 principles of Zen design philosophy and the samurai sword as their sources of inspiration. Using sketching and marker renderings on paper as the main medium I set out to express my ideation sketches of the forms in which these vehicles could take shape. I chose to visualize space travel vehicles because I am heavily fascinated with the constructs of space, time and vehicle design in everyday life and with this historical opportunity of studying the Samurai Sword it was the perfect starting place for an inspirational assignment on the future of the samurai sword's design language. The title of the piece was derived from my research into the samurai sword's engineering and design changes since its inception. Over the course of approximately 1700 years in the past from today, the visual curvature of the blade changed ever so slightly enabling it to be built stronger, lighter and sharper. I pondered if one took any object from our current society and watched how it evolved over the next 1700 years, I doubt it would look anything like it did originally or if it still existed at all, being replaced by something more efficient. My approach to the space vehicle design is outlined below as I evaluate how this space vehicle will satisfy the 7 principles of Zen design philosophy through its own design and purpose.

Principle	Meaning	Design Integration
Fukinsei	Asymmetry	Just like the samurai sword if split horizontally the vehicle is drastically different on the two sides.
Kanso	Simplicity	Simple overall form that references the form of the samurai sword.
Koko	Bare Essentials	Exterior crafted from single material (Blue Metal) - power source also runs through ships components (orange)
Shizen	Naturalness	Smooth lines, shallow profile (also could portray itself as a bird or sea animal)
Yugen	Subtly Profound	Hidden Transformability Flight mode, operates like a plane but can land in any single location with the tilt of the thrusters and carries ground exploration vehicles in cargo bay.
Datsuzoku	Transcendence of Conventional	Although it looks simplistic in form the space vehicle/ship can perform many task from the air without having to land on extraterrestrial planets. (topography mapping, soil sampling, air quality testing etc.)
Seijaku	Quiet/Calm/Silent	Engines are powered by a plasma generator which doesn't create sound when it operates, like a battery, as well as the ship is silent as it flies through space.

In reflection I am happy with the results that emerged from this creative design process. I also believe that there are thousands of ways in which this project could be approached to attain the needs of the design principles each changing the final design in different measures. I had never attempted a marker rendering on this large of scale before and although not easy to keep the blending of the colors looking natural I feel

that it was a valiant effort and I can only progress from here. I chose to render the vehicle in blue for a few reasons, one being that I imagined the vehicle being designed on another planet where an exotic (blue) high strength metal was mined and this made the exterior of the ship. Secondly on earth blue is often observed as a natural color and the ship can also represent aquatic animals through its form and connection to naturalness. Lastly blue is the color of the sky and is a metaphor for going above and beyond, to never stop exploring and to never stop designing because the future is always inevitable.