

Name Model Topic Design



Area of Investigation What is sustainable design and why does it matter?

Inquiry Path What are society's major influencing factors in terms of sustainable design?

In a few sentences, write a synthesis of what you have learned from your research about this Inquiry Path. This synthesis should provide an answer to your Inquiry Path, referencing your sources. At this point, you are NOT yet expected to provide your personal perspective. You simply give an account of your findings and analysis of sources. Draw from the Forming and Organizing Evidence-Based Claims tools you have developed for this Inquiry Path and use connecting words to help express the logic of your ideas.

Sustainable design seeks to enhance, expand, and improve the ways in which people relate to the world. If people value improved relations with the world and its inhabitants, we should demand it and our leaders should demonstrate the will to achieve it.

On the positive, politicians are aware of how we are able to create sustainable solutions to handle real environmental problems. In the face of possible natural annihilation, Mayor Bloomberg of New York City aims to fortify the city from the ravages of large storms and hurricanes. This sustainable system could save lives and money for the city in the long run.

However, the poor decisions people can have dire consequences for the environment. McDonough, in "Cradle to Cradle," explains how our intellectual malnutrition negatively affects sustainable design. For example, we create poisonous children's toys and show little demonstrable interest in protecting the environment despite how much it enhances our lives. These choices and lack of action have an immediate affect on our environment.

Similarly, Freirs, in "Sorry Green Design, It's Over," points out how our fascination with new technologies has replaced our desire to create "green" designs. He claims that "sustainability turned out to be unsustainable. We just didn't have the time; we couldn't afford to be green. We thought the products looked ugly." Like McDonough, Freirs explains how the conscious decision making by people will yet again negatively affect the environment. This shows that people can easily put aside environmental-friendly design for design that only favors the lives of people. If leaders like Bloomberg, however, are capable of designing sustainable solutions, then we should press leadership to execute solutions that are sustainable for both humans and their environment, and that enhance our way of relating to our surroundings.