

Kenny Siu

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First Paper

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The object I wanted to talk about for this paper is no more than the original design of the capsule in those Japanese hotels. In America it is considered what people called a pod hotel. When I first saw this “capsule” hotel on the internet, I thought it is nothing more than just a new wave of design for the hotel or just a different approach to the same typical one room with a small set. The design from the capsule for the capsule hotel actually came back to 1979 where the very first capsule hotel was made by none other than Kisho Kurokawa, an architect designer in Osaka Japan. The theory design that correlated with this would be the design of the future with the change of art movement such as avant garde. Based on the article, Kisho is considered a “metabolism avant garde” much of an avant garde movement from Japan after World War 2 to change the way design looks with more futuristic design to fit the environment.

The very first original design of the capsule hotel takes place in 1979 Osaka where Kisho design takes a different approach from many designs from architectural building during their time. Kisho was also the founder of metabolism avant garde where he wanted to change the movement of design for buildings to be more futuristic and efficient. One of the most interesting things about this approach of design was a long term method where the design of the capsule hotel will pass over time and grow to the people who keep using it. The origin of the

movement was right after the aftermath of WW2 as the population of Japanese people were growing and the economic boom uprising but also needed an escape toward the World War 2 incident which is why they try to make the population grow or remove over time.

Since this is much like the theory we had about the futuristic mindset of the people making the manifesto such as Marinetti and Rodchenko, they talk a lot about the design that people made during their time and how its lacking meaning with design but by the use of technology it has made their design have more life into it. Metabolism's avant-garde movement was a different approach compared to the European Avant Garde movement but the slight difference is that Metabolist avant-garde use process and technology to solve the problem of their design. The main focus on those manifesto is that the idea of technology being implemented into design has made the movement an long-term plan with the final result being that technology will play a bigger role in most designs today. Futuristic ideas from Marinetti and Rodchenko have also been done by Kisho where he made the first capsule with the plan of having technology and people being the main focus of the subject in designing the capsule hotel.

Taking the theory into account let's go back to the capsule hotel, for this first Osaka capsule hotel is a collective of buildings full of capsule- like rooms as the exterior as this is what the futuristic look was going to be when they execute the design of the capsule hotel. Efficiency in the cost of going to a capsule hotel is also a main factor of the very core design of capsule hotels as it is very confined and affordable compared to regular hotels. The theory of this capsule hotel is what the original goal of the European Avant garde tried to achieve but rather the Japanese culture has ingrain this idea of having futuristic technological design and ideal with the resource given to build such in a way people would grow to love to reside in or see it as an “confined”

experience for the people. Although it does look like a trend that will fall off to other people, the theory in which future design of technology has been refined and improved over time. The capsule hotel from 1979 in Osaka has been made even to this day more futuristic than its previous iteration from the 1979 version of the first capsule hotel and even to this day is considered the most popular capsule hotel to go in Japan. In theory the technology is supposed to dominate the “man” and completely take over them but in reality when the Metabolist avant-garde planned was not just thinking about the design by itself but also thinking about the general public as well. Without this metabolism design from Kisho we would not have what we called the pod hotel you see today in America.



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