



TRUST THE PROCESS

#386729078

MY PROCESS OF ENLIGHTENMENT AND PRECEDENCE

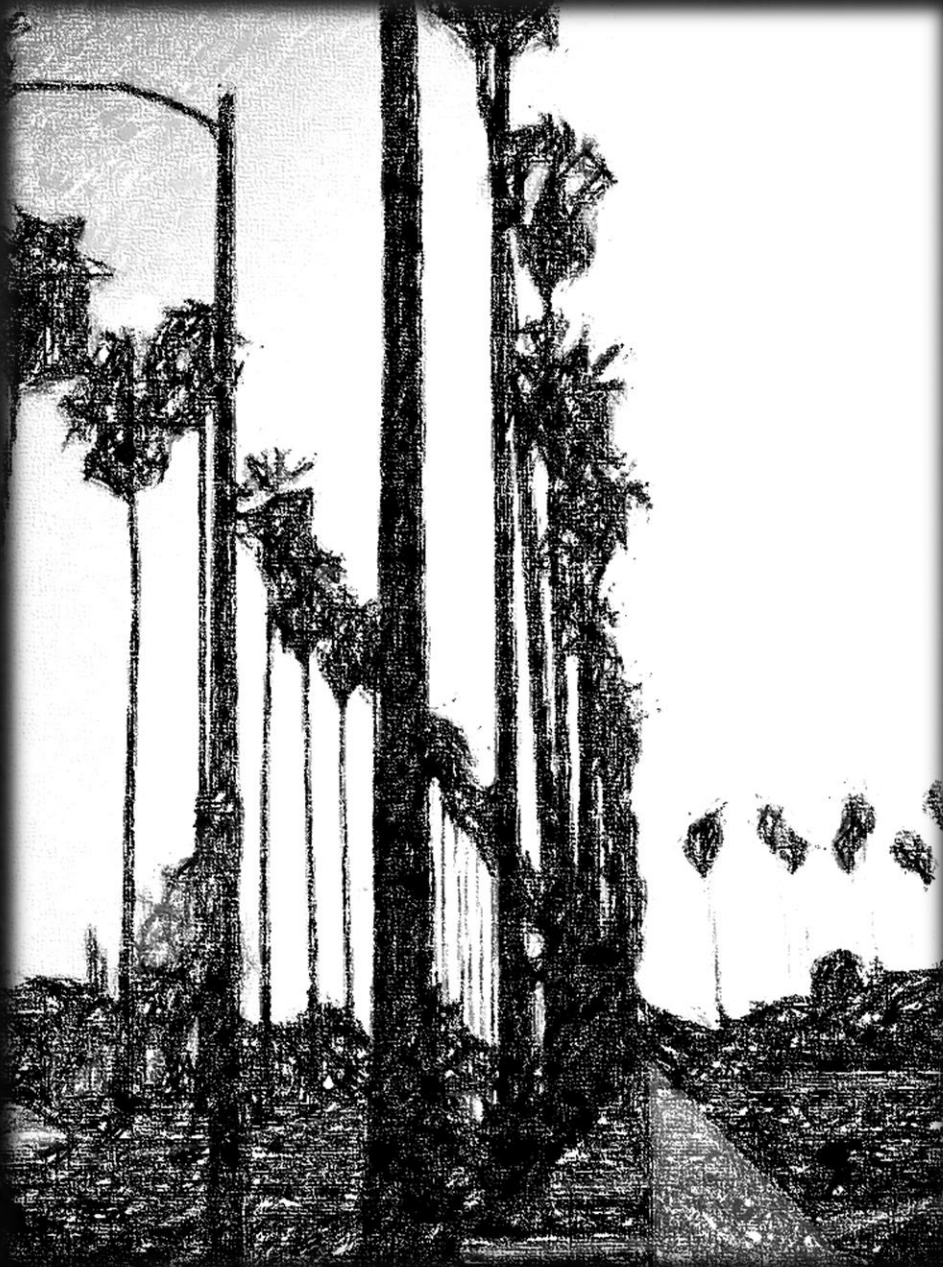


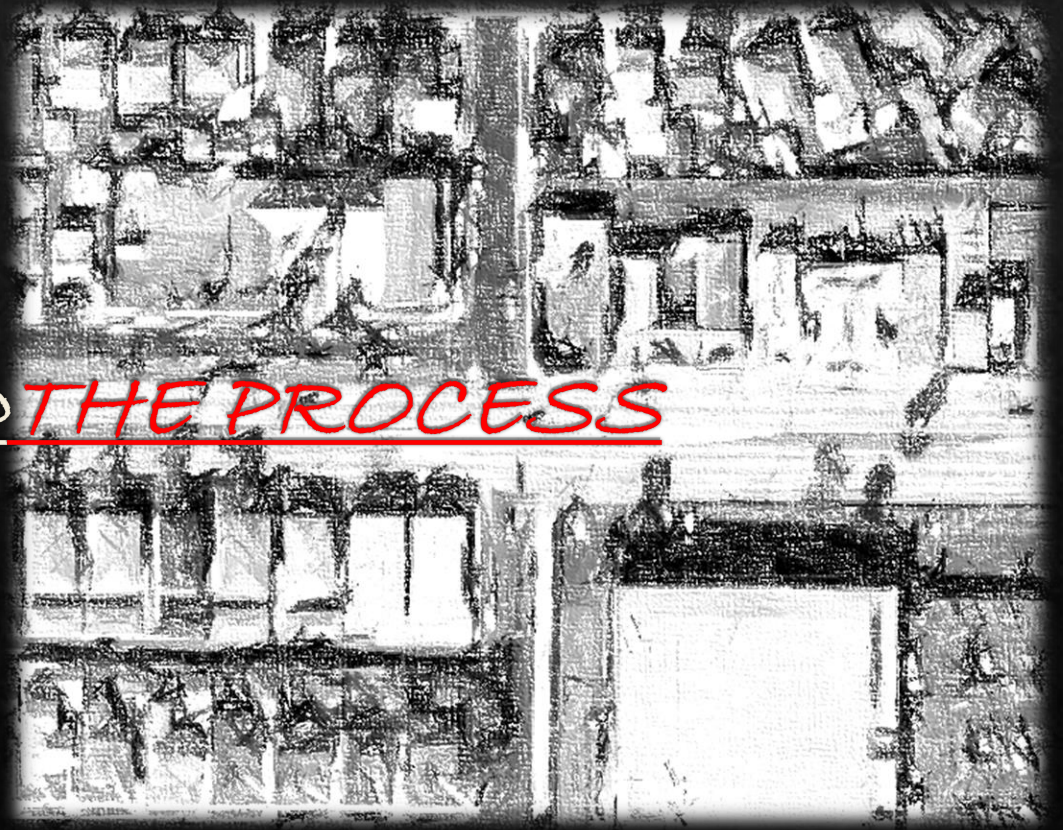
TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. THE STORY BEHIND THE PROCESS
2. PROCESS OF INSPIRATION
3. PROCESSING THE EXPERIENCE
4. THE JOURNEY
5. ENLIGHTENMENT THROUGH THE PROCESS

"...you design for the present, with an awareness of the past, for a future which is essentially unknown."

-Norman Foster

THE STORY BEHIND THE PROCESS



For the first 10 years of my life I was an only child who spent a lot of time entertaining myself. Many times, I spent hours playing with Lego, designing, and building houses out of shoeboxes for my action figures. My creativity and love for design started early and began to expand vastly, well before I knew what design and architecture really meant. It was in those moments as a kid my interest and passion for architecture became more and more embedded in my daily life. Growing up in South Central Los Angeles, I was a different type of kid. Surrounded by drugs and gangs, I was also brought into the world by two teenage parents, neither of which completed high school. I knew that when I got the chance to make it out the “Hood,” I was going to become an architect. The more I learned about the craft, the more inspired I got. As a teenager my one goal besides survival was to call myself an architect and get the opportunity to design my mother her first home. That’s what initially fueled my passion for architecture. I was also fueled by the thought of being able to create designs that left a lasting impression on my surroundings, while also being a positive ally for hope and aspiration for those within my family and community.

I knew the only way I could ever achieve an endeavor of this nature, I needed to establish a plan. Growing up in a place where young kids futures were already predetermined, I had to be ok with being different. By being different I took on a very different outlook on the community in which I lived. I always felt, though life wasn’t easy, there was always a chance things could be better. However, many of my peers felt the opposite. They felt the life we were born into was in fact the life we were destined to live. A life of poverty, struggle, fear and anger, which in most of our minds were the cornerstones of our existence, based on the cards we were dealt.



Me, unlike many of my friends who found ways to escape through sports and music, I found architecture. Though sports and music seemed like the most ideal exit strategy because some of the most successful athletes and musicians we saw, looked like us and also grow up in places like us. I too had the dream of being the next NBA player or powerful hitter for the LA Dodgers, but my drive wasn’t about money, like most of my friends, it was to do what no one thought I could. It was to find ways to inspire a community by doing what others hadn’t done.

I knew becoming an Architect would be a challenge because I had never heard of any Architects being from the inner city or for that matter heard of any that were African American. But I enjoyed defying the odds, so the challenge was welcomed. As I got older, I came to realize black architects only made up 2% of Americas licensed professionals. However, it didn't discourage me from pursuing the path of design. I genuinely felt if I could achieve what seemed impossible, which was the journey and title of an architect, I could inspire those that were younger than me. Therefore, establishing my own process was important. It was the key to finding my way out and the motivation for me to pursue my dreams, in an environment where dreams were often trumped by survival. This is way "trusting the process" has become such a clear definition of my life. Though it wasn't until I heard the saying in the context of the Philadelphia 76er's, did it make sense in the context my journey. It was a slogan that was coined by the general manager of the Philadelphia 76ers. It was his way of asking his fans to be patient with the building of a quality team and to bear with the tough times with hopes of brighter future.

I may not be 76er's fan but the underlining meaning was more real for me after hearing it. As I reflected on my life over years of struggle and success, it was clear my experiences were predicated on the journey built through my process. I believe as I continue to grow and learn through experience, education and seeing the world through a different lens, I'm hopeful I can begin to help rebuild value, character, pride and respect in a community that can thrive within it.

*116,242 Licensed
Architects
2,325 Black Licensed
Architects
-NCARB*



"Whatever good things we build end up building us" -Jim Rohn

◆ "NOTHING IS
IMPOSSIBLE. THE
WORD ITSELF SAYS
I'M POSSIBLE!"

◆ - AUDREY HEPBURN



◆ NO STRUGGLE, NO GLORY





PROCESS OF INSPIRATION



Inspiration can come from many places or things. Often we are inspired by the dreams we imagine, the goals we set, and the people we look up to and we find a sense of joy and happiness. In more times than not, we find the same gratifying inspiration by dreaming of ways to elude the negativity and struggle in our surroundings and life. However the inspiration may come, the key is to make sure we find it.

The interesting thing about life is how we tend to be inspired by the things we pursue in life. Many times we go searching for inspiration and most of the time it comes from our surroundings. Whether we find ways to escape the negativity around us or from seeking ways to uplift and redefine our environment, we all must find what inspires us. For me, the process of my inspiration became the joy I found in trying to design my mother her first house as a child. The slopy sketches of a much nicer, bigger home was the start of how I became inspired.

Growing up in a small, 800 square foot 2-bedroom apartment, space always seem to be a luxury. I would assume because the house was bigger it meant a better life and the thought of it only was inspiring, so I continued to sketch house after house. Though, at the time I didn't even know what design or architecture was. The fact that I would sit and draw houses all the time, it was in my best interest to find out more about what I was doing. As I got older and my knowledge and understanding of design grew, it became exciting to see what the world consider an architectural monuments. I remember one of the first buildings to inspire me was Frank Lloyd Wright's Falling Water. I was amazed by the creativeness of the design and the rigor it took to build a home on a waterfall. The more I researched architecture and design the more I became infatuated with the craft. I had never been more inspired to learn about something, like I was with design. As I continued to learn about design, I found inspiration in numerous architectural masterpieces. I enjoyed how the built environment could define the existence and pride of a community, a city, a country. The more I learned about architecture and experienced the perceived well-designed space, my vision became clearer and more colorful. As I started to venture out of my typical environment, it allowed me to see my own city through a more vibrant lens. I could only imagine the motivation that would accompany seeing an architectural masterpiece in person. The opportunity to understand the process behind an architect's work, seems far greater when you experience it within its physical context.



PROCESSING THE EXPERIENCE

"The only source of knowledge is experience" - Albert Einstein



Throughout my entire educational and professional career, I've discussed, studied and was inspired by the great works of multiple architects. I utilized world monuments and the design process of architects such as Renzo Piano, Frank Lloyd Wright, I.M. Pei, Le Corbusier, and many others to help develop my understanding of design and it ultimately guided my own design process for various building types.

The one overarching thought that set me aside from my peers within the industry was the fact, they all experienced the famed architects design process and beauty, in person. Yet, here I was only imagining the feeling the spaces might have invoked through an image, a drawing, or a narrative.

One of my grad school professors once told me, "nothing inspires an aspiring architect more than being in person to physically experiencing the great work of the architects they have study."

My journey through Xplore would be to do just that, experience the designs of great architecture throughout Paris, France. Considering the multitude of architectural masterpieces located throughout Europe, Paris allows me the opportunity to see multiple masterpieces that I have not only studied but also been inspired by.

The Trip:

I plan to visit numerous architectural monuments and museums throughout Paris. The goal is to reinvigorate my passion and inspiration to design through sketching, photography and valuable hours of experiencing the spaces and understanding the process behind the design decisions made in the built form.

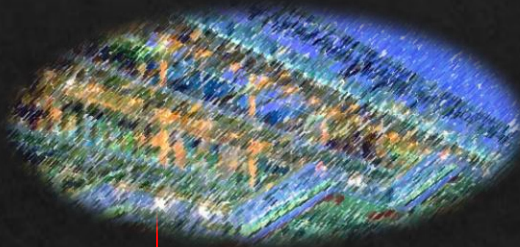
The journey will provide me the opportunity to understand and become immersed in the culture of the city in which these works of art have become a sense of pride and inspiration.

My hope is to gain a deeper sense of design and understanding of architecture as whole. Not just the built space but the impact architecture has on culture, community and individuals.

THE JOURNEY

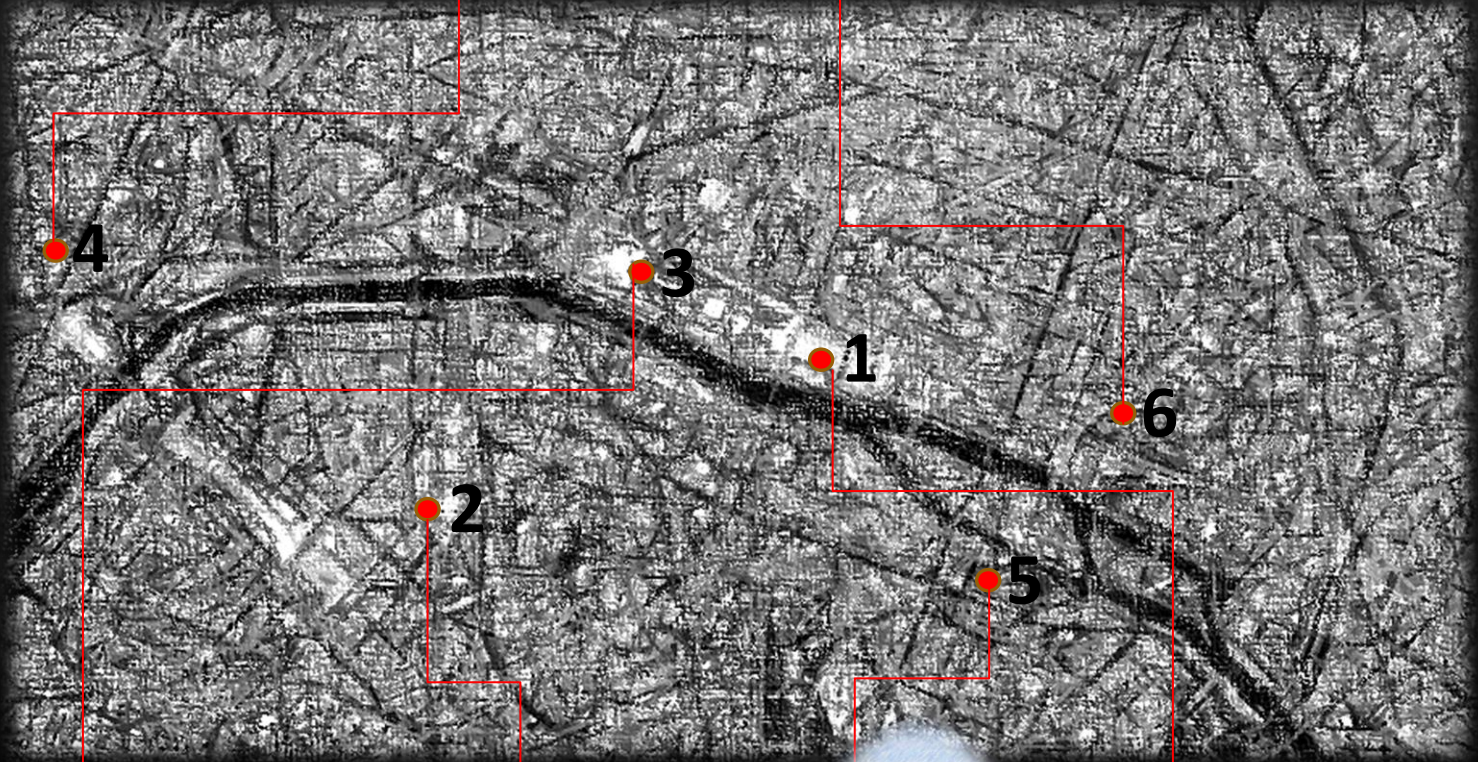
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"nothing inspires an aspiring architect more than being in person to physically experiencing the great work of architects they have study."
-Keith Plymal



EXPERIENCE THROUGH THE BUILT FORM

1. The Louver
2. The Arc de Triomphe
3. Jardin Des Tuileries
4. Villa Savoye
5. The New Pathe Foundation Headquarters
6. Centre Pompidou



"Inner city can be a better city" -Kendrick Lamar

ENLIGHTENMENT BY *SHARING THE PROCESS*

For me trusting the process saved my life. I took the darkness that was routed throughout my surroundings and sought ways to be a small beacon of light for those around me. The joy I found in design as a kid, is the same joy I get striving to become an architect with hope of eventually redefining the face of my childhood environment. Every opportunity, I enjoy speaking to the youth of my community, I try to instill a sense of confidence that with hard work, values, dreams, and an inspiration they can see better days for themselves. I try to be the mentor that can inspire the next kid to follow their dreams no matter the situation they are in and hopefully in the process a few more become inspired to pursue architecture.

It was through this passion, that I was able establish a plan to see brighter days for myself within my community. I took pride in being perceived as the “inner-city anomaly” and hopefully my process becomes the future precedent to the younger generation of South Central LA.

If selected, I would return from my trip and do a presentation and open discussion with the youth of a Los Angeles based non-profit organization called, Developing Options. The organization provides avenues and guidance to the youth of South Central LA and gives them an outlet to pursue their dreams through sports, activities and mentorships.

My goal is to tell my story, define my inspirations and share my experiences with students who are exactly where I use to be. I would like for them to establish their own process and trust it. Ideally, if I can inspire at least 1 to 2 kids within the group to want to pursue Architecture as a career path, it starts to plant the seed of opportunity within a field rarely talked about in the community. If anything, the goal would be to inspire the group to believe that no matter how bad it may be, that by putting a plan in place and trusting it, it will allow them to make their most vivid dreams a reality.

Youth Group Proposed Agenda:

- Open discussion about dreams and passions
- Who am I and how I succeed through find my inspiration
- Presentation of my experiences and travel
- Display and discussion on how to hold on to your dreams and trust the process

