



Asthetrix

Engaging Question: What makes a design functional and beautiful?

Key Knowledge

Principles of Design:

- **Balance:** The distribution of visual weight in a design. Can be symmetrical or asymmetrical.
- **Contrast:** The use of opposing elements (e.g., light vs. dark) to create visual interest.
- **Harmony:** The arrangement of elements to create a cohesive and pleasing composition.

Functional Design:

- **Usability:** How easy and efficient a design is to use.
- **Ergonomics:** Designing products to fit the user's needs and comfort.
- **Sustainability:** Creating designs that are environmentally friendly and resource-efficient.

Examples of Functional and Beautiful Designs:

- **Architecture:** Buildings that are both aesthetically pleasing and practical (e.g., Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater).
- **Product Design:** Everyday objects that combine form and function (e.g., Apple products).
- **Furniture:** Pieces that are comfortable, functional, and visually appealing (e.g., Eames chairs).

Learning Activity

Objective: Study examples of functional and aesthetically pleasing designs.

Instructions:

- **Research** examples of designs that are both functional and beautiful.
- **Identify** the principles of design (balance, contrast, harmony) in these examples.
- **Take notes** on how these principles contribute to the design's functionality and beauty.

Resources Needed:

- Internet access or library resources
- Notebook and pen

Challenge

Challenge Description: Design a functional object (e.g., a piece of furniture, a gadget) and create a prototype or a detailed technical drawing.

Instructions:

- **Choose** an object to design.
- **Gather information** and images related to functional and beautiful designs.
- **Create** a prototype or detailed technical drawing that incorporates the principles of design and ensures usability.

Submission Requirements:

- Prototype or technical drawing
- Include a brief written explanation (1-2 paragraphs)

Helpful Tips

- Use sketches and diagrams to plan your design.
- Consider the user's needs and comfort in your design.
- Be creative and think about how to combine form and function.