

An understanding of the term object is central to assembling a building project, as well as, to computational efforts to analyze a project. Technology, to include terms, must be recognized in order to be absorbed. The concept of an object allows us to consider both active data along with functional operation. As professionals we are always building up a knowledge of methods and processes, while at the same time engaging in developing solutions based on the limits of our current state of experience.

“All of us who do creative work, we get into it because we have good taste. But there is this gap. For the first couple years you make stuff, it’s just not that good”- Ira Glass

This statement from Ira Glass is sometimes summed up as ‘when taste outstrips ability’. A poignant quote, but Ira continues with an even more relevant insight;

“We all go through this. And if you are just starting out or you are still in this phase, you gotta know its normal and the most important thing you can do is do a lot of work.”

As technology adoption outstrips a practice’s pace of output, it is easy to feel that technology is constantly outpacing our efforts to advance. How can a practice effectively utilize a software or technique that may become obsolete before a team can deliver even one project utilizing the adopted technology? It is important to remember that technology is still developing over decades based on the same basic principles for the most part only reconfigured, but left unchanged. The “cloud”, “iot”, and “blockchain” all existed from the internet’s inception, or earlier, depending on your definition.

“It is not knowledge, but the act of learning, not possession but the act of getting there, which grants the greatest enjoyment. When I have clarified and exhausted a subject, then I turn away from it, in order to go into darkness again. The never-satisfied man is so strange; if he has completed a structure, then it is not in order to dwell in it peacefully, but in order to begin another. I imagine the world conqueror must feel thus, who, after one kingdom is scarcely conquered, stretches out his arms for others”
-Carl Friedrich Gauss; letter to [Farkas Bolyai](#) dated September 2, 1808

Architects must dwell in technologies, mediating, rather than consuming tools. While a general awareness of technology is now pervasive, this knowledge that we share concerning technology is based on consumption. It is a relentless form of consumption, which requires tweaks in perception to generate further demand.

For architects, a consumer relationship with technology is not sufficient. It is important to ask if through design you have grown aware of the conditions of your constituent clients? Or have you grown attached solely to the architectural objects? Do you perceive the daily conditions of your clients dwelling within these objects? Follow the essence of a clients’ brief, developed thru layers of insight, configured by objects.

-Lewis Matthew Miller, AIA

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