

A Skincare Servicescape for Margaret Roberts

Biomimicry and Biophilia as a Model and Mentor for Design

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Leani Rademeyer



DISSERTATION TITLE:	Margaret Roberts Skincare Servicescape:
	Biomimicry and Biophilia as a model and mentor for design
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CLIENT:	Margaret Roberts

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EKSERP

Die immer veranderende aptyt van verbruikers het handelelaars genoop om tradisionele verkoopsdenke te verander en aan te pas ten einde te verseker dat "toegevoegde waarde " ontsluit word in 'n streng kompeterende mark.

'n Handelsmerk word beskou as 'n wesenlikke onderskeier maar is opsigself nie voldoende om verbruikers te oortuig om die produk te bekom nie. Verbruikers verlang meer as dit. Tendense in die kontemporêre verkoops-industrie dui op kleinhandel-volhoubaarheid asook kleinhandel-ontwerp "ondervinding" as twee van die meer suksesvolle strategieë om waarde te ontsluit. Dit plaas die kleinhandel sektor se hoë hulpbron verbruik en vermorsing onder die vergrootglas. Natuurlikke hulpbronne word gebruik, nie net vir die produksie van produkte nie maar ook vir die vervaardiging van verpakking, fisiese handelruimte oprigting insluitende argitektoniese struktuur, binnehuise versierings asook bybehore. Alles net om aan die einde van hul bruikbaarheidslewe afgebreek en weggegooi te word - 'n wesenlikke vermorsing.

Hierdie skrywe ondersoek die rol van die natuur as model en mentor in Handelsontwerp met die fokus op die toepassing van Biomimetic en Biophilic ontwerpsbeginsels. Biomimicry word aangewend as 'n ontwerpsinstrument in die ontwikkelling van volhoubaarheids Handels en Dienste-ontwerp wat doeltreffendheid en zero-vermorsing beginsels van die natuur najaag. Biophilic ontwerpsbeginsels word terselfde tyd ook aangewend om die aankoopondervinding in die handelsruimte te ontwikkel en verbeter volgens natuur-geinspireerde beginsels.

Margaret Roberts, 'n vernaamde Suid Afrikaanse kruiedeskundige wat spesialiseer in kruiemedisyne, is die kliënt vir hierdie studie. Die voorgestelde ontwerp is 'n toegepaste handelsruimte vir Margaret Roberts waar Biomimicry en Biomimetic beginsels ingespan word teneinde toegevoegde waarde te ontsluit.



ABSTRACT

The ever-increasing nature of consumer demands has forced retailers to adopt 'added value' strategies to ensure their competitive edge in the market. Branding is considered a market differentiator, but alone is not enough to convince consumers to make a purchase. Consumers want more. Trends in the contemporary retail industry show that retail sustainability and retail experience design are two of the most successful added value strategies employed.

This brings forth the issue of the retail sector's resource intensive and wasteful nature. Natural resources are used to produce everything from products and packaging to the physical retail space including the architectural structure, interior finishes and fittings, all for it to be demolished and discarded as waste at the end of its life cycle.

This dissertation explores the value of nature as a model and mentor in the realm of retail design, particularly through application of Biomimetic and Biophilic design theories. Biomimicry is used as a design tool for developing a sustainable retail servicescape that emulates nature's resource efficient and zero-waste principles. Biophilic design strategies are employed towards the development of an in-store retail experience inspired by nature.

Margaret Roberts; a well renowned South African herbalist - specialising in the art of healing with medicinal herbs, is the 'client' for this study. The proposed design intervention is the creation of a skincare servicescape for Margaret Roberts that integrates Biomimicry and Biophilia as an added value strategy.





The design of the Chapter Pages incorporates botanical illustrations from Margaret Roberts' published book *Indigenous Healing Plants (1984);* highlighting the organic and natural influences that is manifested throughout this dissertation. UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

GLOSSARY

Atmospherics

The effort to design buying environments to produce specific emotional effects in the buyer that enhance purchase probability (Kotler, 1974).

Biomimicry

Biomimicry is an approach to innovation that seeks sustainable solutions to human challenges by emulating nature's time-tested patterns and strategies. The goal is to create products, processes, and policies—new ways of living that are well-adapted to life on earth over the long haul (BiomimicryInstitute, 2016).

Biophilia

Hypothetical human tendency to interact or be closely associated with other forms of life in nature (Merriam-Webster, 2016).

Servicescape

The environment in which the service is assembled and in which the seller and customer interact, combined with tangible comodities that facilitate performance or communication of the service (Bitner,1992).

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INTRODUCTION Background of Design Study



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"You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete."

> – Richard Buckminster Fuller (Pawlyn, 2011)



1.1 BACKGROUND

The environmental issues of climate change, water scarcity, waste and depletion of natural resources can no longer be ignored. Alarmingly, the built environment is one of the largest contributors to these issues. We as interior designers; professionals of the built environment therefore play a large role in the conservation of our natural environment. It is our moral obligation to design for a future that is environmentally sustainable, in which we become energy efficient, preserve natural resources and minimize waste.

In order to protect our natural environment, we need to learn from it. Biomimicry is an approach to sustainable design that looks for examples in nature to solve human problems. One of the major problems we are currently faced with in the built environment is the lack of resource efficiency (Pawlyn, 2011). Nature has mastered the art of sustainable design over 3.8 billion years (Benyus, 1997) and has developed the ability to design and construct large ecosystems using minimal energy and natural resources whilst producing zero waste in the process. So the question is:

How can we as interior designers use nature's design principles to become more resource efficient and produce less waste through the process of design?

This question highlights the real world problem, which will be addressed through the application of retail design. The interior design and construction of retail stores are often subject to seasonal changes in order to keep up with the latest trends. As a result of this, in-store shop fittings are commonly removed and discarded as waste to make room for the new concept designs, proving to be a highly resource inefficient and wasteful practice. Due to this, an opportunity was recognized to address the environmental issues through retail design.

The retail sector is highly dependent on branding and differentiation/added value strategies for success. Sustainability and experiential design are two of the leading added value strategies employed in the contemporary retail sector. Biophilic design is an eco-paradigm that mimics experiential qualities of nature in the built environment with the aim of reducing stress, improving well-being and expediting healing of occupants (Browning, 2014). This differs from Biomimicry, which mimics forms, processes and structures in nature as a means to create sustainable design solutions in the built environment. Biomimicry and Biophilic design, both nature-inspired design tools will be used to formulate an added value strategy that addresses sustainability and experiential design in the retail sector. This brings forth the design problem and question:

How can Biomimicry and Biophilic design be used as an added value strategy that deals with sustainability and experiential design in the retail sector?

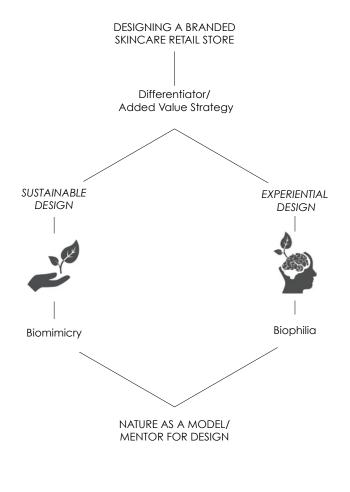


Figure 1.1 Diagram showing thesis theoretical approach (Author, 2016)



1.2 THE CLIENT

Margaret Roberts, a well-known South African herbalist has been chosen as the 'client' for this study. She manufactures a series of skincare products; all produced with organic medicinal herbs, which she sells at her Herbal Centre store in Hartbeespoort.

Working with Margaret Roberts as the client also provides an exciting design challenge, which is to re-brand and commercialise her products and in-store design whilst retaining the authenticity and original character about her brand image. It is evident that her current product and in-store brand image is outdated and poorly executed, which is why it is applicable for an interior design intervention to take place.

Margaret Roberts was chosen as the client for the purpose of this study since her current brand has a strong connection with nature and is in favour of sustainable practices. Therefore, the idea of designing a Biomimicry and Biophilic inspired brand and retail servicescape for Margaret Roberts is very fitting.

1.3 THE AIM

The aim of this masters study is to design a Biomimicry and Biophilic inspired skincare servicescape for Margaret Roberts that uses sustainable practices and experiential design qualities as a differentiator in the retail market.

Research Questions as Identified in Introduction

1. How can we as interior designers use nature's design principles to become more resource efficient and produce less waste through the process of design?

2. How can Biomimicry and Biophilic design be used as an added value strategy that deals with sustainability and experiential design in the retail sector?

1.4 CONTRIBUTIONS

The application of Biomimicry in the built environment is often manifested through engineering, architecture and product design and is not well established in the discipline of interior design. This thesis will therefore contribute to developing an understanding of how Biomimicry as well as Biophilic design can be applied in the discipline of interior design.

1.5 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

LITERATURE REVIEW

An in-depth study of Biomimicry as well as Biophilic and experiential design strategies is carried out.

PRECEDENT STUDIES

Precedent studies are used throughout this thesis as a reference point that provides examples of successful design solutions, which can be studied and analysed to support the concept design and technical development process.

MODEL BUILDING

Model building helps to develop an understanding of the three-dimensional qualities of an object or space. Since this study is largely concerned with design solutions found in nature, model building will provide a platform for dissecting these solutions and understanding the underlying structures of the design solutions.

BIOMIMICRY DESIGN SPIRAL

The Biomimicry design spiral provides two alternate methods; *Challenge to Biology* and *Biology to Challenge* that can be applied as a guideline when using Biomimicry to solve a design problem. The Challenge to Biology method is used when a human problem is identified, which then looks at examples in nature for a solution to the problem. Alternatively, the Biology to Challenge method is used when a brilliant example of design is identified in nature, which can then be applied to solve a human problem (Benyus, 1997). The **Challenge to Biology** method (see page 20) will be used for the purpose of this study since a human problem has been identified that will be addressed through finding examples of design solutions nature.

The **Challenge to Biology** approach to Biomimicry is carried out in 6 steps, namely;

DEFINE IDENTIFY	INTERPRET	DISCOVER	ABSTRACT
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These 6 steps of the Biomimicry design method will formulate the structure of this thesis and will be explained through the 1.6 *Outline of the Study*.



1.6 OUTLINE OF THE STUDY

CHAPTER 1: Introduction

Introduces the scope of this study and highlights the real world problem and design problem that is addressed.

CHAPTER 2: Theoretical Approach

This chapter discusses the application of Biomimicry in the field of design, specifically looking at the Biomimicry Design Spiral, Life's Principles and case studies of successful Biomimicry design. The theoretical approach to Biomimicry is further discussed in Chapter 5 in relation to concept development. Furthermore, Chapter 2 examines theories regarding branding, experiential and Biophilic design.

CHAPTER 3: The Problem - DEFINE

The first step of the Biomimicry Design Spiral is to Define the problem and design challenge. Therefore Chapter 3 will address both the real world problem as well as the design problem. A client analysis and site analysis is carried out as part of the investigation into the design problem.

CHAPTER 4: Programmatical Requirements - IDENTIFY

Step 2 of the Biomimicry Design Spiral is to Identify the key functions that need to be carried out by the design. Therefore, Chapter 4 defines the programmatical requirements for the Margaret Roberts skincare servicescape. This includes analysis of precedent studies as well as an in depth investigation into each of the programmatical functions.

CHAPTER 5: Conceptual Development - INTERPRET/DISCOVER

Step 3 and 4 of the Biomimicry Design Spiral is to Interpret the design problem into biological terms and to Discover examples in nature to address the design problem. For the purpose of this study, these two steps are combined into one investigative chapter, which supports the development of the design concept. Theories on resource efficiency and waste management in nature are consulted in this chapter.

CHAPTER 6: Design Development - ABSTRACT

Step 5 of the Biomimicry Design Spiral is to Abstract the elements of nature that provide a solution to the problem; as discovered in step 5, and apply them to a design solution. Chapter 6 therefore applies the theories discussed in Chapter 2 and Chapter 5 in order to formulate a design concept.

CHAPTER 7: Technical Resolution - EMULATE

The final step of the Biomimicry Design Spiral is to Emulate the design concept and to test the success of the design against Biomimicry's Life's Principles. Chapter 7 therefore involves technical investigations and iterations of design as well as the final design solution that will be tested against the Biomimicry and Biophilic design strategies.

CHAPTER 8: Conclusion

Final conclusions from the master study will be drawn and presented in this chapter.