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Topic: Nature Journaling and Observation

Objectives

To introduce earth literacy to architecture and interior design students through nature journaling and the development of observational skills associated with it.

Definitions

Earth Literacy as a field of study, “explores the contemporary, scientific story of the origin, nature and function of the Universe from its beginning, through its galactic phase, its supernova events, the shaping of the solar system, Earth, life, human life and self-reflective consciousness as a single, unbroken series of events.” (Thomas Berry) Earth Literacy "provides a context for engaging a fascination and intimacy with a sense of place, a bioregional context for re-visioning our human meaning, direction and vocation." (Miriam MacGillis)

Nature Journal: "Whereas a diary or personal journal records your feelings toward yourself and others, a *nature journal* primarily records your responses to and reflections about the world of nature around you." (Clare Walker Leslie)

Procedures

1. Research field guides and books on habitat studies.
2. Attend Earth Ethics Institute Everglades immersion.
3. Once in the Everglades, observe the season, time of the day, weather of the habitat.
4. Decide what to focus on first: plants, flowers, leaves, insects, birds, or clouds.
5. Draw, for instance, contrasting shapes in bird's eye view, at eye level, blind contour drawings, full landscape, and unexpected events.

Assessment

During the immersion, students will learn how to tune their senses, which will improve their observational skills.

By focusing on how to really see, students will respond to what lives around them. Students will make their own connection with nature and will become absorbed in the hand-eye process of getting shapes onto paper. Students will get involved in watching and recording through drawings, processes, patterns, shapes, cycles, and changes in the Everglades landscape.

Students will go over their field sketches back in the classroom and then personally develop, adapt, and catalog them into a final journal.

The journal will be used in future biomimicry design projects through the practice of developing sustainable technologies inspired by ideas from nature.