IMPLEMENTATION FORM FOLLOWS FUNCTION THEORY IN PRODUCT DESIGN

By: Nurul Primayanti, M.Sc

Product Design Lecturer at Podomoro University Jakarta, Indonesia.

Form Follows Function is a principle associated with late 19th and early 20th century architecture and industrial design in general, and it means that the shape of a building or object must primarily relate to its intended function or purpose.

The word Form Follows Function itself was introduced by Louis Henri Sullivan in 1896 in one of his articles "The tall building artistically considered". Sullivan views architecture as an art and a form of something that lives, grows and develops. Form Follows Function is often associated with modern architecture and industrial design. According to this theory, modern is efficient. Beautiful forms are only valid if they have a useful function, not just decoration. Any additions or ornaments that do not have a function should be trimmed (reduce). Louis Sullivan popularized the phrase "the form of a building that follows a function" (Forms Follows Function) to capture a size, space and characteristics in a building must first be addressed solely to the function of the building. The implication is that if the functional aspects are sufficient, architectural beauty will naturally follow. The idealism of an architecture is a combination of form and function. "Every building must find a form according to its function.

Every design in fulfilling a need must be able to have a function. These needs can be in the form of comfort, lighting, airing, the need for activities and so on which are related to the nature of the desired activity. Function arises as a result of a human need in an effort to maintain and develop his life. Function will give rise to a form and function is a major consideration in a form design. A function has various forms depending on how the situation and the surrounding environment. From these several reasons, a theory emerges which states that Form Follows Function, interpreted as a forum for humans to carry out all kinds of activities based on their strength.

Applying the Form Follows Function theory not only in the world of architecture but into product design. Some simple objects such as a watering can or a cleanse kit can be reduced to one optimal shape.

Victor Papanek is a product designer and design philosopher who teaches and writes about "Form Follows Function".

There are two main problem between this theory and product design. First, product design that is not in accordance with its function will make it difficult for the user to use the item. Second, Form Follows Function theory is needed in the application of product design in order to produce optimal products.

The implementation of Form Follows Function toward health protocol (covid-19):



Image 1a



Image 1b



Image 1c



Image 1d

The tool was designed by one of the students of the Agung Podomoro University (Jakarta, Indonesia) and her name is Cindy Fransiska. This tool is called the Cleanse Kit, this idea is based on a shift in the lifestyle of consumers from using disposable cutlery to bring personal cutlery. The goal is to reduce plastic waste.

The problem is that Neo Soho Mall Jakarta, Indonesia does not provide tools to wash the cutlery that visitors bring.

The application of Form Follows Function in this product is the display of the Cleanse Kit on the sink wall and its shape aims to provide clear information on the function of this tool. The application of this theory has been adapted to all ages, so that all visitors can use this tool.

The implementation of Form Follows Function toward MENU Eatering Can



Image 2a



Image 2b



Image 2c

MENU Watering Can designed by Anderssen & Voll Well. This tool has several differences from watering cans in general. The first is the shape of the hand grip that follows the curve hand grip, the applications of the Form Follows Function. Aims to increase user stability in using this tool.



Image 2d



Image 2e

The second is that the shape of the hole for filling the water on this tool is made at an oblique angle, so that water filling is easier and more direct.

The third is the shape of a long funnel that functions for the precision / accuracy of the fall of water into the plant pot.

The conclusion is that the application of the Form Follows Function theory to Product Design increases the level of effectiveness and efficiency of the function of the item itself, especially when it is used by the user.

Applying Form Follows Function theory in the product design process is highly recommended, the goal is to maximize product value as well as user comfort and safety when using the tool.

Reference

- 1. Sullivan, Louis. 1896 . The Tall Office Building Artistically Considered .Lippincott's Magazine.
- 2. Broadbent, Geoofrey. 1986. Design In Architecture. John Willey and Sons. New York.
- 3. Papanek, Victor .2005. Design for the Real World: Human Ecology and Social Change: Revised Edition. Chicago Review Press. Chicago.
- 4. Norman, D. 2013. The Design of Everyday Things Revised and Expanded Edition. Basic Books. New York

- 5. Fransiska, Cindy. 2020. *Cleanse Kit.* https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dmcyHynT482z1VqWAEiKl1-txuftuCw-/view?usp=sharing.
- 6. Morna. 2018. Form Follows Function | 5 Examples in Design. www.youtube.com/watch?v=ohDMFpXueNE.
- 7. Anderssen & Voll. 2016. *Menu Well Watering Can Design*. <u>www.scandinavia-design.fr/menu-well-watering-can-anderssen en.html</u>.