

Project 4 Written Respond

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Draft1

While trying to recreate the reference project, I realized that copying a design is not only about technical skills but also about personal understanding and interpretation. This made me think about how to preserve the core features of the original work while bringing my own perspective into it. It also raised questions about the impact of limitations, such as modeling skills, color usage, and hardware performance, on creativity and design outcomes.

The reference project demonstrates a highly detailed and polished composition, with vibrant colors, interesting textures, and a strong sense of balance. However, during my attempt to reproduce it, I faced several challenges. For example, my modeling skills are not as advanced, and I struggled to achieve the same smooth gradients and realistic lighting. Additionally, my computer's rendering performance is not as powerful as the one used by the original creator, which affected the final quality of my work. These issues made me reflect on the gap between my current abilities and the requirements of producing such a refined design.

Despite these challenges, this process has been valuable in helping me understand the relationship between tools, techniques, and personal creativity. It also made me think about how limitations can sometimes force designers to innovate and explore alternative approaches. This experience has encouraged me to focus on improving my technical skills while also finding new ways to express my ideas within the constraints I have.

Draft2

This week, I continued working with the UV layers of the model I created last week. My main idea is to use UV unwrapping not just as a technical tool but as a way to explore new

creative possibilities. Normally, UV mapping is used to apply textures onto 3D objects, but I wanted to see what happens when I treat UV maps as something independent, almost like a picture or a landscape.

To help me think about this, I looked at Luna Maurer et al.'s *Conditional Design Manifesto* (2013). This text talks about how creative work can follow systems and constraints to generate unexpected results. It made me realize that UV unwrapping is not only about flattening a model but also about creating a new structure. By changing how the UV maps are arranged, I could influence the way the model is perceived and even give it a new meaning.

One of my experiments was to take the UV layouts of a small decorative object and reorganize them into a flat 2D image. This made me notice that the original cut lines and shapes of the UV pieces affected how the final image looked. I found this very interesting because it showed how the process of unwrapping a 3D object can create something completely new. I decided to develop this further by arranging UV maps in a way that looks like potted landscapes. This experiment helped me see UV maps not just as technical layouts but as something that can be used for design and composition.

As I continued, I noticed that my UV layouts looked similar to traditional Chinese landscape paintings. These paintings do not follow Western linear perspective but instead use different layers to create a sense of space. This connection made me think about how 2D art and digital 3D design could influence each other. I started asking myself: Can UV mapping be used to create images instead of just applying textures?

Through this project, I am trying to push the limits of what UV mapping can do. I want to see how digital tools can be used not only for function but also for creativity. By experimenting with different ways of arranging UV maps, I hope to find new ways of representing space and form. Moving forward, I plan to test more dynamic transformations and explore how digital surfaces can tell stories in new ways.

Draft 3

In this draft, I translate my written response into a visual format using UV mapping. By placing text onto UV maps and reapplying them to a 3D model, I explore how this process

affects meaning and readability.

Text on a UV map merges with the surface texture, but when reapplied to a 3D model, it distorts or becomes hidden. This raises questions: How does readability change? Does meaning persist, or is it reshaped by form?

This experiment challenges traditional text structure, shifting from a linear response to a spatial experience. It highlights how visual representation alters perception, showing that meaning is fluid and shaped by its medium.

Reference

Maurer, L., Paulus, E., Puckey, J., & Wouters, R. (2013). "Conditional Design Manifesto," Conditional Design Workbook.