A SOLUTIONIST MINDSCAPE EDITION 04

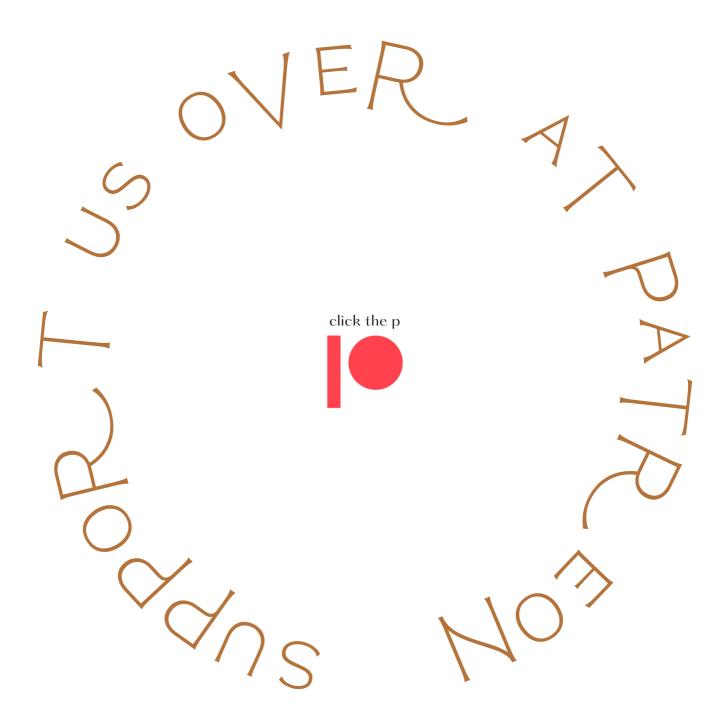
## EVERY ONE'S BUSINESS



### WHAT THIS IS, PARTLY

Everyone's Business is an experiment in discrete exuberance. The present moment flows along, and carries us all with it. We each are sovereign members of the earth, containing within, multitudes of gifts, skills, intuitions, waiting to be stoked into a type of energetic creativity, that has the potential to create an even better world for us all. Human development is a lifelong, heroic, messy endeavour which thrives in shared purpose, and knowledge. Consider this a playground for the mind, and permission to take the act of living as seriously as needed, to enjoy it as fully as possible.

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### ZEN LUNATICS



This Edition, for those who pay attention to such matters, will note that it is significantly late in its publication.

You see, this magazine, mindscape, mental map, whatever one may call it, is a freeze frame of ideas, people and striking impressions that have beguiled my attention over a given period of time. The word 'freeze' is especially pertinent, for it pins down for a moment, amongst a veritable ocean of moments, impressions that have held some import. But freezing, or containing, can have the effect of ossifying that which is captured. Think of taxidermy, which allows for preservation, but the essential spirit of the animal is perfectly absent, leading to that sense of the uncanny when looking at a specimen.

My travails and experiments are in a process of constant flux and flow, which literally creates a life force energy. When I come to each Edition, to share what I have discovered, for those intrigued by other possible worlds, I am contending with this sense of an ending, constricting the flow; when I put ideas down to be seen and shared broadly, they essentially become time-stamped by date of release. It feels like a timer is now set, as to how long these findings, captured in text, image, voice and video, can percolate and transform, before they become confined to the past. How long before an object becomes an artefact? That tension between flow and structure, being and not being, of expansion and integration, transcendence and the mundane, is the stuff of myths, religion, and psychology. Perhaps you have a hint now as to what was behind the delay of publishing. It is also perhaps these seeming dualities that led me to certain singular interactions over the past few months, which I share in this Edition.

Short story, long: endings allow for space to quite literally open up, within one's mind, attention, and even, body; space for new spontaneity and creativity. I could go on, but suffice it to say, in the creation, and publication, of this Edition, I have accepted (for now), that in the end of my typing the final full stop, is your beginning, to discover that which I have gathered, which allows me the space to begin, again.

Or in other words, the procrastination has come to an end.

Always,
Hardeep, often referred to as, H
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Edition I Edition III



## SOME OF WHAT TO EXPECT

### ICHIGO ICHIE 期会

Every single moment, interaction, experience, sunrise, moonset, occurs only once. Literally. A lifetime built off singular moments. Feeling liberated or tired, already?

### SPACE ARCHITECTURE

are a subset of builders who are focused not on the next apartment complex or infrastructure project, but rather edifices that will reside on other planets. Barbara Imhof shares within, us. her world.

### NUMBER DROP

In small corners of planet earth, there Letters are efficient receptacles of information. Numbers too, however, can be formidable deipnosophists. In this Edition we look at the hidden and mysterious marvels of life around, and

### RAP BATTLE

T.S. ELiot vs Khalil Gibran. What's at stake? The universe, the meaning of it all, the courage to go there. Not much, then.

### **PORTFOLIO**

D C F

### HAFEZ

The Persian poet offers advice on matters from finding the apartment to the best work out.

### LAUREN SINGER

You may be familiar with the billboard thought experiment i.e. if one could commandeer a billboard, what would be shared upon it and where would it go? Lauren of Trash is for Tossers, shares her message.

### 7 STFPS

Home Coming by John Bradshaw popularised the term 'inner child' in study of neglected developmental needs during childhood. Part of the process of healing involves knowing what values are important to us. We explore further.

### **JOBS BOARD**

Careers counsellor, careers advisor, careers coach, so many titles, so many boxes constructed to package young minds into quiescent adults. Perhaps we can revisit the jobs board to see what else could be available.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR: July 13: bear witness to the largest supermoon of 2022, 14:38 EDT/11:38 PDT/18:38 GMT. The July full moon has many names: the Buck Moon, Thunder Moon, or Hay Moon. The Ojibwe people of the Great Lakes region call this moon Abitaa-niibini Giizis, the Halfway Summer Moon, or Mskomini Giizis, the Raspberry Moon. Expect higher tides worldwide.

## AND A BIT MORE

### OTHER-WORLDLY

### **PORTALS**

### ARCHITECTURE OF CONTEMPLATION

Fiction is plentiful, as is art, in casting forth imagined worlds and places that defy the mind's eye. We decided to look a bit closer to home, but with the view of an alien coming to Earth. What would they find truly wondrous?

do have time on our hands but are short on ways that we feel make use of this time meaningfully. We have curated a host of portals, to transport you into different places. Once in, choose your own adventure.

More than we may like to admit, we Our regular series which we find particularly enchanting: we ask, what are the spaces, and places, that expand one's sense of being, or offer respite, even contemplation? This Edition, a journalist, an Al developer, a publisher and an astrophysicist, opine.

### **EMERGENT DESIGN**

### GRV TO IKEBIN

### **SUI GENERIS**

A review of Design Emergency, the brainchild of Alice Rawsthorn and Paola Antonelli

Whether considered adornment or a connection to a deeper symbolism, flowers occupy an important part of many major cultures. Ikebana focuses on the poetry of flowers, and this is an invitation to those called, to poetically dabble.

R&R

### THE MINOTAUR

Two words to get some peace from mind. And they're not rest and recuperation. But you're close. Real close.

This conversation opens the door into the culinary world of Chet Sharma, a chef whose path has been in some ways unexpected, but in actual fact, a living, breathing experiment in becoming ever more aligned to one's essential self. What makes this piece resonate at a deeper level, is that Chet and Hardeep have known each other for decades. Quite literally. The conversation was a fun voyage through Chet's experiences and learnings which have culminated in the launch of his own restaurant, BiBi, in Mayfair.

'There are no more deserts. There are no more islands. Yet there is a need for them.' Are you ready to get deserted, and isolated, with Camus?

ANNOUCEMENTS PAGE: exciting new things, exciting re-discoveries, solutionists, tinkerers etc etc etc.

#### A SOLUTIONIST MINDSCAPE

Barbara Imhof is Principal, managing director, project manager and design architect at LIQUIFER Systems Group, (LSG). The company engages in design, engineering, innovation, prototype development and testing for space and space—related habitation, transportation and exploration technologies. A current project for example is Paving the Road, an initiative to create literal transportation routes on the moon by applying lasers to the lunar surface, to create a traversable subsoil. This is an utterly fascinating field, to say the least. Here, Barbara brings us into her orbit.

I like the idea that space architecture is architecture for each place of the universe and that earth architecture, and Mars architecture are only a subset of space architecture. This relates to the notion that earth, our small blue marble is situated in space and so are we. Buckminster Fuller already said many years ago that "we are the astronauts of our spaceship earth". I am always intrigued by this coining quote because it refers to a framework, we are now more and more forced to consider. That we are the stewards of our terrestrial world that we need to care for and for which we need to keep her household healthy and afloat. At the same time, we are part of a much bigger space, a universal space which renders our planet nearly insignificant. The exploration of our neighborhood of the moon, Mars and further out is not only in the human nature but also required to substantiate human life on earth and space with facts and knowledge that we have been discovering and will continue to do so. This creates a profound understanding of relationships of matter and processes. So how to venture out, leave our terrestrial surface, leave the gravitational forces of earth and become spacefarers?

In the beginning we needed to understand the environment, establish a safe shelter, build spaceships that withstand the outside environment and create inside spaces that support human life. These are incredible requirements to a spaceship's envelope but also to its infrastructure that needs to resemble a small biosphere. Only a 5mm membrane made of steel alloy separates the outside environment with a temperature range from -250 to +150 degrees celsius from the inside which has around +20 degrees celsius. All seams of this thin milled and welded membrane need to be 100% airtight because the outside the pressure is zero bar, and a vacuum inside a spaceship, one bar pressure is established. The pressure difference such a thin membrane needs to hold is immense.

Apart from earth, in all other environments humans are targeting currently for exploration, gravitational forces are less than 1g. In orbit and in between celestial bodies we can float with no reference system as we know it. We float through space stations and we have all space in every axis available, not just the horizontal plane. We can truly float and experience the three-dimensionality of a space. These spaces humans perceive as larger because they are not bound to the x and y plane. To be able to live in microgravity, we have to establish an alternative body memory. The architecture and interior design are very different from a gravity bound environment and so the interior furnishing is completely different. It has to be thought anew due to our changed neutral body position where legs bend and arms float in front of us, where we need the arms to propel us forward in gripping handles and where our leas serve as arms that can carry soft cargo boxes. In micro- or zero-gravity we cannot stand still, we are always in a state of movement; different to earth where we always start moving from a still position. Diving under water and moving in the water body resemble similarities to floating in orbit only with one exception that in orbit we do not have any resistance from the water.

Space for humans is a deadly environment and so a spaceship establishes a livable environment and ideally a closed-loop ecosystem to reduce costly transportation of resupply. Human life in space is about the care for resources at hand and the quest for creating a technologized biosphere with closed-loop systems. If a spaceship can be a biosphere with recycling systems and a 100% care for resources, then a house or a city on earth can also become a closed-loop ecosystem: a city like a spaceship.

7

### ARAPBATTLE: ELIOT VS GIBR AN

(TSE)

"Do I dare

Disturb the universe?"

(KG)

"You are far far greater than you know, and all is well."

The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock
T.S. Eliot
The Prophet
Khalil Gibran

### |CHIGO |CHIE 期会

Ichigo Ichie - the uniqueness of individual moments, never to be repeated. Each moment will not be magical nor even memorable; it may be one of pain, embarrassment, jollity or plain boredom. But still, that exact moment, exact experience, precise interaction, will not repeat again. The deeper one contemplates this, the more discombobulating it becomes. We think of plenty of 'firsts', especially in childhood but this concept radically alters time, in that every interaction with external reality is non-repeating. There may be a desire to denigrate parts of the day, or week, as being less valuable or meaningful, because they feel routine, mundane. Likewise, when 'big' events come around, birthdays, weddings, births, there is pressure to make them utterly spectacular and wonderful and lovely and magical and...and...and... Ichigo Ichie liberates experience from both ends of the spectrum. It allows for a deeper connection to the present moment you find yourself in, to root down, and treasure the seemingly humbler moments and interactions, which actually act as a microcosm of larger moments. And on the other side, appreciating special events for what they are – moments in time to honour a person or life stage, to be present and thankful – allows them to also fulfil their purpose without making them bear the weight of all meaning, as other opportunities to have such moments will present themselves. They will not be the same, but you get to choose how you will treasure future moments.

Below I share two moments, one planned, one purely serendipitous.

One evening, I found myself in a West London community centre, undertaking the practice of Zazen – the Buddhist meditative posture of sitting in lotus position, hazily resting my gaze at an undefined spot in front of me, and simply being; thoughts were welcomed in to the mind, but politely gestured out – there is no tea and chat on offer. I had not intended to be here at all. In fact, I had aimed to be at another event altogether, a talk on quite a different theme, but had ended up at the wrong address. As I found myself already West of home, I asked our great modern oracle – Google – what lay close by to me, by which I could transmute this wrong turn into a new turn. That is how I found myself, ensconced upon a cushion on the floor, sitting in silence for 50 minutes. After the session, a pilgrimage to the pub was made – with the self–proclaimed 'lunatics', where topics including the void, happiness and posture coursed around the table; the fellow practitioners raucously discussed weighty matters, unselfconsciously, generously. I finished the evening at home, in quiet, with beans on toast.

Of a Friday morning, I found myself winding up Portobello Road with Rex, a visiting human from Singapore, lightly gazing at the antiques that adorned the street, whilst sampling various baked goods. I sometimes host a few fellow dough—heads on a literal trail of breadcrumbs, one could say, close to home, of my favourite bakers and bakeries, typically independents and small, perfectly crafted (iced) gems of places. We talked as we walked, speaking on our mutual love of cinnamon buns, the role of Al in creativity and the act of making change when that which we used to do, no longer serves us.

Each of these interactions will never repeat, not in this way, not with these people. I'm glad my sliding doors were open, that allowed me entry to these moments. Keep an eye out for your own doors (n.b. they won't all have handles, some are motion activated).

### Relax

### Release

Get some R&R.

Relax and release, that is.

Michael Singer, author, speak and former CEO, has developed a two step approach, or rather, cultivated it in his mind, with startling repercussions.

Whilst working on his doctoral economics thesis in the 70s, Michael had what some may call a spiritual awakening, thereafter a lifelong seed was planted to liberate the mind from its continual states of incessant chatter and reactivity. Spending weeks away in isolation, often pulling up on the side of a road to meditate and do yoga as the setting or feeling beckoned, Singer discovered that through paying close and deliberate attention, he could increasingly bring his mind into stillness.

The approach goes like this. You can start sitting in place, or being in movement, going about your daily business, but start to pay attention to the thoughts popping into your mind. They will run the gamut: from thinking of what to do for dinner tonight, who's turn it is to get mum a birthday card, why you didn't book the dentist appointment when the clinic called, are you putting enough into your pension, there's a crick in your neck, who was it that won Wimbledon two years ago... On and on, much like dots of black paint, corresponding to each thought, dropping on to a white canvas, your mind, the surface will become smattered with your internal dialogue, rapidly. This is where the attention comes in. As the given thought comes in, relax the body with a breath in, create a pause in the mind, and then release it - don't follow it, don't make it bigger, stickier, heavier, by paying attention to it. In time, as thoughts seek to mark your mind, they will pass right on through, without doubling, cascading, sprawling out; over time, the mind's status quo becomes quietude, not chaos.

Michael uses the analogy of a bird floating on water, which is worth spending time on; you can do so <u>here</u>. A quote from him, to end on:

"Stop being so interested in everything your mind has to say because 95% of it is garbage, right? You're going to see it's all about "How do I fix this?" Everybody's got a Mr. Fix It, Miss Fix It in there. You're just trying to stop the ripples. But by creating mind to stop mind, you're creating more mind. That's all there is to it."

#### A SOLUTIONIST MINDSCAPE

KEBANA \$1

Ikebana is the centuries-old Japanese art of arranging flowers. The Japanese word roughly translates to, 'making flowers come alive.'

The tradition dates back to the Heian period (from 794 to 1185), but really took on its now iconic identity in the 16th century, with the rise of the Buddhist tea masters and their samurai protégé, that integrated this art within a larger ceremony dedicated to zen mastery.

Ikebana is not solely an arrangement of flowers, it is considered a living sculpture, or piece of art; asymmetry typical of the art speaks to a dynamic interplay between the flowers and plants chosen, the environment in which they are placed and the eye of the beholder.

There is a delicate balance between a highly stylised, deliberate form and a certain 'suchness', i.e. letting natural forces unfold as they will. Marie Kondo speaks to this, "if a petal happens to fall into the water, then so be it. It's all part of the Japanese notion of wabi-sabi, the Buddhist belief that there's beauty in imperfection."

Seasonality is key: much like seasonal eating applies to the food we consume, the same principle applies to the flora used for an ikebana arrangement. For a concise introduction, you can discover more <u>here</u>. To hear directly from a traditional ikebana master, go <u>here</u>. To learn from a contemporary lkebana master, go <u>here</u>.

It might seem a nicety, to spend time arranging flowers. But the act is one of deep devotion. Apes do not actively curate their surrounds, the dolphin does not garner algae into an arrangement, a pig does not gather wildflowers. That humans have the urge to both seek, and cultivate, beauty, that they express any aesthetic preference at all, and have codified it over thousands of years, written stories about it, dedicated buildings to it, suggests something is deep at work here. Ikebana is one expression of a human desire to manipulate its material surrounds to uncover perhaps a further reality, something that resonates with an unspoken but highly alert sense buried deep within. As Blake said, and several dormitory posters attest, 'To see a World in a Grain of Sand And a Heaven in a Wild Flower, Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand, And Eternity in an hour.' Not too shabby an outcome, should even one flower be seen anew.









### ON the religion of which you never knew you were a member

"What do sad people have in common?

It seems they have all built a shrine to the past and often go there and do a strange wail and worship.

What is the beginning of happiness? It is to stop being so religious

### ON the best sort of work out

like that."

"Run my dear, from anything that may not strengthen your precious budding wings. Run like hell my dear, from anyone likely to put a sharp knife into the sacred, tender vision of your beautiful heart."

### ON finding the best career

"Now that all your worry has proved such an un-lucrative business, Why not find a better job."

### ON finding your next home

"Fear is the cheapest room in the house. I would like to see you living in better conditions."

### $|\,{\sf ON}\,{\sf an}\,{\sf alternative}\,{\sf to}\,{\sf Google}\,{\sf maps}\,{\sf (or}\,{\sf Waze)}$

"This place where you are right now, God circled on a map for you."

### ON the stalker out on the streets

"Ever since happiness heard your name, it has been running through the streets trying to find you."

HAFEZ

### THE MINOTAUR (OR, THE STOP IN OR AN)

an essay by Albert Camus, 1939

There are no more deserts. There are no more islands. Yet there is a need for them. In order to understand the world, one has to turn away from it on occasion; in order to serve men better, one has to hold them at a distance for a time. But where can one find the solitude necessary to vigor, the deep breath in which the mind collects itself and courage gauges its strength? There remain big cities. Simply, certain conditions are required.

The cities Europe offers us are too full of the din of the past. A practiced ear can make out the flapping of wings, a fluttering of souls. The giddy whirls of centuries, of revolutions, of fame can be felt there. There one cannot forget that the Occident was forged in a series of uproars. All that does not make for enough silence.

Paris is often a desert for the heart, but at certain moments from the heights of Pere-Lachaise there blows a revolutionary wind that suddenly fills the desert with flags and fallen glories. So it is with certain Spanish towns, with Florence or with Prague. Salzburg would be peaceful without Mozart. But from time to time there rings out over the Salzach the great proud cry of Don Juan as he plunges toward hell. Vienna seems more silent; she is a youngster among cities. Her stones are no older than three centuries and their youth is ignorant of melancholy. But Vienna stands at a cross-roads of history. Around her echoes the clash of empires. Certain evenings when the sky is suffused with blood, the stone horses on the Ring monuments seem to take wing. In that fleeting moment when everything is reminiscent of power and history, can be distinctly heard, under the charge of the Polish squadrons, the crashing fall of the Ottoman Empire. That does not make for enough silence either.

To be sure, it is just that solitude amid others that men come looking for in European cities. At least, men with a purpose in life. There they can choose their company, take it or leave it. How many minds have been tempered in the trip between their hotel room and the old stones of the lle Saint-Louis! It is true that others have died there of isolation.

As for the first, at any rate, there they found their reasons for growing and asserting themselves. They were alone and they weren't alone. Centuries of history and beauty, the ardent testimony of a thousand lives of the past accompanied them along the Seine and spoke to them both of traditions and of conquests. But their youth urged them to invite such company. There comes a time, there comes periods, when it is unwelcome. "It's between us two!" exclaims Rastignac, facing the vast mustiness of Paris. Two, yes, but that is still too many!

The desert itself has assumed significance; it has been glutted with poetry. For all the world's sorrows it is a hallowed spot. But at certain moments the heart wants nothing so much as spots devoid of poetry. Descartes, planning to meditate, chose his desert: the most mercantile city of his era. There he found his solitude and the occasion for perhaps the greatest of our virile poems: "The first [precept] was never to accept anything as true unless I knew it to be obviously so." It is possible to have less ambition and the same nostalgia. But during the last three centuries Amsterdam has spawned museums. In order to flee poetry and yet recapture the peace of stones, other deserts are needed, other spots without soul and without reprieve. Oran is one of these.' Read on Here

#### A SOLUTIONIST MINDSCAPE



Anyone else recall that conversation with their school career's advisor: equal parts generic, uninspiring, or even, patently soul-draining? Below are some 'jobs' they never told you about. Note these exact roles have currently been filled by those you see, but your unique role is just waiting for you to discover it. The question is, are you prepared to go on the journey, to seek it out?

#### FOREST CARETAKER

#### Job description:

Required: a love of planet and people; waterproof shoes Bonus: potential to plant 100,000 trees over the course of your career

Testimonial:

Watch below, The Kingdom



director Matthew K. Firpo | cinematographer Jeremy Snell

#### RECYCLED-SKATEBOARD ARTIST

### Job description:

Required: be comfortable being yourself; a spark Bonus: giving permission to the creativity of others, through leading by example

Testimonial:

Watch below, Inner Worlds: Haroshi



director of photography: Nobutaka Shirahama

### MARINE DANCER

### Job description:

Required: a love of dance; ex-military; desire to heal Bonus: create art that touches the deepest level of human suffering, and bravery

**Testimonial**:

Watch below, Exit 12: Moved by War



director Mohammad Gorjestani

#### DEMON FIGHTER

### Job description:

Required: ability to travel hundreds of miles on foot; happy to consume flowers

Bonus: add to the net goodness of the world

Testimonial:

Watch below, Tibet, the Path to Wisdom



director Hamid Sardar-Afkhami

68

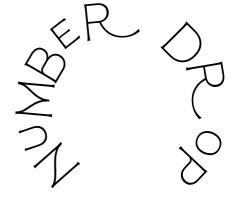
percent, the amount of the universe comprised of dark energy. Dark energy does not have any known local gravitational effects, but rather is thought to have a global effect on the universe as a whole. The jury is still out as to what this actually is, and its ultimate function.

98

percent of DNA, popularly but perhaps ungenerously, called 'junk DNA', that does not appear to code for any protein formation, making the majority of the human genome technically defunct. Or unaccounted for, at the very least.

2

types. In a single glass of water, there are two forms of H2O - 'ortho-water', where both hydrogens spin in the same direction. In the second form of water, called 'para-water', the hydrogen atoms spin in different directions.



10

drops of water contain a number of H2O molecules equal to all of the stars in the universe. Feel free to fact check that.

24

feet tall, the size of a fungus (prototaxites) discovered in Saudi Arabia, dating back 420 to 350 million years. During this time, plants were still relatively nascent and the tallest trees were only a few feet high.

628

AD, first use of the number zero proposed by the mathematician Brahmagupta. Q. what is 0/0? A. <u>Here</u>

20.000

average number of breaths taken by a human in one day.

### SUI GENER IS

Chet Sharma; Chef Patron,

### "The unknown excites me."

The experience of sitting across from Chet is simultaneously one of deep familiarity, and separation. For you see, Chet and I have been in each other's orbit since our earliest nursery years. From the age of four up until eighteen we went to the same schools, and then found ourselves at the same university. The separation however is that of the natural order of things: forging different friendships, different interests, and eventually threading off into different paths altogether. As I sit waiting for Chet (I have run late) I have time to take in the surrounds of BiBi, his burgeoning, blossoming, beating heart of a restaurant that represents the fruits of what has been a long, yet deeply fulfilling, journey. As Chet approaches me, I am immediately recalled to that decades old impression I have of him, of a gentle soul, looking out into the world, quietly sure, quietly focused

Bibi is a term with which I am utterly familiar, being the Punjabi word for 'grandmother', typically from your father's side. The tenderness associated with this term is the sentiment that powers Chet's BiBi; what could be more nourishing than the food that surrounds us from infancy, handed down from one generation to the next, passed around the family table? The path to BiBi has been full of wondering and wandering. As Chet brings me up to speed with his life to date, the tale is one of a childhood spent surrounded by the hospitality industry, with family members conversant in this world of service and delight, which planted a seed in a young mind. Chet's own path into this industry however was unclear, allowing him the space and time to experiment, quite literally.

Out of school he undertook a degree in chemistry which led all the way to a PhD from Oxford university, with a specialism bridging chemistry and physics. This precise way of looking out at the world, one of measurement, refining, devising best practice methods through experimentation, would in time be the skills required of a chef looking to first dissect his heritage, then mine it for the forgotten gems which hundreds of years of colonial history had buried, and finally to rebuild a modern response to the authentic craft and elegant complexity of Indian cooking. Over the course of his studies, Chet would take any breaks he could, evenings, weekends, summer holidays, to knock on the doors of Michelin starred restaurants, to offer the humblest of skills, to get a chance to learn from, and see, some of the very best chefs in the world.

Speaking with Chet, it is clear that learning and mastery are two of his driving values. His curiosity and openness to the unknown, led to work at restaurants including Benares, Locanda Locatelli, Mugaritz, Simon Rogan's Umbel Restaurant Group, Mark Birchall's Moor Hall, and The Ledbury. The names speak for themselves, but what should be articulated is the pure openness to the unkown that Chet embodied over this time. There was no 'in' at the beginning, no introduction to these back doors. Equally, over time, the work ethic and talent then created a calling card, preceded Chet. This journeying eventually led to the role of development chef working with the JKS restaurant group which brought Chet firmly into the purview of Indian cuisine. Talking to Chet, about his travels to India, eating his way across the country, from the seafood South to dairy and meat of the North, this was clearly a time where the classical roots of Indian ingredients started to speak most clearly to him.

I know looking at my own spice rack that I have some handle on flavours, and then I look to my mother's, and her collection(s) look like a master potion-maker's cabinet of curiosities. But even these, I learn from Chet, pale in comparison to the scores of spices that sit within hundreds of households, road side dhabas, and professional kitchens, the length and breadth of India. Today, in BiBi's own offerings, this has manifested in one dish that contains no less than 64 spices. There is also something deeper at play when it comes to the sourcing of the ingredients,

www.bibirestaurants.com 16

### SUI GENER IS

continued

"we react radically to what we can get daily."

This is how Chet expresses this close communion with both source ingredients, and the producers who are local, homegrown talents that provide not only the produce used at BiBi but down to the sustainable Holm Oak charcoal sourced from the South Downs, for dishes cooked on the grill. The culture of BiBi nurtures this flexibility and openness, epitomised by 'Curry Tuesdays' held for staff only, with a new region of Indian chosen each week, and a four course meal created as a portal to those flavours, and subculture.

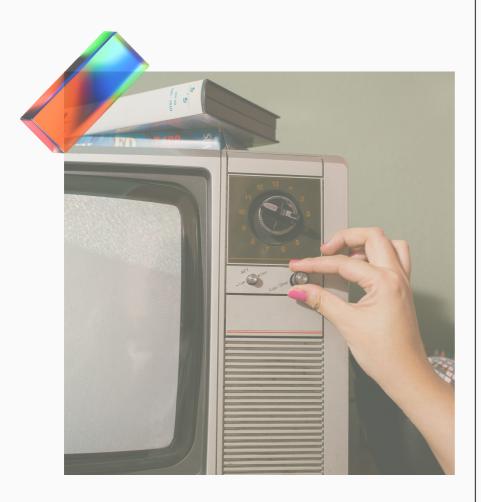
As we start to wind down our conversation, for Monday is Chet's 'office day' whereby the demands of a restaurant owner extend to tasks such as payroll, restaurant cleaning and maintenance, we touch upon the deep nostalgia that some of the dishes carry for Chet. Universally we can relate to personal food memories. At BiBi, this has been taken one step further, and memories from Chet's forefathers are honoured. There is one particular dish, Sharmaji's Lahori Chicken, named in honour of Chet's grandfather. The association is one of deep joy, a delicious memory of a chicken dish from a teenager going about his daily life, and also one of pain and dislocation - the tragedy of partition, a young man separated by an arbitrary line from his immediate family from one day to the next. Chet recounts that his grandfather would never talk of that time in his life, except for this one saving grace memory of a beloved childhood dish.

So here we are, at the end of a great reconnection, a journey that seems only at the beginning for Chet, as he dreams ever bigger, with bolder tastes. This is a mission to liberate Indian food from the narrow confines it currently occupies. BiBi, in Chet's own words, "represents a culture" and from the reservations made months in advance, people clearly want to be a part of this unfolding.

- (H) For what are you most grateful?
- (CS) Support, at home from my wife / family. And at work from my team. I couldn't achieve half of what we've achieved so far without a solid team behind me both at home and work.
- (H) What do the words abundance, and scarcity, mean to you?
- (CS) Abundance a mundane luxury. Scarcity an exciting challenge.

### ANNOUCE-MENTS

a spotlight on new projects, on old but still relevant ideas, on potential solutions and all other manner of happenings



### OI BETTER BATTERY CO.

The question was seemingly simple: "everyone uses batteries, but no one knows what to do with them once they run out of power. So, we thought, what if they never did?" Posed by cofounders Jaclyn Byles and Greg Bell, they answered the question by developing the first ever certified carbon neutral batteries with a seamless recycling program. This is a subscription service, that provides both new batteries, and recycles old batteries for you. Explore

### 02 MAGIC MUSHROOMS

Magical Mushroom Company is thinking hard on meeting the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Their solution? Packaging that is biodegradable, durable and comparable in price to traditional packaging derived from fossil fuels, made from combining agricultural waste with mycelium – the root structure of a mushroom Explore

### 03 SVALBARD GLOBAL SEED BANK

Welcome to the ultimate insurance policy. The Seed Vault safeguards duplicates of 1,145,693 seed varieties from almost every country in the world, with room for millions more. It's purpose is to backup genebank collections to secure the foundation of our future food supply. Explore

### 04 PYRAMIDS

Have you heard of the pyramids in Sudan's northern desert? For the first time, an archaeologist was able to take the journey beneath the structures, using the flooding by the Nile - a subterranean adventure of which Jung would firmly approve. The story of the exploration can be discovered through the eyes (and lens) of NatGeo photographer Nichole Sobecki. Explore

places to go out in the ether to learn about things for the development of knowledge to become less sure about what you think you know

### **FUTURE**

Backed, and powered by VC Andreessen Horowitz. Future is a place to learn about cutting edge technologies directly from the engineers, makers and thinkers who are building out the future in a very, very, literal way. **LINK** 

### **COLLISON QUESTIONS**

Patrick Collison, co-founder of Stripe, lives between expanding the pie of economic growth for the businesses of tomorrow, and studying topics of philosophical and cultural import. Use PC's questions to start your own exploration of future solutions. **LINK** 

### **IDO PORTAL**

The Huberman Lab podcast is a journey into physical and mental health through the lens of a research professor with a skater background. His work is broadly impactful, but keeping with the portal theme, this seems too good a word play, so start here. LINK

### GRESHAM COLLEGE

tickling, fascinating, Deep, pragmatic, the list of adjectives could continue to spool forth. Since 1597 Gresham College has been inviting academics to share their insights and research for free. In person, or online, the iewels are all there. LINK

### WORLD OF WISDOM

What do you get when you bring a therapist, a rabbi, a Buddhist nun, and an imam into conversations about loss and pain, on how to build healthy relationships or how to develop peace of mind? Listen, if you like, and you may find out. **LINK** 

### THE BIG BOUNCE

'What if there was no big bang and we live in an ever-cycling universe?' This is a theory several decades in the making, and is the question physicist Anna Ijjas is studying in her theoretical work at NYU. Ready to step into a new potential paradigm? LINK

### PLANTS OF THE GODS

Ethnobotanist Dr. Mark Plotkin takes us deep into the jungle through this gently but deeply researched exploration of the hallucinogenic plants mushrooms that have shaped world culture and religion over aeons. LINK

### FRACTAL WORLDS

Dreamt of Iridescence by Julius Horsthuis. A fractal short. LINK

### MINDSCAPE.

Scallops have 200 Crickets' ears are on their knees. As many animals there are, is the number of parallel realities currently at play on this one planet. Physicist Sean Carroll speaks with writer and zoologist Ed Yong. LINK

EVER YONE'S BUSINESS

## TR ADE OF A LIFETIME

"Sell your cleverness, buy bewilderment."

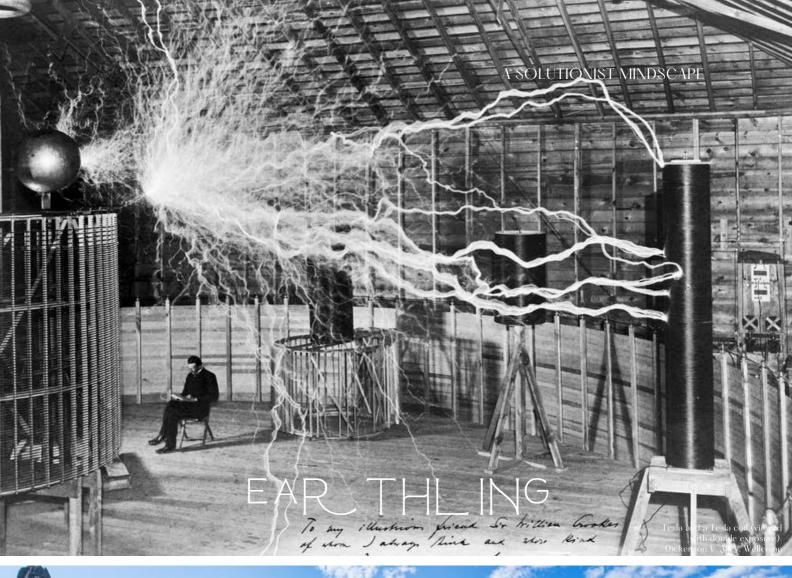
riimi

(H) Hello dear reader – here are some prompts and questions pulled from The Learner, a journal created to act as a playground for the mind; a place to record, to play, to pause, to human.

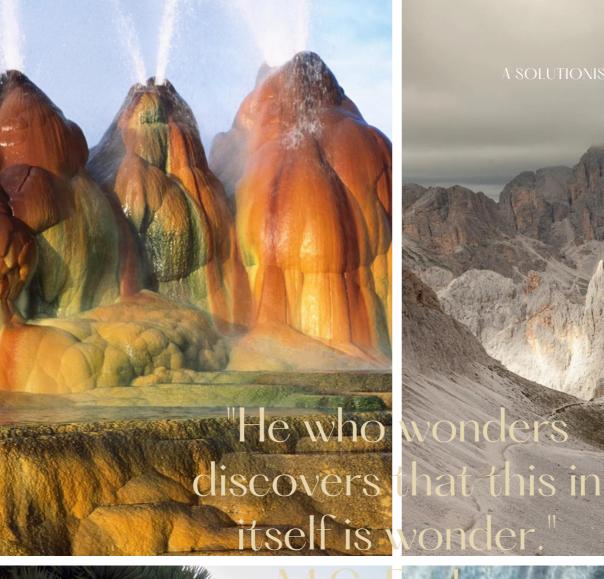
| 1  | "There's nothing wrong with things taking time."   | 1              |
|----|--|----------------|
|    | (James Dyson)  | $\overline{T}$ |
| A  | What is your immediate response to this statement.                                       |                |
| IB | What is your response once the immediacy fog has cleared?                                |                |
| 2  | Ask yourself – what am I working towards, and does my current behaviour match my vision? | Ŕ              |
| 3  | Ask yourself – what values do you respect most in your closest friends?                  |                |
| 4  | Ask yourself – what values do you think friends most                                     | •              |

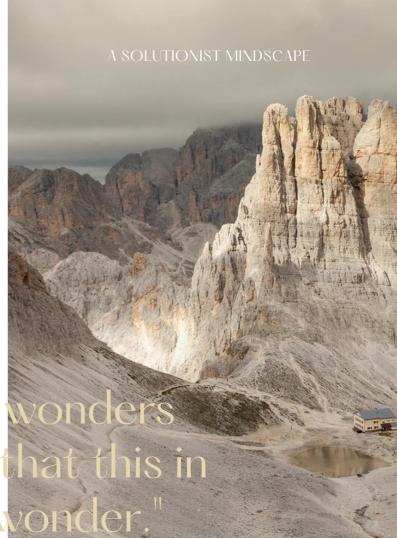
If you would to learn more about The Learner, you can do so  $\underline{\text{here}}$ .

value in you?













### THE 7 STEPS

### **JOHN BRADSHAW**

educator, counselor, author

"When the inner child has been wounded through neglect of his developmental dependency needs, he either isolates and withdraws or clings and becomes enmeshed."

The term 'inner child' originated with Carl Jung, but it was John Bradshaw in his seminal book, Homecoming: Reclaiming and Championing Your Inner Child, who popularised the concept, noting that 'adult children' proliferate society - those who in early life were in some way neglected or abused, leading to developmental interruptions. This essentially 'freezes' the child in time, so to speak, which our adult selves then carry around on a daily basis. This then causes long term emotional harm which can manifest in manifold ways as an adult, in the form of co-dependence, addiction, or low self-esteem, to name but a few time-travelling, butterfly effects. Towards the end of Homecoming, whereby Bradshaw, through a series of clinical psychological techniques, leads the reader to reconnect and nurture their 'inner child', to meet the developmental needs of that child that were missed, a section focuses on value development. One exercise draws upon the book 'Values Clarification' by Sidney Simon, Leland Howe and Howard Kirschenbaum, which encourages the reader to outline their value system. One of Bradshaw's theories is that if a child is never truly allowed to express themselves fully, they are not enabled the time and space to discover, and develop, what values and principles that are truly meaningful to them. Over the course of a lifetime, a lack of expressed, or even known, values can lead to personal confusion, a loss of identity and leaves a person vulnerable to more coercive personalities. The seven elements that define what actually constitutes a value can be found below. Leaders are often taken through this exercise but it makes sense that everyone has access to their values.

If you need a more comprehensive framework, there is an exercise you can undertake <u>here</u>, which includes a word bank of values to get you started. It's worth even a glance. You may surprise yourself, in a good way.

ONE It must be chosen.

 $\top \setminus \land \land \bigcirc$  There must be alternatives.

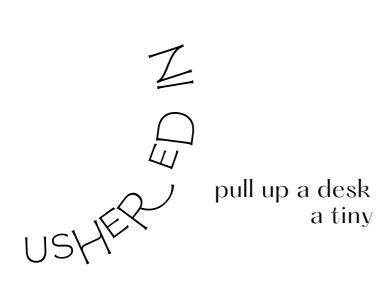
THR EE You must know the consequences of your choice.

Once chosen you prize and cherish it.

You are willing to publicly proclaim it.

You act on this value.

SEVEN You act on it consistently and repeatedly.

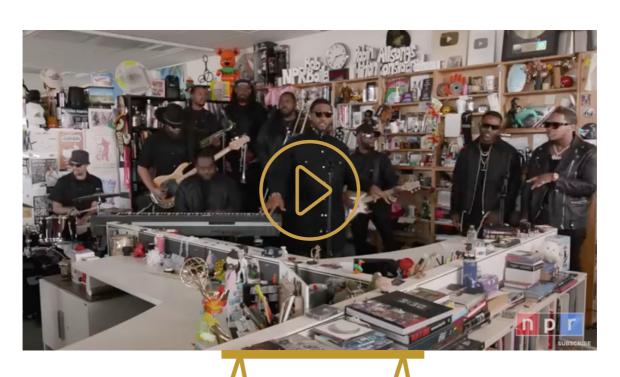


### a tiny one specifically

As Nietzsche famously said in Thus Spoke Zarathustra, "I would only believe in a god who could dance."

And in one universe, I'm personally tickled to think that this god might be a fan of Usher.

Because, well, who isn't?





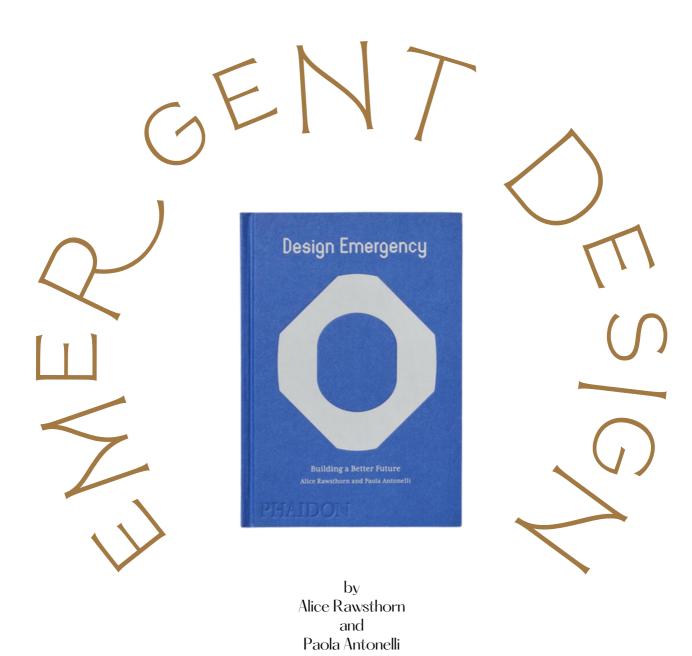
Founder Trash is for Tossers

We asked Lauren Singer, founder of Trash is for Tossers, should she be given free reign of a billboard, what message would she impart upon it, and where would it go?

Live your values.,

where:

the most heavily trafficked commuter highway



### DESIGN EMER GENCY

by Alice Rawsthorn and Paola Antonelli a (re)view

Design is "not a profession but an attitude."

These words, expressed by László Moholy-Nagy in his 1947 design manual-cum-design totem, 'Vision in Motion', is pulled by Alice Rawsthorn and Paola Antonelli in their newly released book, **Design Emergency**. I confess over the years I have not always felt as forthright in calling myself a designer. I haven't trained 'formally' in any, let alone in one, specific design discipline; I created a fashion line with my twin sister, that was developed from the ground up, learning directly in motion, on the job, in medias res. We then took a deep dive within, after a couple of years, to decide if solely fashion was truly the direction we wanted to pursue. The reply that came was a "no"; a no that opened the door to per se, a value system that today so happens to express itself in the world as a design studio. That word again, 'design'. Per se was our expression of how we lived, and wanted to continue living. The focus would be a cross-disciplinary one – perhaps that's an oxymoronic claim – any category could be chosen, a coat, a journal, a space, a mindset; the unifying ethic would be creating, and offering, to those seeking, the building blocks to live a more conscious, intentional life. This was design applied to the most fundamental nature of living – the very source code of being. You can see why using 'design' to apply to per se, opened up a bout of existential self-questioning.

With this code of my own ambivalent relationship with design running in the background, I sat down with Alice's, and Paola's, book. What first struck me were the proportions itself of Design Emergency: just over A5 in size, it is perfectly portable, not grandiose as a glossy coffee table book, but meant to be handled thoroughly, explored, leafed through, through and through. This book is not about beautifying a space, it is a call to adventure; a compact, cobalt blue, matte finished, call, to new realities. Next, as I opened the pages to the introductory words, my inner sense smiled broadly, as I was greeted by an image of one of the key thinkers that has mesmerised me for years - Buckminster Fuller; now this is going to be fun, I thought. Bucky, as he was affectionately known, is someone whose work I have researched at length. I have read his books and listened to his lectures which run over several hours: a wide, broad, sprawling ramble into an intellectual cosmos that is at times confusing, largely due to the audacious, sometimes frightening scale of its vision for humanity. Fuller envisioned a deeply symbiotic, dignified and interdependent state of affairs between humans. His sight was set on unleashing the riches of this abundant habitat - spaceship earth - for as many people as possible. He paid no attention to traditional boundaries of where he could apply his engineering insights. In action, he is what one would call a polymath, but in spirit, an everyman. To me, he represents a radical individualism that vitalises and transforms the whole: how could I not be in thrall? Choosing to open Design Emergency with Fuller expresses a deeper ethic - one of radical empowerment for design to be unleashed from the confines of aestheticism and utilitarianism, and placed into the hands of individual problem solvers who imagine and create for the collective.

**Design Emergency** was birthed from the uncertainty, and ensuing design ingenuity, engendered by a global pandemic, but later matured into its current form - an optimistic exposition of the many faces of design that range across the themes of Technology, Society, Communication, and Ecology. I am put to mind of a Blakean quote:

'For Mercy has a human heart; Pity, a human face; And Love, the human form divine: And Peace the human dress.'

### DESIGN EMER GENCY

continued

The work of <u>Ilse Crawford</u> for example, follows the tenets of comfort and nurture. Andrea and Simone of <u>Formafantasma</u> talk of using design to create "a safe life not only for ourselves, but for all species." Fritz Haeg, in talking about his commune, <u>Salmon Creek Farm</u>, speaks to the act of hosting people in the space, which he hopes,

"...sends a message of care, resourcefulness, slowness, and a holistic approach to living with the land."

Enumerate are the examples in **Design Emergency** that ingenuity of thinking, filtered through a geohumanist lens, leads to designs that yes, solve problems, but also allow us to be more human, too. Through each of the designers featured, we are shown how higher order values of creativity, community, and care-taking are making real a difference in the lives of millions, even billions, of people.

Paola and Alice talk of the designers featured in the book as 'protagonists' which hints to the insatiable attraction humans have to stories, and the act of story-telling itself. **Design Emergency** is a story book where actually all of the characters and events are true. I find this exhilarating. The broadness of design included also had a liberating effect on my own identity as a designer. The plurality of approaches is, I think, proof-positive that each person has something to offer, a vision to unleash, an attitude of stewardship to self and other that goes beyond the confines of what we currently believe is possible. Although a fearful emergency planted the seed of this work, I am left with a feeling of abundance and hope. And this is the final note upon which I shall end this piece. Having followed the work of Alice and Paola for years, and having been in touch with each, I know there is also another reason as to why I am left with this feel of possibility. Both of these individuals express an alignment of words with action; from my interactions, there is always an openness, a generosity of spirit, and an objective desire to remain integral to their word, and work.

**Design Emergency** is an embodiment of two people who are taking personal responsibility in doing their part to pave the way to a better, emergent future. This is not a book, it is a job posting parading in book form: do you want to be a part of this bright future, and how soon can you start?

#### Further Explorations

Discover the book here

Discover the Instagram account here

Discover Alice Rawsthorn here

Discover Paola Antonelli here

Discover Bucky Fuller here here here

Nietzsche, in his January essay, talks of 'architecture for those who wish to pursue knowledge' and 'expansive places for reflection.' What are these spaces, the principle of design, the underlying ethic, and how can we enfold these ever more keenly into our daily lives?'

Each edition I reach out to individuals that, through their words, work, character or gestures, have piqued my curiosity. I ask them - where lies their solitude, their peace, their rest? My heart, and direct empiric evidence, shows me that should I ask this question of each person who lives upon this earth, I would receive seven point eight billion unique responses. Who knew so many places of respite, peace, contemplation, existed upon this one pile of rock, water and metal?

In this Edition I chose four individuals who have each, in their own way, contributed to my own modelling of the world in a meaningful way.

Martine. Martine's love for the printed word is as enduring today as the day she co-founded Assouline, in the mid 90s. The word luxury is often associated with Assouline, but for me the books created are receptacles of material culture. Much like the anthropologist chronicles the life and times of a given people, I see Assouline as part of this role as both an observer, and purveyor of, highly stylised, self-narrativisng cultures.

Vanessa. I had the genuine pleasure and honour to work with Vanessa at the FT. From her I learned about rigour and high integrity when it comes to the written word, and a certain forthrightness in interrogating the world and its ideas, with wit and grace.

Joscha. When I listen to Joscha postulate on matters ranging from building an architecture of cognition to consciousness and dreams, I can almost feel new neural pathways forming. His manner of expression is one of systematic sense-making, one syllable at a time, one thought following another, highly considered, resonant, and ever closer to touching upon some hitherto unknown knowledge, much like the systems he is building.

Avi. Pragmatism meets cosmic enquiries of the grandest kind, this combination is what drew me to Avi's work. The ability to forge on, to ask the big question - are we alone? - and to follow the answer wherever it may lead is, for me, the hallmark of a true adventurer.

### MARTINE ASSOULINE co-founder, publisher Assouline

"My secret place is Mancora. Located in the north of Peru, close to the frontier with Ecuador. It is a small town front of the Pacific Ocean, in between kilometres of desert and perfect waves for surfers.

Far from city life, it is a place very rough, where fishermen, and local people mixed with surfers and very cool people, all like coming out from original novels.

By the way, it is close to the iconic Fishing Club where Ernest Hemingway liked to stay to go fishing big pieces, and started his famous novel with the old fisherman. The Club is abandoned now but so many stories still surrounded it!

In Mancora you live without shoes and time, only following your instinct, envy or people that happen to cross your day.

You can sit on the beach, under palms' shadow and spend hours watching and listening the ocean. Nobody but pelicans, sometimes a fishing boat or dolphins playing with the waves, a fellow on a horse trying to catch the wind, and...colours, infinity of colours in between sky and sea celebrating the day and the night. Sunsets are "religious" there.

A place where you can forget who you are.

A place where you do not forget that life is beautiful and want to thank somebody somewhere for it.

Simply a place to breathe."

### VANESSA FRIEDMAN fashion director, chief fashion critic NY Times

"My expansive space is less a place for reflection than one for washing away, or blowing away, the build up of everyday white noise and detritus in which we all now exist, and it is literally in mid—air: swinging through space on a trapeze bar and then flipping or otherwise twisting my body free before either clasping hands with a catcher or landing in a net. That moment of being untethered from the earth, just hanging in the air, is a moment of pure liberation and calm. It keeps me centered."

### JOSCHA BACH cognitive scientist, artificial intelligence researcher

"As a teenager, I began to feel an insatiable urge to explore the world, and since I had no money, traveling on a bicycle, preferably all by myself, seemed to be the best course. I discovered that long distance traveling on a bicycle, packing a stove, tent and enough storage to let me be independent of human settlements for a few days at a time, had a unique effect on my mind. Cycling allows for a free rhythm between exertion, relaxation, observing, thinking and interacting, it is both targeted and serendipitous. I found that after a week of travel, I reached a permanent state of balance, spending much of my time in the space between blissful adventurous curiosity and satisfaction.

My work requires intellectual stimulation. I find that enjoyable, but it forces me to live in metropolitan areas. I feel out of balance here, and long for extended periods of time away from artificial sounds and sights. I grew up in an isolated valley, and experienced the natural environment as an extension of my mind, my thoughts, perception and memory dissipating into and coming back into me through rich layers of intentional living structure. I feel cut off from this extension while living in an urban environment; I have to isolate and protect myself from its intrusions, and the small space of my attention resonates at a much higher frequency."

### AVI LOEB Frank B. Baird Jr. Professor of Science Harvard University

"Every morning I jog at sunrise for three miles near my home, in the company of colourful flowers, butterflies, birds, wild turkeys, rabbits and ducks. The sunrise looks different each time. As a scientist, I find nature more imaginative and inspiring than people. During my thirty minute run, I digest the events of the past day and contemplate exciting ideas for creative work in the new day which was just born."

### A MOST SAGACIOUS ANIMAI

scholarships | grants | awards

Below: curated, alternative sources of education, fellowships, institutions and orthogonal learnings methods, that accelerate innovation, minus the Fordism.

### THIEL FELLOWSHIP INFO

\$100,000 of funding, a vision or idea at play or in the works, intensive mentoring and accelerated resource allocation. One condition: drop out of college / university.

### MARGINAL REVOLUTION UNIVERSITY INFO

From economists Tyler Cowen and Alex Tabarrock, well...a series of courses on economics. But that's just the beginning. For now let's sum it up as smart people doing notable work.

### WONDRIUM INFO

Bringing a new meaning to a 'smart' tv, an intellectual buffet with over 700 teachers sharing their knowledge, served up as an app too, that may in time come in ahead of your Netflix one.

### ROGUE FILM SCHOOL INFO

Werner Herzog's inner world could furnish the world over several millennia. For now he's working in the 21st century, bringing grizzlies and meteorites into our collective, catastrophic consciousness. The school is on long-standing pause but the reading and watching list is a beginning and end in itself (#10, #11).

#### THE SIX

From storied colleges and universities, to elementary building blocks, these are some of the leading providers of MOOC (mass open online courses).

Udemy edX Code Academy Khan Academy Coursera Udacity

### LEARNING HOW TO LEARN INFO

'Learning How to Learn: Powerful Mental Tools to Help you Master Tough Subjects', the fundamentals of how the brain learns, with immediate actionable tips, for any age.

### CENTURY INFO

An Al-enabled online home learning platform that tailors study materials to the needs of every child; one teacher, 30 students, is no longer an option for the future.

### KIDE SCIENCE INFO

The home is the original laboratory for young minds, according to this Finnish start-up which is bringing the art of STEM to the imaginations of 3-8yr olds the world over.

### **PATAGONIA**

In this section we seek to spotlight novel means by which the human desire and perhaps compulsion, to create, produce, innovate, marries with principle and a consideration for people and planet. Patagonia has now for several decades led the way in conscious creation in relation to its products as well as its company culture. Here, we share from the company the five ways they approach 'human resources' to bring in, and nurture, those humans who will enrich Patagonia's unique ethic.



### Bottom Up

"Unlike most recruiters, we read bottom up instead of top down... getting right to the part that lists your interests, activities and volunteer work." From <u>Dean Carter</u>, Global Head of Human Resources and Shared Services at Patagonia.

That's right - this section, denigrated as a platitude, an after-thought - this is the start point; the foundation that will express to the observer what are you, who are you, beyond your stylised career story. What values, interests, experiences do you actively live by, and is there synergy between that which you seek, and that which you currently are?

"When asked for advice by people looking for a career move — whether it's a new promotion or a role at Patagonia — I often go to a single phrase. "The best way to get a job is to get caught doing it." And when you share more about your interests and volunteer work — it brings you one step closer to getting caught doing work you already love "DC

### Flexible Work

"We hire people who love being outside, people who love the outdoors...so when the surf's up, they're going to be surfing anyway. If we didn't have a Let My People Go Surfing policy, we'd have a lot of performance action plans." (DC)

Flexible work is taken seriously at Patagonia. In fact, as DC says, they take their outdoor play time "very seriously." The company is founded off a life of action, adventure, spirited voyaging into the wilderness, which means that the framework of work itself embodies this founding myth. As well as time dedicated to skiing or surfing, Patagonia runs a 9/80 work schedule that gives employees a three-day weekend every other week. Employees work nine hours a day from Monday to Thursday and eight hours on alternating Fridays; they get every second Friday off.

#### Values

After an employee has been at the company for a year, they can take up to two months off, with pay, to volunteer with an environmental organisation or project. Patagonia itself will also direct planet-positive missions. They also have another, highly potent policy, that if in a peaceful protest to protect the environment you find yourself in jail, DC notes, "we throw their bail."

#### Childcare

Patagonia has offered childcare since 1983 when <u>Malinda P. Chouinard</u>, co-founder of Patagonia, parked a trailer in front of the Great Pacific Iron Work (later renamed Patagonia) so that her friend and colleague Jennifer Ridgeway, head of marketing and advertising, had a place to nurse her newborn. There are now three on-site, subsidised childcare centres, with bilingual programs and teachers who are trained in child development.

# TER MS OF ENR ICHMENT

### Refettorio (n.)

From the Latin reficere, meaning 'to re-make', 'to restore'; a concept repurposed by <u>Food for Soul</u>, which redesigns empty spaces and within them, serves nutritious meals cooked with surplus ingredients that would have otherwise been thrown away, for people in situations of social and economic vulnerability.

#### A SOLUTIONIST MINDSCAPE

# LETTER S TO THE EDITOR S

"Who, though they should adduce no reason, would convince me with their authority alone." — Cicero



Write to us.

Share with us what made sense, what didn't.

Tell us something we could have done better, to make this better, for more individuals.

Tell us ways in which something featured here had an impact on your individual day-to-day, or 50-year view, of life?

What would you like us to make everyone's business in the next edition?

Any other thoughts. Helpful ones, hopefully.

**ASK@PERSE.LONDON** 

## THE END OF THIS EDITION

we so hope there was something of service, in here, for you.

THANK YOU

Everyone's Business is a for-all endeavour
Hardeep of <u>perse.london</u> oversees this endeavour
To receive the next Edition directly into your inbox, connect <u>here</u>

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