

Aria

DESIGN PRINCIPLES OF WABI SABI

ANDREW JUNIPER ON DESIGN PRINCIPLES OF WABI SABI

Organic

- No shiny, uniform materials.
- Materials that clearly show the passage of time.
- Materials whose devolution is expressive and attractive.

Texture

- Rough and uneven.
- Variegated and random.
- Textures formed by natural sporadic processes.

Color

- No harsh or strong colors.
- Subdued lighting.
- Colors and dyes from natural sources.
- Diffuse and murky colors.
- Matte colors that lack uniformity.

Simplicity

- No embellishment or ostentation.
- Unrefined and raw.
- Use of freely available materials.

Space

- Nothing surplus to requirement.
- Significant areas of “nothing” in interiors and gardens.
- Ample space around all accent pieces.
- Accent pieces at an absolute minimum.

Balance

- Careful observation of the physical balances found in nature.
- No regular or uniform shapes.
- Design elements balanced in a way that looks completely natural and unforced.
- No prescribed formulae.

Freedom of form

- Asymmetry or irregularity.
- The form comes from the physical properties of the materials used.
- Artlessness.
- The piece evolves in a natural and unforced way.
- No symbolism.

Ugliness and Beauty

- Disregard for conventional views of beauty.
- An aesthetic pleasure that lies beyond conventional beauty.
- Beauty in the smallest most imperceptible details.

Sobriety

- Reality of impermanence used to add a sense of perspective and finality.
- All design work approached with humility and sincerity.
- Clarity of personal motives.
- All aspects of design kept to a functional minimum.
- Pieces that are intimate and personal.

