

# IMPLEMENTATION FORM FOLLOWS FUNCTION THEORY IN PRODUCT DESIGN

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## Abstrak

Teori *Form Follows Function* diungkapkan oleh Louis Sullivan, seorang arsitek terkenal di Amerika pada awal abad ke-20. Kata *Form Follows Function* itu diperkenalkan pada tahun 1896 pada salah satu artikelnya *The Tall Building Artistically Considered*. Yaitu bentuk bangunan atau suatu objek harus disesuaikan dengan fungsi atau kegunaannya. Louis Sullivan ini menjelaskan bahwa suatu ukuran, ruang dan karakteristik dalam bangunan harus terlebih dahulu di tujukan semata-mata kepada fungsi dari bangunan tersebut. Implikasi bahwa jika aspek yang fungsional dicukupi, keindahan arsitektur akan secara alami mengikuti. Namun, seiringnya waktu berjalan teori *Form Follows Function* tidak hanya untuk arsitektur saja tetapi bisa juga diterapkan kepada desain produk. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah membuktikan bahwa teori *Form Follows Function* memiliki peranan penting terhadap perancangan produk terutama didalam studi desain produk. Suatu bentuk produk harus disesuaikan dengan fungsinya, sehingga pengguna dapat mudah dalam menggunakan produk tersebut. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode penelitian deskriptif. Data primer diperoleh dari studi kasus dan dokumentasi, data sekunder diperoleh dari literatur dan buku-buku teori pendukung sebagai pelengkap. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa penerapan teori *Form Follows Function* sangatlah berpengaruh pada desain produk, terutama terhadap pola pikir manusia dalam pengoperasian produk.

Kata kunci : Form Follows Function, Desain Produk, Produk, dan Pengguna.

## Abstract

The Form Follows Function theory was expressed by Louis Sullivan, a famous architect from America on the early 20th century. The words Form Follows Function was introduced in 1896 from one of his articles *The Tall Building Artistically Considered*. The shape of a building or an object must be adapted to its function or use. Louis Sullivan explained that 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. However, as time goes on, the Form Follows Function theory is not only for architecture but can also be applied to product design. The purpose of this study is to prove that the Form Follows Function theory has an important role in product design, especially for the user experience while using the product. A product form must be adapted to its function, so that users can easily use the product. The method used in this research is descriptive research method. Primary data were obtained from case studies and documentations, secondary data were obtained from literature and supporting theory books as a complement. The results show that the application of the Form Follows Function theory is very influential on product design, especially on the user mindset in product operation.

Keywords : Form Follows Function, Product Design, Product, and User.

## INTRODUCTION

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 is something that will be examined in this research. 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”.

The problem to be investigated in this research:

1. A product design that is not in accordance with its function will make it difficult for the user to use the item
2. Form Follows Function theory is needed in the application of product design in order to produce optimal products

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## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### The Implementation of Form Follow Function Toward Health Protocol (Covid-19)

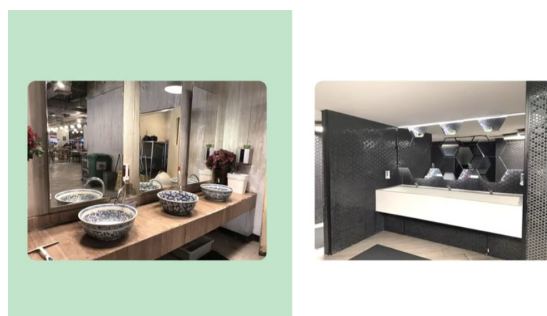


Fig. 1a.

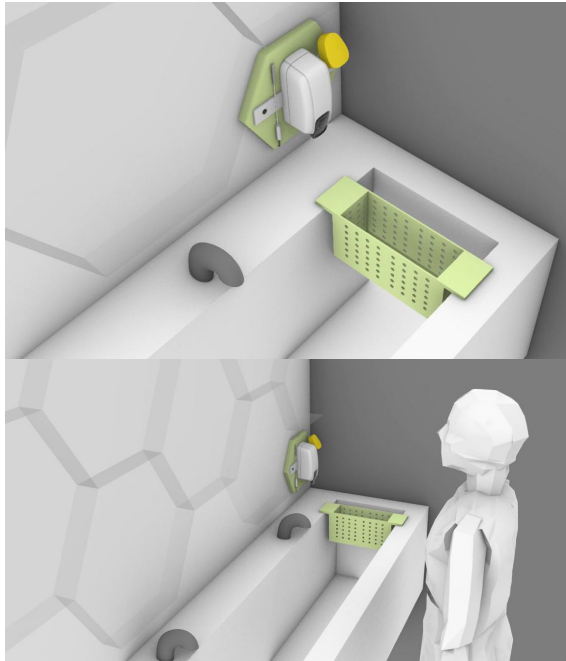


Fig. 1b & 1c.

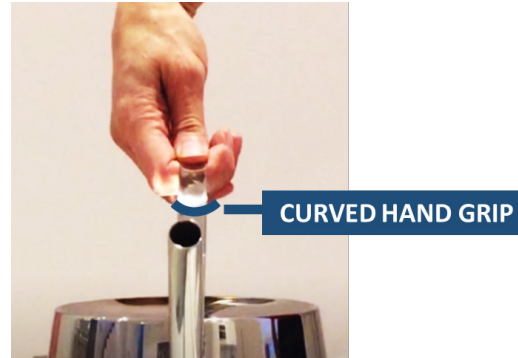


Fig. 2a & 2b.

The tool was designed by one of the students of the Agung Podomoro University, 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 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 Follow Function Toward Watenig Can

The tool designed by MENU is a watering can. 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.

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.

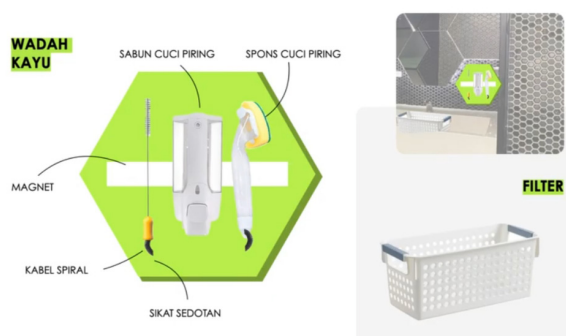


Fig. 1d.



Fig. 2c.



Fig. 2d & 2e.

## CONCLUSION

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.

The suggestion from the researcher is that 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.

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