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What I like about you



Photography: Leslie Williamson

Wharton Esherick home and studio • 1926 – 1970

Chester County, Pennsylvania, USA

Artist: Wharton Esherick

Wharton Esherick began as a painter, printmaker and sculptor, transitioning to handcrafted furniture, objects and interiors in timber. His designs were anchored by practical function, yet elevated the form to the sculptural. Characterised by freedom of expression in each curve, a lack of rational intersections and the lively intertwining of objects, walls, furnishings; Esherick is considered the spiritual godfather of the American studio craft movement.

Esherick took a reverent and liberal approach to materiality, form and creative exploration. He worked on his studio home in Pennsylvania from 1926 until 1970, slowly filling it with his furnishings and objects. Over time, it evolved into an exhibit of the immensely productive creative life lived within these walls. The spaces evoke a romanticised notion of the purity of creative expression found when freed from the ever-tightening timelines

and regulations that designers must navigate today.

Nostalgia aside, I am reminded of the need to strip back a crowded and noisy design process to its basic tenets – seeking a state of focused curiosity. Evoking the enveloping spaces I sought out as a child, Esherick's home is a treehouse, a hideaway, and a psychological fort – a place wanting to be fully, deeply, peacefully inhabited.

"A little of the hand, but the main thing is the heart and the head."
– Wharton Esherick

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