

“The [truly] personal awakens the feeling of happiness, of caring, of being at one with the world; it brings back to us the intensity and directness of childhood.”

“All creations that have wholeness and great vitality are also personal. This is an essential feature of life in material things. Genuine personal feelings do not have the character of a limited subjectivity, but have a fundamental objective quality.”

Only with increasing maturity, said Alexander, are we able to listen to our deepest self and to perceive what we really love:

“It is not easy to develop an awareness of the vitality of living structures.” To do this, we need to go within ourselves. But it would be superficial to interpret what’s personal as something purely individual. “Something is personal only when it touches our heart.”

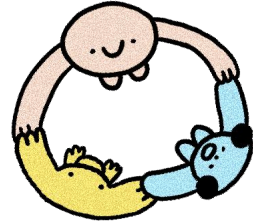
- Things we love give us the feeling of being alive and of healthiness.
 - The same is true when we create things that we love.
 - To experience true affection, one needs to be free from egotisms as well as from outside opinions.
 - It depends on the self and the feeling of being profoundly connected to everything that exists.
- (Alexander’s points, summarized by Helmut Leitner in Pattern Theory)

“What we do depends on what we love. True affection from the heart makes us whole and has a healing effect on us. It makes us more human. It strengthens life in us.”

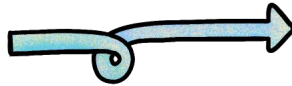
Essentially, the secret of vitality, he said, is in the various relationships between the centers and the balance between them. It is all about centers and how they support each other. Feelings like those of beauty, love, and happiness are our guidance; Thus, they must find a more dominant role in our thinking and actions.

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Christopher Alexander is the father of the Pattern Language movement in architecture as well as the pattern movement in computer science.



His work invites us to shift from fear-based, fragmented systems to love-based, interconnected ones, from “lack” to “abundance” ontologies.



QUEST

FOR US, INSPIRED BY ALEXANDER

When we are standing between options, ask ourselves:

- Which option would make my life richer, more complete?
- Which is more a symbol for me as a human being?
- Which produces a stronger feeling of connectedness?
- Which is a stronger expression of life?
- Which of these strengthens me more in life?

Different questions allow us to reach different insights, thus, life.

What’s Love* Got To Do With



featuring
CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER