

Humanise: a maker's guide to building our world
by Thomas Heatherwick

DISCUSSION PROMPTS FOR READING GROUPS

The book is dedicated to the passer-by. Why does the book prioritise the experience of the person-on-the-street?

Were you surprised by the scientific evidence showing that boring buildings are actually bad for us? What facts stood out for you?

Heatherwick describes the modernism of architects like Le Corbusier and Mies Van der Rohe as a “catastrophe”. Do you agree?

Heatherwick proposes that how buildings make people feel should be just as important as how they look. What do you think – and how easy is it to describe how buildings make you feel?

What do you think of the book's concept of ‘1,000-year thinking’ as a way to ensure we create more buildings we want to keep?

Has the book changed how you think about the buildings around you? If so, how?

Can you think of places you've been where the buildings are too flat, too plain, too straight, too shiny, too monotonous, too anonymous, and too serious?

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Can you also think of examples of 'human' buildings? Are they modern buildings, or older ones?

Do you agree that the public has a role to play in showing people in power that change is needed? Or do you think it's up to designers and planners to build better?

Before or after your meeting, why not take a walk around your local area and look at the buildings there. How do they make you feel? How many examples of human buildings can you find? Can you find any which hold your attention at city, street and door distance? Why not download the Humanise Spotter's Guide to help?

Join the campaign
humanise.org

