

INTERIOR DESIGN CATEGORY



Design for the circular economy develops around 3 pillars:

1. **Design out waste and pollution**
2. **Keep products and materials in use**
3. **Regenerate natural systems**

when achieved together, these 3 elements really have the power to transform our world into a healthier, smarter and more sustainable place!

1. DESIGN OUT WASTE AND POLLUTION

“Waste is a design flaw”

Circular design can help cut on waste by encouraging efficient use of materials in production. One inspiring example of *designing out waste* are wood floor boards that follow the natural curvature of the tree instead of being cut straight, thus reducing scraps!

Design can also reduce pollution by choosing materials wisely. Opting for natural and renewable materials is only part of the solution, as it is just as important to source *sustainably grown* materials (FSC certified wood, organic cotton...)

2. KEEP PRODUCTS AND MATERIALS IN USE

Materials have a long life, often much longer than the one of the products they're used for. Circular design takes this opportunity and focuses on **making objects that can easily be altered, repaired or remanufactured.**

Modular products are a good example. Think about a chair whose legs can be easily swapped. That chair could be personalized to fit different tastes. It could also be altered or upgraded over time, as a way to repair a broken leg or just to follow the changing needs of its owner. As a result, that chair will not be trashed as quickly, which is smart for the consumer, good for the producer and better for the planet!

But even when we dispose of a product, chances are its materials are still perfectly functional. And thinking in circular economy terms means **designing**

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products that are easy to disassemble, so that materials can be reused over and over again, rather than always sourcing virgin materials.

3. REGENERATE NATURAL SYSTEMS

Up to now, we have looked at materials in general. But what about natural materials? At the very end of their life, **natural materials can be composted. This regenerates the soil that — remaining healthy — can keep providing renewable materials.** But before this time comes, all natural materials can have a very long life. Moreover, in the right hands, even food waste can become a beautiful design.

Design every product with positive impacts in mind.

CIRCULAR INTERIOR DESIGN

Besides the design principles developed above, all products should be designed in order to potentially be offered as “**product as a service models**”, or performance models.

SCOPE

The **scope of the challenge** includes all types of furniture (in a large sense), design elements, acoustic panels, separation elements, movable objects, but excluding floorings and walls.

Climate change and resource depletion are real. Act now! Create positive impacts and stop limiting damage, lowering footprints and reducing negative impacts!

It's not the strongest buildings that last the longest, nor the smartest that will maximise its value. It is the ones that are the most adaptable to change.