

noiseless

by mark robinson

a concept for mindful living

Noiseless encapsulates a journey of discovery and reflection that has spanned my journey as a designer for the last 13 years. This exploration has been influenced by visionaries such as Jasper Morrison, John Pawson, Naoto Fukasawa, and Kenya Hara, each has shaped my perception of design's true potential.

My design journey began with an attraction to the considered work of Alvar Aalto accompanied with the beauty found in Mies van der Rohe's Barcelona Pavilion. This curiosity evolved into a search, leading me to amass a collection of books in which spoke to the heart of minimalism.

One of these, Dieter Rams' principle of 'Less But Better' resonated with me deeply, leading to Morrison and Fukasawa's 'Super Normal' concept. This idea, paired with the book 'The Unknown Craftsman' by Sōetsu Yanagi, which intriguingly mirrors my gradual shift towards craft, has reinforced my belief in 'Good Design' while at the same time wanting to promote authenticity, steering clear of the impersonal nature that often accompanies mass production.

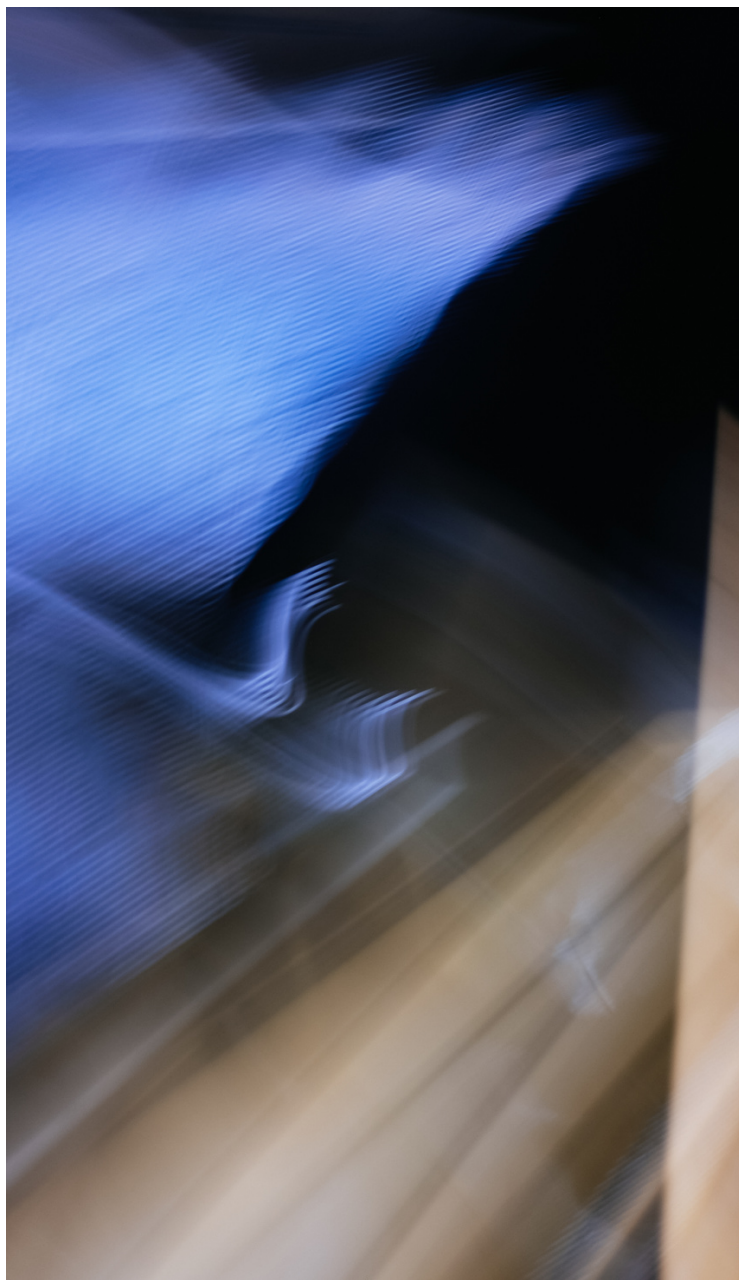
The 'Super Normal' celebrates the beauty and superior utility of those objects often overlooked, yet are integral to our daily lives. Such a highly nuanced concept kindled a curiosity to discover the impact of simplicity in design—how can you achieve a balance so perfect that it feels “just right.” This exploration has shown that, for me, simplicity is not merely just an aesthetic choice but also a means to presence and mindfulness. The goal is to create a space or object that goes beyond its physical form to meet with the spiritual, giving a lasting impression that quiets the noise of everyday life and brings us into the present.

This concept of Noiseless is not merely about the absence of noise but about harmonising design with our human nature, constructing an environment that nurtures a sense of being. It's a reflection on how design can simplify our lives, by emphasising what's in the moment, allowing for a closer connection to the spaces that we inhabit and the objects we revolve around on a daily basis.



zen ripple

D.T. Suzuki Museum



noise flow
Copenhagen, Denmark

Entering this meditative state through design speaks directly to our innate craving for order. When each element is precisely where it belongs, a sense of harmony can emerge, making design not only timeless but resonant with our basic human desires. The deep-seated response to our environment often guides us: spaces and objects that drain our energy tend to push us away, while those that invigorate or inspire naturally draw us in.

This desire for simplicity challenges us to filter through the information that bombards us daily. Our brains are hardwired to seek out this new information—a survival trait from our ancestors for whom such data could be the separation between life and death. Yet, in the context of modern life, this incessant influx can overwhelm, diluting our focus and draining our mental reserves.

Actively ignoring this 'noise' requires a lot of cognitive effort, straining our mental faculties, impairing memory, and also amplifying distractions. If we are able to minimise all of these distractions we can sharpen our focus, devoting attention to what truly matters. Simplicity in design is more than just how it looks, it touches on the timeless appeal of well-considered objects and spaces. This means building with intent, making work that's meant to

endure and weave themselves into the fabric of our lives seamlessly. Consider the Barcelona Chair designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and Lilly Reich in 1929. Nearly a century later, this chair is a staple in modern interiors, proof of the universal value of simplicity in bridging generations and cultures.

Of course, the appeal of simple design lies in its constancy amidst trends, its uncluttered appearance and clean lines ensuring its relevance and appeal do not wane over time. Simplicity also shifts the focus to the quality of materials and craftsmanship. Without superfluous decoration, the finesse of the design and the integrity of its construction rise to the forefront, boosting the object's longevity both in terms of physical durability and unfading style.

Then there's also an indescribable aspect to these designs, an unspoken charm that goes beyond their visual appeal and functionality. Often we feel a kind of profound connection, a silent conversation between the object and the self. It's this elusive part of design that defies complete articulation, yet deeply impacts our experience. For me, the true essence of beauty and functionality often lies in the 'ma'—those gaps found between.



going clear
Kyushu, Japan

The NOISELESS concept matters because it engages with the essential truth of our existence in a cluttered modern landscape. It's highlights how we can use design to shape not only our spaces but also our mental and emotional well-being. If we can embrace these principles, it's possible to craft environments and objects that enhance every aspect of our lives.

Principles for NOISELESS Living:

1. Embrace Simplicity: Focus on reducing complexity to create clarity and a sense of calm.

2. Seek Quality Over Quantity: Make central high-quality materials and incorporate craftsmanship for lasting value.

3. Prioritise Functionality: Design with intention, making each element serve a purpose.

4. Bring Nature In: Use natural materials to establish a grounding atmosphere.

5. Play with Light and Shadow: Utilise the interplay of light and shadow to add depth and intrigue.

6. Create Balance and Harmony: Arrange elements in a thoughtful manner to achieve harmony.

7. Promote Flexibility: Design with flexibility in mind, allowing for evolution in response to user needs.

8. Celebrate Imperfection: Appreciate the beauty in natural flaws and asymmetry, adding character and authenticity.

9. Foster Art-Design Dialogue: Facilitate conversations between design and art, allowing the two disciplines to inform and enhance each other.

10. Timelessness: Opt for design that will remain relevant and appealing over time, avoiding fleeting trends.

Noiseless is more than an idea—it's a living practice, refined through the hands of craftsmanship and the wisdom of simplicity. Sourced from the fine, pure porcelain clay of Amakusa and shaped in my studio nestled near Arita, a region with centuries-old porcelain heritage, my work seeks to channel the spirit of Noiseless into everyday objects.

This introduction is the beginning of that journey. In my porcelain vases, tableware, and other works, I strive to distill these principles into one cohesive material, creating pieces that embody stillness, presence, and clarity. Each form, rooted in the purity of porcelain, reflects the essence of simplicity: clean, functional, and enduring.

The concept is carved into every curve, every surface—it's a reminder that our surroundings can offer tranquility, that design can serve as a bridge between utility and art. By bringing this spirit into the home, we can invite a sense of calm and harmony into your everyday rituals,

enriching our lives through objects designed not to shout, but to speak quietly, with purpose.

Noiseless is not a destination but a continuous unfolding—a quiet presence that evolves through the porcelain pieces I create. I aim to capture the intangible essence of simplicity, offering an invitation to pause, reflect, and find stillness. I look forward to the moment when these objects, born from the purity of porcelain, become a part of your own world—shaping not just spaces, but the way we experience and view them.

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