

# The Nature of Things - A Design Narrative by Peter Stickland

The subject of this narrative is the creative process. The story concerns a young Chinese graduate who has studied in London. On the eve of her graduation ceremony she learns something important about her abilities. It is a vague hint of the way her creative life might develop, but many years must pass before she can practice her skills and express her understanding.

The book is published with facing pages in English and Chinese. Readers familiar with these languages will be able to compare the words that have been used to communicate the ambition to create narratives in architecture. This complex concern has been active since the 1970's, when spatial designers started to give it a pivotal role in their quest to give space and its objects a verifiable lyrical function.

It is not a handbook for designers, or a reference book, for it takes the form of literary fiction. In formal terms it is a novella of 14,000 words. It is interior design where the term *interior* refers to our internal processes; our attitudes and sensibilities to design. How do we place ourselves in the design process? What processes are useful to the making of things that have resonance? How do we culturally and individually connect our identity to the places we create? The book doesn't answer questions, but in a poetic manner it places the concern and allows readers to establish their own connection with it.

If Architecture and Interior Design face ever increasing demands to create identity and a sense of place, then there are many ways of proceeding, but some of the formative issues are presented here. Future editions of this book will be published in other languages in an attempt to extend the debate about narrative concerns in spatial design.

## Peter Stickland brief Curriculum Vitae

Date of birth 07.12.1948

Architecture - RIBA Part 1 from 1968 Brighton University.

Architecture - AA Dipl. RIBA Parts 2 & 3 from 1972 Architectural Association.

Theatre of Mistakes and Performance Art from 1975-1982.

Interior Design Practice from 1982

Principal Lecturer and Course Director Chelsea College of Art and Design from 1992.

Author - 12 works that explore narrative devices and creative processes.

Director of 77 books – publisher of literature and performance texts, [www.77books.co.uk](http://www.77books.co.uk)