DESIGNED DISCOMFORT

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Design: Are you comfortable in your designed environment?

"Too often we enjoy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought" – JFK

Design can determine your comfort level in your surroundings. A design intended to make you feel comfortable, will. A design intended to make you feel uncomfortable, will not.

Our design is intended to control your behavior, through the patterning of the door and trim, the activity that transpires inside the box, the initial trepidation of wondering if others can see you and then once resolved, a sudden realization of vulnerability. The design of this machine is to entice you into a semi-comfortable state, temporarily pull you into a sense of safety, and then expose you to your vulnerability.

There are some things within this box intentionally designed to be slightly uncomfortable. Each of the quotes is place in a location for a specific purpose and in a particular fashion to invoke thought and to find the humor as well as the feeling that something is “slightly off,” or incomplete. The door is designed to be incomplete when opened, thus causing the desire to keep the door closed. The toilet seat: comfortable in its natural environment, however, within a public setting and questionable privacy it is suddenly an uncomfortable pedestal. As you sit inside, and read the quotes, the quote on the window is a hint of the vulnerability that you will experience shortly. Finally, the realization that there are buttons and a toilet lever on the wall, raise curiosity to engage in them. Upon pushing the toilet flush lever, the trap door in the ceiling is released allowing the light to enter the box, revealing you to those who may be outside.

The following quotes can be found on our project:

"There is no time for ease and comfort. It is time to dare and endure." –Winston Churchill

"Architecture begins where engineering ends" – Walter Gropius

"Any change, even a change for the better, is always accompanied by drawbacks and discomforts.” – Arnold Bennett

"You have to leave the city of your comfort and go into the wilderness of your intuition." – Alan Alda

"Too often we enjoy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought" – JFK

"The greatest monarch on the proudest throne is obliged to sit upon his own arse." – Benjamin Franklin

"I am as vulnerable and fragile as it is possible to be. I am shredded to the core. I am at the point where I am stripped bare." – Rachel Hunter

"I feel coming on a strange disease... humility." – Frank Lloyd Wright

"The closing of a door can bring blessed privacy and comfort – the opening, terror. Conversely, the closing of a door can be a sad and final thing – the opening a wonderfully joyous moment."

– Andy Rooney