The aesthetics of nature in the built environment are communicated through the use of materials, colors, light, air, spatial structures, patterns, textures, movement, and openings that connect the interior environment to landscape. Through observation, understanding, and immersion in the natural world, we begin to foster a psychological response as we ponder the purpose and meaning of life and its unity to nature. Recognition of unity and order is perceived in the beauty of the natural world eliciting spiritual, metaphorical, emotional, and sensory understanding. Expanded research into epiphytic plant systems (air plants), materiality, and digital fabrication, resulted in a prototype hosting living material in a function that is simultaneously shade-providing, light seeking, and pattern creating. Sensory expression of biophilia is crucial in the creation of design that elicits positive responses, engagement with place, well-being, and values in nature. Recognition of pattern of various scales reminds us of the rhythm and balance in nature as well as the interconnectedness and resilience of natural systems, plants, and animals.

The air plant screen prototype seeks to blur interior and exterior at the point of architecture by filtering views onto the landscape, creating a visual origami-like pattern manipulated by shape and form of natural light, and providing a formalized sanctuary defined by nature’s texture and patterns.