

Design activism beautiful strangeness for a Textbook

Design Activism Beautiful Strangeness For A Susta

Design Activism Beautiful Strangeness for a Sustainable Future

design activism beautiful strangeness for a susta inability might sound like a

fragmented phrase at first, but it opens up a fascinating doorway into a world where creativity meets purpose. In recent years, the intersection of design activism and sustainability has become a vibrant field filled with innovation, unexpected aesthetics, and meaningful impact. This blend of "beautiful strangeness" challenges conventional ideas about what design should look like, pushing boundaries to inspire a more responsible and conscious future.

If you've ever wondered how art, design, and activism can come together to promote sustainability, this article will take you on a journey through the core ideas, examples, and philosophies behind this movement. We'll explore how embracing the unusual, the unconventional, and the strange can help solve some of the most pressing environmental and social issues of our time.

Understanding Design Activism and Its Role in Sustainability

Design activism is about using design as a tool for social or environmental change. Unlike traditional design, which might focus solely on aesthetics or functionality, design activism

injects purpose and advocacy into the creative process. It's activism expressed through objects, spaces, and experiences that provoke thought, challenge norms, and inspire action.

When we add sustainability into this mix, the goal becomes even clearer: to create designs that not only look good but also contribute positively to the planet and society. This can involve using eco-friendly materials, promoting circular economy principles, or raising awareness about climate change through compelling visual narratives.

The Power of Unconventional Aesthetics

One of the most intriguing aspects of design activism for sustainability is the embrace of 'beautiful strangeness.' This idea champions designs that may appear odd, quirky, or unconventional at first glance but hold deep meaning and value. These designs often reject the polished, mass-produced look in favor of something raw, imperfect, or unexpected.

Why does this matter? Because beautiful strangeness commands attention. It disrupts the familiar and invites curiosity, making people stop and think. When sustainability messages are wrapped in unusual or provocative design, they are harder to ignore – and more likely to spark conversations and change.

Examples of Design Activism Beautiful Strangeness for a Susta

Let's look at some real-world examples where design activism and beautiful strangeness converge to promote sustainability.

1. Upcycled Fashion: Wabi-Sabi in Textiles

The Japanese concept of wabi-sabi celebrates imperfection and transience, which beautifully aligns with sustainability. Designers who create upcycled clothing embrace this philosophy by transforming discarded materials into unique, one-of-a-kind garments. These pieces often feature asymmetry, visible stitching, and mismatched patterns ? a beautiful strangeness that tells a story of renewal and respect for resources.

2. Guerrilla Gardening and Urban Interventions

Activists using design to reclaim neglected urban spaces often employ strange and unexpected installations ? think planters made from recycled tires, brightly painted murals encouraging biodiversity, or interactive art that teaches about water conservation. These projects leverage the element of surprise and aesthetic disruption to engage communities and highlight environmental issues.

3. Eco-Friendly Packaging with a Twist

Some brands are experimenting with packaging that appears strange or unconventional but is entirely biodegradable or reusable. For instance, packaging shaped like puzzle pieces that customers can assemble into functional objects, or containers embedded with seeds that can be planted after use. This kind of design activism turns waste into opportunity and makes sustainability a playful experience.

How to Embrace Beautiful Strangeness in Your Sustainable

Design Projects

If you're a designer or creative looking to incorporate design activism and beautiful

strangeness into your work, here are some tips to get started:

Push Against Perfection

Imperfection can be powerful. Don't shy away from irregular shapes, unexpected color combinations, or raw textures. These elements can communicate authenticity and encourage people to rethink consumer culture's obsession with flawless products.

Tell a Story Through Design

Every piece of design activism should have a clear message or narrative. Use symbolism, metaphors, or interactive elements to make your work not just visually strange but also meaningful and educational.

Collaborate with Communities

True activism comes from engagement. Work with the communities you want to impact to understand their values, challenges, and perspectives. Co-creating strange and beautiful designs with local voices ensures relevance and respect.

Experiment with Materials

Sustainable materials don't have to be boring. Explore unconventional resources like mushroom leather, algae-based plastics, or recycled ocean waste. These choices often add a unique texture or look that enhances the 'strangeness' factor.

Why Beautiful Strangeness Matters for Sustainable Design

Activism

In a world saturated with advertisements and polished branding, it's easy for sustainability

messages to get lost in the noise. Beautiful strangeness acts as a beacon, drawing attention through originality and surprise. It challenges the status quo, inviting people to question and rethink their habits.

Moreover, this approach reflects the complexity and diversity of the natural world, which is rarely perfect or uniform. By celebrating the strange and imperfect, design activism better mirrors the ecological realities we aim to protect.

Creating Emotional Connections

Design that incorporates beautiful strangeness often evokes stronger emotional responses. Whether it's curiosity, wonder, or even discomfort, these feelings can motivate action more effectively than bland or overly sanitized messages.

Encouraging Sustainable Behavior

When people interact with designs that are unusual and meaningful, they are more likely to remember them and adopt the behaviors they promote. For example, a weirdly shaped reusable water bottle might become a conversation starter, encouraging others to reduce plastic waste.

Moving Forward: The Future of Design Activism Beautiful

Strangeness for a Susta

As challenges like climate change and social inequality grow more urgent, the role of design activism becomes increasingly vital. Embracing beautiful strangeness offers a fresh and compelling way to engage people, disrupt harmful patterns, and celebrate sustainability in all its complexity.

Future designers will likely build on this foundation, using emerging technologies like augmented reality, bio-design, and AI to create even more immersive and strange experiences that educate and inspire.

Ultimately, design activism beautiful strangeness for a susta is not just a style or trend ? it?s a mindset. It?s about daring to be di?erent, embracing imperfection, and using creativity as a force for good. Whether you?re a designer, activist, or simply someone interested in a more sustainable world, there?s a place for you in this vibrant movement.

Question

Answer

What is design activism and how does it relate to sustainability?

Design activism is the practice of using design principles and creativity to address social, environmental, and political issues. It relates to sustainability by promoting designs that encourage ecological balance, social equity, and long-term environmental health.

How can the concept of 'beautiful strangeness' enhance sustainable design

activism?

The concept of 'beautiful strangeness' introduces unconventional, thought-provoking aesthetics that challenge norms and provoke reflection. In sustainable design activism, it can inspire innovative solutions that draw attention to environmental issues and encourage deeper engagement.

What are some examples of design activism projects that embody 'beautiful strangeness' for sustainability?

Examples include installations that use recycled materials in unexpected ways, wearable art highlighting climate change effects, or interactive public spaces that disrupt conventional use to promote environmental awareness.

Why is embracing 'strangeness' important in advancing sustainable design practices?

Embracing 'strangeness' allows designers to break free

from traditional aesthetics and functionality, fostering creativity and novel approaches that can more effectively address complex sustainability challenges and engage diverse audiences.

How can individuals contribute to design activism focusing on 'beautiful strangeness' for sustainability?

Individuals can contribute by supporting or creating art and design projects that challenge conventional ideas, using sustainable materials in innovative ways, and advocating for design that prioritizes environmental and social responsibility while embracing unique, striking aesthetics.

Design Activism Beautiful Strangeness for a Sustainable Future

design activism beautiful strangeness for a sustainable future is an emerging paradigm in the

intersection of creativity, social impact, and environmental responsibility. This concept transcends traditional design boundaries, urging practitioners and audiences alike to embrace unconventional aesthetics and disruptive narratives to foster sustainability. As

the urgency for eco-conscious solutions intensifies globally, design activism characterized by its beautiful strangeness offers a fresh avenue to challenge entrenched consumption patterns and provoke meaningful change.

At its core, this approach to design activism leverages beauty not as mere ornamentation but as a strategic tool to captivate attention, evoke empathy, and inspire action. The "strangeness" element introduces an element of surprise and unfamiliarity, destabilizing complacency and encouraging critical reflection on existing social and environmental paradigms. When applied thoughtfully, this blend catalyzes dialogues around sustainability that are both deeply engaging and critically nuanced.

The Role of Design Activism in Sustainability

Design activism has evolved from niche grassroots initiatives into a significant force shaping public discourse and consumer behavior. By embedding sustainability into its mission, design activism challenges the status quo of resource-intensive production and disposable culture. Unlike conventional environmental campaigns that often rely heavily on statistics or dire warnings, design activism with its beautiful strangeness communicates through sensory experience, symbolism, and metaphor.

This method can be especially effective in complex sustainability challenges, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and social equity. Instead of abstract data, the audience encounters tangible, tangible expressions of these issues—whether through installations, fashion, product design, or digital media—that invite emotional connection and personal

interpretation.

Integration of Aesthetic Innovation and Ethical Responsibility

One of the striking features of design activism beautiful strangeness for a susta is its emphasis on aesthetic innovation paired with ethical responsibility. Designers working within this framework often utilize unconventional materials, repurpose waste, or experiment with forms that disrupt normative visual languages. This dual focus serves two purposes:

Material Consciousness: Selecting sustainable, recycled, or biodegradable

1.

materials to reduce environmental impact.

Conceptual Provocation: Employing unusual shapes, textures, and compositions

2.

to provoke dialogue about consumption and ecological footprints.

For example, projects that incorporate upcycled plastics into high-fashion garments or interactive public sculptures made from discarded electronics exemplify how beautiful strangeness manifests in tangible ways. These designs not only reduce waste but also challenge consumers to reconsider their relationship with everyday objects.

Case Studies: Pioneers of Beautiful Strangeness in Design Activism

Several contemporary designers and collectives have successfully harnessed this approach to advance sustainability discourse. Take, for instance, the work of Studio

Swine, which combines art and design to explore waste conversion into valuable resources. Their 'Hair Highway' project, transforming human hair from salons into bioplastics, exemplifies how strange yet beautiful materials can redefine sustainability narratives.

Similarly, the fashion label Maison the Faux uses surreal, alien-like silhouettes and upcycled fabrics to question fast fashion's environmental toll. Their collections embody beautiful strangeness by merging the fantastical with the ethical, creating garments that are conversation starters as much as functional clothing.

Challenges and Critiques

While the design activism beautiful strangeness for a susta o?ers compelling advantages, it is not without challenges. One notable critique concerns accessibility. The avant-garde nature of such designs can alienate mainstream audiences or be dismissed as elitist art rather than practical solutions. Additionally, the emphasis on aesthetics risks overshadowing the sustainability goals if not carefully balanced.

From a pragmatic perspective, scaling these projects remains difficult. Many rely on artisanal methods or expensive materials that limit mass production and widespread adoption. Furthermore, measuring the direct environmental impact of design activism is often complex, as the benefits may manifest more subtly through cultural shifts rather than immediate resource savings.

Balancing Creativity and Impact

To mitigate these issues, practitioners must navigate the tension between artistic

expression and tangible sustainability outcomes. Strategies to enhance impact include:

Collaborative Engagement: Partnering with communities, NGOs, and

1.

policymakers to contextualize and amplify messages.

Educational Integration: Using installations and campaigns as platforms to

2.

disseminate actionable knowledge alongside artistic experience.

Iterative Design: Continuously refining materials and processes to optimize

3.

environmental benefits without compromising aesthetic integrity.

Such approaches help ground beautiful strangeness within practical frameworks, ensuring the activism resonates beyond visual intrigue.

Future Directions and Opportunities

As global societies grapple with unprecedented environmental and social challenges, the role of design activism beautiful strangeness for a susta is poised to expand. Emerging technologies like biodegradable 3D printing materials, augmented reality for immersive storytelling, and AI-driven customization offer new frontiers for expression and engagement.

Moreover, the increasing consumer demand for authenticity and ethical accountability creates fertile ground for this design ethos. Brands that integrate strange beauty with

transparent sustainability commitments can differentiate themselves in competitive markets, attracting conscientious consumers.

At the policy level, incentivizing experimental design methods that prioritize sustainability could unlock innovation. Grant programs, competitions, and cross-sector collaborations might further propel the fusion of activism, art, and environmental stewardship.

In sum, design activism beautiful strangeness for a susta embodies a provocative and hopeful vision. By marrying aesthetic disruption with ecological imperatives, it challenges complacency and inspires new ways of living and creating. The path forward will require balancing daring creativity with tangible impact, but the potential to reshape culture and accelerate sustainability is profound.

design activism, beautiful strangeness, sustainable design, eco-friendly innovation, social impact design, creative activism, environmental art, transformative design, cultural sustainability, ethical creativity

graphis design 97 design annual

Graphis Design 97 Design Annual

Graphis Design 97 Design Annual: Celebrating Excellence in Visual Creativity

graphis design 97 design annual stands as a remarkable testament to the evolving

landscape of graphic design during the late 1990s. This prestigious publication, part of the renowned Graphis series, showcases some of the most innovative and inspiring works

from designers around the globe. Whether you're a seasoned creative professional, a student of design, or simply a lover of visual arts, the Graphis Design 97 Design Annual offers a fascinating snapshot of design trends, techniques, and ideas that defined an era.

Understanding the Importance of Graphis Design Annuals

Graphis has long been a beacon for creative excellence, curating annual publications that highlight outstanding achievements in graphic design, advertising, photography, and illustration. The 97 Design Annual is no exception—it captures the spirit and innovation of its time, providing a valuable reference point for both historical context and creative inspiration.

What Makes the 97 Design Annual Unique?

The 1997 edition reflects a period when graphic design was embracing digital tools more deeply, yet still deeply rooted in traditional craftsmanship. This blend results in a diverse collection of works that range from bold typography and inventive layouts to experimental use of color and imagery. The annual serves as a curated gallery, where emerging trends meet timeless design principles.

Highlights from the Graphis Design 97 Design Annual

One of the most compelling reasons to explore the Graphis Design 97 Design Annual is the sheer variety of projects included. From branding and logo design to editorial layouts and packaging, the annual offers a broad spectrum of design disciplines.

Typography and Layout Innovations

Typography plays a starring role in many of the featured works. Designers in 1997 were experimenting with typefaces that pushed boundaries?mixing serif and sans-serif fonts, manipulating letterforms, and playing with scale to create visual impact. The layouts often break free from rigid grid systems, allowing for dynamic compositions that guide the viewer?s eye e?ectively.

Color Usage and Visual Storytelling

Color in the 97 Design Annual is both vibrant and purposeful. Designers used color not just for decoration but as a storytelling tool, conveying mood and reinforcing brand identity. This period saw a transition with more designers incorporating digital color palettes, resulting in brighter and more consistent hues across di?erent media.

Why Designers and Enthusiasts Still Refer to the 97 Design Annual

Despite the rapid evolution of design software and techniques since 1997, the Graphis Design 97 Design Annual remains relevant. It o?ers timeless lessons about creativity, problem-solving, and the power of visual communication.

Learning from Past Trends to Inspire Future Designs

Studying the works in this annual helps designers understand how to balance innovation with clarity. It?s a reminder that even amid technological shifts, the core principles of good design?like hierarchy, balance, and readability?never lose their importance. For students and professionals alike, analyzing past award-winning projects can spark new ideas and approaches.

Showcasing Global Perspectives in Design

Another fascinating aspect of the Graphis Design 97 Design Annual is its international scope. Featuring designers from diverse backgrounds and cultures, it highlights how design can transcend geographic boundaries and speak a universal language. This global perspective encourages creatives to think beyond local trends and embrace a more inclusive approach.

Tips for Using Graphis Design Annuals as a Creative Resource

If you're considering diving into the Graphis Design 97 Design Annual or any other edition, here are some ways to maximize its benefits:

Analyze the diversity of styles: Notice how different designers tackle similar

1.
problems with unique solutions.

Focus on technique: Pay attention to how typography, imagery, and color work

2.
together harmoniously.

Draw inspiration, not imitation: Use the annual as a springboard for your own

3.
ideas rather than copying designs outright.

Keep historical context in mind: Understand the technology and cultural

4.

influences of the time to better appreciate the creativity involved.

Apply lessons to modern design challenges: Reflect on how traditional

5.

principles can enhance digital and interactive projects today.

Exploring the Legacy of Gropius and Its Impact on Design

Education

Gropius annuals, including the 97 Design Annual, have become valuable teaching tools in design schools worldwide. They provide curated examples that demonstrate both effective design solutions and creative risk-taking.

Encouraging Critical Thinking in Design Students

By studying award-winning work from the past, students learn to critique designs thoughtfully, considering why certain choices were successful. This critical engagement helps build a foundation for developing their own distinctive styles.

Preserving Design History

The Gropius Design 97 Design Annual also plays a crucial role in preserving the history of graphic design. As digital files and websites evolve, printed annuals serve as tangible archives, capturing the aesthetics and sensibilities of their era for future generations.

Where to Find the Gropius Design 97 Design Annual Today

Collectors and design enthusiasts often seek out copies of the 97 Design Annual through specialized bookstores, online marketplaces, or libraries. While some editions can be rare or expensive, many are treasured for their high-quality printing and rich content.

For those interested in exploring this edition digitally, Graphis has increasingly embraced online platforms to showcase past and current works. Checking the official Graphis website or reputable design archives can provide access to selected content and inspire a deeper appreciation of the annual's significance.

Immersing yourself in the graphis design 97 design annual offers more than just a glimpse into a past era; it connects you with a vibrant community of creatives who continue to shape the visual world. Whether you're exploring it for inspiration, education, or pure admiration, it remains a source of insight into the art and craft of graphic design.

Question

Answer

What is the Graphis

Design 97 Design Annual?

The Graphis Design 97 Design Annual is a prestigious publication that showcases the best design works from around the world, published by Graphis, a well-known international publisher of design and visual communications.

Who can submit work to

the Graphis Design 97

Design Annual?

Designers, agencies, and studios worldwide can submit their work for consideration in the Graphis Design 97 Design Annual, provided their work meets the entry criteria and deadlines set by Graphis.

What types of design are featured in the Graphis Design 97 Design Annual?

The annual features a wide range of design disciplines including graphic design, branding, advertising, packaging, typography, and digital design.

How can I purchase a copy of the Graphis Design 97 Design Annual?

Copies of the Graphis Design 97 Design Annual can typically be purchased through the official Graphis website, select bookstores, or online retailers specializing in design publications.

Why is the Graphis Design 97 Design Annual important for designers?

Being featured in the Graphis Design 97 Design Annual is a

significant recognition for designers as it highlights their work on an international platform, enhancing their reputation and providing inspiration.

What criteria are used to

judge entries for the

Graphis Design 97 Design

Annual?

Entries are judged based on creativity, originality, execution, and overall impact, by a panel of experienced design professionals and industry experts.

When was the Graphis

Design 97 Design Annual

published?

The Graphis Design 97 Design Annual was published in 1997, showcasing the top design works from that year.

How has the Graphis

Design Annual evolved

since 1997?

Since 1997, the Graphis Design Annual has expanded to include more categories, embraced digital submissions,

and adapted to changing design trends, maintaining its status as a leading design publication.

Can students submit their

work to the Graphis

Design 97 Design Annual?

Yes, students and emerging designers are encouraged to submit their work, as Graphis aims to showcase fresh and innovative ideas alongside established professionals.

Where can I find

inspiration from the

Graphis Design 97 Design

Annual?

The Graphis Design 97 Design Annual serves as a rich source of inspiration and can be accessed through libraries, design archives, or purchased copies, offering insight into influential design trends from 1997.

Graphis Design 97 Design Annual: A Critical Examination of Excellence in Visual Communication

graphis design 97 design annual stands as a seminal publication within the graphic

design community, marking a pivotal moment in the evolution of visual arts during the

late 20th century. As part of the prestigious Graphis series, the 97th edition captures the trends, innovations, and creative breakthroughs that defined design aesthetics and methodologies of its time. This annual edition serves not only as a curated showcase of exemplary works but also as a reflective document that contextualizes design within cultural and technological shifts.

The significance of the Graphis Design 97 Design Annual lies in its thorough compilation of global design projects, spanning various disciplines such as branding, typography, advertising, packaging, and editorial layouts. Its curated selection is instrumental for designers, educators, and historians who seek to understand the trajectory of design thinking and execution during the late 1990s. This article aims to analyze the features, impact, and lasting relevance of this edition, while integrating relevant industry terminology and highlighting its contribution to contemporary design discourse.

In-depth Analysis of Graphis Design 97 Design Annual

Graphis has long been regarded as a beacon of quality and innovation, and the 97 Design Annual exemplifies this reputation through its rigorous selection process and diverse representation of creative excellence. Unlike many other design compilations of its era, the Graphis 97 Design Annual goes beyond mere aesthetics, emphasizing conceptual depth and communicative clarity. This approach reflects a maturation in the graphic design field, where function and form must coexist harmoniously.

One of the key features of the 97 Design Annual is its extensive inclusion of international works, which provides a panoramic view of design trends across continents. This global

perspective not only enriches the content but also fosters cross-cultural appreciation and dialogue among designers. The annual captures a transition period where digital tools were beginning to influence traditional design workflows, yet manual craftsmanship and analog techniques still held significant prominence.

Curated Content and Selection Criteria

The Graphis Design 97 Design Annual is distinguished by its meticulous curation, where submissions undergo a stringent vetting process by a panel of seasoned design professionals. This ensures that only projects demonstrating originality, technical skill, and strategic communication are featured. The annual encapsulates a balance between experimental projects and commercially successful campaigns, offering readers a comprehensive understanding of the industry's breadth.

Within its pages, readers encounter a variety of media formats and styles, from minimalistic typography-driven posters to intricate illustrative works and bold corporate identity systems. The breadth of content showcases how designers negotiated client demands with creative expression, a dynamic still relevant in today's design practice.

Design Trends Reflected in the 97 Annual

Analyzing the visual language present in Graphis Design 97 Design Annual reveals prominent trends that shaped late 20th-century graphic design. Among these, a resurgence of Swiss design principles such as grid systems, sans-serif typography, and asymmetrical layouts is evident. Additionally, the annual highlights early experimentation

with computer-aided design software, which introduced new possibilities in layering, color manipulation, and image integration.

Color usage in the 97 annual demonstrates a shift towards more vibrant and daring palettes, reflecting broader cultural movements toward bold self-expression. Similarly, the interplay between text and image becomes more dynamic, breaking traditional hierarchies and inviting viewers to engage more interactively with the content.

Impact on Contemporary Graphic Design and Legacy

The influence of Graphis Design 97 Design Annual extends beyond its immediate time frame, impacting both practitioners and academia. For emerging designers, the annual serves as a benchmark of quality and a source of inspiration, demonstrating that innovation often arises from the fusion of tradition and experimentation. Its comprehensive documentation aids educators in illustrating the evolution of design principles and the contextual factors influencing creative decisions.

In comparison to later editions and other design anthologies, the 97 Design Annual maintains a unique position due to its timing during a transitional era. While subsequent publications increasingly emphasized digital design dominance, this edition captures the coexistence of analog and digital techniques, offering valuable insights into the adaptation processes within the industry.

Comparative Features: Graphis 97 versus Other Design Annuals

When juxtaposed with contemporaneous annuals such as the Communication Arts Design Annual or Print Magazine's Regional Design Annuals, Graphis Design 97 stands out for its

international scope and editorial rigor. While some competitors favored trend-driven content or regional focus, Graphis maintained a global, quality-centric approach that prioritized conceptual strength alongside visual appeal.

Moreover, Graphis’s inclusion of detailed project descriptions and designer credits provides transparency and educational value, distinguishing it from more image-heavy, less contextualized compilations. This depth of information fosters a deeper understanding of the design process and strategic intent behind each featured work.

Pros and Cons of the Graphis Design 97 Design Annual

Pros:

1.
- Comprehensive global representation of design excellence.
1.
- High editorial standards ensuring quality and diversity.
2.
- Insightful project narratives enhancing educational value.
3.
- Captures a critical transitional period in design history.
4.

Cons:

2.

Physical format limits accessibility in the digital age.

1.

Some early digital works may appear dated compared to contemporary
2.

standards.

The focus on high-profile work might overshadow emerging or grassroots
3.

designers.

Continuing Relevance of Graphis Design 97 Design Annual in the Digital Era

Although initially produced during a predominantly print-oriented era, the Graphis Design 97 Design Annual retains significant relevance amid today's digital transformation. The core principles of design excellence it champions—clarity, innovation, and cultural sensitivity—remain fundamental regardless of medium. Modern designers can draw lessons from this edition's embrace of experimentation balanced with purpose-driven design.

In addition, the annual acts as a historical archive, providing context for how design responded to technological changes and societal shifts at the brink of the 21st century. As digital platforms increasingly dominate, revisiting such publications reinforces the value of foundational skills and diverse design perspectives.

The Graphis Design 97 Design Annual ultimately serves as both a time capsule and a

living resource, bridging past practices with contemporary aspirations in graphic design. It invites ongoing reflection on how creativity can adapt while honoring core communicative objectives?a dialogue that continues to shape the future of visual communication.

graphic design, design annual, visual identity, branding, typography, layout design, creative portfolio, design inspiration, print design, graphic arts

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