

Books, Buildings, and the Big Screen: A Detroit Directors Curation

For Detroit based director Anthony Garth, a library is so much more than a collection of books. It is a window into the creative mind and process. It serves as the foundation of all creativity. His library that spans from history, art, fashion, and design is a space where inspiration comes from the past, present and future.

This library is eclectic and ever evolving, “It is a reflection of my travels, interests, and the creative process.” Garth said. “What I choose to add to my library isn’t just about adding to the book collection, it’s about staying in tune with a movement or artist who inspires me. This collection spans across decades, but Garth shared a fondness for mid-century design. “There is something about that period- the way people pushed the boundaries of art and design- that speaks to me. “Furniture is art. The way we design spaces, the way we live, it influences how we create.” “Furniture is more relevant in film than you would think.” Garth says. He highlights the importance it plays in setting the tone of a story.

Garth stressed Detroit as the epicenter of his inspiration. He said, “It’s funny, I actually got inspired by Detroit before I got inspired by art, I would be walking to a set in Detroit and see a building I thought was cool, I would look it up and see it was [Yamasaki](#) and then go buy a book about his work.” Garth noted that many of his books are Detroit native authors, or highlight the lives of artists in Detroit.

In his formative years at Oakland, he said, “I felt physically immersed in Metro-Detroit, Oakland’s rich history and connections to the city drew me in.” Garth noted the key role Oakland played in giving him his creative, and curative foundation. “The professors were knowledgeable, and provided me with an educational foundation to practice art.”

As a digital storyteller, Garth feels that physical books and digital storytelling compliment each other. “In this industry, sometimes you need to access a resource quickly which the internet is great for, books give us the in-depth foundation we need.” “The best thing any creative can do is expose themselves to both forms of media, everything is always evolving.” he said. Garth feels that libraries are pivotal in the creative process, “If you are not reading or studying other published works, you are failing to recognize the foundations of which creativity comes from.”

