

# Think In English Magazine Pdf Download

## FEATURE

### More Than Words

We all know how pleasant it is to feel the texture of the pages while reading and to appreciate the weight of the book in our hands. Even though most would agree that the true value is in the content, statements, and images within, we would like to introduce you to the stories of three book collectors who have created spaces for the books themselves which have developed to reflect their identities and lives. What they gain from books is more than just the satisfaction of picking one up to stroke the spine and read the stories inside. If you want to know what those significances are, come and knock on their doors and get to know their home libraries with us.



#### DAVID SCHAFFER

Article: Mingkwan Bannanakit, Noppon Sivilak, Leana Wongkorn Teohong  
(Translated in English and edited by Doolamade)

There's a small compact space linking the downstairs office of StudioMak and the upstairs home belonging to David Schaffer and his wife Oupha (Ooi) Schaffer. The latter of this space is packed with hundreds of books the couple has been collecting since they first met in the United States. When they decided to return to Thailand, they did not forget to ship those books overseas with them. The books mean more than knowledge for this couple; they also represent the love and relationships developed over their lifetimes.

#### THE STARTING POINT :

I think that for designers, books are not just important, but essential. Many of my readers think they can find everything they need to know on the Internet, but this simply isn't true. Trying to fully understand buildings, objects, or pieces of art by only looking at pictures on some blogs is difficult and usually superficial. The thought process and information a designer needs to know is still best presented in a book that has been extensively researched and edited. I first began buying books in high school when I started to consider studying architecture. I was still living in the United States at the time.

#### ALL YOU READ IS LOVE :

Even though I love books and collect them, I also choose to read certain things online. Anything that you would just read once should be consumed digitally to be convenient and better for the environment. I read the New Yorker on my iPad instead of subscribing to the weekly printed edition; they would just end up in piles around the house. But for content that is meant to be considered, studied, and referenced, we need books with pages we can flip through one and one again. Seeing the details and narrative on tangible pages is always better than having to zoom, pan, and scroll around on a computer screen. We also maintain sketchbooks for drawing out ideas and jotting down thoughts. They're like diaries that record our respective experiences during the different periods of our lives and are also an important part of our library.

#### HAVING HOME LIBRARY :

If books are important to you, then you should have a library in your home. But we also have a library of objects that are equally as important to us. I think you should have a space to collect whatever holds value for you because these

are the things that reflect your identity, opinions, and thoughts. Collecting is not just thinking, "it was a library" and then walking out and spending an excessive amount of money to decorate a room. A good library or collection usually starts small and gradually expands with your life experiences. There's a reason I bought some books that I might not choose to buy today, but I will still keep them because they reflect who I was at that time. My point of view and thoughts are evolving and my collection becomes a narrative on this progression.

#### MORE THAN WORDS :

As young students in architecture school in and I became influenced by one particular book, so we both bought a copy. After we got married and started our lives together, our book collections merged. So then we had his and her's copies of this book. Several times we considered selling one because it went out of print and there were offers for large amounts of money, but I am thankful today that we chose to keep both because they signify that point when our lives came together and from then on we only read one of each thing.



#### THINKING ARCHITECTURE

"Books were once the most common instrument for disseminating news and information. But times have changed and the way people consume knowledge has changed as well. Books are becoming rare and even some relatively recent editions will be nonexistent prices on Amazon and eBay having disappeared from bookstores decades ago."



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