



The Hitchhikers Guide

To: The Plywood Universe

mostly harmless

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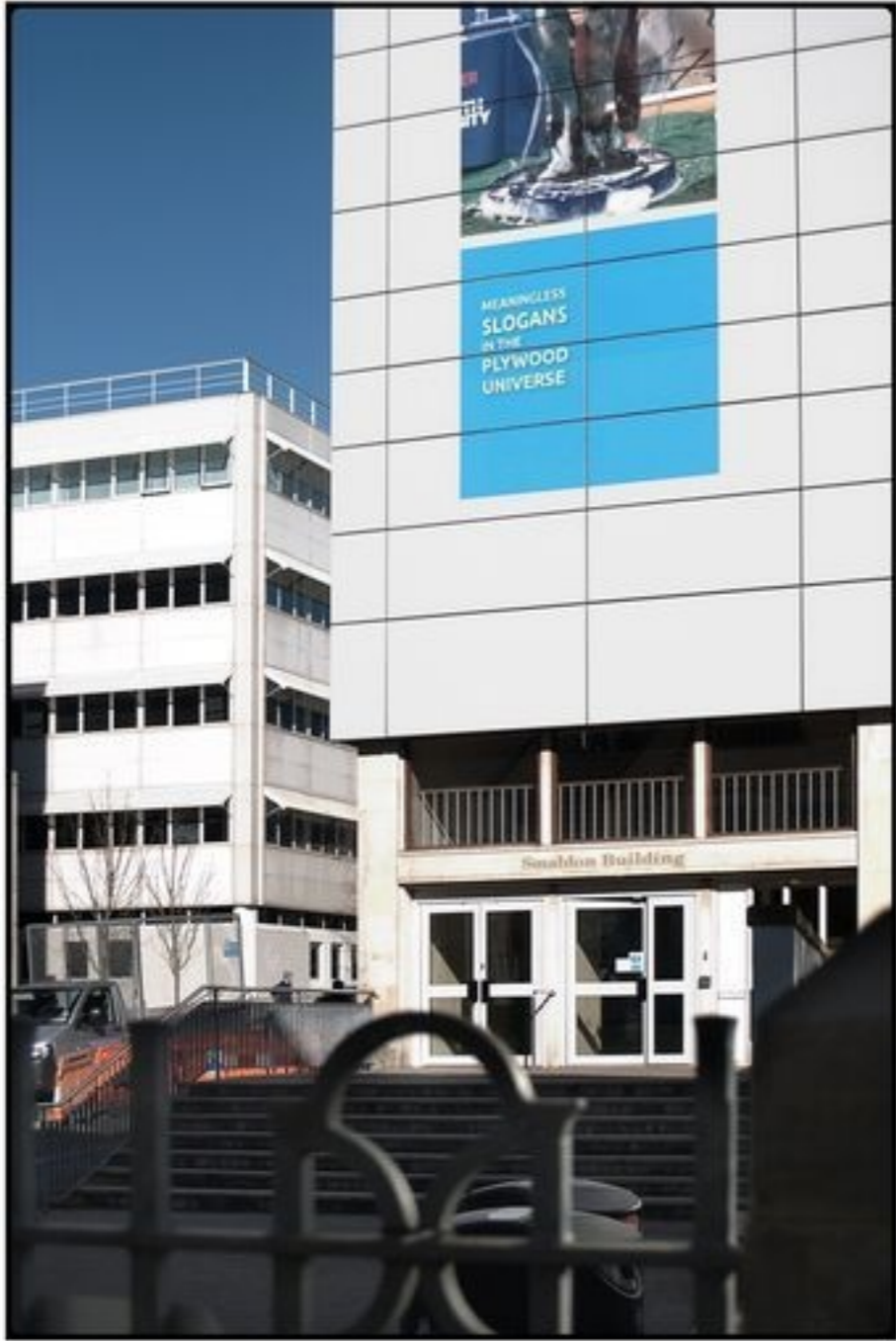
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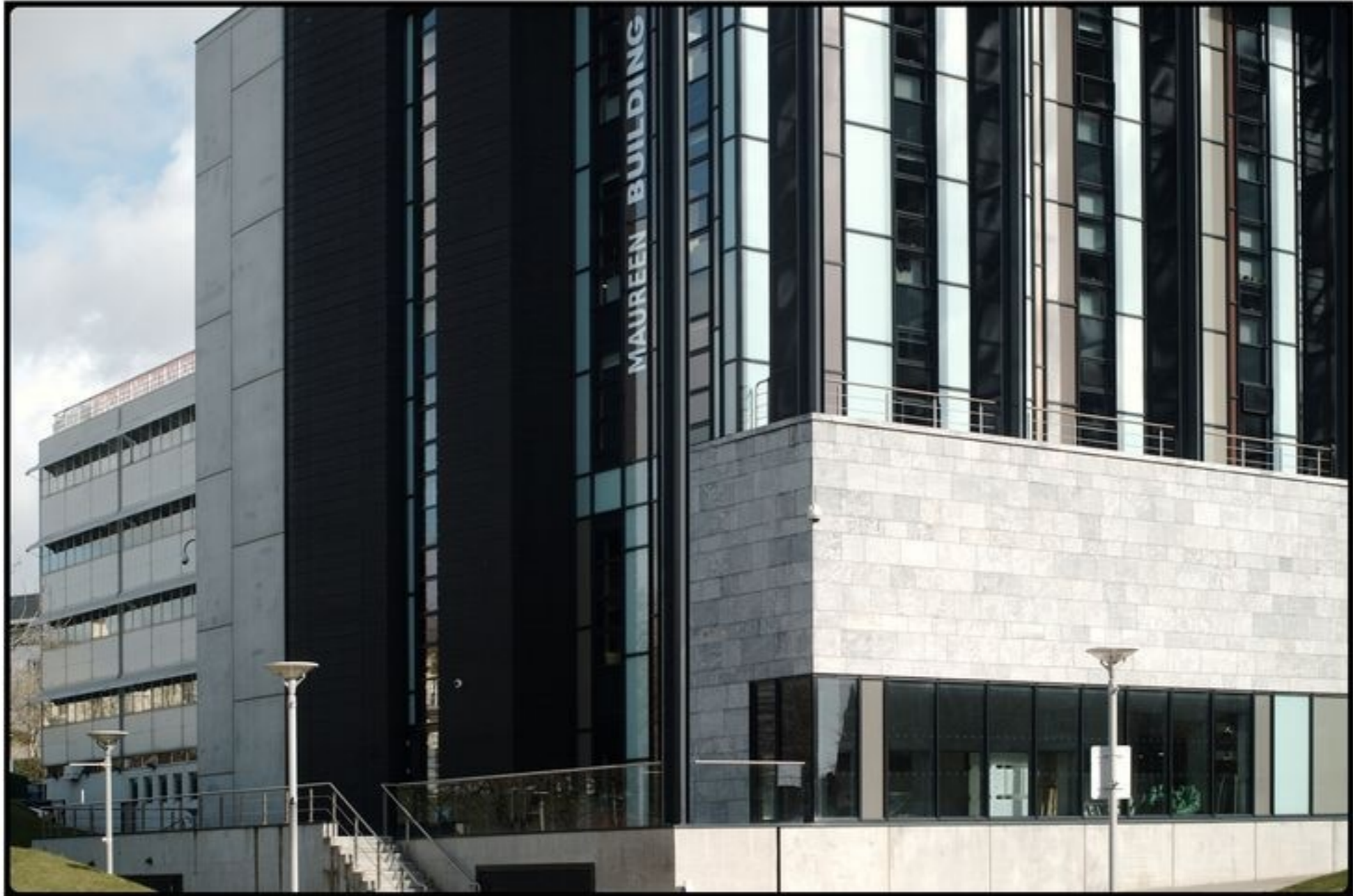


Far out in the uncharted backwaters of the unfashionable end of the western spiral arm of the Galaxy lies a small unregarded yellow sun. Orbiting this at a distance of roughly ninety-two million miles is an utterly insignificant little blue green planet whose ape-descended life forms are so amazingly primitive that they still think digital watches, photoshop and shiny computer screens are pretty neat ideas.

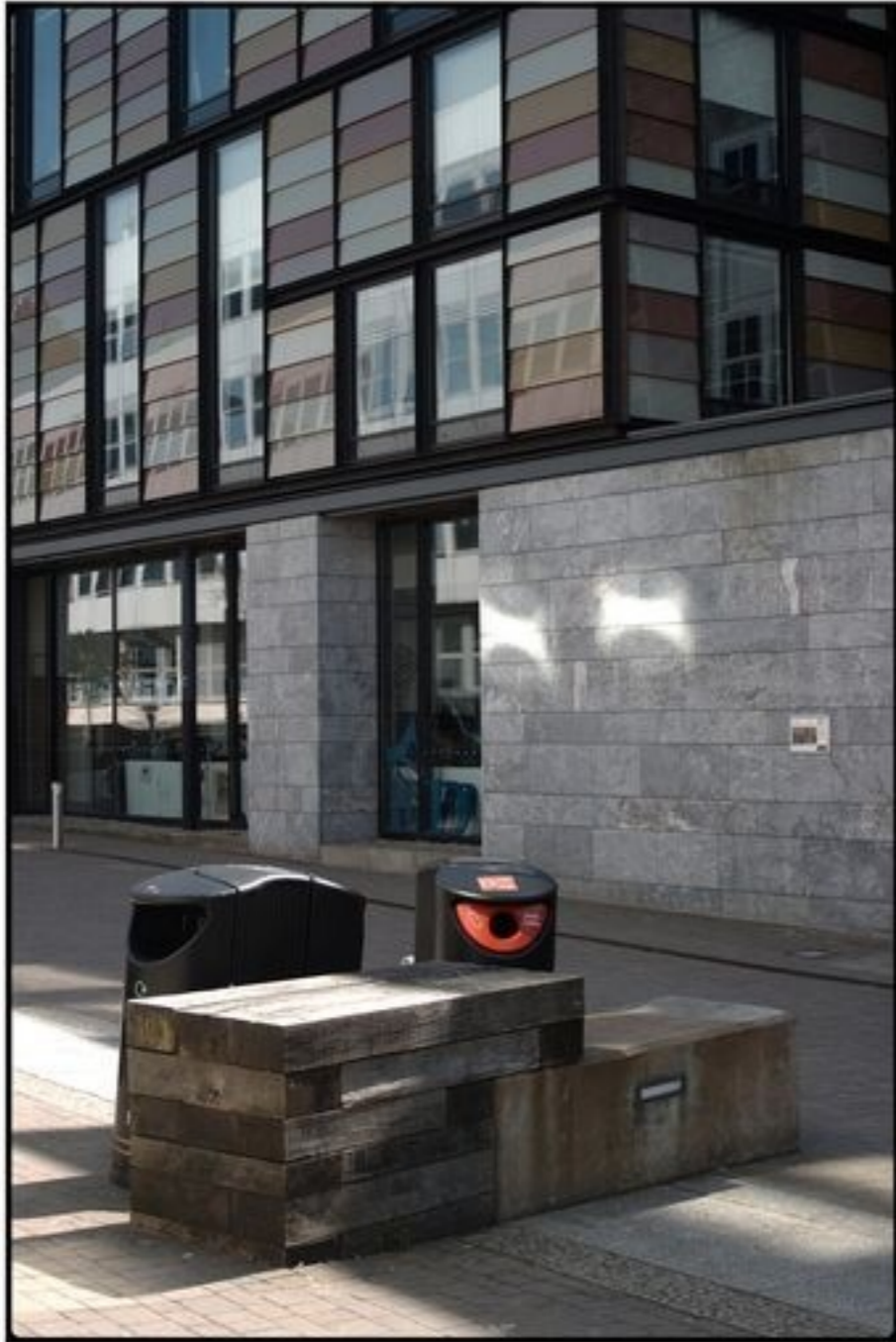
















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Time:

A great philosopher once wrote:

"Time is an illusion, lunchtime doubly so "

"For a moment, nothing happened.
Then, after a second or so, nothing continued to happen."

There are two time zones in the Plywood Universe

Now:

Where people live in the present look forward to the future.

Then:

Where people live in the past and look back to history for their inspiration, happily locking out the modern world, ignoring innovation and opportunity alike. Living in the last century, working the same way they always have because ... ?

The Then Prayer:

"Lord

Protect me from knowing what I don't know.

Protect me from even knowing that there are things to know that I don't know.

Protect me from knowing that I decided not to know about the things that I decided not to know about.

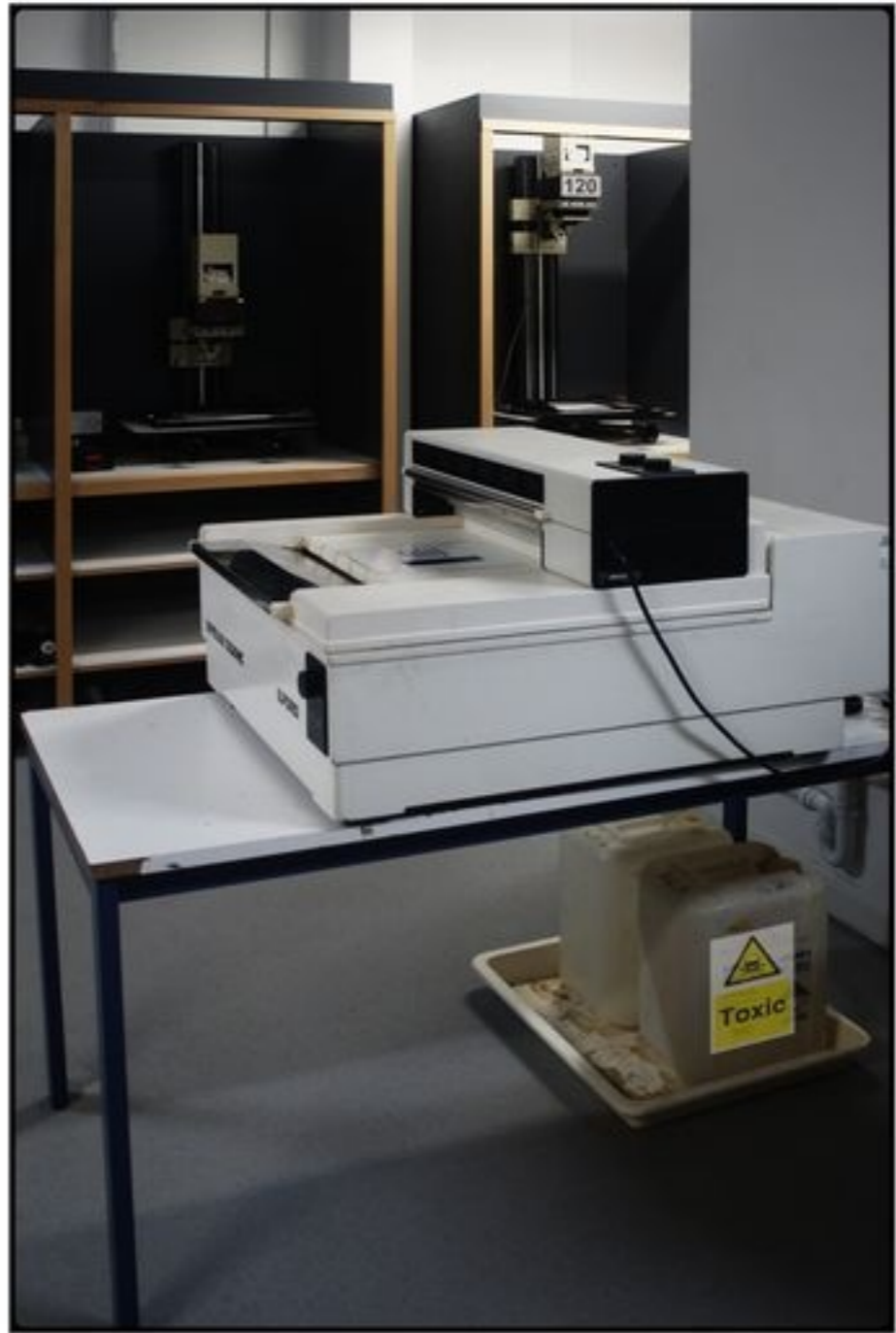
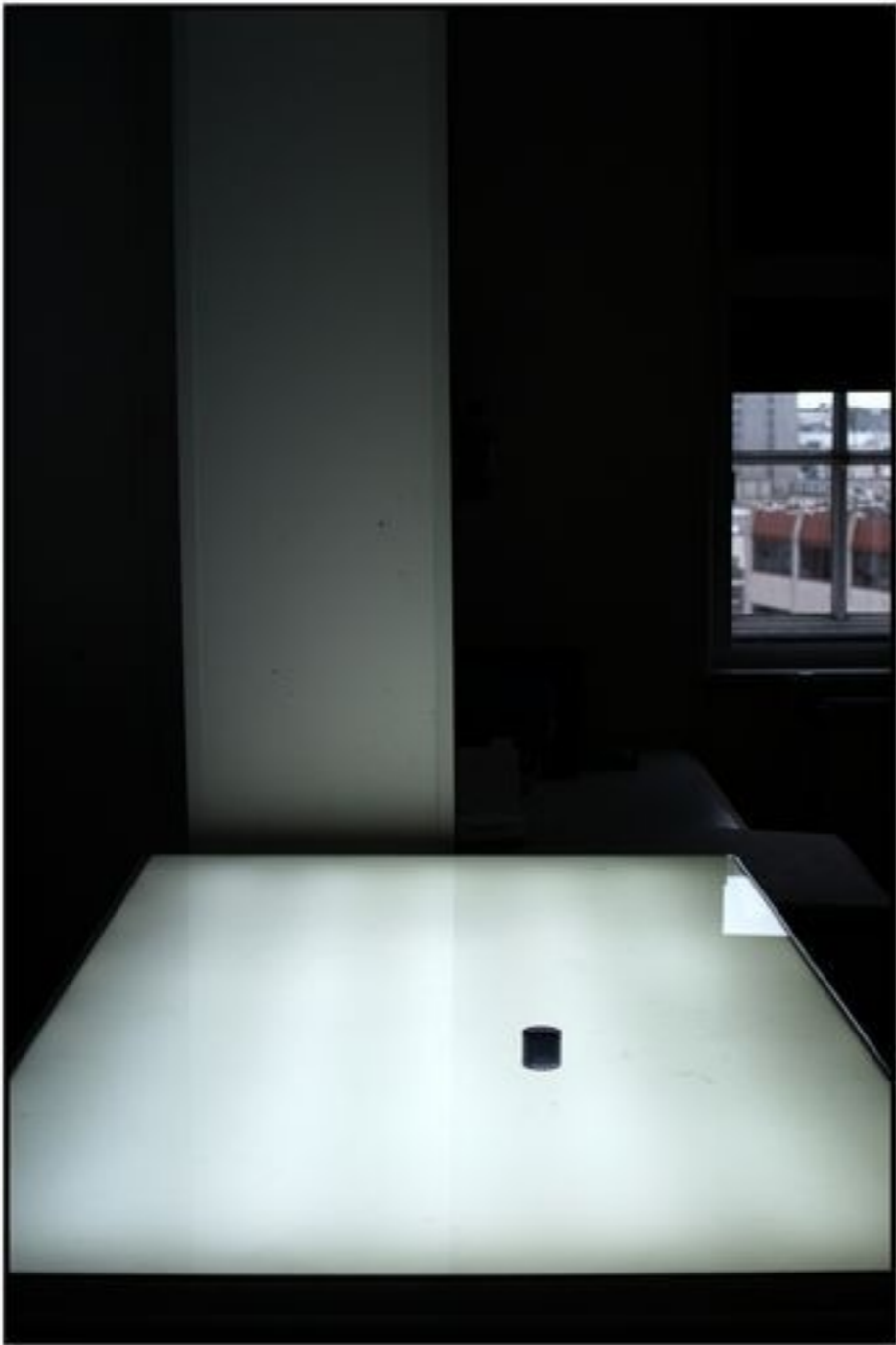
Amen."

"There's another prayer that goes with it that's very important. ...

'Lord, lord, lord. Protect me from the consequences of the above prayer. Amen'

Most of the trouble people get into in life comes from leaving out that last part."





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Values:

The values system in the Plywood Universe is complicated.

Chairs:

Are often highly valued.

People:

Some people are more highly valued than others.

Technical skills:

Are not valued.

Apples:

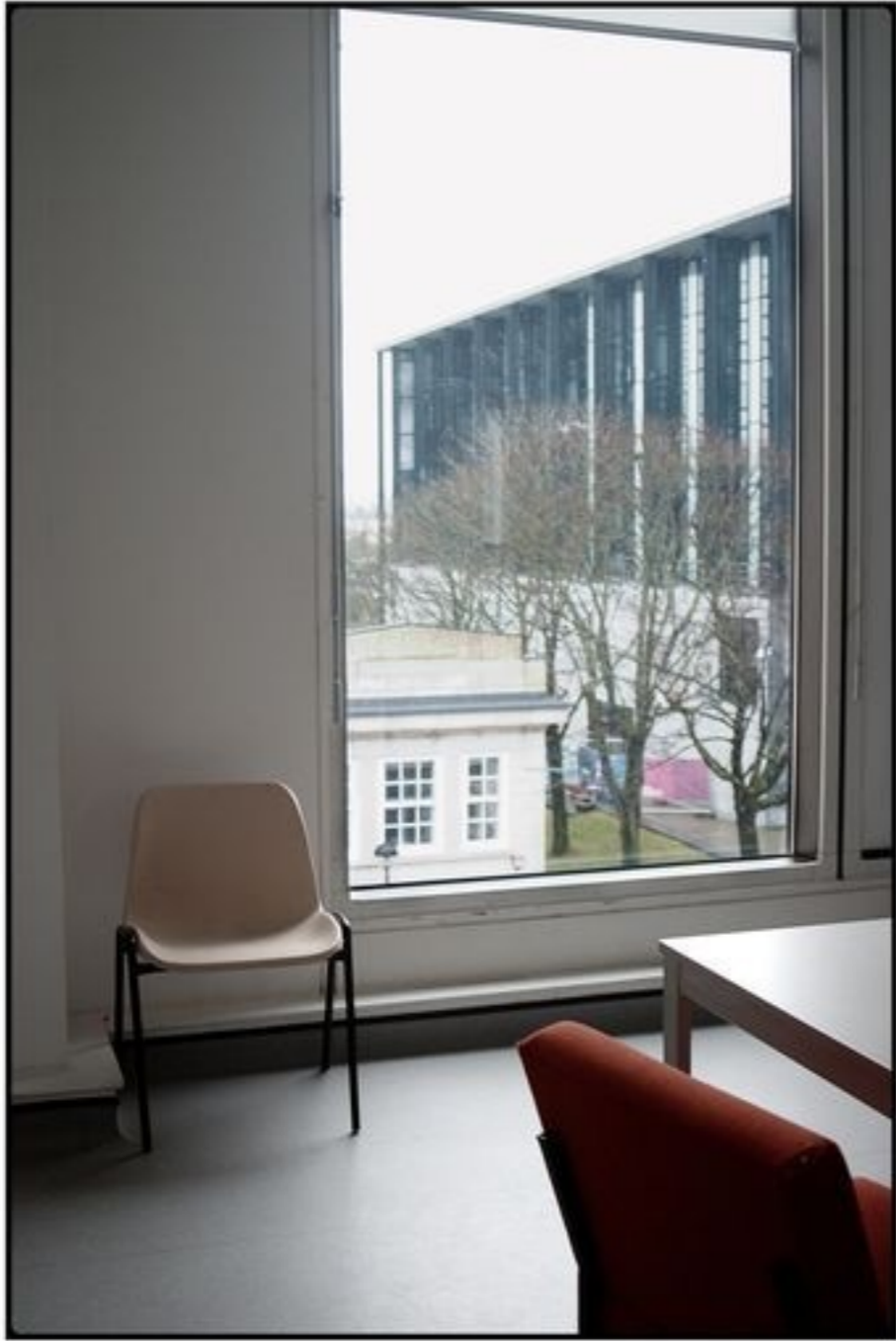
Are highly valued.

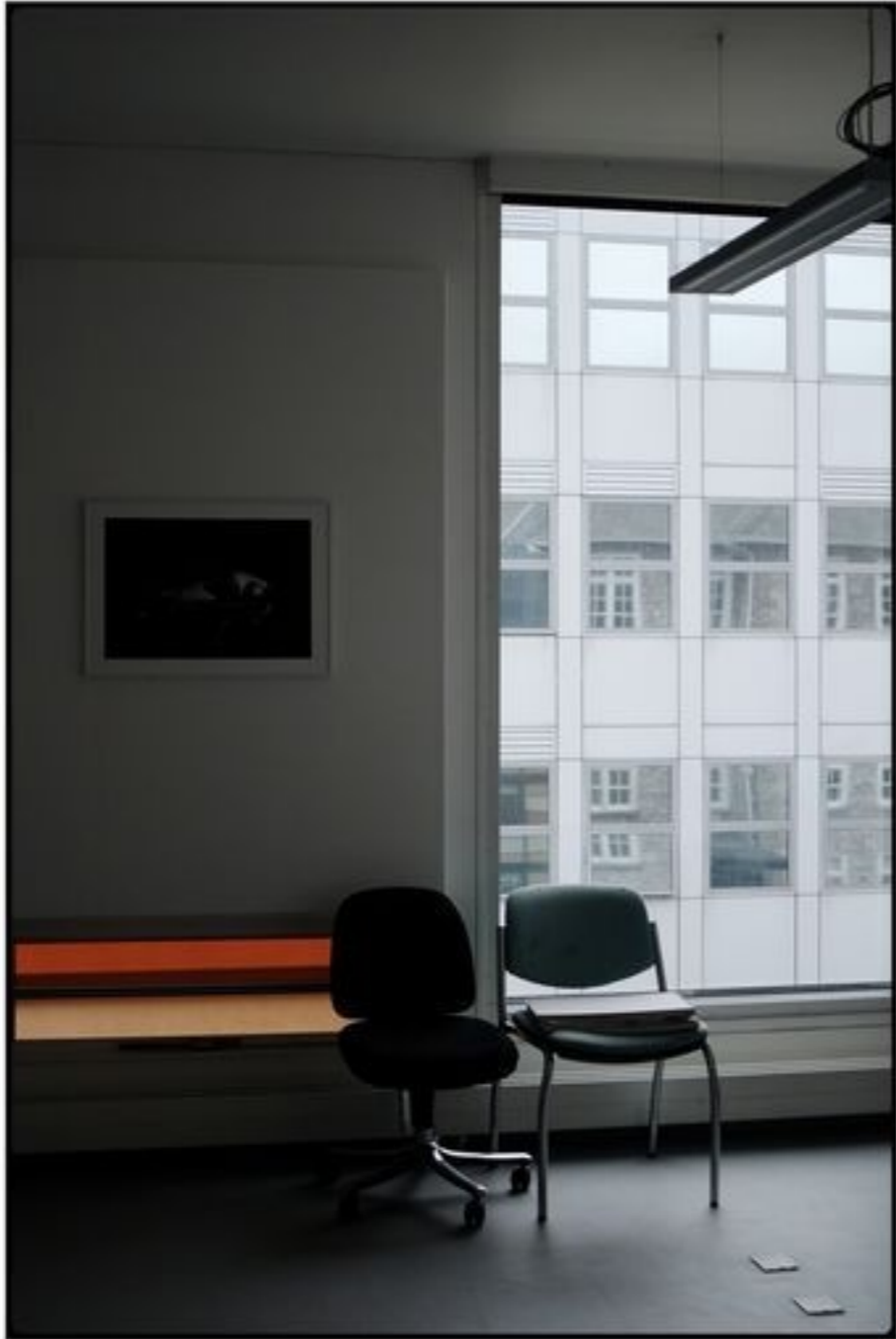
Money:

The currency in the Plywood Universe is the 'Promise'.
As in I promise to pay...









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People: None

It is known that there are an infinite number of worlds, simply because there is an infinite amount of space for them to be in.

However, not every one of them is inhabited. Therefore, there must be a finite number of inhabited worlds. Any finite number divided by infinity is as near to nothing as makes no odds, so the average population of all the planets in the Universe can be said to be zero.

From this it follows that the population of the whole Plywood Universe is also zero, and that any people you may meet from time to time are merely the products of a deranged imagination.





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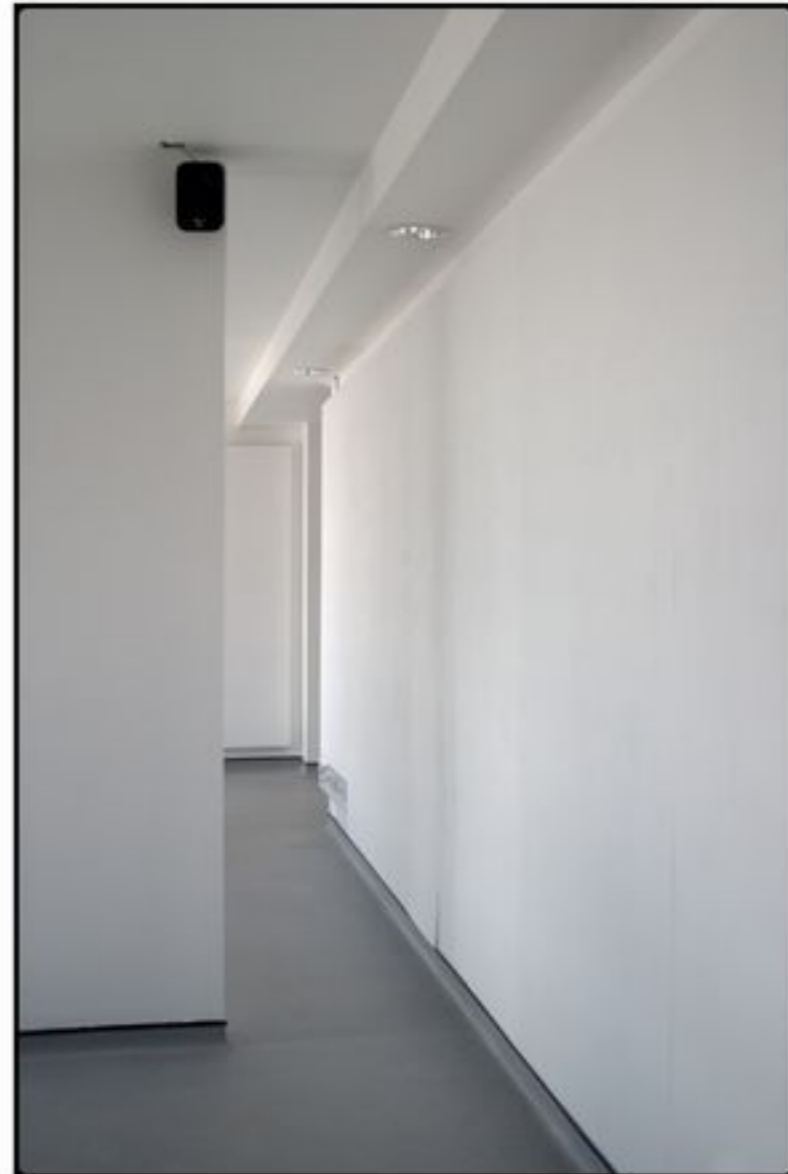
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Art: None

It is known that there are an infinite number of worlds however, not every one of them contains art. Therefore, there must be a finite number of artistic worlds.

Any finite number divided by infinity is as near to nothing as makes no odds, so the average artistic output of all the planets in the Universe can be said to be zero.

From this it follows that the artistic output of the whole Plywood Universe is also zero, and that any art you may see from time to time is merely the product of a deranged imagination.

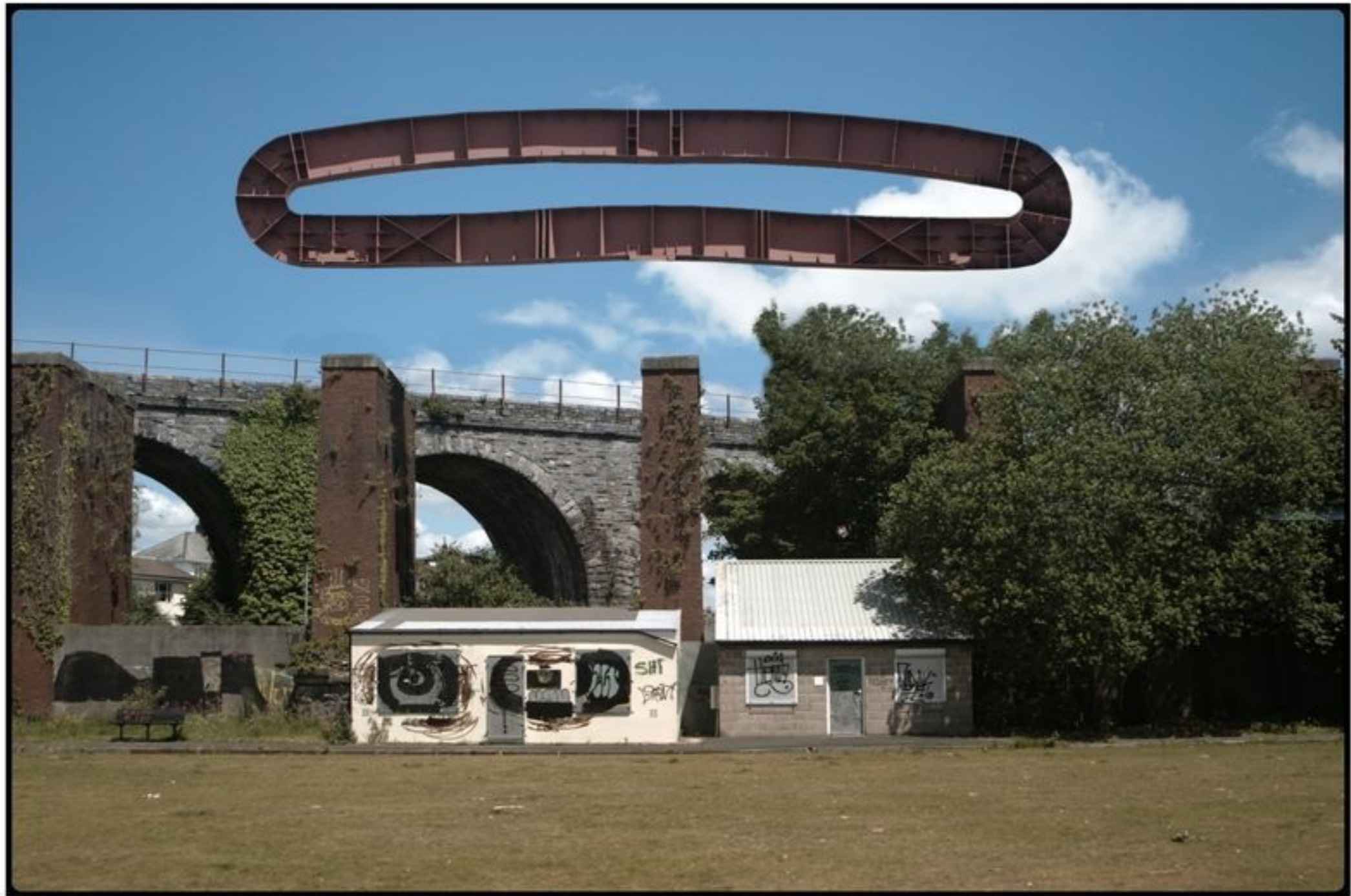












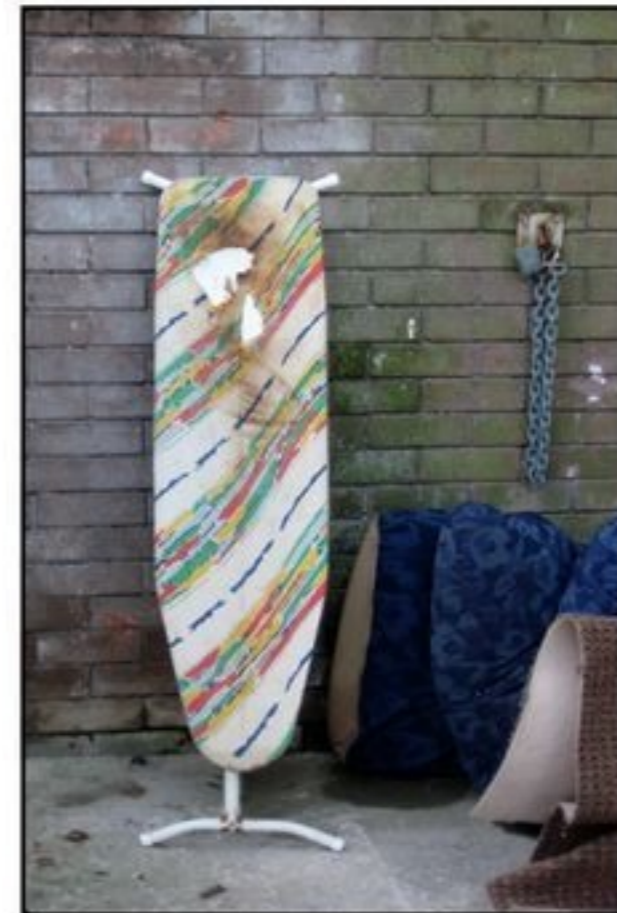
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Street furniture:

Wikipedia describes Street furniture as a collective term used for objects and pieces of equipment installed on streets and roads for various purposes. It includes benches, traffic barriers, bollards, post boxes, phone boxes, streetlamps, traffic lights, traffic signs, bus stops, tram stops, taxi stands, public lavatories, fountains, watering troughs, memorials, public sculptures, and waste receptacles. An important consideration in the design of street furniture is how it affects road safety.

In the Plywood Universe the definition is less precise.









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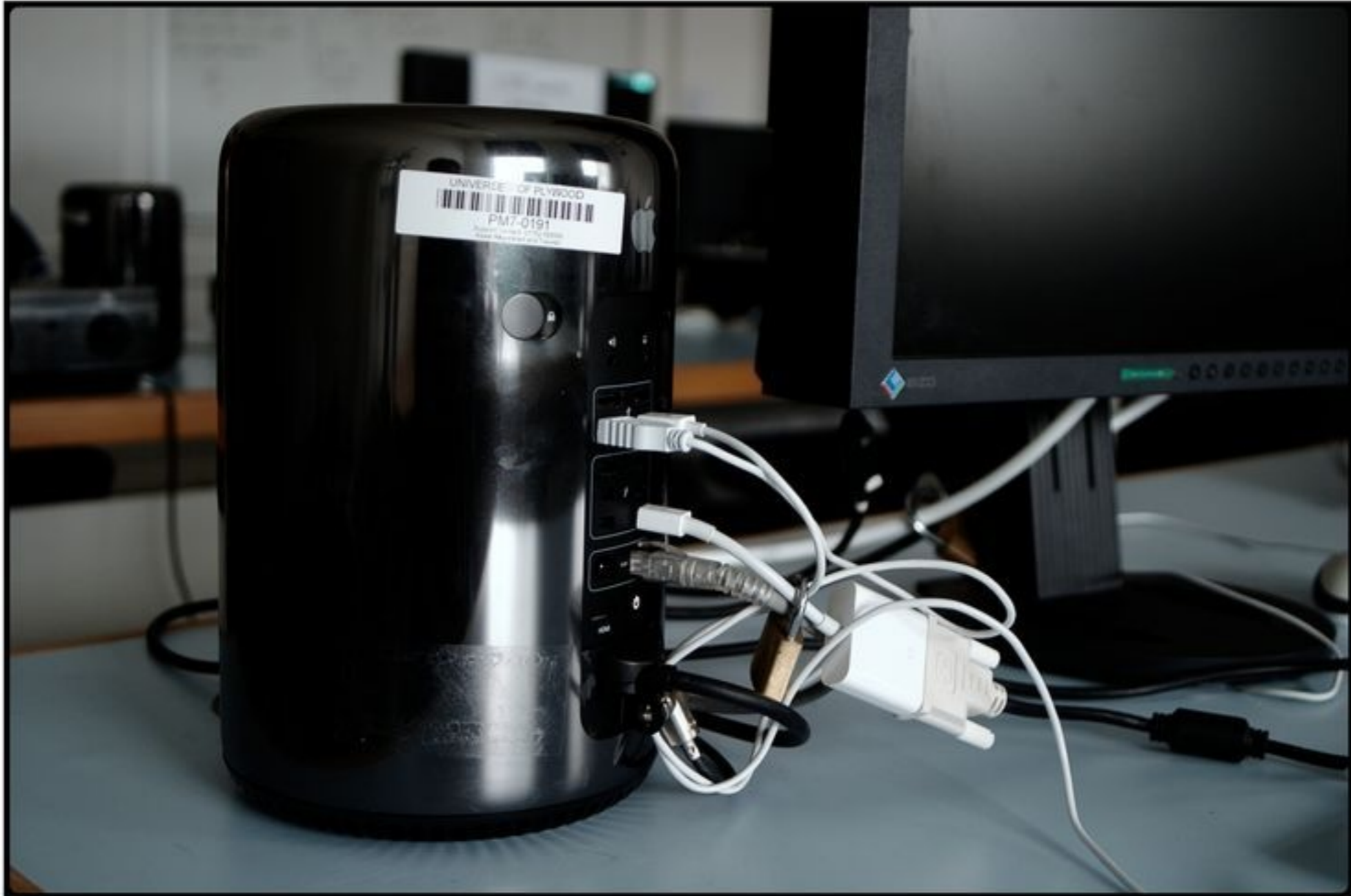
Power:

The major problem - one of the major problems, for there are several - one of the many major problems with governing people is that of whom you get to do it; or rather of who manages to get people to let them do it to them.

To summarize: it is a well known fact that those people who most want to rule people are, ipso facto, those least suited to do it.

To summarize the summary: anyone who is capable of getting themselves made President should on no account be allowed to do the job.





There is a theory which states that if ever anyone discovers exactly what the Plywood Universe is for and why it is here, it will instantly disappear and be replaced by something even more bizarre and inexplicable. **There is another theory which states that this has already happened.**

Thanks goes to:

Richard Stallman for the GNU Project.

Linus Torvalds with the assistance of developers around the world for LINUX.

Mark Shuttleworth for making Linux easy with Ubuntu.

Michael Natterer, Sven Neumann and dozens of others for GIMP.

The Scribus Team for making professional D.T.P. accessible.

All the companies and individuals around the world who contribute to Open Source Software

Canon Cameras for making the first good DSLRs.

Douglas Adams for being

Disclaimers:

No small furry creatures from Alpha Centauri were harmed in the production of this book.


This is a work of fiction and any resemblance to actual places or institutions is purely intentional.

Digital watches, Photoshop and shiny computer screens played no part in anything seen here.

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Anything that happens, happens.
Anything that, in happening, causes something else to happen, causes something else to happen.
Anything that, in happening, causes itself to happen again, happens again.
It doesn't necessarily do it in chronological order, though.