Sierra Klassen-Johnson

Architectural and Engineering Technology Program, 2025

UNTITLED

This special issue of Future Earth Journal: Explorations in Art and Generative AI showcases the work of visual art students from the Fall 2024 Selected Topics visual art course *Explorations in Art and AI.* Each featured artist engaged with generative artificial intelligence (Gen AI) to create original artworks that respond to and reflect on current conversations in art and technology. Through their unique practices, these students explored Gen AI as a tool, a collaborator, and/or a conceptual influence.

The artworks featured here—and in the exhibition held at the TRU Art Gallery from March 17–29, 2025—highlight the cultural, ethical, environmental, and creative dimensions of using Gen AI in artistic production.

Figure 1. Still from "Untitled" [video 2024] by Sierra Klassen-Johnson

Sierra Klassen-Johnson is one of the participating artists whose work exemplifies this exploration.

AI Tool: Chat GPT & Midjourney

ARTIST STATEMENT

Nature and spirituality deeply influence my creations. I strive to incorporate natural elements into my designs, such as the exposed mountain rock wall in my mountaintop house design. I aim to invite sunlight, moonlight, plants, and organic textures into my spaces, fostering a sense of harmony and positivity. My goal is to create uplifting environments that inspire a deeper connection with the natural world.

From a young age, I was drawn to art and design. My early projects included crafting cardboard and wooden houses for animals and fairies in my garden, a playful start to what would become a passion for architectural design. During high school, I pursued art and drafting classes, which deepened my interest and skills in architecture and increased my desire to turn this passion into a career.

Social media often serves as a creative spark, providing a platform to explore new ideas, but much of my work also stems from personal moments and connections. Sharing my creations with others

Figure 2. Midjourney generations in response to prompt (right) which was generated by Chat GPT in response to artist's own description of a house

brings me great joy, and as an architectural designer, I'm driven to create spaces where people can live happily and comfortably. I am particularly inspired by resilient and sustainable architecture, recognizing the vital role we play in caring for our environment.

My creative process starts with rough sketches, exploring layouts and exterior designs through multiple iterations. Using digital platforms like Revit or AutoCAD, I transform 2D sketches into detailed 3D models. Rendering tools like Enscape or Twinmotion then bring my designs to life with materials, furniture, and landscapes. By showcasing features like natural materials, strategically placed windows for passive solar heating, and shaded outdoor spaces, this design embodies the principles of sustainability. I aim to inspire viewers to see how architectural design can harmonize with the environment, promoting an eco-conscious lifestyle without sacrificing comfort or beauty.

Imagine 18w

"A sustainable eco-organically shaped cabin nestled on a mountain in Osoyoos, BC, overlooking a vast desert landscape with a mix of pine trees and arid vegetation. The cabin-style home has natural wood materials, with a warm, rustic organic shape that blends into the surrounding terrain. Large, south-facing windows and glass doors bring in sunlight, while a wrap-around wooden deck with native plants and seating offers panoramic views. The house features some pitched green roofs with low-maintenance desert plants, solar panels, and a rainwater collection system. The site also includes a dethatched 2 car garage. dark Warm, earthy tones and sustainable materials emphasize harmony with the natural landscape, ultra-realistic, high detail, 4K resolution.
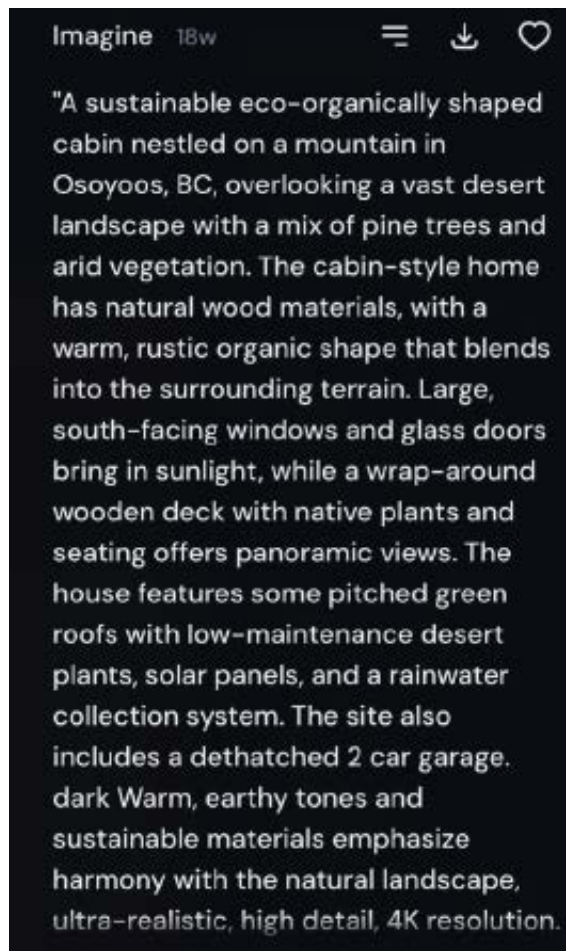
Figure 3. Midjourney prompt from artist.

The main challenge of this project was defining exactly what I wanted to create. Through researching the works of architects such as Bjarke Ingels, Liam Young, and Zaha Hadid who share a commitment to making the world a better place I was inspired to design a home that embraces organic, naturally flowing shapes. My goal was to create a space that not only reflects the beauty of the natural world but also encourages the occupants to adopt more eco-friendly lifestyles. By integrating sustainable design strategies into this project, I hope to contribute to the evolution of architecture, promoting a style that harmonizes with the environment. Through this approach, I dream to inspire future generations of architects and homeowners to think creatively and responsibly about how we design and live in our built spaces.

To see the full video, please scan the QR code.

Process

Sierra used CHAT GPT to determine a location and style for a house, then used MidJourney to generate images of homes based on that description. Taking inspiration from the Midjourney images (but not reproducing them exactly), she produced a model of the home using Revitand rendered that design in Enscape to showcase it as a video (Revitand Enscape are not AI platforms).

Figure 4. "Untitled" [video installation exhibit, 2024] by Sierra Klassen-Johnson. (Image credit: Twyla Exner)

"Untitled" [video installation exhibit, 2024] by Sierra Klassen-Johnson. (Image credit: Twyla Exner)