



# a montessori school

## winnipeg, manitoba



Biophilia is defined as the love of nature. Biophilic design is all about fostering a connection between people and the natural environment. The patterns, relationships, and materials found in nature are the keys to making this connection stronger.

Biophilia is the opposite of biophobia, where nature is excluded from the built environment. Biophilic design is all too familiar to us, spending time in windowless rooms with fluorescent lights mounted in a suspended ceiling. Though those kinds of space may exist due to issues of efficiency and cost, the end result is nonetheless a disconnect between people and nature.

biophilia

montessori

biomimicry

Biomimicry is a design process that is helpful in biophilic design. It involves interpreting natural systems and functions into a design problem. In order to be successful, one must perceive nature itself as a designer.

Throughout the process of this thesis examination, the patterns and relationships in nature were explored and ultimately developed into a process not unlike the natural evolutionary cycle.

A Montessori school was used as a way to explore the connection between people and nature. This teaching method was developed in the early 20th century by Maria Montessori. The main focus is teaching children how to learn throughout their entire life, primarily by exploring all five senses. Though the Montessori method is not specifically about connecting people with the natural environment, its impact can be made stronger by environmental design with biophilic principles in mind.

